

A PUBLICATION OF THE WSU GOAT PRODUCTION EDUCATION TEAM

**W**e've gone to more pages for this issue! So much is happening in the goat world in the Northwest that there's too much information to pare down into just four pages and still get information to goat producers in a timely manner. Future issues of *The Kidding Pen* will probably vary between four and six pages.

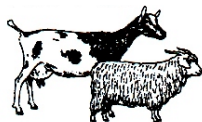
We're always happy to spread the word about upcoming shows and sales, so please send your notices to us so we can advertise these events. Several are mentioned in this issue. Also included are educational articles about enterotoxemia, coccidiosis and milking management as well as the usual short columns with helpful tips, web sites, etc.

If you are not on our e-mail list, please consider sending us your e-mail address. Sometimes we receive short notice about some goat-related events and when we do, we send a notice out over our goat e-mail list. This list is confidential!

*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!

- Sept. 10** Boer Goat Production Sale, Yakima Valley Fair and Rodeo, Grandview, WA. More info included in newsletter.
- Sept. 16, 17, 24** WSU Master Goat Farmer program, Tacoma, WA. More info included in newsletter.
- Sept. 23** Washington State Graziers' Conference, Moses Lake. More info included in newsletter.
- Sept. 23-25** Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR. More info included in newsletter.
- Oct. 8-9** OctoBoer Fall Finale Boer Goat Show, Walla Walla County fairgrounds. More info below.
- Oct. 22** Boer Goat Production Sale, Toppenish Livestock Yard, Toppenish, WA. More info included in newsletter.
- Oct. 22** Goat workshop, Walla Walla, WA (tentative date). More info included in newsletter.

**DON'T MISS THE 2005  
OREGON FLOCK AND FIBER FESTIVAL  
CLACKAMAS CO. FAIRGROUNDS  
CANBY, OREGON  
SEPT. 23-25!**

At OFFF, the emphasis is not just on fiber—OFFF is a great place to learn all about small ruminants and camelids!

For you Cashmere goat owners, Jo David Ross will judge the live Cashmere goat show and the fiber show. He will also conduct two workshops so this is a great opportunity to learn from the man behind cashmere goats in the USA. The NW Cashmere Association is organizing a raffle at their booth. Any items you can donate to help with fundraising would be great, so please contact Diana Walker at [dijoe@wvi.com](mailto:dijoe@wvi.com) or 503-897-3809.

The Festival will be held at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds. More info: call 503-628-1205 or e-mail [whistlestop.farm@verizon.net](mailto:whistlestop.farm@verizon.net) or visit [www.flockandfiberfestival.com](http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com).



**UPCOMING GOAT SHOWS AND SALES**

**OctoBoer Fall Finale Boer Goat Show**

The OctoBoer shows will be October 8-9 at the Walla Walla County fairgrounds. Our judges are Alan Fires for the Saturday USBGA show and Bronc Fleming for the Sunday ABGA show. For more info, contact Leslie Bader-Robinson at 509-246-9327 or [lbader1@yahoo.com](mailto:lbader1@yahoo.com) or Terry Brown at 509-394-2345 or [capriole@pocketinet.com](mailto:capriole@pocketinet.com).

Outstanding bucks have been nominated by their owners for the "Put Your Buck\$\$ Behind Your Buck" Futurity. Special Futurity

classes for these bucks' KIDS will be part of the OctoBoer Show this year. The Buck Futurity classes will take place on Oct. 9. Kids sired by the nominated bucks can be entered in the special Futurity Classes; there is a class for doeling offspring and a class for buckling offspring. The kids must be registered with one of the breed organizations and must be born after Dec. 1, 2004.

The buck owners nominated their buck(s) based on the gender of the kids the buck owner wants to have shown to represent that buck. If both buck and doe kids were specified, then both sexes can be entered in the Buck Futurity classes. If only one sex of kid was specified for a given buck, then only that sex of kid can be entered in the futurity class. Anyone who owns kids out of these bucks can show them in these classes as long as the kids were born after Dec 1, 2004 and they are the gender of kids that were nominated to represent the sire.

