Mud season is a good time to attend educational workshops, so mark your calendar for Feb. 24. That’s the date of the upcoming NW Oregon Dairy Goat Association’s every-other-year terrific goat conference. At least half the workshops are suitable for meat goat producers and there are classes for youth, too. See the article on page 2 for more info!

During icky winter weather, also remember to give your goats plenty of shelter to get out of the rain, sleet and snow. They will reward you with less illness, better gains and higher production. You’ve probably learned by now that some goats would rather go hungry than get wet!

The Kidding Pen is available as a free hard copy in English and Spanish and is also available at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/Kidding%20Pen/index.html.

Send your comments, suggestions, newsletter articles and announcements to:
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509-773-5707 (fax)

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SAVE THESE DATES!
Feb. 20-22 WSU Creamery’s Basic-Plus Cheese Making Class, Lynden, WA. To register, e-mail creamery@wsu.edu, call 509-335-4014, or see www.wsu.edu/creamery/education/cheesemakingEd.htm.

Feb. 24 Northwest Oregon Dairy Goat Association conference, Clackamas, OR. Contact Chris Strickland at lechevrier@earthlink.net or 503-655-9874. SEE ARTICLE.

Mar. 5-8 WSU Creamery’s Annual Cheese Making Short Course, Pullman, WA. For more info or to register, see WSU Creamery contact info at left.

Mar. 31-Apr. 1 April Fools Boer Goat Weekend, Skamania Fairgrounds in Stevenson, WA. For more info contact Becki@coppercreekboers.com or Elise at eaconlee@yahoo.com.

April 18-19 Pasteurization workshop, Pullman, WA. For more info or to register, see WSU Creamery contact info at left.

May 12 10th Annual ADGA Sanctioned Jr. & Sr. Dairy Goat Show, Sanctioned Boer Goat Show & NPGA Sanctioned Pygmy Goat Show, Stanwood, WA. Contact Nola Palmer at 360-629-4184.

June 9 Southern Oregon Boer Breeders’ Boer Goat Show, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg, OR.
HANDBOOK ON TARGETED GRAZING AS A WEED MANAGEMENT TOOL
by Karen Launchbaugh, Rangeland Ecology and Management, University of Idaho

The application of livestock grazing to suppress unwanted plants has been around for centuries. Today, targeted grazing by livestock is being rediscovered and honed as an ecologically friendly and effective tool to address contemporary vegetation management challenges, like controlling invasive exotic weeds, reducing fire risk in the wildland-urban interface and finding chemical-free ways to control weeds in organic agriculture.

A new handbook was released in December that outlines the basics of applying targeted grazing for vegetation management. This handbook includes 18 chapters and represents a compilation of the latest research on harnessing livestock to graze targeted vegetation in ways that improve the function and appearance of a wide variety of landscapes. The handbook was created through funding from the National Sheep Industry Association and the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI). The handbook is available online at www.cnr.uidaho.edu/rx-grazing/Handbook.htm.

Printed copies of the handbook will be available through ASI (info@sheepusa.org) for $25 in March 2007.

THE GOAT-Y PLACE TO BE IN FEB. 2007!

Not just for dairy goats anymore, the semi-annual NW Oregon Dairy Goat Association will have its next conference on Feb. 24 at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, OR. Look at all these great classes to choose from!

- Body Condition Scoring
- Mastitis
- Basic Skills
- Farm Accounting and the IRS
- Milking Machines
- Selecting Correct Dairy Goat Type Parts 1 & 2
- Meat Goat Management Parts 1 & 2
- Soap Making
- Production Test? The Possible Options
- SGCH, PTA, *M, +B? It Isn’t a Foreign Language!
- NAIS and You
- Grade A Dairy Licensing in OR
- Experiences with an Organic Goat Tilth Dairy
- Direct Farm Marketing
- Parasite Management
- Products for Goat Producers
- Pack Goat Project
- Selecting a Market Goat
- Selecting a Dairy Goat
- Youth Activities for Leaders
- Veterinary Skills for Youth
- Beginning Cheesemaking
- Advanced Cheesemaking
- Corrective Hoof Trimming
- Introduction to Artificial Insemination
- Necropsy of a Goat
- How to Judge Meat Goats
- Goat Packing
- Selective Parasite Control-FAMACHA Training
- Is He Worthy of Being Kept a Buck?
- Basic Hoof Trimming
- Bright Management Ideas
- Kidding and Kid Rearing Options
- DHIA Training/Scale Calibration
- Novice Showmanship
- Advanced Showmanship.

