

A PUBLICATION OF THE WSU GOAT PRODUCTION EDUCATION TEAM

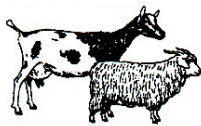
Wow! There are so many goat-related educational events and shows coming up! We don't have room to include detailed information about every event, so please contact the representative listed for more details.

In this issue we are honored to have a feature article from Leslie Bader-Robinson, who just experienced a traumatic case of animal theft on her property; she shares with readers the valuable lessons she learned from this event. Thanks, Leslie!

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

Send your comments, suggestions, newsletter articles and e-mails to:

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SAVE THESE DATES!

April 8 Goats & Friends, 9AM to 3:30PM, 215 Ringette Ave, Grants Pass, OR. 541-832-3349 or manda@tri-r-ranch.com for more info.

April 19-23 2nd annual Northwest Boer Goat Association Boer Goat Show, State fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA. Marcela Lopez at 360-736-1925 or Cedaranch@aol.com.

April 22 California Gold Rush Boer Goat Sale, Oakdale, CA. Advanced goat management workshop in AM, sale in PM. Contact Richard Gilton at 209-838-0931 or richardg@gilton.com or visit www.giltongoats.com for more info. On-line sales catalog at www.ABGA.com.

April 29-30 Spring Blow-Out USBGA/ABGA Show and Pen Sale, Ellensburg, WA. See article.

May 5-6 Lambing School, Puget Island, WA. Kari at kando@centurytel.net or 360-849-4353.

May 6 Wilco Newberg Goat Health, Nutrition and Handling Seminar, 9AM to noon, Stones Throw Stables and Arena, 14900 Stone Road, Newberg OR. For more info: Chuck Dunn at cdunn@wilco.coop.

May 6-7 Cowboy Country Boer Goat Show, Crook County Fairgrounds, Prineville, OR. Greg/Shelly Colvin at 541-447-6200 or countrygoats@msn.com.

May 18-21 Farm Life 101, Rice, WA. Lora Lea at www.quillisascutcheese.com or 509-738-2011.

May 19-20 Northwest Cashmere Association Cashmere Fleece Competition and Goat Show, Chehalis, WA. Faith Hagenhofer at 360-264-2659 or faithkeh@hotmail.com.

May 20-21 Cheesemaking Class, Port Townsend, WA. See article for more info.

May 20-21 USBGA and ABGA show, Yakima, WA. Contact Judy at wolfeju@aol.com.

May 23-24 Multi-species Grazing Conference, Ritzville, WA. See article.

June 10 OMGP Pen Sale and educational program, Milton-Freewater, OR. See article for info.

June 24 Oregon Meat Goat Producers USBGA Show, Cottage Grove OR. See article for more info.

July 1-2 Red, White & Boer show, Ridgefield, WA.
Becki@CopperCreekBoers.com or 503-631-3996.

July 7-9 JamBOERee, Cambridge, Idaho. Mikel Wallace at 208-257-3617 or viper@ctcweb.net.

July 8 Production Sale, Chehalis, WA. Contact Lynda at lyndants@ywave.com.

July 22-23 USBGA National Regional Show and ABGA Open Show, Walla Walla, WA. Terry at capriole@pocketinet.com.

Sept. 30 OMGP Second Annual Fall Pen Sale, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond OR. Lesley Richman, 541-573-5635 or lrichman@centurytel.net.

Oct. 27-29 Master Goat Farmer program, Puyallup, WA. Contact Gary Fredricks at garyf@wsu.edu or 360-397-6060 ext. 7714.

GOT CHEESE?

If you want to learn about cheesemaking, plan to be in Port Townsend, WA on May 20-21. Cheesemaking pioneer Peter Dixon will teach a class on cheesemaking at the Mt. Townsend Creamery in Port Townsend. This class is open to 15 people, tuition is \$275 and registration is first come, first served.

This two-day, hands-on workshop will allow participants to experience all aspects of the cheesemaking process for a variety of cheese types. Topics will include milk selection, heating of raw milk, pasteurizing, uses of cultures and rennet, cutting and hooping of curds and aging of cheese in coolers. Each participant will make and take home cheese as well as learn about the history and science of cheese craft. A variety of different cheeses will be made.

Workshop hours will be from 8am to 5pm each day. Lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided both days.

To register or for more information, contact Mt. Townsend Creamery at 360-379-0895 or info@mttownsendcreamery.com.

