

SOUTHERN FARM NEWS

A QUARTERLY Publication of the Southern Goat Producers Association
Volume 1 ISSUE 4

www.southerngoatproducers.org

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PUBLICATION
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DOLLY
the LGD

I LOVE GOATS
I LOVE FASHION
I LOVE BLUE

Inside This Issue:

CLASSIFIED ADS, Pg. 11
CALENDAR OF EVENTS Pg. 2
WEATHER AND GOATS Pg. 5
FARM PROFILE Pg. 13
WETHERING Pg. 7
SGPA NEWS Pg. 14
BOTTLEJAW, Pg 8



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2009 & 2010

- DECEMBER 28, 2009 CHRISTMAS PARTY—EVERYONE IS WELCOME
- JANUARY 2010 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - FECALS —HOW TO
- FEBRUARY REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—To Be Announced
- MARCH REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
featured speaker ~ Evin Evans— Kidding Q and A'a
- APRIL "SOUTHEASTERN GOAT & SHEEP SEMINAR" - Details pg. 6
Visit SGPA website for updates
- MAY REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING (To be announced)
- MAY SC DAIRY GOAT SHOW—ADGA SANCTIONED

Date , times, and details will be posted on our website:
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Jason Rogers is a new sponsor to the SGPA, but he has always supported us by giving discounts to SGPA members. They recently moved to a new location, so stop by and visit Jason and his dad, Mike. Rogers is easily accessible to I-85 (Exit 32). They have a good selection of goat supplies, minerals and feeds. You will be glad you did!



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SOUTHERN FARM NEWS

EDITOR Judy Langley

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WEATHER and GOATS!

I was not exactly motivated by the article that I had intended for this issue, but after visiting my poultry processor and telling her that I couldn't "get into this issue", she said I should write about "weather". I have to tell you – it did strike a nerve. So, I scrapped the old, put it in limbo and commenced to write this weather article. It is a pretty important management issue that goat producers often overlook. *"You must accommodate to weather because you certainly can not change it."* So, be mindful that weather conditions can seriously affect your animals, and react accordingly. Here are some factors to consider.

COLD - Cold temperatures cause stress and requires a lot of energy to keep the animal warm. Animals that are not at their optimum health will be more susceptible to internal and external parasites. Forages that freeze during a cold snap, can sometimes cause prussic acid or nitrates to build up in the plant. If goats eat the forage before the acids dissipate, it can be deadly (sometimes it takes as long as twenty one days for dissipation.) Dehydration can occur during the cold when their water source

might be frozen. If you don't have water tank heaters installed, you should check your animals frequently during frigid weather.

RAIN - After a rainy bout, parasites and problems will "jump" on the animals. Also, wet, muddy areas are prime conditions for foot problems. This problem can be solved somewhat, by installing "agri-fabric" (not just any landscape fabric) and topping with approximately a six inch layer of granite dust or gravel. This writer prefers granite dust because it relieves the worry of stones (gravel) getting caught between their hooves. Most goats run for cover the second a drop of rain hits them – If the herd does not have enough room in the shelter and there is 'standing room only', well, that can be dangerous and the probable time for injuries to occur. Rains that come after a drought can cause nitrates to build up in forages, thereby making grazing dangerous. Be sure your goats have access to good quality hay (as a buffer for the rumen) before letting them out to graze.

EXTREME TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS – Cold to warm and vice versa can cause dehydration

Weather Cont'd on Page 6

and stress. Dehydration, if not caught early, can be life threatening. The only way to get enough fluids into a goat that is not drinking on its own is via a stomach tube. If you have never stomach-tubed a grown goat and would like to learn how, you can learn that at the Colossal Goat Field Day in April. Many producers, when they find an animal down, often overlook that the animal is dehydrated, but instead look for another cause for the problem. Drastic temperature changes cause stress – if a doe is pregnant, you can probably count on her kidding then – and probably in the worst place possible.

HEAT – Heat causes stress and dehydration. If shade and/or shelter and clean water are not provided and not easily accessible, the animal is a good candidate for a heat

stroke.

