here are many excellent learning opportunities coming up throughout WA and OR for goat producers in the coming months. Heads up--some are only a few weeks away. Show and sale season is gearing up as well, so best of luck to everyone!

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/kiddingpen.php.

Send your comments, suggestions, newsletter articles and announcements to:
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IN THIS ISSUE:

1 Save These Dates!
1 Pack Your Bags for the 4-H Packgoat Convention
2 Master Goat Farmer Program Coming to Prosser
2 What’s Cookin’?
2 The Lure of Going On-line
2 Grazing Dayz Ahead
2 Big Doings in Ellensburg
3 OMGP Spring Pen Sale
3 Market Corner
3 AI, AI Oh!
4 Goats by the Numbers
4 Sheep and Goat Research Update
4 Spring Farm Walk: Diversified Livestock Operation
5 Get Your Name in Lights!
5 Goat Industry Update 2007
6 Health Note

SAVE THESE DATES!

Mar. 31-Apr. 1 April Fools Boer Goat Weekend, Skamania Fairgrounds in Stevenson, WA. For more info contact Elise at eaconlee@yahoo.com or 360-887-4590.

April 14 Annual Oregon Goats & Friends Education Day, 9AM, Josephine Co. Fairgrounds, Grants Pass, OR. Manda Doffing at 541-832-3349 from 7 to 9 pm or manda@tri-r-ranch.com

April 14, 21 & May 5 MGF program, Prosser, WA. See article.

April 16 Farm Walk, Omak, WA. Call 206-442-7620, visit www.pinestumpfarms.com or e-mail nancy@tilthproducers.org. See article.

April 18-19 Pasteurization workshop, Pullman, WA. E-mail creamery@wsu.edu, call 509-335-4014 or see www.wsu.edu/creamery/education/cheesemaking Ed.htm.

April 28-29 Eastern Washington Goat Producers Assoc. Spring Blowout Boer Goat Show and 4-H/FFA show, Ellensburg, WA, Kittitas County Fairgrounds. See article for more info.

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.

May 12-13 Goat AI Clinic, Soap Lake, WA. See article.

May 15-17 Riparian Grazing School, Reardan, WA. See article.

June 2 NW OR Dairy Goat Assoc. Annual Open Doe and Youth Show, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR. More Info: Helen Reasoner at hreasoner4127@hotmail.com.

June 9 Southern Oregon Boer Breeders’ Boer Goat Show, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg, OR.
**PACK YOUR BAGS FOR THE 4-H PACKGOAT CONVENTION**

If you like packgoats, plan to be in Chehalis, WA June 23-25 for the 4-H Packgoat Convention! Current and prospective packgoat project members are invited to attend this 2½ day event. Participants will learn all about packgoats and 4-H packgoat project information and contests.

For more info call Donna Semasko at 360-923-1451, e-mail dsemasko@comcast.net or visit [http://home.comcast.net/~edelweissacres](http://home.comcast.net/~edelweissacres).

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**WHAT'S COOKIN'?**

**Kid Goat With Vermicelli**

from [www.cookeryonline.com](http://www.cookeryonline.com)

1½ lb. kid goat, cubed
1 Tbsp. cumin seed
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
3 small garlic cloves
1 green bell pepper, diced
5 to 6 oz. vermicelli
2 fresh tomatoes, diced
1 small onion, diced
½ Tbsp. whole black pepper

Cut kid goat into bite-sized cubes and brown in skillet with oil until well done (about 20 to 30 min.). Combine onion and bell pepper and set aside. In blender, grind cumin seed, black pepper and garlic cloves until pulverized. Combine spices with kid goat and vegetables; mix well. Add vermicelli and enough water to cover entire mixture, then add diced tomatoes. Cover and bring to a slow simmer. Cook approximately 15 minutes or until vermicelli is tender. Do not stir until ready to serve. Makes 8 servings.

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**THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE**

by Susan Kerr,
WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.


[www.adga.org/milk-goat.pdf](http://www.adga.org/milk-goat.pdf) has a good general introduction to dairy goats and pack goats. A pack goat score card is included.

