Happy Fair Season, everyone! Keep biosecurity in mind as you travel to and from shows. You only want to bring home ribbons and good memories, not diseases!

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. We welcome input from producers! Send your announcements, comments, suggestions, recipes and educational articles to:
Dr. Susan R. Kerr
228 W. Main St, MS-CH-12
Goldendale, WA  98620
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SAVE THESE DATES!
Aug 31-Sept. 5  9th International Conference on Goats, Queretaro, Mexico. Jorge Kawas at 52-811-080-3149 or jkawas@mnademexico.com or www.igamexico.com.
Sept. 6  OMGP Fall Pen Sale. Crook Co. Fairgrounds in Prineville, OR. Contact Anna Hayes at 541-923-5066 or hhannasgoats@yahoo.com.
Sept. 20  Columbia Basin Goat Guild’s Farm Fest, Goldendale, WA. See article.
Sept. 25-30  Central WA State Fair & ABGA Boer Show, Central WA State Fair, Yakima, WA. For more info, contact Nellie at tveter2@fairpoint.net or www.leaningtreefarm.com/2008BoerEventsCalendar.html.
Oct. 11-12  5th Annual OctoBoer Fall Finale Boer Goat Show, Walla Walla, WA. See article.
Nov. 14-15  Sheep and Goat Conference, Island Grove Park in Greeley, CO. Contact Rodney Kott at (406) 994-3415 or rkott@montana.edu for more info.

FARM FEST COMING TO GOLDFENDALE
by Mary Wilson, Columbia Basin Goat Guild

Entries are now being accepted for the 2008 Farm Fest to be held at the Klickitat County Fairgrounds in Goldendale, Washington on Sept. 20 from 8am to 6pm. This event will be sponsored by the Columbia Basin Goat Guild.

This full-day event will include the area’s first open goat show, with competition and judging in meat, dairy and fiber divisions. Entries for the competition as well as exhibition of senior bucks will be accepted until Sept. 12. Entry forms and rules are available at www.columbiabasingoatguild.com or request a hard copy from Half Creek Farm, P.O. Box 73, Bickleton, WA 99322. Please include $2 for printing and mailing.

There will be a vendor area with hand-made, hand-crafted, and hand-grown products. If you’re a craftsman or gardener, we invite you to request a vendor application from David and Renee Kreinbring at 1010 Randall Rd., Centerville, WA, 98613, or print one off of the web site (please include $2 for printing and mailing hard copies). We are seeking quality crafted and grown goods as well as commercial agriculturally-oriented business vendors.

There will be demonstrations on proper hoof care and trimming, shearing, spinning, and many aspects of goat care. Guest speakers will discuss enhancement and development of dryland pasture, marketing of agricultural products, health issues and other topics. Several goat meat dishes will be available in the cafeteria.

Come join us for a fun, family oriented day. Get a good look at a variety of goats, taste a variety of goat meat samples, watch Angora hair turn into a scarf, get some early gifts at the vendor outlets, check out the great wares our local agriculture businesses offer and enjoy a nice fall day with us!

OCTOBOER FALL FINALE BOER GOAT SHOW

The 5th Annual OctoBoer Fall Finale Boer Goat Show will be held at the Walla Walla WA fairgrounds on Oct. 11-12, with ABGA shows both days. There will be standard classes as well as the famous Buck Futurity and some fun new classes. For more info, contact Leslie Bader-Robinson at 509-246-9327 or lbader1@yahoo.com or Terry Brown at 509-394-2345 or capriole@pocketinet.com.
FDA ISSUES ORDER PROHIBITING EXTRALABEL USE OF CEPHALOSPORIN ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS IN FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS


On July 3, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration published an order prohibiting the extra-label use of cephalosporin antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals. This prohibition, which would affect cattle, swine, chickens, turkeys, sheep, goats and deer, is to take effect October 1, 2008. Details about this order are contained in the Federal Register (Vol. 73, No. 129, p. 38110-38113) and at http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-15052.htm.

