We’ve changed our newsletter font to Arial in hopes that those of you who download and print from the Internet have fewer formatting problems. What else can we do to make your lives easier? 😊


As always, we welcome articles, hints and questions from producers. Send your comments, suggestions, newsletter articles and announcements to:

Dr. Susan R. Kerr  
228 W. Main St, MS-CH-12  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
kerrs@wsu.edu 509-773-5817; 509-773-5707 (fax)

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**SAVE THESE DATES!**

Aug. 11 Clark County Fair USBGA Show, Ridgefield, WA. Contact Mary Wynne at 360-397-6180 or wynshire@pacifier.com.

Aug. 17-19 Southwest Washington Fair, Centralia, WA. ABGA shows. Contact Marcela at cedaranch@aol.com.

Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Kittitas Co. Fair, Ellensburg, WA. Contact John Harris at 509-925-1259 or skeeter@skyfirelabs.com.

Aug. 31 Boers for Oregon State Fair, Salem, OR. Contact Darrell Lauer at Darrell@Lauerboergoats.com or 503-682-0789.

Sept. 8 NW Breeders’ Production Sale, Yakima, WA. Contact Judy Wolfe, wolfjeu@aol.com.

Sept. 21-23 Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival, Clackamas Co. Fairgrounds, Canby, OR. Brandy Chastain, whistlestop.farm@verizon.net or 503-628-1205. [http://flockandfiberfestival.com](http://flockandfiberfestival.com).

Sept. 29 Meat Goat Program Day, Walla Walla WA. See article for more information.

Oct. 6-7 OctoBoer Show, Walla Walla, WA. Two ABGA shows. Contact Terry Brown at capriole@pocketinet.com.


**THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE**

by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.

[www2.luresext.edu/GOATS/library/field/olcott07a.pdf](http://www2.luresext.edu/GOATS/library/field/olcott07a.pdf) Thorough and readable article about biosecurity for meat goat enterprises.

[www2.luresext.edu/GOATS/library/field/hart07.pdf](http://www2.luresext.edu/GOATS/library/field/hart07.pdf) Thorough and readable article about meat goat nutrition.


**MARKETING CORNER**


_Extension programs and policies are consistent with Federal and state laws & regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local Extension Office. The information herein is supplied for educational or reference purposes only, and with the understanding that no discrimination is intended. Listing of commercial products implies no endorsement by WSU Extension. Criticism of products or equipment not listed is neither implied nor intended._
A program focusing on financial aspects of meat goat production will be held in Walla Walla, WA on September 29 from 9AM to 3PM at the Walla Walla Airport Community Room.

Presentation topics will include goal setting, business planning, budgeting and Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations. There will also be a marketing panel and a skillathon for youth.

Presenters will include Shannon Neibergs, WSU Extension Economist; Jan Busboom, WSU Meats Specialist; Gena Reich, WSDA Food Safety Regional Manager; Kellie Donovan-Casebier, Walla Walla area meat goat producer; Debbie Moberg, WSU Extension Director—Walla Walla County; Bart Fouts, PNW goat producer and marketer.

Pre-registration of $15 is due by September 14 to Walla Walla County Extension Office, 328 W. Poplar St., Walla Walla, WA 99362. There is no fee for youth participants. Pizza and pop will be available for purchase; brown bag lunches are welcome.

For more info, contact Debbie Moberg, WSU-Walla Walla County Extension Director, 509-524-2685 or dmoberg@wsu.edu.

**Directions:** From Highway 12 in Walla Walla, take the "Port of Walla Walla/Airport" freeway exit. Turn left at stop sign and proceed under Highway 12 on Airport Road. The terminal building is on the left.

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**TIPS FOR STRETCHING YOUR FEED DOLLAR**

by Jackie Nix

Here are a few tips that can help everyone to stretch their feed budgets.

1. Reduce the amount of wasted feed. If your goats tend to waste a lot of hay or feed, now is the time to remedy this. Solutions may include placing hog wire around round bales to prevent goats from walking on it or building trays under hay feeders or troughs to catch dropped hay or feed.

2. Deworm all animals and treat/prevent for coccidia as needed. If possible, run fecal exams to assure effectiveness of treatment. Don't let internal parasites place added strain on your goats.

3. Cull unproductive animals. Now is the time to cull those marginal does and bucks that you were going to "keep around for one more year." Any goat that isn't meeting the production goals that you've set isn't paying for its feed.

4. Always provide a complete mineral/vitamin supplement to deliver recommended levels of phosphorus, copper, selenium and vitamin A. Mineral deficiency lowers feed conversion efficiency in goats. More efficient feed conversion allows you to stretch your feed resources farther.

