

A PUBLICATION OF THE WSU GOAT PRODUCTION EDUCATION TEAM

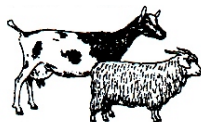
Wow! If you wanted to, you could spend all of April and May on the road going to a huge variety of goat-related shows, trainings, workshops and seminars! Please check out the educational opportunities listed in this issue and try to participate if you can. The final part of your "assignment" is to share what you learn with others, as all good goat producers do!

Once again we are pleased to include in this issue several articles submitted by your peers in the goat industry. Many thanks to these authors.

The Kidding Pen is available as a free hard copy in English and Spanish and it's also available at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/Kidding%20Pen/index.html>.

Send your comments, suggestions, newsletter articles and announcements to:

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A THIRD HAND

*With thanks to JoAnne Critten,
Wilbur, OR*

Premise Tags - when you tag your kids, how about putting the tag for the girls in the opposite ear than the tag for the boys? Much easier to tell the boys and girls apart from a distance!

WA State Sheep Producers' Lambing School

April 2 and/or April 9
Lamont, WA

April 2 and 9 Lambing School (see below)

April 4-8 Shearing School, Moses Lake. Contact Sarah Smith at 509-754-2011, Ext. 413 or smithsm@wsu.edu

April 9 Kidding Seminar (see below)

April 16 Goats & Friends seminar (see below)

April 26 & 28 Dairy and Specialty Cheese Risk Management Seminar (see previous issue)

May 6 & 7 Lambing School, Cathlamet, WA. Beginning and advanced classes available. Contact Kari Kandoll at kando@centurytel.net or (360) 849-4353 for more info.

May 14-15 Central WA Boer Goat Association's Open Class Boer Show, Yakima (see below)

May 20-21 Northwest Cashmere Association's Spring Live Goat Show, Chehalis, Washington. For more info contact Mickey Nielsen at 509-965-3708 or Mnielsen7@aol.com. (see below)

October 8 Oregon Meat Goat Producers' Fall Pen Sale. Deschutes County Event Center, Redmond, OR. For more info, call 541-923-5066 or herdmaster@omgp.org.

GREAT GOAT GOINGS-ON!

• **KIDDING SEMINAR!** Plan to attend the second annual Kidding Seminar at Ewetopia Farms on April 9 from 1 to 4 PM. Topics will include tube feeding, birthing presentations, intraperitoneal glucose injections, hypothermia, colostrum, vaccinations, tours of the kidding facilities and a question and answer session. Ewetopia Farms is at 14581 Elkhead Rd., Oakland, OR. \$5 fee for participants who are not Oregon Meat Goat Producer Association members. For more info contact Marilyn Burke at 541-459-1367 or ewetopia@msn.com.

• **"Goats & Friends,"** a FREE educational seminar, will be held on April 16 from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the OSU Extension Service Auditorium, 215 Ringuette, Grants Pass, OR. There will be displays, speakers, vendors, goats, equipment, vet stuff, experienced goat raisers of all breeds to talk with and loads of information. There will be raffles and food vendors. If you have questions, call 541-430-4003 or e-mail herdmaster@omgp.org.

• **The Central Washington Boer Goat Association's Open Class Boer Show** will be May 14 and 15 at the Central Washington Fairgrounds in Yakima. This two-day show is the largest sanctioned show in the state, with entries from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. We encourage 4-H members and their families who show Boer goats to attend. You can show registered does and bucks, percentages or Purebreds/Fullbloods. The first day of the show is sanctioned by the ABGA, with Mr. Preston Farris judging. USBGA will have Dr. Fred Homeyer judging the USBGA show on Sunday. There will also be a class each day for market wethers or does. These animals do not need to be registered. Come one or both days to show or watch! CWBGA will host a raffle with LOTS of chances to win goat products, show supplies and registered Boer goats. The drawing is after lunch on Sunday. For more information and entry forms please contact Judy Wolfe at (509) 965-0132 or wolfeju@aol.com or Zoe Barr at (509) 697-8481.

EASIER PASTEURIZATION

by Kat Drovdaahl, Fir Meadow
Lamanchas/Toggenburgs

After pasteurizing and heat-treating milk using various methods for several years, this is the process we have developed. It isn't unique to us, nor is it the only way, but we have found this to be efficient both in time in energy. Most goat farmers could benefit from having more time and more energy for other things!

We heat treat and pasteurize ALL our milk that could come into goat contact. Anyone who is serious about becoming CAE-negative, does not know the CAE status of their herd, or like us, wants to keep their market wide open for potential buyers, will want to pasteurize milk.

