Despise our budgetary challenges, we will do our utmost to continue to bring you The Kidding Pen newsletter for free. The events listed in this issue are good educational values, too, so try to make it to those near you.

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
kerrs@wsu.edu, 509-773-5817; 509-773-5707 (fax)

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SAVE THESE DATES!
April 10-12 Country Lifestyle Experience of the Northwest, Linn County Fair and Expo Center Albany, OR. Info at www.equinepromotions.net/CLE.
April 17 Value-Added Dairy Seminar, Mt. Vernon, WA. See article.
April 17-18 SW WA Lambing School, Puget Island, WA. Call 509-773-5817 or e-mail kerrs@wsu.edu for more info.
April 18 Goat Jamboree, Wind Ridge Farms in Bend, OR. See article.
April 25 Last Chance Wether Sale and Spring Breeders’ Pen Sale, Polk Co. Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR, 8 AM-5 PM. Contact Karen Lackner at 503-859-4400 or jkltrees@wvi.com.
April 25 Sustainable Agriculture and Pastured-Based Livestock Systems presentations, Skagit Co., WA. See article.
April 25-26 Oregon Ag Fest, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR. Info via (800) 874-7012 or info@oragfest.com or www.oragfest.com.

May 14-16 Intermountain Livestock Judges’ Training, Caldwell, ID. See article.
May 16-17 CWBGA ABGA Open Shows, State Fair Park, Yakima, WA. Contact Leslie Bader-Robinson at 509-246-9327 or lbader1@yahoo.com.
May 18 French Cheesemaking, Dayton, WA. See article.
May 23-24 Magic Valley Madness 2009, Filer, ID. See article.
May 30 Exhibitor’s Edge Boer Goat Sale, Moses Lake, WA. See article.
June 13 Food Safety on the Farm, Morning Owl Farm, Boise, ID. See article.
June 22 Artisan Cheese Production, Montesano, WA. See article.
June 26-27 NWCA Cashmere Fleece Competition

GOT GOAT 4-Hers?
We stumbled upon these great deals for goat project youth (or anyone who likes goats, for that matter!) from the National 4-H Council. Contact them via 4HStuff@fourhcouncil.edu or 301-961-2934 (Eastern Time Zone).
• 4-H Goat T-shirt from Youth Small to 3XL. Ash color. Imprint of a drawn goat with its head down eating with the phrase “Just Kidding Around” 4-H (see image). $9.95. Item# TSGOAT at www.4-hmall.org/detail.aspx?ID=1376378.

mCOOL RULE IN EFFECT
The mandatory Country of Origin Labeling rule became effective March 16, 2009. We’ll have more info in the next issue, but until then, you can read more than you ever wanted to know about this topic at www.ams.usda.gov.
THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE
by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.

Pasture, rangeland and grazing management info.

http://vetextension.wsu.edu/programs/4-H/index.htm
Disease Prevention Module from the WSU 4-H Leader Development Program; content important to all producers. Interactive, educational and fun!

www.fiberfarm.com/lambcam
Yup, this is just what it sounds like-- Martha's Vineyard Fiber Farm has a camera set up in their lambing and kidding area. Take a peek! (BTW, they use dairy calf greenhouse hutchs for shelters).

www.nyfarms.info/FAIDPaper.pdf

“SEE ARTICLE”

Here it is, folks, the ballyhooed “see article” area! We only have a little info for some of these events. If you need more than what you see here, please contact us and we’ll try to dig up more info.

Value-Added Dairy Seminar
April 17
9:30 AM – 2 PM
419 S. 1st Street, Suite 200, Mount Vernon, WA

On April 17, the Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC) will host another value-added dairy product meeting with Marc Bates. Marc was the WSU Creamery Operator/Manager for 27 years; judges for the American Dairy Goat Association, the American Cheese Society and the U.S. and World Cheese Championships; and is a member of the American Cheese Society. This man knows cheese!

Marc Bates will be available both preceding and after the event to meet one-on-one with folks for 30-60 minutes to discuss individual questions. He is also willing to visit sites needing technical advice.

Seminar topics will include:
• Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)
• Preliminary steps of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)
• Exercises for developing your brand and marketing strategy
• Creating your promotional package

Registration is $25, including lunch and an optional private meeting with Marc Bates. To register for a private consultation or for more info, contact Jake Fowler, jake@agbizcenter.org or 360-336-3727.

Goat Jamboree
April 18
Wind Ridge Farms, 60535 Bobcat Rd., Bend, OR
8 AM to 3:15 PM

At the Central Oregon Goat Association’s Goat Jamboree, there will be educational classes, a raffle, items for sale, blade sharpening and concessions. A home-cooked goat BBQ will be provided. Costs are $5 per person or $15 per family.