**Boer Goat Production Sale—Toppenish,WA**

We are holding a first annual Boer Goat Production Sale. It will be Oct 22 at the Toppenish Livestock Yard in Toppenish, WA. It will include registered and unregistered fullblood, purebred and percentage Boer goats, bucks, does and wethers. Commercial, production and meat goats are welcome. **It will be a catalog sale, with all pre-consigned goats included in this catalog.** We must have all your goats' information by Oct. 7 to be included in this catalog. This sale will be held along with the regular Saturday sale. Boer goats will sell following sheep by 2 or 3 pm. Goats may be viewed on sale morning starting at 9 am. Regular consignment fees apply. There is a small no-sale fee and Scrapie tags are recommended or you may be charged for one on site. Call Toppenish Livestock for more info at 509-865-2820 or Sandy Boyd at 509-894-5426/ [sandywes@bentonrea.com](mailto:sandywes@bentonrea.com).

**Boer Goat Production Sale—Grandview,WA**

The NW Select Breeders will be holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Boer Goat Production Sale in Grandview, WA on Sept. 10. The sale location will be

the Yakima Valley Fair and Rodeo fairgrounds at 812 Wallace Way, Grandview. There will be more than 75 head of quality breeding stock (fullblood, purebred and percentage animals) with some of the top genetics available anywhere. You may view the animals starting at 9 a.m. The auction will start at noon.

For a sale catalog or for more info, contact Judy Wolfe at 509-965-0132 or [wolfeju@aol.com](mailto:wolfeju@aol.com).

#### **Editorial Note About Jackpot Shows**

A new *The Kidding Pen* policy is that we will not advertise youth Jackpot shows. For greatest educational impact and to most accurately reflect actual market livestock practices, youth market animal projects should be raised to be ready for sale on a certain date such as a terminal market show. Holding market animals for weeks at market weight to participate in multiple market stock shows results in one of two undesirable situations: over-conditioned animals that do not meet market standards or gross abuses of animals (withholding feed, excessive exercising, etc.) to prevent them from gaining weight. Youth livestock projects are designed to help youth learn about livestock industries and gain essential life skills and develop character. Jackpot shows do neither of these, so Extension/4-H programs cannot support them.

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#### **WASHINGTON GRAZIERS' CONFERENCE**

The 2005 Washington State Graziers' Conference will be in Moses Lake on September 23. Individuals interested in livestock production and natural resource management are encouraged to attend. The program will feature presentations on manipulating habitat and grazing conditions, no-till pasture renovation, Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) rules and effects of grazing on water quality. The day's events are scheduled from 9:30am to 5:30pm. An early registration fee of \$40 includes lunch and a conference notebook. For more information contact Sarah Smith at

509-754-2011, Ext413, [smithsm@wsu.edu](mailto:smithsm@wsu.edu) or see <http://animalag.wsu.edu>.

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#### **PYGMIES FOR SALE**

We have young Pygmy goat does and wethers for sale. They would make great 4-H project animals. Thank you! Elaine Kirk, 509-837-6767 or [3torches@earthlink.net](mailto:3torches@earthlink.net).

#### **MASTER GOAT FARMER PROGRAM-TACOMA!**

Thanks to a critical mass of interested goat producers, the next session of the WSU Master Goat Farmer program will be held in Tacoma, WA. Each class will be from 9 AM to 4 PM. Registration is \$30 and due by Sept. 9. Make checks payable to WSU-SFA. Scholarships are available through the Pierce County Conservation Service, 253-845-9770 ext. 105. Send applications to Gary Fredricks, Building C Suite 100, 11104 NE 149th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606. If you have any questions, contact Gary at 360-397-6060 ext. 7714 or [garyf@wsu.edu](mailto:garyf@wsu.edu).