[www.adga.org/kidding.pdf](http://www.adga.org/kidding.pdf) has info about kidding and kid care articles. Good for beginners.
GRAZING DAYZ AHEAD

A Riparian Grazing School will be held May 15-17 in Reardan, WA, 22 miles west of Spokane. The school is designed for ranchers, land managers, natural resource agency personnel, regulatory agency personnel, and conservationists.

Topics to be covered include:
- How to assess whether riparian and wetland systems are functioning properly
- How to develop grazing and management strategies to protect riparian areas
- How to plan and implement grazing systems
- How to monitor impacts of your grazing system
- How to work through issues with other people

Working as a team, participants will assess a real riparian grazing situation and develop a plan to protect the riparian system while utilizing riparian forage for cattle.

Registration is $100 with $50 refundable to those who complete the school. The registration deadline is May 8. For more info contact David Lundgren at dlundgren@wadistrict.net or 509-725-4181 ext. 3.

BIG DOINGS IN ELLENSBURG

April 28-29 will be a weekend of goats and fun for everyone! The Eastern Washington Goat Producers Association will sponsor the 2007 Spring Blowout Boer Goat Show in the Bloom Pavilion on the Kittitas County Fairgrounds in Ellensburg, WA. An ABGA-sanctioned show will begin at 12:30 PM on April 28 and an USBGA-sanctioned show will begin at 9AM on April 29.

A 4-H/FFA goat show will start at 8AM both days and is open to all 4-H/FFA members. There will be showmanship, meat goat and dairy goat classes as well as pack, driving, obstacle courses, public presentations, a written exam and a Master of Goat competition.

Pens and health checks will be available from 5 to 7PM on April 27. The EWGPA will host a barbeque starting at 7PM for everyone. Check-in and health checks will continue from 8 to 10AM on the 28th. Pen sales will be offered. RV parking is available on site. There will be vendors and a raffle.

For more info contact Sheri Hubbard at 509-968-3057 or Janie Zencak at 509-857-2120 or valleycabin@fairpoint.net.

"Life is never as sweet as butter unless you milk it for all it's worth."
- Proverb

OMGP SPRING PEN SALE

The 2nd Oregon Meat Goat Producers’ Spring Pen Sale will be 10AM to 5PM on June 9 at the Milton-Freewater Junior Showgrounds on Hwy 11 in Milton-Freewater, OR. For more info call Kellie Casebier at 509-525-2796 or e-mail casebier@pocketinet.com.

All the consigners sold goats and were happy with last year’s sale. We expect all of last year’s consignors to participate this year and we welcome new consignors. The Pen Sale will provide a forum for meat and dairy goat producers and buyers to buy and sell goats. If you are in the market for some quality breeding stock please come join us for the day. There will be goats to meet everyone's program! Both show and commercial Boer goats will be available as well as some excellent dairy goats.

Stock dogs and guard animals may also be available at the Sale. All sales will be private treaty.

Sign in and wether weighing will be from 5 to 8pm on June 8 and 8 to 10 AM on June 9. Sale preview will be from 8 to 10 AM also. The Pen Sale will run from 10am to 5pm. There will be a Judging Clinic from 10am to noon and a Feed Management Seminar from 1 to 3pm.

Supply, equipment and nutritional vendors will be present and lunch will be available for sale. To get the forms needed to participate, please contact Kelly at casebier@pocketinet.com.
I’m looking for two wethers. I just want something that enjoys green grass, a nice barn when it rains, blackberries and fresh spring water. I don’t want anything small or young, just something that has been a good old guy (but not too old...), something that needs a good home. I have 2.5 cross-fenced acres with a stream and some woods and I’d like the goats to help keep the pasture looking nice.

- I can transport the goats
- This can be a short-term or long-term arrangement
- I could tame down a wild goat for you
- Guaranteed love and attention

Also, if anyone is serious about the Ruminations magazine, I have copies of the first year’s edition. I also have leads, chains and other goat stuff to barter with. If you have some wethers that might fit the bill, please contact Donna Corbitt in Lebanon, OR at dgoatmaw@yahoo.com or 541-259-4628.