SPRING BLOW-OUT GOAT SHOW

The 1st Annual 4-H, FFA and Eastern Washington Goat Producers' Spring Blow-Out Goat Show and Pen Sale will be held at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds in Ellensburg, WA April 29-30. An ABGA Show will be held on April 29 and a USBGA Show and Pen Sale will be held on April 30. This event is sponsored by the Highlanders 4-H Club and the Eastern Washington Goat Producers.

Many wonderful events and opportunities are scheduled such as pack, driving and obstacle course classes; showmanship, judging and oral reasons demonstrations; market wether and Boer goat classes; showmanship, judging and oral reasons classes; educational poster competition; public presentations; a "Master of Goat" competition and more!

For more information about the shows, events or pen sale, contact Shelly Voshall at 509-962-4209 or bowknotenterprises@hotmail.com or Judi Hull at 509-962-1775 or jmhull@elltel.net.

MASTER GOAT FARMER PROGRAM UPDATE

A WSU Master Goat Farm program will be held October 27-29, 2006 in Puyallup, Washington. For more info, contact Gary Fredricks at garyf@wsu.edu or 360-397-6060 ext. 7714. A program for central Washington (possibly located at Prosser) is tentatively scheduled for some time this fall. Contact us if you are interested and we will keep you posted on developments.



MARKETING CORNER

How to Direct Market Your Beef is a helpful document written by cattle producers who found profitability through direct marketing. This is valuable information for anyone who raises meat animals. Published in 2005 and 96 pages long, the document is available from SARE for \$14.95 or free by downloading from www.sare.org/publications/beef.htm

For sale: We have several disbudded Boer/cross kids for sale. \$100 each. Lynda Kofford-Di Cicco, www.tobotoncreekenterprises.com.

Sales list available: Hello from North Idaho! I have recently published our Boer web site and I wanted to share it with you. We have a few nice show potential kids this year for sale also. I hope you will take a look. Thank you! Jennifer Robins, The Robins Ranch, <http://robinsranchboers.tripod.com>.

For swap: Mini-Nubian or dwarf Nubian bucks. Cheri Dehart at misskitty@gorge.net or 509-365-2661.



THE LURE OF GOING ON-LINE

by Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator - Klickitat Co.

<http://www.imagecyte.com/goats.html>
"The Biology of the Goat" web site. Reproduction, anatomy, parasites, animation, games and more. A great site!

<http://www.mountainlion.org/publications.asp>

The Capital Press recently had an article on "predator-proof" pens that featured designs from the Mountain Lion Foundation in CA as part of their "Living with Lions" program. Even if

you don't have mountain lions in your area, the designs look helpful against other predators. Thanks to Colleen Donovan from Heifer International for this info!



WHAT'S COOKIN'?

Stir-Fry Goat with Green Onions

From www.greatgoats.com

¾ lb. goat loin or leg cut into thin slices
2 Tbsp. sesame or safflower oil
12 green onions, cut into 1" lengths

Marinade 1

½ t. garlic powder
2 T. soy sauce
½ T. sugar
2 T. rice wine
2 T. cornstarch

Marinade 2

3 T. soy sauce
½ t. sugar
½ t. blk pepper
4 T. water

Cut meat into uniform 1/8" slices, 1½ to 2" long. Place meat in a sealable bag; add Marinade 1 and shake to coat thoroughly. Refrigerate at least 1 hour, shaking at least once. When ready to cook, stir-fry meat in sesame or safflower oil, stirring often. Add Marinade 2 and green onions. Continue to stir-fry until thoroughly hot; serve over warm rice. Serves 5.

FLORAL FOES

by Susan Kerr, WSU-Klickitat County Extension

Add Foxglove to your mental list of "beautiful but deadly" plants. *Digitalis purpurea* is a beautiful biennial plant that grows 3'-5' tall with purple, white or pink spotted, tubular flowers. It is a cultivated plant and found in many gardens, but has escaped and now grows throughout the northwest. All livestock can be poisoned by foxglove. The plant is not very tasty so poisoning is rare but does occur. The toxins can leach out into water and poison animals; also, the toxic agents do not decay with drying so the plant is even toxic if found in hay.

All parts of the plant contain the toxic agents digoxin and digitoxin. Signs of illness include rapid and difficult breathing; colic; diarrhea; vomiting; tremors; rapid, weak or irregular pulse; convulsions; and/or sudden death. The toxins affect heart muscles and cause irregular and even fatal disturbances of heart rhythm.



Treatment includes induction of vomiting, gastric lavage, cathartics, administration of activated charcoal, use of anti-arrhythmic drugs to stabilize the heart and/or the use of commercially available digitalis-specific antibodies.

