How is/was your kidding season? Hopefully you have well over a 100% kidding crop and everyone is happy, healthy and growing well. If you battle mud, do everything you can to have does kid in a clean, dry area and get navels disinfected ASAP. A good meal of colostrum immediately after birth will give newborn kids the calories and antibodies they'll need to get started on the right path. Keep an eye out for coccidiosis starting when kids are about 3 weeks old.

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

As always, we welcome articles, hints and questions from producers. Send announcements, comments, suggestions & newsletter articles and 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!

April 5   WA State Sheep Producers’ Lambing School, Lamont, WA at Feustel Farms. Contact Jami Beintema at 509-968-9320 or wssp@fairpoint.net.
April 5-6   April Fools Boer Goat Weekend, Skamania Co. Fairgrounds, Stevenson, WA. Becki Crighton at becki@coppercreekboers.com or 503-631-3996.
April 6   Small-Scale Goat Dairy Production Workshop, 9AM-5PM, OSU Extension Auditorium, Central Point, OR. 541-776-7371 ext. 208.
April 7-12   Sheep Shearing School, Moses Lake, WA. Contact Sarah Smith at smithsm@wsu.edu or 509-754-2011 ext. 413.
April 12   4-H Goat & Sheep Conference, 10AM-2PM, Lane Co. 4-H office, 13th Ave., Eugene, OR.
April 12   High Desert Meat Goats Meeting and 4H Market Goat Pen Sale, 10AM, Malin Community Center, Malin, OR. Contact Jim Walters at 541-723-2225 or twoholeroats@centurytel.net.
April 12-13   Akbash Gathering, Hawley Ranch, Cottage Grove, OR. 541-942-3035 or 541-520-2916 or hawley@peak.org.
April 16   Columbia Basin Goat Guild monthly meeting, 6 PM, PUD meeting room, Goldendale, WA. For more info contact Mary Wilson at 509-250-2154 or halfcreekfarm@gmail.com. See article.
April 17-20   Northwest Boer Goat Show at the Puyallup Spring Fair, Puyallup, WA. USBGA and ABGA shows. For info contact Shirley HasBrouck at 360-426-4370 or shomoons@aol.com or go to www.boeroats4richardsandy.com/PuyallupSpringFair.html.
April 18-19   SW Washington Lambing School, Cathlamet, WA. Contact Lore Twiet at 360-795-3278 or twietl@co.wahkiakum.wa.us.
April 26-27   Cowboy Country Boer Show, Prineville, OR. USBGA and ABGA shows. Contact Ron Raymond at ronrx1@hotmail.com or 541-447-4321.
May 2-3   Boers de Mayo Festival, New Plymouth, ID. ABGA shows. Contact Janene Jones at doubleheartgoats@bigskytel.com.
May 3   FAMACHA training? See article.
May 15-17   Intermountain Livestock Judges Training, Lewistown, MT. Emphasis on sheep and meat goats. Contact Scott Nash at (208) 785-8060 or bingham@uidaho.edu.
May 17-18   Central Washington Boer Show, Yakima, WA. ABGA show. Contact Judy Wolfe at wolfeJu@aol.com.
May 31   Star Spangled Boer Show, Stanwood Fairgrounds, Stanwood, WA. USBGA shows. Julie Davis at 425-308-4456 or nnjsplace@msn.com.
June 21   OMPG Youth Jackpot Show and USBGA Boer Goat Show, 9AM, WOE Fairgrounds, Cottage Grove, OR. Cary Heyward at 541-942-7077 or lynxhollow@aol.com.
June 26-28   PNW Livestock Judges and Show Managers’ School Workshop, Pullman, WA. Contact Mark Heitstuman at heitstuman@wsu.edu or 509-243-2009. See article.
MARKETING CORNER

For Sale: Two Nubian doelings, $85 each. Dam and sire are registered; doelings could be registered. Contact St. Johns Monastery, 509-773-7141 or stjohnmon@hughes.net.

Web Site: We now have a web site with alternative health care products for goats and sheep. Please visit http://firmeadowherbs.tripod.com. Fir Meadow LLC, Kat Drovdahl, Herbalist.

GREAT GOAT GROUPS: The Columbia Basin Goat Guild

[Editor’s note: In this new feature, we will highlight a Northwest goat association. If you would like us to spotlight your group, send info about your association to The Kidding Pen using the contact info on page 1].

The Columbia Basin Goat Guild meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 PM in the PUD meeting room in Goldendale, WA. Membership is $10/year but there is no charge to attend an introductory meeting.

The Guild’s goals are improved marketing, cooperative feed purchases for lower costs and mutual referrals for sales.

We will have a 'Farm Fest' on Sept. 20, 2008 at the Klickitat Co. Fairgrounds in Goldendale, WA. This event will include vendors, more than 100 pens for animals and a menu that will feature USDA-inspected goat meat. Stay tuned for more info!

Mary Wilson is the contact person for the Guild. She can be reached at halfcreekfarm@gmail.com or 509-250-2154.