AI, AI OH!
by Leslie Bader-Robinson

Leaning Tree Boer Goats will host a two-day Artificial Insemination clinic May 12-13 near Soap Lake, WA. The clinic will be excellent for all, from breeders with no knowledge of AI to veterinarians with years of training. Teresa Wade of Bio-Genics, LTD will teach the clinic. Registration is limited to 14 participants to allow for maximum amount of hands-on experience and one-on-one training. The cost will be $100 per person.

Each participant will need to bring a healthy doe that has been induced into standing heat for the second day of the class. Safe, comfortable indoor shelter will be provided for all visiting does or they are welcomed to stay in their trailers. To learn how to get a doe in standing heat for the class, check out the information at www.biogenicsltd.com/clinics.html.

Participants must also bring their own equipment (AI kit, tank if you are using your own semen straws, etc...). If you need to purchase equipment, you must do so before the clinic begins. In addition to a healthy doe in heat and AI equipment, you’ll need to bring your own sturdy goat stand.

The class will start at 9AM both days. Leaning Tree Boer Goats will provide coffee and breakfast in the morning and lunch each day. Participants will need to find their own lodging and evening meals. Out-of-town folks are welcomed to bring sleeping bags and sleep on our living room floor. There are cafes and motels within a few miles of our farm in the towns of Soap Lake and Ephrata.

To reserve a space at this clinic, e-mail lbaderl@yahoo.com or call 509-246-9327 to indicate your interest in the AI clinic. Provide your name, e-mail and phone number. Those interested need to send a $25 non-refundable reservation fee within five days of notifying me that you wish to attend. After five days, all spoken-for but unpaid slots will be offered to the next person on the list. If you have to cancel, the $25 fee will not be refunded. The $75 balance is due upon arrival at class.

I also plan to make our farm a "host farm" for another buck collection, where buck owners can bring their healthy bucks for collection and semen processing by Bio-Genics on a pre-scheduled date. This will take place this fall. Contact me for more information:
Leslie Bader-Robinson
Leaning Tree Alpacas,
Boer & Nubian Goats
2084 Road 20 NE, PO Box 177
Soap Lake, WA 98851
509-246-9327 ph. (509-246-0837 fax
lbaderl@yahoo.com
www.leaningtreefarm.com

GOATS BY THE NUMBERS

The All Goat Inventory in the U. S. on January 1, 2007, totaled 2.93 million head, up 3% from 2006. Breeding Goat Inventory totaled 2.44 million head, up 3% from 2006.

The Milk Goat Inventory increased 2% to 296,000 head, while Angora goats were down 8%, totaling 238,000 head. The 2006 kid crop totaled 1.92 million head for all goats, up 4% from 2005.

[Source: USDA NASS, February 2, 2007]
Here is a summary of some research abstracts presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science in Mobile, Alabama.

• There was no difference in feedlot performance or digestibility of diet in meat goats fed a diet supplemented with probiotics. The researchers suggested that probiotics would be more likely to have a beneficial effect on highly stressed animals, such as those purchased at a sale barn and co-mingled in a feed lot.

31 male meat goats from six states completed the first Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test in 2006. The goats gained an average 0.19 lbs. per day and required 1.65 anthelmintic treatments (each) during the 112-day test. Boer x Kiko kids required fewer dewormings than Kiko and Boer kids.

A study at Tennessee State University showed that sire and dam breeds interact to influence kid weights at birth and weaning. For 781 kids, birth weights were highest for Boer-sired kids and lowest for purebred Kiko and Spanish kids. Data from 635 kids showed that 90-day weaning weights were heaviest for Boer x Kiko and Kiko x Kiko kids and lightest for Boer x Boer and Spanish x Spanish matings. Kids were not creep fed in this study; males were left intact. Previous data documented the superiority of Kiko does for fitness and performance traits as compared to Boer does. Spanish does tended to be intermediate in most traits but had the highest efficiency ratio, expressed as litter weight divided by doe weight.