Photo from <http://gardens.uncc.edu>

MILTON-FREEWATER PEN SALE

Plan to attend the June 10 Pen Sale from 10AM to 5PM in Milton-Freewater, OR. The sale will provide a forum for meat and dairy goat producers and buyers to buy and sell GOATS. We welcome your registered show stock animals as well as any registered or non-registered commercial herd animals. Stock dogs and guardian animals may also be available at the sale. Sales are private treaty between exhibitors and buyers.



This is an opportunity for goat producers to exhibit and sell high-end stock! It is not intended as an outlet for culls. We plan to have wether buyers on site. If you have more than 12 wethers please contact Kellie Donovan-Casebier for more info.

The Milton-Freewater Jr. Show Grounds are located behind Bordertown Feed & Supply on Hwy 11 in Milton-Freewater, OR.

We will partner with WSU Extension to offer a free 4-H/FFA goat showmanship clinic. This is a great opportunity for youth to learn or refine their showmanship skills. All

youth are welcome to participate; they do not need to be 4-H or FFA members. Goats will be provided.

A goat health management seminar will be offered by Dr. Susan Kerr from WSU Extension. This free seminar is open to the public and all are welcome.

Vendors, if you would like to rent a space for a booth to sell any of your unique goat-related items or supplies, please contact Charity Kates.

For directions, schedule or more info, contact
Kellie Donovan-Casebier Charity
Kates
509-525-2796 509-520-2605
casebier@pocketinet.com
kateshorses@bmi.net

INVITATION FROM EASTERN WASHINGTON GOAT PRODUCERS

We would like to invite you to our chat site. Anyone who would like to keep up with membership meetings and activities is welcome to send us an e-mail message and join us at Easternwagoatproducers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Judi Hull - Wilson Creek Boers
Show Secretary, Eastern WA Goat
Producers Assoc.
4700 Wilson Creek Rd.
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-962-1775 jmhull@elltel.net

MULTI-SPECIES GRAZING CONFERENCE

A conference on sustainable livestock and resource management strategies will be held May 23-24 at the La Quinta Inn at Ritzville, WA.

Keynote speaker An Peischel will discuss goat management and grazing behavior, creating niche markets and enterprise development. Dr. Susan Kerr will give a presentation on poisonous plants.

Representatives from Country Natural Beef, Thundering Hooves, Healing Hooves and others from the private sector will discuss marketing, sustainability, production and marketing of branded meat products,

contract vegetation management, multi-species grazing and use of a USDA-certified mobile slaughter facility.

The conference will include a tour of the Sprague Lake invasive vegetation field trials, review of invasive vegetation management using goats, review of USDA Farm Bill programs, a historical perspective on land use in the area and more.

This program is partially funded by a Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE) grant. The pre-registration fee is \$35 by May 16 and includes two lunches and a dinner. Make checks to Mid-Columbia Chapter SRM and send to Big Bend RC&D, 2145 Basin St. SW, Suite E, Ephrata, WA 98823. For motel reservations, call the La Quinta Inn at 509-659-1007 and ask for the "SARE" block of rooms. Room rate is \$49 plus tax and includes a continental breakfast.

For more information, contact Andrea Mann, Big Bend RC&D, at (509)754-2463, ext 115.

OMGP USBGA SHOW

by Cary Walton, Creswell OR

On June 24, the Oregon Meat Goat Producers will host a USBGA sanctioned Boer Goat and ADGA sanctioned Buck-in-a-Truck show at the Western Oregon Expo (WOE) in Cottage Grove, OR. We want to encourage OMGP members and youth to participate. This is a great opportunity for 4-Hers to bring market animals and breeding stock and a perfect time for members who haven't shown yet to give it a try.

For our members with dairy goats and to help defray judging expenses, we're also having ADGA-sanctioned BUCK classes.

If you have no goats to exhibit, come help out, join the fun, watch the show, visit the vendor area and food booth. We'll also have a great raffle. To volunteer or for more info, call 541-942-4376 or e-mail lynxhollow@aol.com.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

KID GOAT WARMING BOX

by Mickey Nielsen
Liberty Farm Cashmere
mnielsen7@aol.com

Materials

1 plastic milk crate
1 cardboard box (bigger than the milk crate)
1 hair dryer
2 or 3 old towels

Cut a small hole in the side of the cardboard box. Cut the hole toward the bottom of the box just big enough to place the nozzle of the hair dryer in the hole.