WINDY – Many producers overlook wind as something to be concerned about, however, a windy day can wreak havoc on a herd – if it is cold, some of the young and the mature ones not in optimum health can drop their body core temperature. If adequate shelters are not available, the producer needs to keep a vigilant watch for related problems.

Just be mindful that goats need to live simply, have lots of room, shelter from severe weather (strong winds, rain, extreme cold), fresh clean water, adequate forage, hay and minerals. They are forage animals and we constantly force them to be grazers. This makes them less adaptable and more dependent on producers.

JUDY

THE SOUTHEASTERN GOAT & SHEEP SEMINAR WILL BE A COLOSSAL EVENT FOR GOAT AND SHEEP PRODUCERS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEAST. THE HOST ASSOCIATIONS ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO GET THIS EDUCATIONAL EVENT READY FOR PRODUCERS:



Southern Goat Producers Association
South Carolina Dairy Goat Association,
Foothills Sheep and Goat Association
Upstate Goat Association

This colossal event will encompass just about everything you ever wanted to know about small ruminants. The day long event will consist of nine seminars/workshops, lunch, "goat" vendors, a youth event and other fun exhibits. One could say it is an 'ALL GOAT DAY'...more than Goatkeeping 101, more than Goat School...For updates – visit www.southerngoatproducers.org

A healthy rumen produces B vitamins. A sick goat's rumen stops B vitamin production. It is always good to give a sick goat supplemental B vitamins, especially B-1 (Thiamine), hence the importance of giving them to the goat each day until it is well.

Compliments of www.tennesseeatgoats.com

WETHERING YOUR GOATS

by Suzanne Gasparatto www.tennesseeatgoats.com

MANY goat producers routinely wether (castrate) their buck kids with little thought as to why they do this extra work. A common belief amongst breeders is that this procedure is a necessary step in raising goats.

Producers who raise goats to sell for show purposes often wether their buck kids . . . usually within a few weeks after being born. If wethering is a show requirement, the producer whose market is selling to show participants must perform this task.

Breeders with limited amounts of pens or pasturage may find it neces-

sary to wether in order to allow the male kids to continue to run with females but not be able to breed them.

Producers who think that wethering is essential in marketing slaughter goats should check with their buyers to determine if this really is necessary. Some ethnic groups require intact males when they buy goats for consumption. Wethering male kids will cut a producer out of this very significant marketplace.

Wethering in order to insure a 'non-bucky' and/or 'tender' taste to the meat is not a valid conclusion on the producer's part. How the buck is

killed, bled out, and cooked has everything to do with how the meat tastes. Intact males, if properly processed and the meat is cooked by someone knowledgeable in how to prepare goat meat, present no taste or odor issues.

Most commercial auctions do not distinguish between intact or wethered males in terms of what they will accept to sell or how much money the goats bring at point of sale.

Research your market before wethering. You may be stressing your buck kids and doing work unnecessarily yourself.

Suzanne Gasparatto is an excellent source for goat issues and has written a wealth of information about goats. Check out her website: www.tennesseeatgoats.com. By studying her articles, you will be better able to diagnose problems and illnesses.



Bottle Jaw

“Severe Intermandibular Edema” by *Kathy Daves*

IF I have received one call, I'd bet I have received twenty calls in the last month on Bottle Jaw in goats. As a producer I have had my own battles with this familiar problem. Let's take a look and see if we can find some answers to these questions.

Your day is going along just fine...you are feeding your animals, you see a particular goat that is somewhat healthy, eating okay with a fairly good appetite, but she seems like she is not putting on weight...her hair may be coarse, eyes may appear dull with little pink, and some swelling starting under the chin—this is what we call Bottle Jaw. If not treated the swelling will continue not only under the chin region, but it will spread into the facial area too. This condition can cause breathing problems for the goat. Bottle Jaw can affect any age or any size goat. If not treated death can occur; and that is precisely why we are going to take a closer look at this problem.

Coccidia:

Coccidiosis is a protozoan parasitic

disease that is most common in young kids, but also can be found in older goats. Every animal has some Coccidia eggs, it is when it gets out of control you might see bloody diarrhea in your animals and death will occur if left untreated. Coccidia are easily diagnosed by doing a fecal flotation.