COLOSTRUM: All colostrum on our farm is heat treated. We have an inexpensive Presto® cooker with a plug-in cord on the side and an adjustable dial. Before each kidding season, we test the cooker by filling it about ¾ full of water, putting the lid on and letting it sit for a couple hours, then checking the temperature with a good thermometer and adjusting the dial as needed. The temperature should be between **135°F to 138°F** (over 140°F will ruin the antibodies in colostrum). When it's time to use the cooker, we plug it in just before going to the barn to kid the doe, leaving the dial at the same setting that worked before. Then we milk the colostrum out from the doe, strain it with a wire strainer, double bag it in Ziplock® bags, (leaving about ¼ of the top filled with air) and float them in the pre-heated water in the covered cooker. After the colostrum reaches 135°F, we set the timer for **one hour**. If I get busy in the barn and forget about it, no problem—it doesn't burn. Safe and easy! Excess colostrum is cooled, labeled with permanent marker with the date and dam's name, then frozen. Discard and replace with fresh colostrum each year.

MILK: We pasteurize all our milk at once. We use a large stainless DeLaval milk can, a large propane tank and a turkey/corn cooker. The cooker is an iron frame that lets a flame come up from the bottom for cooking. They are available at many stores. Once I have about four goats milked, we dump the milk into the DeLaval bucket sitting on the cooker, pre-heating with about one inch of water. Then we turn on the propane and light it and adjust the flame. Go easy with the flame until you know how much to use without burning the milk! Our setup is in a metal-lined cabinet for fire safety in the barn. Others use a concrete block wall and cement floor for their area outside of the barn. We add milk twice more as we are milking and finishing. We find about the time we are done with our milkroom chores, the milk is done. We check to make sure it has reached **165°F for at least 30 seconds** before turning it off and cooling it rapidly. That milk gets fed to the kids 12 hours later. The big can is cleaned and bleached before its next use.

We like this method because it gives us milk 12 hours ahead in case something happens to cause a milk shortage. If we have a mastitis case we didn't know about, we also find out about it this way (the milk will have curded by the time we want to feed it to the kids). That milk gets tossed and the kids will get fresh, pasteurized, cooled milk instead. We always pasteurize more than we need so in about two milkings, we have 12 hours milk ahead again. We seek the mastitis culprit and treat her.

I would be happy to answer questions from people. My e-mail is firmeado@methow.com and our Web site is <http://lamanchas.tripod.com>.



THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE

by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator -
Klickitat Co.

- <http://omgp.org> = Web site of the Oregon Meat Goat Producers' association. Great list of links and events! Check it out for more info about OMGP.
- <http://nwcacashmere.org/> = Northwest Cashmere Association Web site.
- www.easterncashmereassociation.org/index.asp = Web site of the Eastern Cashmere Association.

KIDDING THOUGHTS

by Sharon Findling, Oakland, OR

I'm not very knowledgeable about goats or kidding but thought I might share some of the things I've learned in the last few years. This article is for folks new to goat production.

Goats like to be able to get under cover. You want your expectant moms as comfy and dry as you can make them.

Dirt floors are best because dirt is absorbent. The first vet I talked to about housing told me not to worry about cleaning out their litter over the winter—just keep adding clean straw, and the urine and manure will start a composting action and help keep the goats warm during the winter. She also said not to worry about your goats eating the straw—it's like crackers to them and not a problem.

If you don't have dirt floors you'll need to keep your kidding pens cleaned out and replace the straw or other litter very often. No matter what kind of floor you have, if you are rotating your mothers through your kidding pens, make sure you clean them out and put down a little lime and fresh straw between tenants.

If you don't have a lot of room it is a good idea to make your kidding pens as temporary as possible. I drove

metal posts into the ground every six feet down the middle of my loafing area and when it's kidding time I tie hog panels (cut to fit) to make side and front walls. I use snap hooks and dog chain on the gate side so I can get in. You can also use pallets standing on end if they are long enough or make plywood panels with holes drilled where needed to tie or wire to your posts. When everyone has kidded and is out of the pens, take the panels down except for the one you're using to make a creep feeding area for the kids.

Kidding pens can be as small as four foot square but the larger they are (within reason) the more room mom is going to have to move around, eat, drink and not lie on her babies. I use feeders made from the bottom six inches of five-gallon plastic buckets for a feeder for mom and I use a tall narrow bucket tied to the wall for water. NEVER have water buckets around when mom is giving birth. Accidents happen and you don't want a baby born into a bucket of water. A nice bucket of warm water with a little molasses is nice once she's in the kidding pen, knows her babies are nearby and has some grain and hay.

If they give birth outside it's a good idea to have a laundry basket, baby lamb carrier or something to carry them into the barn. You will have to convince mom that you have her babies and that she should follow you or she might start running around looking for them. Calm is good.

When everyone is settled in the kidding pen, dip the kid's navels in Iodine. First, if the cord is long, clip it to about two inches using sharp scissors. If the cord starts to bleed, tie it off with a piece of dental floss or thread. I pour iodine in a small flat jar, hold the baby so the navel is down, put the jar over the navel tight and make sure the whole area is covered. This is a good time to check to see if you have a boy or girl.

I cut enough cross wires in one kidding pen gate to make an eight inch hole and when the babies are big enough, they use that pen for their creep feeding area. I put fresh straw in every day on top of the old. If you feel it and it's getting pretty soggy, take it all out, sprinkle a little lime and start over. You don't want these babies cold, wet or damp.