#### **SCHEDULE**

##### **September 16**

Pasture Management - Gary Fredricks  
Health - Dr. Susan Kerr

##### **September 17**

Nutrition - Gary Fredricks  
Milking Management - Gary Fredricks  
Meat Goats- Sonya Tuter

##### **September 24**

Management Tips - Donna Semasko  
Reproduction and Genetics - Chris Strickland  
Meat Goat Farm Tour

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#### **WALLA WALLA WORKSHOP IN THE WORKS**

An educational workshop about goats is tentatively planned for Oct. 22 in Walla Walla, WA. Topics will include health and disease, reproduction, feeding, management, selection, predator control, pasture management, business plans and/or marketing. Topics for future workshops may include carcass characteristics, industry standards, judging and more.

For more information, contact Debbie Moberg, WSU Extension-Walla Walla at (509) 527-3260 or [dmoberg@wsu.edu](mailto:dmoberg@wsu.edu).

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### A THIRD HAND

by JoAnne Critten  
Oregon Meat Goat Producers

Uses for plastic chains: You can usually find at least three colors to help keep track of your goats:

- You can designate one color chain for each pasture so you can tell quickly if a goat is someplace it shouldn't be
- You can designate which goats you are keeping when others are going for sale
- You can designate which goats you are breeding.
- They make good gate latches in areas that don't need a heavy metal chain.
- They make good hangers for small items when strung across an area.



### THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE

by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator -  
Klickitat Co.

- [www.nap.edu/books/030904295X/html/33.html](http://www.nap.edu/books/030904295X/html/33.html)

The contents of an interesting book called "Microlivestock: Little Known Small Animals with a Promising Economic Future" are available at this frustrating and user-unfriendly site. Information about goats is included on pages 33-45.

- <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2264.htm>

Really nice and simple introduction for youth or adults about raising goats. Published by Mississippi State University.

- [http://www.mofga.org/tech\\_larl.html#dr](http://www.mofga.org/tech_larl.html#dr)  
Raising Organic Livestock in Maine—lots of good info and contacts but not necessarily accurate for your state.

- [www.animalag.wsu.edu](http://www.animalag.wsu.edu)

Web site of the WSU Central Washington Animal Agriculture team. Educational publications on many livestock-related topics are available to download.

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### DAIRY GOAT PRODUCERS: GOT PHOTOS?

The National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System's dairy goat curriculum is being revised. We need photos! If you have high-quality photos of dairy goats and grade 3-12 youth, please consider sharing them. Your photo could make the cover of a national publication! We encourage entries taken by youth, too.

We need photos that show ACTION: youth doing things and having fun with goats. Examples: milking a goat, cleaning a pen (we can cut and paste a smile on the youth...), trimming feet, fitting a goat for show, checking teeth, reading a feed tag, checking a medication label...you get the picture.

The minimum quality we'd like is 35mm film or 300 dpi/one megabyte digital photos. Please keep backgrounds uncluttered; ask youth to dress appropriately and without advertising logos. Photos can be posed but should look candid; youth should NOT be looking at the camera. If adults are in the picture, they should be watching the youth, not vice versa. We are interested in diversity of goat breeds and uses, photo locations and subjects' gender, sizes, ages, physical ability and ethnicity. A photo release permission form is required.

Questions? Comments? Submissions? Please contact Susan Kerr at [kerrs@wsu.edu](mailto:kerrs@wsu.edu) or 509-773-5817. THANKS!

### VACCINATING FOR OVEREATING DISEASE

by Susan Schoenian,  
Area Agent, Sheep and Goats  
Western Maryland Research & Ed Center

[Editor's note: this article was reprinted with permission from the author's TERIFFIC web site, [www.sheepandgoat.com](http://www.sheepandgoat.com). It has been edited for space].

Recently, my biggest and best Katahdin ewe lamb died, most likely from overeating disease. She was about 10 months old. It was my fault. I had bought her from another farm when she was about 6 months old and had neglected to vaccinate her. Since the start of the breeding season, she had been receiving grain to support her continued growth during pregnancy.