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**FLORAL FOES**

by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a big concern in the U.S. for two reasons: first of all, this plant is BIG—it can grow up to 20 feet tall! Secondly, it contains a nasty irritant sap that can cause severe skin irritation and blisters in both people and animals.

Giant hogweed is considered an invasive species and is listed as a Federal noxious weed. It is illegal to bring this plant into the U.S. or move it across state lines, yet some people continue to plant this weed as an ornamental. This weed can and has escaped into surrounding areas in many states, where it shades out and out-competes more desirable plants, causing streambank erosion and other environmental problems.

A member of the parsley/carrot family, giant hogweed looks very similar to cow parsnip, a common native plant in Washington state. Giant hogweed has a thick, hollow, dark purple-red stem with bristles. The plant's leaves are compound and up to five feet across. As shown in the photo, the plant has huge umbrella–shaped flower heads.

As mentioned, the weed’s irritant sap can cause severe skin problems. The sap causes skin to become extra-sensitive to ultraviolet sunlight; painful swelling, blisters, burns and ulcers occur and severe scarring can result. Contact with the eyes can cause blindness.

There is one report of an adult male pygmy goat that became sick after grazing in a public park. The goat was depressed, had a poor appetite and drooled excessively. Upon examination, severe ulcers were found in his mouth. He had access to giant hogweed, which was the presumed source of the ulcers.

**DON'T MISS OFFF!**

If you have goats and/or sheep, you owe it to yourself to go to the Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival at the Clackamas Co. fairgrounds in Canby, OR at least once in your life! This year’s dates are Sept. 21-23. For more info call 503-628-1205 or visit [http://flockandfiberfestival.com](http://flockandfiberfestival.com).
4-H UTILITY (PACKING/DRIVING)
GOAT PROJECT GIVEAWAY CONTEST
by Rachel George

Purpose:
To award a set of wethers to a 4-H member to raise, train and show.

Rules:
• Open to all 4-H members with at least a two year future time commitment to devote to this project
• Preference will be given to members in the Southeast counties of WA state (Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima counties)
• Applicants must have appropriate facilities and equipment for utility goats; time and willingness to work with a set of goats for at least two years; and basic knowledge of the 4-H utility goat project.

To Participate:
• Write a letter explaining why you would like to be given two goat wethers to raise, train and show, and why you would be a good candidate for selection. TIP: Write your letter to convince judges that you are the best one to be awarded this set of wethers.
• Have your parent/guardian write a letter committing to help you with this project for the next two years.
• Include a letter of recommendation from an adult (other than a parent/guardian) about why you would be a good choice for this award.
• Compile information on the history of utility goats in general, in your county and in your family and submit this information in either essay or mini-report form.
• In your application, include your contact information including mailing address and phone number; e-mail address can be included if desired.

Important Details:
• Members should be able to raise and train goats as utility (packing/driving) goats. Members may obtain help from other members who have trained and shown utility goats before.
• Photographs will need to be taken and sent to the breeder periodically to prove that the youth is doing a worthy job and caring for the animals well. If goats are not taken care of properly or the 4-Her does not take responsibility to train and show the goats, the goats will be returned to the breeder.
• All entry materials must be received by Sept. 10, 2007. Send all entry materials to:
  Rachel George
  322 East Taneum Road
  Thorp, WA 98946
• The winner will be contacted by September 22.

Anyone with questions should contact Rachel George at 509-964-2515 or foothillsfarm@elltel.net.

RESEARCH UPDATE:
High level copper supplementation improves gain efficiency and carcass characteristics in goat kids
from Penn State Dairy and Animal Science, www.das.psu.edu/goats/research

Feeding high levels of supplemental copper has altered fat and cholesterol metabolism in non-ruminants such as broilers and finishing pigs. Some research suggests that high levels of dietary copper may affect fat metabolism in ruminants, including decreasing fat depth. However, data related to the effect of copper on carcass characteristics and fat metabolism in goats is limited.

Fifteen Boer x Spanish castrated goat kids were used in the study. The animals averaged 5 months of age and 47 pounds and were fed a diet containing 70% grain and 30% hay. Each goat received a daily capsule supplement containing 0, 100 or 200 mg of copper throughout the 112-day study. Goats were slaughtered and graded according to Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications for Fresh Goat.