Place the milk crate in the cardboard box with a small towel in the milk crate. Place the cold kid in the milk crate on the towel. Use the second towel to cover the top of the cardboard box. Turn the hair dryer on med/low and let it run until you hear the cold kid who has now warmed up standing and crying for milk; this can take 30 minutes or longer. If the temperature in the box gets too hot, pull back the towel on top or turn the hair dryer down. **DO NOT LEAVE THE WARMING BOX UNATTENDED!**

Caution: If the kid is lying too close to the hair dryer the heat can cause burns, so place your hand in front of the running hair dryer to check. You may need to hang a towel on the milk crate between the kid and the dryer. Check the temperature and the kid often.

This warming box works so well because the milk crate allows hot air to flow completely around the kid, bottom, top, and sides.

How do you tell a kid is cold and needs a warming box? Place your finger inside the kid's mouth. If it feels cold to your finger, the warming box is needed. Warm the kid first and then give warm colostrum.

A THIRD HAND

by Susan Kerr, WSU-Klickitat County
Extension Director

A trip to second-hand stores, rummage sales or the attic is a good idea before kidding season. Go on a scouting trip to find some small children's sweaters (preferably wool) to have on hand to help warm chilled kids.



STOLEN LIVESTOCK:

ONE BOER BREEDER'S LESSON

By Leslie Bader-Robinson, Leaning Tree
Boer Goats

We have lived peacefully on our farm for a number of years now, and have never had a negative experience with either human or four-legged predators. Aside from yelling at the hoards of howling coyotes and firing a couple of shots into the air to scare off a neighbor's curious dog, we haven't had ANY predator problems.

All of that peace of mind changed one evening when we heard tires squeal on the road that runs beside three of our goat pastures... The next morning we realized, to our horror, that five of our best kids were GONE!

Many of you have already heard all the details about what happened. This article is about what made it EASY for the kids to be stolen; most of these things could have been avoided. I don't want any other goat breeders to have the same crisis!

In a nutshell, five of our very young Boer Goat kids were stolen right off their mothers. They were taken out of a pasture next to the road, over a well-constructed six-foot chain link fence.

Here are some things that contributed to making the theft all too EASY for the human predators that stole the five kids. Hindsight is great, isn't it?!

- Our six-month-old Great Pyrenees livestock guardian dog was tied in the yard. She was not allowed in with the goats unsupervised. While this gradual break-in seemed like a good plan, it's very tough for her to do her job when she is tied up!

- The pasture where the kids were stolen from is beside a residence that had just been vacated that day and the house and driveway were empty. The thieves pulled into their driveway, undetected from the road, and climbed over our fence from the far side of our property. They used a corner brace post (we build strong fences!) as a foot up to get over the 6' fence. It

appears that there was more than one person working together. Normally I support teamwork!

- Our vapor light did not illuminate that far pasture and the fence line area was in total darkness. Criminals like darkness!

- Some of our best and tamest goat kids were in the pasture and are noticed by anyone who drives by. They have a "look at me" playful attitude and they attract a lot of attention. This is great advertising but it also attracts the interest of human predators looking for young, vulnerable and valuable animals.

- Every day I fed Boer Goat Developer (grain) at the head of the pasture. I walked along the edge of the road with the grain and fed the grain over the fence into tubs just inside the fence, thus avoiding walking among the goats with a bucket of grain. It seemed like a good idea, but it was a sure-fire way of encouraging my ultra-tame goats to run up to anyone walking along the roadway or up to anyone who jumped the fence with malice in mind...

- The pasture was closed to keep only that one small group of does and kids in it. I kept them separate because these particular kids were younger than some of the kids in the larger herd. I was worried about them being bullied or even smothered in our dog-a-loo kid shelters. The larger herd of does and kids could come all the way up to the shelters close to our house and vapor lights. I isolated the special does and kids, making it impossible for them to flee from intruders even if they had tried to escape from them.

- We had the baby monitor turned down because I didn't have any does close to kidding that night. If it had been on, it is possible that I may have heard voices or kids' cries when they were being carried over the fence to the waiting vehicle.

- We do not have a hot wire on top of the fences by the road...yet. Hot wires can be cut, but they do add just one more layer of protection to the livestock within. We do use hot wires to protect from dogs or coyotes

digging under our fences in many locations on our farm and we are now in the process of adding New Zealand fences to protect from anyone wanting to climb OVER.

- Before this theft took place, I waited until kids were three months old to tattoo and tag them. I felt that the tattoos remained readable longer when applied at three months of age. It can be a REAL problem when you have unmarked kids that are stolen! It is far easier to use permanent tattoos or microchips (and if not removed, tags) to prove that a goat is from your herd than just by a general description alone! A "cute white kid with a red head" is just a little too general!