Yearling Boer does were used to evaluate the interaction between copper oxide wire particles and grazing Sericea lespedeza (Chinese bush clover) in the control of Hemonchus contortus. None of the does treated with a 5 gm bolus of copper oxide wire particles required treatment by day 28 vs. 56% of the untreated does. Fecal egg counts were lower for the does that had grazed Sericea lespedeza for 21 days compared to does that grazed tall fescue for the same period.

Different doses of copper oxide wire particles were administered to Boer x Spanish kids to determine their effect on internal parasites. A dose as low as 0.5 grams was effective at reducing fecal egg counts in the kids but an additional treatment was shown to be necessary within 4 weeks.

Grazing Sericea lespedeza and feeding it as hay reduced fecal egg counts in sheep and goats. Ground Sericea lespedeza hay reduced fecal egg counts of existing parasite infections which may help reduce pasture contamination with worm larvae.

Another study looked at the effect of pelleting on the anthelmintic efficacy of Sericea lespedeza hay against gastro-intestinal parasites in goats. Pelleting did not reduce the efficacy of Sericea lespedeza hay against parasitic nematodes and may facilitate the broader use of this forage in small ruminant parasite control programs.

Another study looked at the effect of vaccination of goats with antigens from intestinal membrane cells of Haemonchus contortus. The results of this study were promising as multi-vaccinated goats had lower fecal egg counts and higher packed cell volumes compared to unvaccinated goats.

SPRING FARM WALK: DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK OPERATION

The Tilth Producers of Washington and the WSU Small Farms Team will sponsor a farm walk at Pine Stump Farm, a diversified livestock operation near Omak, WA.

Carey Hunter and Albert Roberts practice rotational grazing in the Ponderosa Pine understory and raise hay on leased acreage. Pine Stump Farm includes a goat dairy and cheese facility with a herd of 45 dairy and meat goats. Tour layer and fryer chicken operations utilizing chicken-mobiles, a large subsistence garden that captures water via gravity flow systems and dry weather condition mulching and a hand-built machine shop that maintains all the equipment for the haying and farming.
The April 16 tour will run from noon to 3:30 PM; please bring a sack lunch. Registration is $10 for Tilth Producers members and $15 for non-members. Register on site or pre-register by mailing a check to: Tilth Producers, PO Box 85056, Seattle, WA 98145; mark “Pine Stump Farm Tour” on your check. For more info e-mail nancy@tilthproducers.org or call 206-442-7620. Learn more about the Pine Stump Farm at www.pinestumpfarms.com.

GET YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS!

Well, not really, but you can get your name into the 2007 version of the PNW Meat Goat Producers’ Directory. If you aren’t already in this publication, send info about your farm to Susan Kerr (see contact info on page 1) and you will be included in this directory at no charge. The directory is available at: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/Kidding%20Pen/kiddingpen.php and many issues are downloaded each month. If you’d like to be included in the directory send us this info:

- Your name
- Your farm name
- Mailing address
- Physical address
- Phone number(s)
- e-mail address
- BRIEF info about the products you have available (breeds, breeding animals, services, market stock, 4-H-FFA project kids, etc.)

GOAT INDUSTRY UPDATE 2007
by Frank Pinkerton

[Editor’s note: Below are excerpts from an article by Frank Pinkerton that appeared in The Goat Rancher magazine, Apr. 2007, www.goatrancher.com. Used with permission.]

Texas had the largest numbers of meat goats with Tennessee second, California third, Georgia fourth and Oklahoma fifth. The industry total for meat goat numbers was 2,400,000 up 5% from January 2006; this in spite of serious droughts in some of the major areas of production.

As shown in Figure 1, beginning in 2005, we imported more goats (35 lb carcass equivalent) than we slaughtered in federally-inspected plants. During 2006 we imported just under 700,000 goats while we slaughtered 584,100 goats in federal plants. However, in 2006 we also slaughtered 165,100 goats in state-inspected plants for a total domestic slaughter of 749,200 goats. An unknown number of domestic goats are slaughtered informally each year by non-reporting individuals who buy or raise them. We will never accurately know our real slaughter numbers.

Our major consumer groups of goat meat continue to be Muslims and Latinos. It is wise to remember that the phenomena of ‘social acculturation’, that is, new arrivals tend to adopt the eating (and other) habits of the general population over time and place. It is well-known that adolescents are trend-setters in this regard; equally well-known is that they are parents of the next generation of consumers. One of these days we may need to persuade ‘others’ to become eaters of goat meat.