CHANGES IN IODINE AVAILABILITY
adapted from an article in Buckeye Dairy News, Vol. 9, Issue 3, Sept. 2007 by Dianne Shoemaker, Extension Dairy Specialist, Ohio State University

Q: Why is 7% tincture of iodine no longer available at retail stores or through catalogs for dipping navels?
A: Illegal drug manufacturers and unscrupulous livestock supply dealers conspired to use 7% iodine to produce iodine crystals for methamphetamines. As a result, the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) moved iodine, previously designated as a List 2 chemical, to a List 1 chemical. That means the DEA now regulates sales of all products with more than 2.2% iodine.

Q: Can I still purchase 7% iodine to dip navels?
A: Yes, but only through a vendor registered to handle controlled products. It is likely that your veterinarian is registered to handle other controlled substances and may carry 7% iodine for clients. It will mean extra paperwork for the veterinarian's business. Talk to them before your supply runs out!

Q: Why bother dipping navels at all?
A: An important step in newborn care is dipping umbilical cords in 7% tincture of iodine as soon after birth as possible. A tincture contains alcohol. The alcohol provides drying action, while the iodine has disinfectant properties. This management practice plays a large role in preventing navel ill and other infections. The umbilical cord is the fetus' lifeline in the uterus, delivering nutrients and removing wastes during gestation. Following birth, it no longer serves those functions, but it is still a direct route into the body until total closure takes place. Nature provides for the umbilical cord to close off, dry off, fall off and heal over, just as nature provides for the newborn to receive passive immunity through colostrum. Navel dipping and hand-feeding colostrum help nature do its job.

Q: Is there a substitute for 7% tincture of iodine?
A: Possibly, but a search of past and current research turns up no studies on this topic.

Q: How about an iodine-based teat dip for navels?
A: Teat dips are not effective as navel dips. Iodine-based teat dips contain 1% iodine or less. They also don't contain the alcohols comparable to an iodine tincture. Tinctures containing 2% iodine are still available over the counter. A possible solution is to use these weaker preparations for several days in a row until the umbilical cord is completely dried. However, many producers struggle to get a navel dipped once in 7% iodine, let alone re-dipping two or three more times.

Summary: Dipping navels in 7% tincture of iodine is an important management practice, helping to minimize illnesses and death losses. Keeping an adequate supply on hand will take more planning because the product is now a USDEA List 1 chemical. However, don't use this change as an excuse not to dip navels or eventually you will lose animals to septicemia (blood poisoning) or navel ill.

EVERYONE COUNTS!

Are you included in the 2007 Ag Census? It isn’t too late! To qualify, a farm just needs the potential to sell $1,000 annually. It is very important to get an accurate count of U.S. goat producers and goat numbers, so please complete your Ag Census form.

Contacts:
Christopher Mertz
USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Oregon Field Office
(503) 326-2131 or chris_mertz@nass.usda.gov

Dave Knopf
USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Washington Field Office
(360) 902-1940 or david.knopf@nass.usda.gov.
9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GOATS
"Sustainable Goat Production: Challenges and Opportunities of Small and Large Enterprises"

The 9th International Goat Conference will be held in Queretaro, Mexico at the Mision Queretaro Juriquilla Hotel from Aug 31 – Sept 5, 2008. Participants will be able to attend exhibitions where producers from all over Mexico will present info about dairy and meat goats, goat food products and other commercial items. The conference will include:

- Keynote speakers
- Individual sessions (presentations and posters)
- Roundtable discussions
- Workshops for producers
- Tours
- International Goat Association (IGA) Meeting
- Cultural Activities

Researchers, professors, students, goat consultants and producers are invited to participate in the individual sessions, presenting their research findings and production experiences in oral or poster presentations in the following areas:

- Physiology and Behavior
- Breeding and Reproduction
- Biotechnology and Genetics
- Nutrition and Feeding
- Animal Health
- Management and Production Systems
- Environment and Sustainability
- Goat products: Marketing, Economics and Food Safety
- Technology Transfer and Producer Organization
- Social Development and Contribution of Women to Goat Production

Instructions for preparation of manuscripts and posters is available at www.igamexico.com.

Keynote speakers will address
- Sustainable Goat Production
- Food Safety, Production and Product Quality Assurance
- Future of Organic Goat Products
- Recent Advancement in Biotechnology in Goats
- Branding and Marketing of Goat Products
- Goat Production and Environment Conservation

For more information, go to www.igamexico.com or contact Jorge Kawas, 52-811-080-3149 or jkawas@mnademexico.com.

PNW LIVESTOCK JUDGES AND SHOW MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

The 2008 Pacific Northwest Livestock Judges and Show Management School will be held June 26-28 at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

The school, sponsored by WSU, the University of Idaho and Oregon State University, is an excellent learning opportunity for new and experienced judges, show managers, fair superintendents, 4-H Leaders, parents, livestock sale committee volunteers, FFA advisors, producers, and livestock enthusiasts to enhance understanding of exhibition food animal evaluation and positive youth development.

The event will improve the livestock industry by developing participants’ skills to evaluate exhibition food animals; promote positive youth development; and showcase the benefits of animal agriculture and youth development programs.