There is one other important thing that can deter thieves from stealing the animals in our care. Once a theft does happen, the people responsible need to be caught and held accountable for their crime. This, in addition to the 'preventative' steps that every breeder can take, will make all of our animals safer.



MORE INFO ON GOAT MINERAL FEEDER

by Douglas Maier

Breezy Meadow Cashmere Farm

<http://home.earthlink.net/~fibergoat>

[Editor's note: in our last issue, we included an article about feeding minerals to goats and included a photo of a helpful mineral-feeding device. Douglas Maier of Breezy Meadow Cashmere Farm was kind enough to send us the assembly directions. Thanks, Douglas!]

Here is one of the gadgets we use on our farm to try to make life a little easier for us and the goats. My mineral feeder is made from 4-inch PVC pipe and fittings.

Material List

- 1 piece of 4" PVC pipe
- 1 4" PVC wye
- 1 4" PVC clean-out adapter (threaded)
- 1 4" PVC threaded plug
- Plumber's tape
- Wood screws

Directions for Assembly

Glue clean-out adapter into bottom of wye. Screw clean-out plug into adapter. This will enable you to clean out the feeder after it is mounted to the wall.

Cut 4" PVC pipe to desired length. Slip pipe into top of wye. I don't glue the pipe into the wye just in case I might have to take the whole thing apart to clean it. Mount to the wall using the plumber's tape and wood screws. Put one strap at the bottom of the wye and one strap at the top of the wye. The third strap goes on the PVC pipe.

Mount the feeder at whatever height best suits your goats. Fill with mineral mix from the top and put on the cap. Gravity will supply

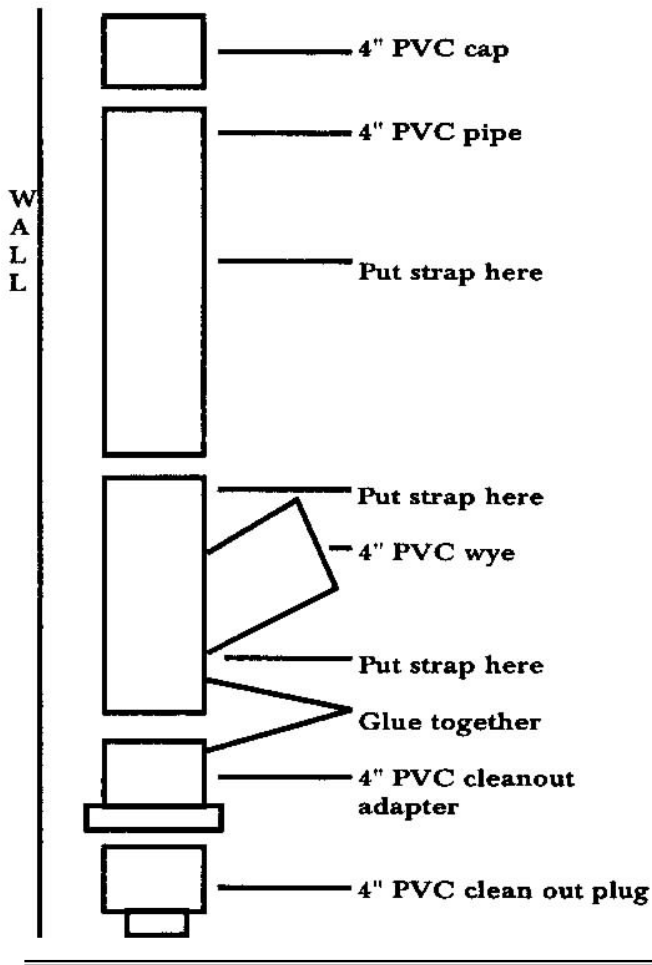


mineral mix to the open wye fitting. Goats can only get their noses in the 4" diameter hole so the mix tends to stay fresh and clean. Kids can't jump into the mineral mix and the older goats won't paw at it.

The only problem I have encountered is that the bucks like to rub their horns on it so you will need to attach it securely to the wall.

Details of construction

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DO YOU LOVE TO TEACH &/OR WRITE?

If so, do we have a job for you! With the help of goat producers, we'd like to create a simple educational brochure for new goat owners.

Because you care about goats, you're probably concerned about the mistakes new goat owners can make due to lack of knowledge about goat health, nutrition, housing, etc. If you'd like to help create a brochure to help prevent such mistakes, have suggestions about what to include or would like to receive a copy when it is finished, contact Susan Kerr at kerrs@wsu.edu or 509-773-5817. Thanks!