A few years ago, Cornell University carried out a study to determine the proper vaccination schedule for enterotoxemia (overeating disease or pulpy kidney disease). Researchers looked at different vaccination regimes to determine which produced the most antibody response to *Clostridium perfringens*, the bacteria that causes enterotoxemia.

*Clostridium perfringens* is a normal inhabitant of the ruminant gut but under certain situations it proliferates and produces a toxin which causes serious illness in sheep and goats. Enterotoxemia can be costly. It is characterized by sudden death of the fastest growing, most vigorous lambs in the flock. Typical history includes an abrupt change in feed, a high grain diet or sudden access to carbohydrates (grain, apples, molasses, etc.). Creep-fed lambs, lambs nursing heavy-milking dams and lambs in feedlots are also at risk. Irregular feeding, inadequate feeder space, stress and changes in weather can also make this disease more likely.

Efforts to treat sick lambs and kids are usually not very successful. Treatment usually includes C&D antitoxin, antibiotics, electrolytes, fluids, anti-shock medications and Vitamin B complex.

As with most disease conditions, it is far better to prevent than treat overeating disease. Vaccination is cheap insurance. But when and who do you vaccinate? Research at Cornell University revealed that vaccination of lambs did not increase blood levels of protective antibodies, whereas pre-lambing vaccination of ewes significantly increased lamb antibody concentrations compared to lambs reared by non-vaccinated ewes. Vaccination of ewes resulted in lambs with higher antibody concentrations until 10 weeks after lambing, indicating that vaccination of ewes prior to lambing imparts passive immunity to lambs via the colostrum. The results of this experiment

indicate that ewes should be vaccinated 3 to 4 weeks prior to lambing and that there is no benefit to vaccinating lambs prior to 6 weeks of age.

It is important to note that animals that have not previously been vaccinated require two doses of the vaccine approximately 4 to 6 weeks apart. The toxoid product should be used in vaccination programs. The antitoxin only imparts immediate, short-term immunity and should be used to treat affected animals.

Enterotoxemia appears to be less understood in goats and the vaccine is probably not as effective. Consequently, it is usually recommended that goats be vaccinated every six months, including a month prior to kidding.

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[Maryland Small Ruminant Page.](#)

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#### **PASTEURELLA PHENOMENA**

*by Manda Doffing*

*Oregon Meat Goat Producers*

*[Editor's note: This article was adapted from its original version in an Oregon Meat Goat Producers' newsletter. It mentions the use of an antibiotic that is NOT approved for use in goats. Thanks to the Minor Species Act, veterinarians can advise use of unapproved medications if and when such medications are a sick animal's best hope for recovery and there is a valid client-patient-veterinarian relationship. Misuse of unapproved medications by some livestock owners violates federal law and puts this "extra-label use" policy in jeopardy. If a medication is not approved for use in goats, always consult your veterinarian before using it and abide by all recommended meat and milk withholding times. Doing otherwise puts the safety of our food supply at risk and violates federal law; heavy fines apply!].*

This time of year we have some cool nights with very hot days. When the temperature ranges 40° in 12 hours, we seem to get a lot of Pasteurella pneumonia. It hits hard and fast and can kill in 24-48 hours. Signs of illness are few and last only a short time. Affected goats look "lazy" and

their temperature can rise up to 106°F, then fall. You may notice foam in the nostrils. Sick goats get very lethargic and lose their appetite. Affected goats may or may not cough.

If diagnosed early, *Pasteurella pneumonia* may respond to the antibiotic Naxcel®. This medication is not labeled for use in goats, so you will need to get permission to use it as well as instructions for proper dosage and administration from your veterinarian. It is quite expensive.

If you notice lethargic animals during variable-temperature weather, check your goats' temperatures and noses carefully. Do not assume that animals are just being lazy because of the hot days. They may have early *Pasteurella pneumonia*.

