

A PUBLICATION OF THE WSU GOAT PRODUCTION EDUCATION TEAM

Look at all the great workshops and other goat-related events coming up in the next few months! There is something for everyone who is interested in goats. Shows, judges' training, grazing demonstrations, packing demonstrations, jackpots, information days...it's all here in the Pacific Northwest. Take advantage of these educational opportunities so you can learn, meet your fellow goat producers and share what you know.

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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SAVE THESE DATES!

June 8 Getting Started Raising Meat Goats, 6 PM, Myrtle Point, OR. More info: Linda Cutright, 541-271-5949 or cutright@harborside.com

June 11 Goat Field Day, Redmond, OR. More info: Anna Hayes, 541-923-5066.

June 17-19 Boer Goat Judges' Training Conference, Walla Walla, WA (more info below)

June 18 US Boer Goat Assoc. Regional National Show, Walla Walla, WA (more info below)

June 18 Goat seminar with emphasis on pack goats. Goldendale WA, 8am-4pm (more info below)

June 18 Junior Jackpot Show, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg, OR. More info: Joe Sonka, 541-863-5533.

June 23 NW Goat Meat Producers' meeting, 4:30-7:30pm, 11104 NE 149th St. Building B, Brush Prairie, WA. Results from the recent producers' survey will be available with key information on existing and potential markets for goat meat. Future training will be discussed. All are welcome. Directions and more info: kerrs@wsu.edu or the NW Coop Development Council, 360-943-4241.

July 2-3 Youth Jackpot Show, Clark County Fairgrounds, Ridgefield, WA. More info: becki@coppercreakboers.com.

July 7-10 North American Pack Goat Association Annual Rendezvous (more info below)

July 9 Junior Jackpot Show, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg, OR. More info: Dewey Walton, 541-942-4376.

July 9 Pack Goat Seminar, Union Gap, WA. (more info below)

July 16 8AM to ? Sheep and Goat Field Day, Klamath County Fair Grounds, Klamath Falls, OR. Demos on clipping and showing; nutrition lecture. More info: Jim Walters, twoholer@earthlink.net or 541-783-2173.

July 21 Oregon Meat Goat Producers' Knapweed/Goat Grazing Field Day, Burns, OR. More info: Lesley Richman, 541-573-5635 or lrichman@centurytel.net.

Aug. 16 Implementing Weed Control Using Multi-Species Grazing Field Tour, Richland, WA (more info below).

ATTENTION BOER GOAT PRODUCERS

If you have noticed serious birth defects in red Boer goat kids, please contact me. I'm interested in investigating whether or not Boer goats can carry a recessive gene that causes serious birth defects in red kids. Please have as much pedigree information collected as possible. Your information will remain

NATIONAL SHOW & JUDGES' TRAINING

The 2005 USBGA Regional National Show will be held June 18 at the Walla Walla County Fair grounds at 9th and Orchard Streets in Walla Walla, WA. Buck Pruitt will be the judge. Since the show is in our own "back yard," we hope that folks from all over the NW can attend!

This year's show includes four Market Wether classes. The USBGA sire of the Champion Market Wether will earn one Enobled Point. Entries are due June 10. Replacements will be allowed but refunds will not be given after June 10. For more information, contact Leslie Bader-Robinson at 509-246-9327 or bader1@yahoo.com.

We are also offering a USBGA Judges' Pre-Training and Training Conference on June 17 through June 19. The schedule lets you attend both the USBGA Show and Judges' Training. The Judges' Training will be presented by Annette Maze, Cathy Pindell and Buck Pruitt.

The first training day will be held at the Elk's Lodge on the corner of Rose and Palouse Streets in Walla Walla starting at 9AM. On June 18, during the USBGA National Show, participants will need to find time to take the written test. Final testing and oral reasons will be conducted in the AM on June 19 at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds.

The cost of the training conferences is \$225 per candidate or \$75 for auditing. Entries were due by June 3 but this date could have been extended. For more info contact Terry Brown at (509) 394-2345 or capriole@pocketinet.com.

MULTI-SPECIES GRAZING FIELD TOUR

Take a break from your routine on August 16 and join us at the Barker Ranch in Richland, WA for a real treat! A FREE multi-species grazing tour will be held from 10AM to 3 PM. The emphasis will be on implementing weed control while balancing the needs of wildlife, vegetation, livestock and people.

The first stop will demonstrate Russian olive sheep and goat grazing plots. The second stop will demonstrate bullrush grazing. Craig Madsen of Healing Hooves will be a featured presenter.

Participants should bring their own lunch and a large capacity vehicle for carpooling to tour stops. Refreshments will be provided. The program will be free; no need to pre-register. For more information, contact WSU-Klickitat County Extension at ce6620@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu or 509-773-5817.

GOAT SEMINAR IN GOLDENDALE!