Participants can select the Judges or Show Management Track. Individuals completing the Show Management Track will gain many helpful tools to improve the quality of their fairs and livestock shows. The show manager’s track will focus on financial management and accounting of the sale of market animals, emergency planning, show management and livestock sale software, and expectations of the turned animal buyers. The show management section will feature state and national experts on the above topics.

The Judge’s Track will focus on beef, meat goats, sheep, and swine. The sheep and meat goat section will feature Frank Craddock, Extension sheep and goat Specialist from Texas A & M University. Craddock has coached a national champion collegiate livestock judging team, a national champion collegiate wool judging team and a state champion 4-H livestock judging team. Craddock is recognized for his excellent communication skills and knowledge of show and production livestock industries.

Completion of the livestock judges track will certify the person as a livestock judge and their contact information will be distributed to shows and livestock events throughout the PNW.

Registration for the Livestock Judge’s Track is $175 for three days, including a judge’s notebook, three lunches, a banquet and refreshments. Registration for the Show Management Track is $100 for two days, including a notebook, two lunches, a banquet and refreshments. The registration deadline is June 1 but register early to secure a spot.

For more information, contact Sarah M. Smith, WSU Grant/Adams Extension, at 509-754-2011, ext. 413 or smithsm@wsu.edu or Jerry Newman, WSU 4-H Livestock Program, at 509-338-5938 or newmanj@wsu.edu. Detailed information is available at http://4-h.wsu.edu/news/index.htm.
ABOMASAL BLOAT AND ABOMASITIS IN KIDS
adapted from an article by Dr. Dave Van Metre,
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences,
Colorado State University

Abomasitis (inflammation of the true stomach) is
an occasional problem in young ruminants, particu-
larly those less than a month old. Signs of illness can
include sudden onset of bloat, depression colic,
drooling, teeth grinding and/or diarrhea. Splasy and
gassy sounds can be heard if one shakes the
animal's abdomen. Many affected animals progress
to shock, dehydration and death.

On post mortem examination, the stomach is
inflamed and contains gas, bloody fluid and foul-
smelling milk clots. Ulcers may be present.

It is not known what causes abomasitis, but
several factors may be involved:
• Bacteria (Clostridium perfringens type A, Sarcinia
  or Salmonella typhimurium)
• Insufficient quantity or quality of colostrum
• Foreign bodies (hair, indigestible plant material)
• Vitamin E, selenium and/or copper deficiencies
• Poor milk feeding practices (temperature and
  sanitation issues; irregular feeding; infrequent and
  large meals).

Bear in mind that C. perfringens type A is a
normal member of the ruminant intestinal tract. This
bacteria produces gas from fermentation and some
strains produce toxins, so if its numbers increase
dramatically—such as could happen with a sudden
increase in digestible nutrients—problems can
ensue. Irregular feeding schedules, huge variations
in meal sizes or anything that disrupts or delays
normal nursing or feeding patterns could predispose
an animal to bacterial overgrowth with C. perfringens
type A.

Prompt treatment is essential; discuss details
with your farm’s licensed veterinarian. First, do not
give or allow the animal to ingest any food, or more
bacterial fermentation will occur. Passing a stomach
tube may help if the kid is held in a vertical position
and the tube is moved gently back and forth while
someone gently massages the animal’s abdomen.

Your veterinarian may suggest you give penicillin
and mineral oil orally; this is extra-label use so your
veterinarian must make this recommendation.
Injections of penicillin and anti-inflammatories may
also be indicated.

If you experience cases of abomasitis in your
herd, focus on prevention. Address problems with
pregnant doe nutrition, particularly nutrient
deficiencies. Be sure newborn kids ingest sufficient
amounts of sanitary, high-quality colostrum. Try to
keep meal sizes and times consistent (i.e. bottle feed
same volume at the same temperature and time or
keep nursing kids with does at all times). Pay
particular attention to intake during bad weather.

Kids could ingest a problematic amount of hair if
they do not have enough fiber, are in group pens or
are itchy from external parasites. Prevent hair
ingestion by controlling external parasites, offering
hay and removing kids that chew on each other.

Vaccination of pregnant does with C. perfringens
types C and D may cause the doe to produce
colostrum with antibodies that are also protective
against C. perfringens type A, but this cross-
protection varies between vaccine manufacturers. A
vaccine for the main C. perfringens type A toxin is
available but its ability to prevent abomasal bloat or
abomasitis is unknown.

FAMACHA TRAINING!

Plan to attend FAMACHA training on May 3 in
the Portland, OR/Vancouver, WA area. Details are
still being finalized, but we are planning a day-long
program to focus on small ruminant parasites—life
cycles, appropriate use of dewormers, non-chemical
parasite control and, of course, FAMACHA training.
Dr. Joe Snyder will teach the FAMACHA portion. A
registration fee will be required to fund this event.

If you would like to receive more information,
please contact Susan Kerr at 509-773-5817 or
kerrs@wsu.edu to get on the list to receive program
updates. Please spread the word to your small
ruminant producer friends!

USA AND NORTHWEST USA GOAT INVENTORY, 2007 AND 2008
courtesy of Cliff Burke, Oregon Meat Goat Producers’ March 2008 Newsletter Marketing Report

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