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THE KIDDING PEN

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Has spring arrived at your farm yet? It's been a cold, wet, windy one throughout much of the PNW. Crops and hopefully PESTS are off to a slow start. It will be hard to remember these cold temperatures when it is 90 degrees at 10 AM, which will happen all too soon!

The Kidding Pen is available at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/Kidding%20Pen/kiddingpen.php in English and Spanish. We welcome input from producers! Send your announcements, comments, suggestions, recipes and educational articles to:

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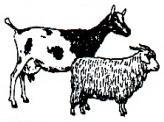

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SAVE THESE DATES!

June 5 Northwest Cashmere Association Field Day/Fleece Competition, Dallas, OR. See article.

June 18 - 20 Black Sheep Gathering, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR. For more info contact Karen Murphy at 541-935-1744 or murphyk@efn.org or www.blacksheepgathering.org.

June 19 Cottage Grove Show. Contact Cary Heyward at lynxhollow@aol.com.

June 26 Magic Valley Show, Jerome County Fairgrounds, Idaho. Contact Judy Novak at novak2185@yahoo.com.

July 3 – 4 Red, White and Boer Show, Clark Co. Fairgrounds, Ridgefield, WA. See article.

July 21 Goat Parasite Workshop, Ellensburg, WA. Susan Kerr, 509-773-5817, kerrs@wsu.edu. See article.

Aug. 6 – 15 Open Boer Display and Shows, Clark County Fair, Ridgefield, WA. Contact Elise Conlee at elise@whitehousegoats.com.

Sept. 12-15 Nat'l Goat Conference: "Strengthening the Goat Industry," Tallahassee, FL. Contact Dr. Ray Mobley at 850-412- 5252 or ray.mobley@famu.edu or visit www.famu.edu/goats.

Sept. 24-26 Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR. www.flockandfiberfestival.com.

6TH ANNUAL RED, WHITE & BOER SHOW

The Cascade Boer Goat Association (CBGA) will present the 6th annual Red, White and Boer Show at the Clark Co. fairgrounds in Ridgefield, WA on July 3-4, 2010.

There will be shows for adults and youth. For youth, there will be a Junior American Boer Goat Association (JABGA) regional breeding stock show on July 3, the first ever for the area. JABGA members are invited to show their registered does and bucks. This show will be held after the open show so parents can watch their children compete. The ABGA will supply cash prizes of $50 for each class and silver buckles for champions.

The traditional CBGA showmanship and market goat show will be held on July 4. Market goats under a year are eligible to show and win the title of Champion Market Goat. There will be approximately $1500 in cash and prizes awarded for the market goat show by the CBGA. Exhibitors entered in showmanship classes and the poster contest are eligible to win prizes, including a free doe.

For adults, there will be one ABGA open show on July 3 and another on July 4.

The weekend will be packed with entertainment and fun for all ages. Join us on Friday night for the goat meat cookout. A raffle/silent auction will be held during Sunday's lunchtime with many great items to choose from. Plan to spend the nation's holiday at Clark County Fairgrounds in Ridgefield, WA. We will even provide the best fireworks this side of the Mississippi.

For more information including entry forms and show packets, contact Becki Crighton at 503-351-4599 or Becki@CopperCreekBoers.com (open show) or Allan Luethe at 503-286-6467 or allan20bg@yahoo.com (youth show).

CLOSTRIDIAL DISEASES

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

The Clostridium genus of bacteria is an interesting but often-deadly collection of trouble makers. The most common goat vaccine ("C-D-T") protects against two different diseases caused by Clostridia, namely overeating disease and tetanus. There are several more members of this troublesome group and they deserve a closer inspection.

All clostridia are anaerobic, meaning they grow in the absence of oxygen. They produce spores that establish themselves in tissues, soil and other areas. They also produce toxins, which are responsible for the devastating signs of illness of tetanus, botulism, overeating disease and more.

Tetanus is caused by *Clostridium tetani.* The spores of this organism are common in soils, especially where animal manure is present. If the spores are inoculated into live tissue as through a puncture wound, they can "germinate" into live bacteria that release the deadly tetanus toxin as they die. The toxin causes prolonged muscle contractions by interfering with normal neurotransmitter release at nerve cell endings. Most cases are fatal, but early treatment with high doses of penicillin and tetanus anti-toxin can be effective.