Generic and brand-name medications affected by this rule include (not a complete list):
- Cefadroxil (Cefa-Drops®)
- Cephapirin benzathine (Cefa-Dri®, ToMORROW®)
- Cephapirin sodium (Cefa-Lak® ToDAY®)
- Ceftiofur sodium (Naxcel®, Excenel®)
- Ceftiofur crystalline free acid (Excede®)
- Cephalexin (Biocef®, Keflex®)
- Ceftiofur hydrochloride (Spectramast LC® and DC®)

The FDA has stated it is issuing the order based on evidence that extra-label use of these drugs in food-producing animals will likely cause an adverse event in humans (i.e. development of antimicrobial-resistant strains of zoonotic foodborne bacterial pathogens) and, as such, presents a risk to public health. The FDA wants to preserve the effectiveness of cephalosporin-class drugs for the treatment of human infections.

The FDA will accept comments about the rule from the public until Sept. 2, 2008. Comments should be identified as Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0326 and can be submitted electronically, by fax or mail:
Electronic: www.regulations.gov.
FAX: 301-827-6870.
Mail: Division of Dockets Mgmt. (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Many veterinarians, producers and industry groups are concerned at the prospect of this prohibition, so are expected to submit comments. We will have to wait and see whether the order will be delayed or modified.

ANIMAL PATTERNS AVAILABLE FOR FREE!

by Nancy Schaff, National 4-H Council

Great News! The National 4-H animal patterns are now available for free downloading! The patterns are available at www.4-hcurriculum.org (click on Curriculum Updates) or to go directly to the patterns at www.4-hcurriculum.org/updates.aspx. Later, the patterns will also be available on the animal project sites. Patterns available are Lamb/Kid, Baby Pig, Calf, Horse and Rabbit.

ORGANIC COCCIDIA CONTROL?
adapted from an article in the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension’s Wild and Wooly newsletter, Vol. 7, Issue 2, Summer 2008

[Editor’s note: Coccidiosis control in goats is a significant challenge for organic producers. This article highlights a possible tool, but producers should not use this information without first discussing it with their own veterinarians. WSU Extension cannot endorse the use of oregano oil to control coccidiosis until more definitive testing is conducted. Severe animal health consequences and even death can occur if coccidiosis is not properly diagnosed, prevented and treated.]

As reported at the 9th European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition Conference, experimental use of oregano essential oil to control coccidiosis in chronically-infected goats appears to be reasonably effective.

Researchers gave 20 mg of Regano 500® per kg of body weight daily for 30 days to goats with coccidiosis. Fecal samples were examined on Days 0, 10, 20, and 30.

Coccidia eggs in fecal samples decreased by Day 10. Fecal egg counts were much lower in treated vs. untreated animals by Day 20. The feces of treated animals were almost normal by Day 20, compared to the abnormally soft feces of untreated animals.

Previous research with chickens also documented that oregano essential oil has an anticoccidial effect, but this effect is less than that of a more conventional coccidiostat (Bovatec®).

OMGP 2009 CALENDARS FOR SALE

The Oregon Meat Goat Producers’ Association 2009 calendars are ready! Their sale is a fund raising project for the Douglas County (OR) Meat Goat producers. Get yours now for $10 plus $2 shipping and handling. Send payment and requested number of calendars to:
DCMG Calendars
C/O Kathy Hergert
485 Andrew Rd.
Yoncalla, OR 97499
DROUGHT AND NUTRIENT QUALITY
by Jackie Nix, SweetLix® representative

Drought conditions affect nutrient quality in a variety of ways. First, because there is very little or no new growth, goats only have access to older, less desirable plants in the pasture. Second, the nutritional quality of forages that are available is compromised by the stresses put on the plant by lack of water.