For more information, contact Chris Strickland at lechevrier@earthlink.net or 503-655-9874 or go to http://nwodga.org/2007_conference.htm.

If you are interested in carpooling from the Goldendale, WA area, contact Susan Kerr at 509-773-5817 or kerrs@wsu.edu.

WHAT’S COOKIN’?

Hawaiian Goat Mini-Kabobs
from www.cookeryonline.com

1 cup Italian dressing
1 14-oz. can pineapple chunks
1 clove garlic, minced
¼ cup melted butter
3 slices bacon cut in 1” pieces
1 lb. boneless goat leg cut in ¼” cubes
Combine cubed goat, dressing and garlic in a shallow glass dish and marinate for one hour or overnight in refrigerator. Cut pineapple chunks in half. Alternate cubes of goat meat, bacon and pineapple on mini-skewers or round toothpicks. Brush with melted butter. Broil 5-8 inches from heat source for 5 minutes. Serve hot. Makes 60-70 appetizers.

CAUTION: PREVENTING FIRES
by Mickey Nielson, from Northwest Cashmere Association Quarterly Newsletter, Dec. 2006

If you have ever experienced a house or barn fire you know how quickly everything can go up in smoke and the terror that fills your mind as you watch helplessly. With winter setting in the concern for our goats and newborn kids may force us to hang heat lamps this winter. Remember these simple steps to avoid the horror of a fire. Some insurance companies will not cover a barn fire if you have not done the following things.

Buildings
*Have an electrician verify that all electrical systems and equipment are properly grounded. This can help reduce the chance of shocks and/or production losses to livestock.
*Do not use extension cords as permanent hookups.
*Hang brooder lamps by chains, not electrical cords.
*Insulation in all buildings should be covered with a 15-minute fire barrier (for example, 1/2-inch rate gypsum board and 5/8-inch plywood).

Fire prevention
*Maintain smoke detectors throughout your home and barn. Check that batteries are working. Change batteries at least every six months.
*Weld only in well-ventilated areas away from flammable or combustible materials.
*Place approved fire extinguishers in your home, on tractors or combines and in barns, shops and sheds.
*Develop an evacuation plan for family members, including a meeting place.

*Have a licensed electrician periodically inspect your electrical systems. Be sure updates to your current electrical systems are performed by a qualified electrician.
*Inspect and maintain heating units before the beginning of each heating season.
*Practice good maintenance of your farm or ranch. Cut weeds and grass around buildings, maintain a clean shop and store all chemicals and flammable liquids properly.
*Don't burn trash outdoors on windy days and don't leave fires unattended.

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THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE
by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.

www.cookeryonline.com/goats/Cooking%20Goat%20Meat.html. Should you braise, grill or roast a rolled boneless shoulder of goat? What cuts are best when sautéed? This simple and practical site recommends the best basic cooking methods for particular cuts of goat meat.

www2.luresext.edu/goats/training/QAtoc.html
More great info at the Langston University/E. (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research Web site! Check out the contents of their Web-based Training and Certification Program for Meat Goat Producers:
•Do you want to be a goat producer?
•Legal Issues
Nutrition Requirements of Small Ruminants-Sheep, Goats, Cervids and New World Camelids was recently released. This new book provides an evaluation of the scientific literature of the nutrient requirements of small ruminants at all stages of life to support proper animal feeding practices for the production of meat, milk and fiber. In addition, effects of the environment, feed additives and metabolism modifiers on nutrient requirements are addressed.

Proper formulation of diets for small ruminants depends on adequate knowledge of their nutrient requirements. These requirements depend on the breed and age of the animal and whether it is exercising, pregnant or lactating. Nutrient Requirements of Small Ruminants brings together a summary of this latest data with new and expanded information on the composition of feeds commonly consumed by small ruminants, both domestic and wild. The data tables in this volume are separated by species, which provides more useful information for producers.

The audience for this report includes animal nutritionists, veterinarians, scientists, practical nutritionists and flock managers. As both a practical and a technical reference book, this material is written to ensure that diets of small ruminants contain adequate amounts of nutrients and excessive intake of certain nutrients will neither inhibit performance nor impair health.