The Rocky Mountain Hillbillies 4-H Club will hold a Goat Seminar at the Klickitat County Fairgrounds in Goldendale, WA on June 18 from 8am to 4pm. Donna Semasko will be the speaker. Registration is \$5 for 4-H members and \$7 for all others. Lunch will be available for purchase. There will be a raffle, door prizes and fun. Please join us and learn all about these remarkable creatures! For more info, call 509-773-5817 or kerrs@wsu.edu.

PACK GOAT SEMINAR IN UNION GAP!

The Fort Simcoe Herdsmen 4-H Club will sponsor a pack goat seminar on July 9 at the Agricultural Museum of Central Washington, 4508 Main St., Union Gap. The cost is \$20/person or \$40/family with 4-H and group discounts. A hamburger lunch will be provided.

The presenter will be Donna Semasko, noted pack goat producer and trainer. Young stock will be available for purchase and a wether will be raffled off along with some miscellaneous packing supplies.

The seminar will cover the following topics:

- Getting started with pack goats
- Choosing the right goat
- Training your goat
- Packing the goats
- Pack goats on the trail
- Pack goats at camp
- Pack goats at home
- Traveling with your goat
- Pack goat healthcare and nutrition
- First Aid for pack goats on the trail



Registration will start at 8am and the program will begin run from 9am to 4pm with lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. For more info call 509-848-2108 or email fourstar@nwinfo.net

From Carolyn Eddy at Goattracks Magazine:

"I just got my new Sydell catalog and they have a bunch of new feeders made for horned goats." See www.sydell.com.

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N.A.PACK GOAT ASSOC. RENDEZVOUS

The NAPgA 2005 Rendezvous will be July 7-10 at the Chinook Pass Work Center in the Wenatchee National Forest, next to William O. Douglas and Norse Peak Wildernesses, northwest of Naches, WA. There will be a service project on the first day and multiple packgoat workshops during the event.

The rendezvous is open to anyone interested in packgoats, whether or not they are a member of NAPgA. Past rendezvous have been well attended. They are a great socializer for old and new friends and an opportunity for people to get acquainted with packgoats firsthand. Of course, goats are welcome! We expect to have several vendors displaying packgoat-related products.

For more info or to make a reservation, contact Tony Nastansky at tonynastansky@earthlink.net or Jim Bennett at wingshooter@harbornet.com.

Based on past rendezvous, the participation fee will be between \$5-\$35 dollars. Visit the rendezvous Web site at www.napga.org/napgarende2005.html for updates.

Note: a Health certificate is required to bring a wether into the state of Washington. Contact info and details will be posted on the Web site.



THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE

by Susan Kerr,

WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.

- www.usbga.org

Web site of the United States Boer Goat Association. Their official handbook is available there.

- <http://www.luresext.edu/goats/>

Web site of Langston University's E. (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research where the majority of the county's goat-related research is conducted.

A THIRD HAND

by JoAnne Critten, Wilbur OR, Oregon Meat Goat Producers

- Plastic buckets come in handy! Cut five gallon plastic pails off 6" from the bottom and put duct tape around the top (they have a tendency to split down the sides). These can be used for feed pans, waterers in your creep area, supply holders, etc.
- When checking for newborns out in the field, take a five-gallon bucket with you to hold paper towels, etc. The buckets can then be used to transport the newborns back to the barn. Just be sure no one is lying on someone else's head!

GOTTA GETTA GOAT SHOPPING LIST

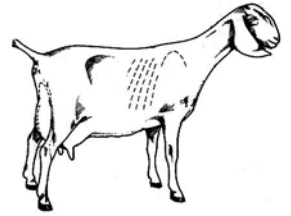
by Patti and Jim Gylling

BEFORE you go goat shopping you should review this checklist. Some planning and research ahead of time will save you time, energy and money down the road. It could even save the life of your goat, too! Discuss these items with a more experienced goat person or Extension agent so you can be an "informed consumer" before you begin to goat shop. Don't be afraid to take the list with you when you visit a goat producer so you won't forget what to look for.

Remember to take a close look at little things like number of teats, bite, pigment, etc. AND look from a distance to see the general appearance, size and balance. Don't forget to check out all views--front, rear and side, both standing and walking.

BODY

- ___ Length - especially hindsaddle
- ___ Wide through chest floor
- ___ Blends well throughout
- ___ Wide, rounded ribs
- ___ Long, level rump
- ___ Deep body



FEET AND LEGS

- ___ Well trimmed hooves
- ___ Sound on all four legs
- ___ Straight, strong, but not posty

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- ___ Healthy, smooth coat
- ___ Good weight and growth
- ___ Friendly personality

UDDER (meat and dairy goats)

- ___ Well formed, smooth attachments
- ___ Balanced, both sides functioning
- ___ No double teats
- ___ No more than 2 (dairy) or 4 (meat) teats
- ___ Easy to milk, good orifice size

OTHER THINGS TO CHECK / ASK

- ___ Look at both parents, siblings, etc.
- ___ Bred does should be guaranteed and come with breeding certificate
- ___ Do tattoos and registration papers match?
- ___ Dry does should be less than two years old and guaranteed to breed and kid
- ___ Current health records and medical notes (shots, worming, Bo-Se®, etc.)
- ___ C.A.E., Johne's and C.L.-free herd? Ask for proof of testing!