## MAXIMIZING MILK PRODUCTION, PART 2

By Kat Drov Dahl

*Fir Meadow Farm, Twisp WA*

We try to do things that will build up immune and digestive systems. We trim feet every month, keep health care routine and offer the best alfalfa and other feeds we can get our hands on. Winters are spent researching books, bloodlines and asking questions of more experienced breeders.

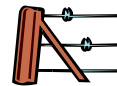
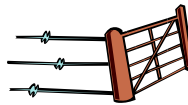
The does do well even under a heavy show schedule and watching temperatures range from 105° in the summer to -20° in the winter. Individual attention is also important to us. We think they try harder for us because they understand that they are well loved and adored. It is imperative that we make time several times a week to go out and scratch rumps, rub faces and bring treats.

Improving your herd's production: The neat thing is that ANYONE who does some homework can improve their production! Dairy Herd Improvement records are very important to us. Not only can we see the yearly totals, it has taught us how much they should be milking at which stage of their lactation, how to follow the

performance of family lines in our herd and how to track a buck's influence in our herd. Without DHIR I would not have the discipline to do this on a daily basis.

Linear Appraisal and/or showing are wonderful tools. These are things that help train one's eye on what a doe should look like to be able to produce well for a long life.

By purchasing the best buck you can afford with a proven background behind him, you can improve your herd's milk production in a shorter amount of time. If you have to feed him and care for him you may as well make him pay his keep by granting you much improved kids. Do not be afraid to sell stock that is not meeting your expectations. The more of those you keep, the slower your progress will be and the less money you'll have to buy that nice buck or care for your current herd.



Only keep as many goats as you can afford to care for WELL! It is not fair to you or the does if you have to give less than quality care when they work so hard for you. I avoid CL, Johnes and CAE. All of these in the best circumstances will put harder work to your does' immune system, and at worst, compromise herd health and milk production.



I would be happy to field questions. People may contact me via [firmeado@methow.com](mailto:firmeado@methow.com). Our Web site is <http://lamanchas.tripod.com>.

## FENCING

by Marilyn Burke

*Oregon Meat Goat Producers*

The most common question about goats is "What to do about fencing?"

Meat goats, for the most part, are built low to the ground, have stocky bodies and once they've left kid-dom they don't do a lot of jumping, climbing, etc. Dairy goats are much more agile.

You might have a fence already that is regular cattle field fencing with a string of barbed wire halfway up and one or two more strands at the top. This can work but goats can get their heads and/or horns stuck. If you put a hot wire about 18" up from the bottom and another hot wire at the top you should be in pretty good shape. The lower hot wire keeps them from putting their heads through the fence and from standing on the fence to reach over. The top one keeps the goats from reaching over to eat neighbors' precious plants.

There is some field fencing ("hog wire") that has a smaller grid--four inches vs. regular cattle fencing that has a six by seven inch grid. It is more expensive but will save you money in the long run because goat heads won't go through it. The added electric wire as discussed above would be a good option also. Think about putting your metal posts closer together than the usual 16 feet--try eight feet apart instead; it will save your fencing since goats like to rub against fencing to scratch if you haven't added a hot wire.

Barbed wire alone is not going to stop a goat. Neither is a single strand of electric wire. The New Zealand electric fence works well especially if you've always had your goats in an "electric" pasture. If you are introducing goats to an electric fence, you can build a small electric wire corral and put their food outside it. They will learn about electric fences rapidly. Put them in their permanent, larger electric pasture after the educational session is over.

The problem with electric fencing of any sort is that it tends to lose its effectiveness as the ground dries out so check it often, put ground rods down where it's damp and/or pour lots of water on your ground rod. If you live where it's dry, it's almost impossible to keep a wire hot through the summer.

There is an electric netting fence that works very well where you have enough power to keep it hot. All the wires are hot, so as far as I can figure out there is no way that you can ground it other than at the beginning/end where the grounding wire is located. It is a good fence for young stock and does with kids but I would not recommend it for bucks.