Other symptoms of Coccidia are poor growth, coarse hair, loss of appetite, grinding of teeth, weakness, anemia, and sometimes rectal prolapse. Bottle-Jaw is not caused by Coccidia, but rather a secondary infection caused by the stress and anemia that is caused by the protozoan parasite.

Copper Deficiency:

Copper Deficiency is becoming a concern with producers in the south; we are so deficient in copper in our area, that we are seeing more problems every day. Copper deficiency in your herd may show signs of several

“CONTINUED ON Page 9”

“BOTTLE JAW Continued from Page 8”

problems: swaying, staggering, weakness, loss of pigmentation and discoloration of the hair, anemia, ill thrift, abortion, decreased milk production, diarrhea, muscle wasting, poor growth, and yes, bottle-jaw.

Haemonchus contortus:

Gastrointestinal Parasites, also called worms (slang), seems to lead to the greatest danger in our industry today.

Haemonchus contortus, referred to as the barber pole worm, is a very complex problem



for our goats today and the most destructive internal enemy of the goat. The most common problems are anemia, low pack cell volume better known as (PCV), unthrift appearance,

r o u g h coats, depressed, low en-

ergy, lethargic, poor growth, bottle jaw (fluid that gathers in the sub-mandibular tissue), low reproduction performance, goats that are often sick, or sudden death.

Liver Fluke:

The Liver Fluke is one of the hardest parasites to identify. Because of that, it makes it very dangerous to the goat herd. Their parasitic systems are so much like Haemonchus Contortus,



that it is often over looked. The symptoms that go along with Liver Fluke's are very coarse hair, very anemic, un-

steady gates, swelling under the jaw (bottle jaw), sub normal temp, swallow belly (hay-belly), colic-like signs, and dry dark feces. It is very hard to find Liver Fluke eggs in a routine fecal flotation, so this writer recommends having your veterinarian run a complete blood count (CBC) on the affected animals.



Treatment:

We have covered some illness that cause Bottle Jaw...now let's find out how to treat it and prevent it from occurring again. First of all, we will NEVER get rid of parasites, so we must learn how to CONTROL them. “Cleanliness is next to Godliness”! That is a true statement. Clean stalls, pastures, or any place your animals congregate frequently. You have to have

c o n t r o l over your farm or your farm

“Cleanliness is next to Godliness”!

will control you. Parasites are not a friend to any of us.

You must learn how to run fecal flotations on our animals. You can purchase a microscope very inexpensively at a flea market or yard sale – or you can go the gamut and spend a fortune for a fancy, ‘smancy’ one. You need to get in to the habit of running fecals and do so every time you see an animal that does not look well. DO NOT REACH FOR A DEWORMER!!! Run a fecal and that will tell you what is really going on with the animals. Ask this question: “How can you deworm

“Cont'd on Page 10”

"Cont'd from page 9"

for something before knowing what wormer you need to use?" Stop, look at the animal, take their temperature, collect poop. YES, that's right – poop. Run your fecal, see what the problem is and *treat what you see, not what you guessed it was.*

Remember Bottle jaw is a symptom of something else going on in the body. One important goal: To not become resistant to dewormers—two ways to accomplish the goal is 1) by using dewormers only when you need them and using the correct dewormer for the parasite you are treating, and 2) cull animals that are consistently wormy.

Kathy Daves is an SGPA member. She specializes in Animal Science and Herd Management and has worked with goats and llamas for twenty years.

A GIRL CHASING GOATS

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Check out the chest on this week old buck!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

FACT: The Southern Goat Producer's Membership increased by 70% in 2009

Open Membership Meetings are the Fourth (4th) Monday of each month...

PUT SGPA ON YOUR CALENDAR !

Workshop meetings
Informational meetings
Goat fellowship
Medical information
Nutritional information

For Information about upcoming meetings, details and/or location
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Southern Goat Producers Association WEBSITE: www.southerngoatproducers.org

Membership list

Goat Links and Schedule of Events

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HOUSEHOLD TIPS:

For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dish washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze. (wish I had known this for the last 40 years!)

Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.

FARM PROFILE

"The Blue Barn Farm"

"Round O?" What? No, not what, but WHERE. Round O, South Carolina, 29474, that is where you will find Ronnie Hall. Ronnie is the father of Carl Hall—they are members of the SGPA. Ronnie is a new goat producer from the low country. He started goating last winter. My phone rang one evening with goat questions: where, how and when. He had purchased his first seven bred does...was not sure what to do with them, but someone gave him my number. I met Ronnie

that evening with heart felt concern for his animals, I will never forget thinking to myself "he will make a great producer." Ronnie, like everyone, had his battles in front of him. Not having much knowledge of goats, he had raised cattle and horses, but never a goat. When I reached Ronnie's farm, he met me carrying two little kids in his arms! He looked puzzled, and said, "Now what?" We headed to his house, built a fire, and started warming milk...getting

bottles ready for the little guys. We got them warm, started them on the bottle...they snuggled down and decided that life wasn't as bad as they thought it was going to be. Ronnie stayed up with these little guys all night making sure that they ate, slept, and pooped. I think that at that point he had realized that his journey had just started...deep down inside I



think he loved it. The next day I drove back to his farm to see how he and the babies were doing, after looking around his farm, I remember thinking he had already started working for his herd; building what, I think, is one of the best feeding pens that I have ever seen. He also built kidding pens for each doe, and I mean a serious kidding pen, one that is way beyond what they need. We looked over his herd and started work-

ing immediately. I can remember him saying, "I swear, I have never!" But he did! Ronnie came through everything just fine. He had several bucks and two does that are absolutely beautiful. And, yes, they do live outside now.

Ronnie works with his goats daily and lives his life around their schedule, his schedule went out the window.

Ronnie reads anything about goats that he can get his hands on, has attended a few shows, and visited a few farms in the area. He is taking everything in, learning as he goes, and trying to figure out what he is looking for in his Boer goats. Our relationship has been a good one...Ronnie is more to me than just another farm I work for - we are friends. We both have something in common...the love for goats. If you are looking for a friend, and get my message about Ronnie and his goats, well you are hooked on goats too! So, now you know Ronnie...he is someone with whom you can chat.

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Click on the membership link

Written by Kathy Carr

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SGPA NEWS:



THE Southern Goat Producers and the South Carolina Dairy Goat Association co-sponsored a booth at the recent Split Creek Farm Fall Field Day where hundreds attended. We met

a lot of goat enthusiasts and talked a lot about our organizations and the fun of owning goats.

The "Southeastern Goat & Sheep Seminar" Committee is working diligently with the SGPA, SCDGA, UGA, and Foothills Sheep & Goat Assoc., to sponsor this sensational event. Details are being worked out, but to give you a little inside info—it looks like mid April will be the time frame. We are planning to have a variety of educational seminars, and workshops, vendors, a catered lunch and fun challenges. The presenters will be some of the most exceptional people in the industry. We will keep you posted so you can mark your calendar.

The October Annual meeting was very interesting to say the least. Not only did we hold our annual Offi-

cer elections, but Danny Howard, Clemson Extension Agent spoke to us. He brought a variety handouts and talked about programs available for producers, fireant control, and many ideas that will be quite useful to our organization. A new Board of Directors was voted in and they are looking forward to beginning a new year of leadership. Your 2010 Directors are: Pat Bell-President, Kathy Daves-Vice President, Judy Langley-Secretary, Joyce Woodrum-Treasurer, Scott Nickles, Brian Henry, Evin Evans and Renee Mendola.

MEMBER NEWS: Split Creek Farm recently entered their feta cheese in two national cheese contests. They came in third place in Arkansas among over two hundred entries (WOW!), but walked away with a perfect score and the First Place award at The American Dairy Goat Show Annual Meeting in Buffalo, NY. *Congratulations* Split Creek!

Renee Mendola and Michael McClain tied the knot in October. Congratulations Renee and Michael

Our deepest condolences are expressed to Dottie Martin and Billy Bryson, of Royston Georgia, for the passing of his son in October.



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