You will have a successful start in raising goats after some basic research. Once you are familiar with the above checklist you will be more likely to have a positive experience getting your goats!

WAYS TO GUARANTEE A WRECK, Part 2

by Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU-Klickitat Co.
Extension Educator

Continuing from last issue, here are a few more sure-fire ways to guarantee that you'll have lots of extra chores to add to your schedule.



7. Buy animals from a sale yard.
8. Keep sick animals with the herd.
9. Buy whatever feed is the cheapest or closest.
10. Keep lots of junk around.
11. "Hoof trimming, schmoof trimming!"
12. Ignore the ABCs of CAE and CL.

You know we're kidding, right? Yet I'm sure you know people who actually obtain breeding stock from sale yards. Where do people send their culls? To a sale yard! Why base your future on someone else's cast offs?! Also, you often get more than you bargained for with sale yard animals: Salmonella, C.L., cryptosporidiosis, soremouth, etc.

Yes, it's a pain in the neck to deal with animals in isolation. You have to remember to do other chores first, disinfect well and keep good treatment records. However, you should just make it standard practice to put sick animals in isolation. You'll delay or prevent the spread of illness to other animals and you'll reduce stress on the sick animal. If they seem MORE stressed being alone, perhaps choose one pal to put in with them.

Raise your hand if you've bought cheap feed and regretted it. I see many hands...Learn to read feed labels so you can tell when you are getting a good value for your money and when you are buying junk.

Speaking of junk, many cuts, sprains and fractures are caused by unsafe environments. If animals can hurt themselves, one of them eventually will. Remove old farm implements, trash, nails, barbed wire, etc. and you will prevent a future tragedy. Look for and remove sources of toxins, too-leaking car batteries, paint cans, whatever.

Don't ignore feet. They are your animal's foundation. Your goats' job

is to browse and graze (or at least stand and eat); they can't do this well if they are in pain. Overgrown hooves tend to crack up the hoof wall, which creates a problem for months. Trim regularly. Maybe invite a goat friend over and have a gab fest while you trim feet, then return the favor at their place? Disinfect your equipment and change your clothes and footwear first, of course...

Now it's time for the big one: learn all you can about CAE (Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis virus) and CL (Caseous Lymphadenitis or abscesses). They are difficult to clear from your herd if you bring them in and they can interfere with some of your options for your goats. CAE is a slow-acting virus that is spread primarily through colostrum from an infected doe to her kids. It can cause a fatal brain inflammation in kids or a myriad of problems in adults, most notably career-ending arthritis. CL is a bacterial disease that causes chronic recurring abscesses on the head, neck and throat. It is highly contagious and many shows exclude affected animals. Do more digging and get knowledgeable about these diseases. If you can, buy from documented CAE and CL-negative herds. Expect to pay more because these animals are worth it.

Keeping your animals healthy, safe and producing at their peak is an ongoing challenge. Examine your health and safety program critically so you can identify areas that need improvement. Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure (or a gallon of diesel...!)

MAXIMIZING MILK PRODUCTION, PT. 1

By Kat Drovdaahl,
Fir Meadow Farm, Twisp WA

Genetics: I cannot place enough importance on genetics! Certainly we can all find examples of does that milk well with unknown/unlikely backgrounds. But that's just it—it's unlikely. If I have \$200 or more to spend on a doeling, why wouldn't I want to find the most proven genetics that I can get for my money? By doing so I am reducing the risk of getting a doeling who doesn't milk well, as well as increasing the likelihood I can get a fair price for her excess kids. Look for info on sire and dam lines and siblings for one, two or three generations back. You need strong milkers in the pedigrees to increase the chances of your doe becoming one.

Management: So now you've spent your \$200 or more...if you don't manage her well your investment will be lost. On our farm, we are picky about our animals' feed, shelter and health care program right from the kid's birth. A kid that doesn't get the quality feed, shelter and health care she needs can not reach her genetic potential, so we don't take shortcuts on this.

We breed our does to bucks from strong milk backgrounds and try to help them get a good start on their lactation with as uneventful kidding as possible. A bad start here can throw them off for the whole year. We have also found that trying to kid our does earlier in the season helps. Late kidders at our farm aren't allowed to milk a normal 305 day lactation.

Look for much more in
Part 2