Drought stress negatively affects plant metabolic functions, resulting in low mineral and vitamin levels. Of these, phosphorus and vitamin A are usually most pronounced. Drought-stressed plants also do not metabolize nitrogen into proteins, so these plants contain low protein levels for use by goats.

The second negative result is the accumulation of nitrates. Excessive levels of nitrates (over 1.5%) are toxic to livestock. Plants that are most susceptible to the accumulation of toxic levels of nitrates include pearl millet, corn, wheat, oats, sudangrass and sorghum-sudan hybrids. Some weeds are also known to accumulate nitrates, including pigweed, smartweed, ragweed, goldenrod, lambsquarter, nightshades, bindweed, Canada thistle and stinging nettle. Be on the lookout for these weeds in your hay and pastures.

Signs of nitrate poisoning include labored breathing, staggering gait and sudden death. The membranes of the eyes and gums are bluish due to lack of oxygen. Blood is a chocolate brown color but turns bright red when exposed to air. The key to avoiding nitrate poisoning is to have all hay forage tested and request the test for nitrate levels. Contact your local veterinarian, Extension agent or feed store representative for more information about this forage analysis and the dangers of nitrate toxicity.

Unfortunately, drought forces producers to make hard decisions. Options include early weaning of lactating does to reduce nutritional needs, moving animals to additional pastures, purchasing supplemental feed and reducing herd numbers. In some cases a combination of each of these strategies can be used.

A doe’s nutritional needs can be cut by about 1/3 by weaning her kids. In commercial situations, it may make sense to wean early and sell off light kids rather than pay the feed costs required to maintain lactating does and/or creep feed kids. Producers need to calculate the value of kids in relation to the cost of feeding them to "normal" market weight and decide if early weaning is a good option.

Look into the possibility of moving goats to alternate grazing areas, such as hay fields and harvested crop fields. If your hay fields are too stunted to harvest as hay, allow the goats to harvest what is available. In the fall, you may want to consider allowing goats to make use of crop residues such as corn stalks and standing straw.

At some point, you will have to purchase at least some supplemental feeds to maintain your goats. One feedstuff all goats need is forage. Although high hay prices may lead you to look for alternatives, forage cannot be totally excluded from the diet. A good rule of thumb is that an average mature meat goat (150 lbs) will require about 6 pounds of hay per day. Fifty-pound kids require about 2.5 lbs of hay a day. Use these rough figures to help calculate how much hay will be needed until pastures recover.

Use of feeds and supplement blocks can help to maintain productivity, especially when hay quality is low. It is vital to provide supplementation to pregnant does under these conditions. Mineral needs increase during pregnancy and lactation; drought-stressed forages are likely to be deficient in nutrients such as phosphorus and vitamin A.

Drought conditions can cause low quality hay and pastures. When feeding low quality forages, nutritional supplements are necessary to maintain reproduction and growth. Feed supplements can pay for themselves in production in these situations. Many protein, energy, vitamin and mineral supplement options are available for animals on low-quality forage. Check with your Extension agent, feed dealer or veterinarian for recommendations.

FAMACHA TRAINING RE-UPDATE

One more time! Those of you interested in attending a FAMACHA training workshop in NE Oregon/SW Washington, we are honing in on a date! Please save Sept. 13 and 20 for a day-long program focusing on small ruminant parasites: life cycles, wise use of dewormers, non-chemical parasite control and, of course, FAMACHA training. Dr. Joe Snyder will teach the FAMACHA portion. This workshop will only last one day, but please keep both Sept. 13 and 20 open because the final details are still pending.

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!

WOULD YOU BE A GOOD HOST?