In my creep I put calf manna, rolled corn and crushed alfalfa pellets in a five gallon plastic bucket-bottom feeder. Don't put much in to start—they're just going to mess in it. I put fresh food in twice a day for the babies. If the old food is not contaminated you can put it in the adult feeder and the moms will clean it up. Also put some hay in the creep. They will eventually get the idea. Also use a cut-off bucket feeder for water. Keep cleaning it out (at least twice a day) and when you see them start drinking, you can put more and more in. I nail an old wire egg carton holder to the barn wall as a kid hay feeder; they can get the hay out but can't get their heads stuck inside.

After a few days, if mom and babies are eating and bonding and looking healthy, you can let them out into the communal area. I don't let them out of the barn until they are bouncing around pretty good, then I let them out into my "maternity" field which is about an acre, fenced well and patrolled by the guardian dog. I bring them in at night and close the gate until they are at least two weeks old. Also at about this time I vaccinate, ear tag and band the kids and deworm, delouse and trim the does' feet, but that's a story for another day.

Don't be apprehensive about the kidding process. These goat moms have been doing this for centuries and most of the time their inborn ability kicks in and they take care of everything without you. If you get in trouble, call your neighbor or your vet...just don't call me—
I'd have no idea what to do! ☺



FOR OUR FIBER FRIENDS

We're happy to help publicize the upcoming Third Annual Spring Live Goat Show, sponsored by the Northwest Cashmere Association (NWCA). This open event will be held May 20-21 in Chehalis, WA at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds. The NWCA will also sponsor a Cashmere Fiber Contest. For more info about this event, contact Mickey Nielsen at 509-965-3708 or mnielsen7@aol.com.

All fleeces, entries and fees must be received by May 1. Entry Fees are \$8 per live goat, \$4 per fleece. Make checks payable to NWCA. Send Live Goat entries and fees to: Mickey Nielsen, 5252 US Hwy 12, Yakima WA 98908. Send fleeces and fees to Debbie Speer, 14217 NE 242 St., Battle Ground, WA 98604. Contact her at debspeer1@msn.com or 360-687-0679 with questions.

Directions to the fairgrounds: take exit #79 off I-5, turn east. Follow Fairgrounds signs. The fairgrounds will be open for Friday night arrivals.

AND SPEAKING OF CASHMERE...

[Editor's note: we included the Capricorn Cashmere Web site in the "The Lure of Going On-Line" column in our last issue. Here is an update on All Things Cashmere by Mickey Nielsen of Liberty Farm Cashmere and a member of the Northwest Cashmere Association].

The Capricorn Cashmere Web site is very outdated. The National Cashmere organization CaPrA and all its standards and shows are gone.

The downfall of the development of the Cashmere breed was two fold in the US. First, the Boer goat was discovered and it took the cashmere goat out of the meat market. Second, the textile producer, Forte, closed its doors in the US and went overseas, leaving the cashmere co-op with no one to de-hair cashmere. The small mills

in the US and Canada are struggling to de-hair this fine fiber. The only mill right now that is doing a good job is Mini Mills in Canada.

There are two cashmere associations, Northwest Cashmere Association and Eastern Cashmere Association. I know NWCA is struggling to stay above water, pretty sure ECA is the same. (See "The Lure of Going On-Line" for their Web sites).

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WAYS TO GUARANTEE A WRECK, PART 1

by Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU-Klickitat Co.

Extension Educator

What's that? You say you don't have enough chores to do? Here are a few sure-fire ways to guarantee that you'll have lots more to add to your already full schedule!



1. Neglect your fences.
2. Ignore breeding dates.
3. Avoid record keeping.
4. Disregard CDT boosters.
5. Parasites? Fuhgeddabout 'em!
6. Gamble with your herd's Selenium status.

OK, we're just kidding around and trying to get your attention! You'd never actively do the things listed above, but do they sometimes happen anyway? Good livestock management practices don't just happen—good managers schedule them.

In those last few minutes (seconds?!) before you fall asleep, review your management calendar and jot down some reminders to yourself. Examples: "April 1: check fences." "April 15: Fecal exams." "Jan. 1: Set due dates." "Jan. 30: CDT boosters." These are

just some examples; your management schedule will be different and will vary from year to year.

Using individual animal health records will also help you keep tabs on each animal's medications, treatments and procedures. Reviewing these records periodically will make it less likely that a wreck will happen because you forgot to give Selenium injections, deworm, vaccinate, etc. Records are also an essential part of your quality assurance program and help trace problems back to the source if surprises arise.

After you create a management calendar and keep records, you'll see how interrelated your whole farm management plan becomes. Working forward, breeding dates beget due dates, which beget vaccination, deworming and Bo-Se[®] booster dates. Working backwards, breeding dates beget flushing dates, hoof trimming dates and Bo-Se[®] injections for the does and bucks.

Probably everything depends on the due dates you select—when do you want kids to be born? You can then work backward and set breeding dates. Don't forget that some does won't settle on the first breeding, so either back up 21 more days for breeding or be prepared for some kiddings 21 days later than you planned. It is paramount that you record every breeding date you can. Otherwise, how can you give CDT boosters and Bo-Se[®] injections at the right time?

More about preventing wrecks next time with Part 2...