The traditional practices of buying whole carcasses and cubes (about 2”w x 6”l) seems to be giving way to half- and quarter-carcasses and primal cuts (leg, shoulder, loin strip); some retail cuts (chops, roasts, patties, sausages) are now found in a few supermarkets. We speculate that this trend will continue, perhaps accelerate, in part because rising farm and post-farm prices make whole carcasses quite expensive. We are also told that packer and retailer acceptance of heavier carcasses is increasing. Careful, here—overly fat goats are discounted heavily.

There is another important question about goat meat demand that has not been researched properly, namely, is there a real seasonal pattern to consumer demand for goats in the U.S.? All we really know to date is the well-documented pattern of fluctuating seasonal prices paid at public auctions (low in July/October, moving up in November and high in December/pre-Easter, and decreasing thereafter). The
increased supply during late summer and fall simply reflects decisions owners make for fall breeding/spring kidding schedules.

Australian meat goat production supplies about 97% of imports. Indeed, imports seem necessary to sustain our consumer base. Readers are again reminded that Australia did not take our goat markets; rather, U.S. producers failed to increase meat goat production adequately when Angora goat numbers fell drastically in the mid-nineties following the demise of the USDA mohair subsidy program. The harvest of feral goats in Australia is the dominant source of goats for meat exports and weather conditions have the heaviest influence upon numbers and weights of frozen meat carcasses imported into the U.S.

We understand that frozen imported goat meat typically sells for less than fresh domestic goat meat, with differences varying over time and place. We are also told that although a majority of U.S. consumers may prefer domestic goat over imported goat, they are price conscious enough to take all goat meat offered. Indeed, they have no real choice, given the deficit of domestic product. Wholesalers seem to feel that demand for either product exceeds supply, particularly at certain times of the year.

The profit margins typically realized by goat producers are currently not particularly conducive to expansion of domestic output. This situation could deteriorate in the coming years, particularly for those producers whose management strategies include the considerable use of corn/soy-based concentrates as supplements to grazing and hay. Possible alternatives include more emphasis on forage-only programs and increased use of corn and soybean by-products.

Tighter operating and profit margins may—should—increase the use of on-farm testing to identify and retain only those goats with superior, more economical performance (not just better reproductive efficiency, but also improved parasite-resistance, hoof wear, etc.).

In some instances, herd expansion itself may be a way to lower cost/lb of kid produced.

Goat enterprises are only a very small part of the national livestock industry, which may shrink in the coming years due to the shift in corn and soybean production toward ethanol and biofuels. As Economist Bob Utterback (Farm Journal, February 2007 Outlook) put it, “the livestock and export sectors will see significant reduction during the next three marketing years. Poultry will be hurt the most, and pork will be close behind. The cattle industry will be the least impacted of the three since it can feed the ethanol byproduct more effectively. By 2010, if ethanol demand grows to 25-30 billion gallons, I would not be surprised if livestock production is down 25-30% in the U.S. and exports are close to zero”.

Such developments would, of course, result in substantially higher consumer prices for shorter supplies of meats, eggs, and milk. Indeed, this is a Bad Thing Coming, but...perhaps not all bad for goat owners in their role as producers of (mostly) forage-based red meat. Think here of the real opportunities for selling into a scarcity-based market for livestock products...only vegans would be out of your target groups.
Figure 1. Trends in U.S. federal slaughter of goats and imported goat meat, 1998–2006.

Health note: We’ve received several calls about kids born with goiters (enlarged thyroid glands). These kids are often born dead or very weak. To help prevent this condition, make sure your pregnant does have enough Iodine in their diet. The easiest way is through free choice trace-mineralized salt crumbles. If does lack Iodine, their unborn kids will not develop properly. In the face of an ongoing herd problem with stillborns due to Iodine deficiency, strong Iodine solution can be applied to the skin of pregnant does’ rumps; the does will absorb it across their skin. Contact your veterinarian for more information about congenital goiter in goats.

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