### COCCIDIOSIS

*Adapted from an article by Marilyn Burke, Oregon Meat Goat Producers*

Coccidiosis should be of major concern to all goat and sheep producers particularly during wet springs. Coccidiosis is a contagious disease of the intestinal tract caused by single celled protozoan called coccidia. It is a common problem of feedlots and kids from one to 12 months old. Transmission of coccidia to kids occurs when infected animals shed the organisms in feces, resulting in contaminated feed or water. Contaminated bedding is also a common source of infection since kids frequently chew on bedding materials. Mature goats are infected with small numbers of coccidia but show no clinical signs of disease because of an acquired immunity. Nevertheless, these clinically normal carriers continually contaminate the environment with coccidia. Disease occurs when kids, not immune yet to coccidia, ingest large numbers of coccidia from the contaminated environment.



Coccidiosis affects kids over three weeks of age; adults develop immunity. Kids are most at risk during times of stress, such as weaning. Some kids that recover are stunted and "chronic poor do-ers."

Kids suffering from coccidiosis may develop diarrhea, lose weight, become depressed, be weak, develop a pot belly and rough hair coat; some die. The major diagnostic tool is fecal analysis.

Coccidiosis treatment medications include amprolium (Corid®, approved for use in cattle) and sulfadimethoxine (Albon®, by only) administered as a drench for a number of consecutive days. Both require permission from your veterinarian. ALL kids in the group, including affected kids and normal kids, should be treated for the recommended number of days. Response should be observed within a few days.

Effective preventive programs are available with drugs called coccidiostats. These drugs are used for prevention, not treatment. When fed continuously at low levels, coccidiostats interfere with the life cycle of coccidia in the intestine, thus preventing the dangerous build-up of coccidia which can cause the disease. There are several drugs used as feed additives such as Bovatec® and Deccox® which can be mixed with loose minerals at a rate of two pounds per 50-pound sack of mineral. There are also commercial feed mixes that contain monensin (Rumensin®, approved for goats!) which is also very effective.

A recommended program for controlling coccidiosis includes:

- Feeding coccidiostats to pregnant does starting about one month before kidding begins. This will reduce coccidia contamination of the environment by the does.
- Feeding coccidiostats to does and kids until kids are weaned. Continue feeding coccidiostats to kids in confinement until slaughter. Discontinue coccidiostats to does and kids that go out on clean, dry pastures. Abide by recommended meat and milk withholding times.
- Maintaining pregnant does, does, nursing kids and weaned kids in a clean, dry, manure-free environment.

Picture of goat coccidia under microscope from [www.microscope-microscope.org/applications/animals/fecal\\_analysis.htm](http://www.microscope-microscope.org/applications/animals/fecal_analysis.htm)

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**GOATS IN THE NEWS: NATURE'S WEEDEATERS**  
by Gail Morton, Oregon Meat Goat Producers

Payson, AZ: about 30 goats were turned out on a pesky, prickly weed called "goatheads" in a dog park. The dogs hate this paw-hurting weed and the goats loved them. It was a real win/win situation.

San Diego, CA: The city council is considering a proposal to permit the use of goats in San Diego to remove brush in wildfire-threatened areas. Municipal law currently prohibits using livestock or electric fencing in urban areas--rules that must be amended before the goats can be used for brush management. A pilot project demonstrated that the goats can perform brush management at less than 50% of the cost of a contract crew. Under ideal circumstances, 75 to 100 goats can thin about one acre per day.

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#### **MEAT GOAT MARKETING COOPERATIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The Northwest Cooperative Development Center has conducted a goat meat marketing feasibility study. It is a great overview of the PNW meat goat industry and well worth a read! It is available at [www.nwcdc.coop/projects\\_files/nmgp/GoatFeasibilityStudy.pdf](http://www.nwcdc.coop/projects_files/nmgp/GoatFeasibilityStudy.pdf). If you'd like to discuss the study and its findings, contact Eric Bowman at [eric@nwcdc.coop](mailto:eric@nwcdc.coop) or 360-943-4241.

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