1. The International Kiko Goat Association Supports Small Ruminant Veterinary Students. Each year, IKGA gives a $1,000 scholarship to a veterinary student interested in specializing in small ruminants, especially goats. In 2006 we had 14 applicants and the decision was a hard choice. The winner was Andrea Barten of Washington State University. IKGA strongly believes in giving back to the growing meat goat industry and in helping future small ruminant veterinarians with their educational expenses.


About Kikofest:
• It’s the largest Kiko event in the world
• It’s an educational program with world class speakers
• It offers hands-on, practical workshops
There is an auction of performance-based Kiko goats and crosses
There are both standard and silent auctions
There are goat-related vendors and information packets
There is good food including goat meat options
There are IKGA cookbooks and calendars for sale

TIPS FROM ORGANIC INSPECTORS ON TRANSITIONING YOUR FARM
Adapted from ATTRAnews vol. 14, no.6, Nov-Dec. 2006

• You don’t have to go hook, line and sinker into organics. You can start with a field, parcel or just a few animals. Just keep records, keep them separate and document all inputs, practices, etc.
• You don’t necessarily have to apply for certification at the beginning of the 36-month transition period. Consult your certifier to learn what will be required. You can generally wait until about six months before the first harvest that will occur after the transition period. The timing may depend on what you grow, so allow plenty of time.
• You must be able to document land-use history.
• The greatest risks for transitioning producers are record keeping, human resource management, budgeting and coping with the economic transition.
• You will need a marketing plan for what you produce during your transition period. Even though you are managing organically during the transition, you will not be able to sell these products as organic. The transitional label does not carry legal status. Since it is possible that production might drop initially, you need to carefully consider your markets and cash flow.

While some fields and crops may have lower yields without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, organic growers often have relatively low input costs, so your bottom line may be steady. However, management costs may be higher, at least initially while you are learning to manage a system differently. The organic premium may increase your profits after certification is complete.
• It takes time for your farm’s ecology to adjust to organic management. The natural processes will continue to develop as the farm becomes more balanced.
• Not all growers find the transition difficult. Producers who are already rotating crops and using sustainable practices will likely have an easier time.
• Resources for Organic Certification and Information in the Pacific Northwest include:
  Tilth Producers of Washington Oregon
  206-442-7620 503-378-0690
  www.tilthproducers.org www.tilth.org

(S)he who lets the goat be laid on her/his shoulders is soon after forced to carry the cow.”
—Italian proverb

A THIRD HAND
by Susan Kerr,
WSU Extension Educator – Klickitat Co.

Before the chaos of kidding season starts, take some time to set up a simple but essential in-barn record-keeping system. Mount a chalkboard or whiteboard in a non-goat area and make a table like the one shown below. Enter info and check off items when completed for each kid so none misses critical care. Enter data in permanent record book later.

| Doe’s name or # | Date kidded | # of kids | Navels clipped & dipped | Doe’s teats stripped | Received colostrum | Vit E/100 |
Serviceberry (Saskatoon or Amelanchier alnifolia) is a shrub or small tree commonly found in mountain valleys, prairie gullies, riparian areas and woodlands in the north. It is also a conservation planting that is encouraged as a source of food (berries) for wildlife.

The toxic principle of this plant is similar to those of members of the Prunus family (cherry, apricots, chokecherries, etc.). Chemicals found naturally in these plants are broken down into hydrogen cyanide by the bacteria in ruminants' rumens. Except for ripe berries, the cyanide precursors are found in all parts of the plant and are concentrated in wilted or damaged leaves.

Cyanide interferes with the ability of hemoglobin in red blood cells to release oxygen to body cells. Without treatment, death can occur quickly. Intravenous treatment is best performed by a veterinarian because it consists of chemicals not commonly found around the home or farm. Signs of toxicity include excitement, nervousness, bright red mucous membranes, difficulty breathing, open-mouth breathing, increased heart rate, drooling, diarrhea and sudden death. Animals that survive may abort or display weight loss. On necropsy, blood in veins and tissues is bright red. The offending plant parts may be found in the rumen and rumen contents may smell like almonds. Rumen contents can be tested for cyanide using specific test kits.

Photos from www.tarleton.edu