Although overall feed intake decreased as copper supplementation increased, gain efficiency improved in the 100 mg of copper group. Both serum cholesterol and USDA selection criteria were unaffected by copper treatment. Dressing percent and body wall fat tended to decrease with increased copper supplementation, while percent of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts increased. Ninth and 11th rib sections showed increased moisture and decreased fat as copper supplementation increased, although this method of determining carcass composition needs to be further validated with more testing.

Overall, copper supplementation at 100 mg/d improved gain efficiency, fat profile and carcass characteristics in goat kids fed a high-concentrate diet. Decreasing deposited fat on the carcass may have health benefits for humans and ultimately decrease the waste per carcass. Further research is needed to determine the role of copper on fat and cholesterol metabolism in goats.


NEW RESOURCES

1. Meat Goat Pocket Record
   This 3” x 5” record book was designed to fit in a producer’s pocket to encourage record keeping. It was created by faculty from the University of Missouri Extension and Tennessee State University.
This booklet contains places to record kidding, weaning, vaccination, deworming, breeding, mortality, weather, feed, culling and animal purchase information. It also contains educational information about body condition scoring, health practices, meat goat facts, gestation tables and much more.

To receive a copy of this record book, contact:
James Humphrey, Livestock Specialist
Andrew County Univ. of Missouri Extension Center
PO Box 32, 2nd Floor Courthouse
Savannah, MO 64485
(816)324-3147
humphreyjr@missouri.edu

Although there is no charge for this record book, it would be nice to send $1 to cover postage and handling. Please send a check or money order made out to University of Missouri Extension-Andrew County. Thanks!


The Meat Goat Producers’ Handbook was compiled by a consortium of universities and producer organizations and was funded by the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. “This book is a pretty comprehensive and authoritative source of goat information,” says Dr. Steve Hart of Langston University’s E. (kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research.

“It is basically a printed form of the Meat Goat Producer Certification course that is on our web site, minus test questions,” says Dr. Hart. Those interested in viewing the contents of the book could browse the Meat Goat Producer Certification information located at http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/training/qa.html. The handbook can be viewed at or ordered from http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/MGPH.html.

Chapters in the handbook include:
1. General Overview (Do you want to be a goat producer?)
2. Introduction to a Meat Goat Quality Assurance Program and HACCP
3. Meat Goat Management
4. Goat Facilities
5. Goat Herd Health - Procedures and Prevention
6. Herd Health II - Common Diseases
7. Internal & External Parasites of Goats
8. Biosecurity for Meat Goat Producers
9. Marketing Slaughter Goats and Goat Meat
10. Introduction to Goat Nutrition
11. Pastures for Goats
12. Goat Farm Budgeting
13. Legal Issues
14. Goat Reproduction
15. Genetic Improvement and Crossbreeding in Meat Goats
16. Predator Control
17. Vegetation Management
18. Farm Business Planning
19. Livestock Guarding Dogs
20. Disaster Preparedness for Livestock
21. Organic Meat Goat Production
22. Reproductive Technologies

This excellent resource is available by sending a check or money order payable to “Research Sales” for $50 (which includes shipping within U.S.) to:
MGPH
Langston University
Box 730
Langston, OK 73050

Q & A ABOUT GOITER

Q. I read about goiter in the April Kidding Pen and have want to know more. What causes goiter?
A. Thanks for your question. Goiter means enlargement of the thyroid gland. In animals, it can be caused by the ingestion of certain plants, lack of iodine in the diet and/or genetics. The genetic cause seems particularly important in Boers.

Goitrogenic plants are plants that cause goiter by interfering with thyroid gland function and/or disrupting iodine uptake by the thyroid gland. Examples are horseradish, turnips, rape, rutabagas, mustards, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, watercress and radishes. These goiters resolve when the plants are removed from the diet and/or iodine intake is increased.

Dietary iodine deficiency causes an enlarged thyroid gland, small/weak/stillborn kids, slow growth and ill health; adult animals may show poor reproductive performance. Goats require 0.1 to 0.8 parts per million of iodine in their diet. Add iodine to the diet via trace mineral salt and iodized salt. As mentioned in the April issue, producers can pour 7% iodine solution on pregnant does’ backs during late gestation to help prevent goiter in newborn kids where iodine deficiency is a concern or when an “outbreak” of neonatal goiter is occurring.

Boer kids affected with the genetic/inherited form often have silky and lustrous coats. This form of goiter does not respond well to treatment. A given Boer buck-doe mating may produce kids born with goiters, yet that same Boer buck mated with a different Boer doe or a non-Boer doe may produce normal kids. Good records will help producers identify and track just such inherited problems.

Stillborn Boer kid with congenital goiter.
Photo by Patti Miele.