We’re not talking about parasites, we’re talking about hosting a farm tour! The National Association of County Agriculture Agents will have its annual conference in Portland, OR next year and is seeking farms to visit on educational tours. If you would be willing to host a tour stop for Extension agents at your farm on Sept. 24, 2009, please contact Susan Kerr at 509-773-5817 or kerrs@wsu.edu. Thanks!
THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE
by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.

www.vet.uga.edu/VPP/clerk/logan/index.php
Very detailed article about the CAE virus. Readers may need a medical dictionary to aid understanding.

www.gttsfibermill.com/cashmere.htm
Web site of the Going to the Sun Fiber Mill in Kalispell, MT.

http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/library/fec.html
Very helpful online tutorial about performing fecal examinations and fecal egg counts.

Goat herd health calendar—very helpful, especially for those just starting with goats.

www.goatmeats.com/asp/Information/goatmeatrecipes.asp
Nice variety of goat meat recipes provided by Copeland Family Farms, LLC in Grenada, CA.

www.4-hdirectory.org
Use this directory to search for 4-H goat curricula from all over the U.S. Not a complete list yet, but growing as states list their resources.

WHAT'S COOKIN'?
Goat Meat Balls

1 lb. ground goat meat  2 beaten eggs
¼ t. Old Bay Seasoning ½ cup milk
1 t. fresh parsley ¼ t. garlic powder
¼ cup Italian bread crumbs ¼ t. lemon pepper
Salt/pepper to taste
1 finely-chopped small onion Crushed red pepper
2 toasted slices of wheat bread, crumbled

Mix well and form into balls. Fry until brown. Put balls into pot or crock-pot, pour your favorite sauce/barbecue over them and let simmer. Cook until internal temperature reaches 160°F.

COPPER TOXICITY—IN GOATS?!
by Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator

Probably most goat producers are now familiar with the fact that copper deficiency is a goat health concern that should be addressed through proper mineral supplementation. However, copper toxicity now seems to be on the rise in goats. Why? Perhaps it is the “if a little is good, a lot is better” approach, which is not true and even dangerous for some nutrients. More likely it is due to the cumulative effects of copper from “hidden” sources on the farm.

Copper toxicity can be acute or chronic. Acute poisoning can occur through ration formulation mistakes, overdoses with copper-containing drenches or other medications, ingestion of copper-containing agricultural chemicals and so on. Chronic poisoning is more likely when dietary molybdenum and sulfur are low because copper excretion is reduced.

When tissue copper levels reach a critical level, red blood cells rupture; this is called a hemolytic crisis. The apparently sudden onset of illness in chronic copper poisoning is due to this hemolytic crisis. This crisis can be induced by stress from pregnancy, lactation, poor nutrition, exercise, hauling, etc.

Signs of acute copper poisoning can include lack of appetite, colic, severe gastroenteritis, diarrhea, dehydration, shock and death. As with chronic poisoning, a fatal hemolytic crisis can occur.

Signs of illness that precede a hemolytic crisis in chronically-affected animals can include depression, weakness, difficulty breathing, jaundice, discoloration of urine, lack of rumen contractions, pale membranes, and liver or renal failure. Most affected animals die and deaths can continue long after the source of toxicity has been removed. Blood tests conducted on chronically ill animals will reveal various liver enzyme elevations indicative of liver damage.

Goat producers would be wise to conduct an inventory of potential on-farm sources of copper. Consider ALL mineral mixes being used, foot baths or other sources of copper sulfate, contents of dewormers and other medications, copper pipes or containers, injections and supplemental copper boluses (Copasure®). Some soils may contain excessive copper due to previous uses such as orchards.

Various plants can affect copper status, mainly by causing liver damage and reduced copper excretion. Some of these plants include subterranean clover, heliotrope, ragwort and groundsels.

The most effective way to assess your herd’s copper status is to occasionally submit a liver sample to a veterinary diagnostic lab for testing. This sample can come from a healthy butchered animal or from a necropsy. Discuss how to submit the sample with your veterinarian. Also consider testing for selenium content at the same time to help assess your herd’s selenium status. Discuss the results of the analysis with your veterinarian and adjust mineral programs as needed.