Sustainable Agriculture and Pastured-Based Livestock Systems
April 25
Padilla Bay Foundation, Farm-to-Market Rd.
Skagit County, WA

Noted author and sustainable agriculture authority Joel Salatin will be the featured speaker at this seminar. Among farmers, Salatin has won status for his innovations in multi-species, pasture-based animal husbandry. At this seminar, Salatin will offer morning and afternoon workshops for farmers, ranchers, and others interested in pasture-raised livestock and sustainable agriculture. Fees are $50 for the morning, $50 for the afternoon and $25 for the evening events. More info is available from the Northwest Agriculture Business Center at 360-336-3727 or www.agbizcenter.org.

Intermountain Livestock Judges’ Training
May 14-16
Canyon County Fairgrounds, Caldwell, ID

This five-state training opportunity is designed to help livestock judges and youth exhibitors improve the following skills:
• Livestock Selection • Use of Current Terminology
• Livestock Evaluation • Positive Youth Interaction
• Oral Reasons • Proficiency in the Show Ring
   • Audience Communication

Activities planned include:
• Live evaluation and discussion of market steers, lambs, goats and hogs
• Showmanship discussion
• Terminology
• Oral Reasons
• Judging market lamb and breeding sheep classes
• Judging as a way to build the community
• Positive youth interaction
• Showmanship
• Judging meat goat market and breeding classes
• Carcass evaluation

Registration is $100 per youth ($150 after April 14) and $150 per adult ($200 after April 14). For more info, contact Dawn Sanchez at 307-783-0570 or dasanchez@uintacounty.com or download 4-h.uwyo.edu/2009%20Intermountain%20Judges%20Flyer.pdf.
Tilth Producers of WA Farm Walk:
French Cheesemaking in the Walla Walla Valley
May 18
Monteillet Fromagerie, 109 Ward Rd., Dayton, WA
12:30 PM-3:30 PM            $15
Monteillet Fromagerie features a Grade A dairy and cheese-making facility. Joan and Pierre Louis Monteillet intensively manage pasture for Alpine goats, East Freisan-Lacaune sheep, poultry and pigs. They produce traditional goat and sheep milk cheeses. There will be an optional cheese and wine tasting after the farm walk for an additional $15. For more info visit www.monteilletcheese.com or call 509-382-1917.

Magic Valley Madness
May 23-24
Twin Falls Co. Fairgrounds, Filer, ID
FOUR ABGA shows in one weekend! Sale pens will be available. All Star Auction with a select number of animals. If you would like an All-Star Nomination form or a hard copy of show information, please contact Gena Herzinger at 208-539-5791 or herzngr@yahoo.com.

Exhibitor’s Edge Boer Goat Sale
May 30
Parker Ranch, 4762 Mae Valley Rd. NE, Moses Lake, WA
This sale is an effort to provide buyers with high-quality registered stock that can be taken to the show ring by youth and adults alike and by amateur or professional showmen and women.
Consigners for the first annual Exhibitor’s Edge Boer Goat Sale are Parker’s Gourmet Goats, Leaning Tree Farm and Capriole Boers. Consignments committed to the sale include some of the top ennobled genetics in the U.S. Some will have accumulated show points and all will be specifically selected for quality, conformation, breed standard correctness and worthiness of the Boer Goat breed.
About 60 lots will be sold, with a limited number of bucks. We will also have 10 show wethers, ring ready for the 2009 4-H/FFA show season.
If you are looking for quality, this is the sale to attend. Lunch will be available. Previewing begins at 10 AM, sale starts at 2 PM. Catalog will be available by May 1. For more info please call 509-910-9115 or e-mail terry.parker@msn.com. Visit our web sites at www.parkersgourmetgoats.com, www.caprioleboers.com and www.leaningtreefarm.com.

Tilth Producers of WA Farm Walk:
Artisan Cheese Production
June 22
Estrella Family Creamery 659 Wynoochee Valley Rd. Montesano, WA
12:30 PM-4 PM            $15
Estrella Family Creamery is a 164-acre grass-based dairy located in Southwest Washington. They make twenty different types of aged cheeses by hand, several of which have received national and international awards. Cows and goats graze in organically-maintained pastures and receive alternative forages such as oat hay and fodder beets. Tour the farm and see the cheesemaking operation, including cheese aging rooms. For more info: efccheese@aol.com or 360-249-6541 or http://estrellafamilycreamery.com

Complete Farm Walk details: www.tilthproducers.org. For more info contact Nancy Allen at 206-442-7620 or nancy@tilthproducers.org.

Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Mgmt.
Various dates and locations, Oregon
Growing Farms is a seven-week workshop series that gives beginning livestock and specialty crop farmers the tools and knowledge to manage both the biological and financial risks of farming. The series targets new farmers—those ready to farm or in their first years of business. A resource binder is provided and participants will determine key components of a whole farm plan. Participants will become acquainted with their regional farm community.
Session topics will include:
• Dream It: Strategic Planning
• Do It: Farm Operations
• Manage It: Farm Finance
• Sell It: Marketing Strategies
• Grow It: Production
• Keep It: Managing Liability
The cost is $175 per person or $300 per couple from same farm; this includes meals, resources and more. For more info, contact Chrissy Lucas at 800-365-0201 or Chrissy.Lucas@oregonstate.edu or http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/growing-farms-workshop-series

Rural Roots Producer-to-Producer Workshop Series: Food Safety on the Farm
June 13
Morning Owl Farm, Boise, ID
2-6 pm
Egg Production and Handling, Integrating Plants and Animals on Your Farm and Waste Management. $10 for Rural Roots members and $15 for non-members. Register at www.ruralroots.org or contact Kristen Koenig at 208-883-3462 or kristen@ruralroots.org.
MARKETING CORNER

For Sale: St. John’s Monastery in Goldendale, WA has several doelings, a wether, a buckling and several more Nubian kids on the way. 50$ - 75$ each. Call 509-773-7141 for more information.

For Sale: 3-yr. old Boer buck, $150. Call Candy at 509-250-2805.

For Sale: Very colorful leopard spotted kids, Boer cross, vaccinated with CD&T, received Bo-Se® and Ivomec®, disbudded. Males intact, banded on request. Born Jan. 1-15, 2009. Will make great fair weights or breed a lot of color into your herd. $75 to $100. Contact Whitney Brown in Sunnyside WA at 509-837-7935.

Wanted: Used dairy goat stanchion. Please call Martha at 509-773-5190 and we’ll dicker.

CSA CONCEPT EXTENDS TO FIBER
adapted from ATTRA Weekly Harvest Newsletter
Sustainable Agriculture News Briefs – Feb. 4, 2009

Martha’s Vineyard Fiber Farm and Hudson Valley Fiber Farm have taken the Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) concept into a new realm by introducing the yarn CSA. Share purchasers invest in the operation’s spring harvest of wool and mohair. After the wool is processed and spun, each shareholder receives a portion of the yarn. The amount of wool each shareholder receives depends on the size of the clip, but the number of shares available for purchase is limited to ensure that each shareholder receives a plentiful supply of yarn for their $150 share. Shares of roving are offered for spinners. For more information about this innovative marketing approach, visit the farm’s web site at www.fiberfarm.com.

A THIRD HAND
by Manda Doffing, Tri-R Ranch, Glendale, OR

Tattooing hints: Use the 3/8-inch character size. Take a file and barely blunt the tip of each pin on each character. This makes a better hole for ink to penetrate and tattoos easier to read. Squeeze the applicator pliers hard. Apply the ink (I use paste) and rub the ink well (I use a toothbrush and have a small board on the back of the ear to push against). Press on some baking soda after rubbing the ink in. This sets the ink. Use green ink instead of white—it shows up better.

USDA TO LAUNCH NATIONAL GOAT STUDY

In July and August 2009, the USDA will contact randomly-selected goat producers in 21 states to participate in the first national study of priority health and health-management issues facing the US goat industry.

Two USDA agencies—the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)—will conduct the study, which will focus on the health, productivity and management practices of the meat, dairy and fiber goat industries. The USDA will collect data from producers representing 78.4% of US goat operations and 85.3% of U.S. goats.

APHIS’ National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), which designed the study and will analyze the data, worked with academia, veterinary representatives, industry representatives and other stakeholders to ensure the study addresses the industry’s priority health issues. The Goat 2009 study has the following major objectives:

• Determine producer awareness of veterinary services program diseases and describe management and biosecurity practices important for the control of infectious diseases, including brucellosis, Scrapie, Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), Johne’s Disease and Caseous Lymphadenitis.
• Establish baseline descriptions of animal health, nutrition and management practices in the US goat industry.
• Estimate the prevalence of Mycobacterium paratuberculosis (Johne’s Disease) infection, internal parasitism and anthelmintic resistance.
• Characterize contagious ecthyma (sore mouth) in US goats. Determine producer awareness of the zoonotic potential and practices to prevent sore mouth transmission and assess producer interest in an improved vaccine for sore mouth.
• Examine factors (e.g., genetic and management) that correlate with CAE virus levels.

Participation in the USDA’s Goat 2009 study is voluntary and confidential. Results will be presented on regional and national bases. Data provided by individual participants will remain confidential and cannot be identified. Links between NAHMS data and participating operations will be confidential.

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