The toxin of *Clostridium botulinum* causes botulism. This is an extremely potent toxin; very little is needed to cause death. Most cases are due to ingestion of pre-formed toxin, often found in a bird or small mammal carcass in hay or a dead animal in a water source. Occasionally the organism can invade tissue through a wound and release toxin; this is called wound botulism. Signs of botulism are the reverse of tetanus: animals are profoundly weak because the toxin interferes with the release of neurotransmitter at the nerve-muscle junction so muscles do not receive the message to contract. Death is due to respiratory paralysis. Treatment is usually ineffective.

Clostridium haemolyticum causes bacillary hemoglobinuria (redwater disease), a sudden and serious condition of cattle. The toxin causes rupture of blood cells, anemia and blood pigments in urine. Affected animals have high fevers, are very ill and are often found dead.

Big Head is a disease of bucks and rams caused by *Clostridium novyi*, *C. sordellii* or *C. chauvoei*. Head-butting by bucks and rams traumatizes tissues of the head; Clostridial bacteria invade these tissues, releasing toxins that cause additional swelling and tissue death. These cases are often effectively treated with penicillin.

Clostridium chauvoei is most often associated with a disease called Blackleg. This organism occurs naturally in animals' intestinal tracts and spores are common in the soil in some areas. Disruptions such as floods, animal traffic through muddy areas and digging can activate spores, which are ingested. The organism sets up residence deep in muscles, where it releases toxins and destroys tissues probably after muscle trauma. The organism can also gain entry to muscles via wounds. Affected animals are very lame, have high fevers and are depressed; affected muscles are swollen and painful. Blackleg is an acute, serious disease and death is common. *C. chauvoei* can also cause deadly enteritis which is often associated with feeding in muddy conditions.

Malignant edema is yet another disease caused by Clostridial organisms such as *Clostridium septicum*, *C. chauvoei*, *C. perfringens*, *C. novyi* and *C. sordellii*. These bacteria are common in soil and animals' intestinal tracts. If they enter tissues via trauma, injection, contaminated medications or surgical procedures, their toxins can cause extensive tissue swelling and destruction and death. Affected tissues swell with fluid and "pit" with finger pressure. Emphasize sanitation when giving injections and performing procedures such as castration and dehorning; avoid causing tissue trauma which can be secondarily invaded with bacteria; vaccinate.

Infectious necrotic hepatitis is blamed on *Clostridium novyi,* a bacterium found in soil and intestinal contents. This disease can be a common cause of sudden death in areas where liver flukes are common – fluke migration causes liver damage and the bacteria invade this damaged tissue, releasing deadly toxins.

Clostridium perfringens types A, B, C and D are all implicated in various forms of enterotoxemia. The C-D-T vaccine is given to protect against two sources of this diseases (Types C and D). Enterotoxemia is often associated with high-carbohydrate diets such as milk and grain, but the disease can occur when animals are not on such a diet. Signs of illness can include bloat, abdominal pain, anorexia, diarrhea, weakness, nervous system involvement, blindness, convulsions and/or death. On necropsy, intestines are often blue-black, having been destroyed by toxins.

Protection from all the doom and gloom mentioned above can be achieved by routine use of multivalent clostridial vaccines ("8-ways"). Be sure the vaccine you use protects against tetanus and enterotoxemia types C and D; some do not. Booster all adults every six months, giving pregnant does a booster about two weeks before kidding. Don't forget bucks! Kids should be protected by passive immunity from colostrum until about six weeks old. Vaccinate them at six, nine and 12 weeks old, again at six months, then every six months like adults.

CALLING ALL CASHMERERS!

The Northwest Cashmere Association will host a Field Day/Fleece Competition on June 5 at Goat Knoll Farm, Dallas, Oregon. Cynthia Heeren will judge the fleece competition.

The Field Day will have several information sessions. These will include marketing your products, genetics, fleece preparation prior to sending for processing and a stump-the-panel roundtable on all your tough questions related to goats and fiber.

This will be an opportunity to get together with other goat folk in a relaxed atmosphere. Activities will begin at 10 AM and last until …? ☺

Please let us know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly for refreshments.

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www.NWCA.info
http://northwestcashmere.blogspot.com.

Photo source: skylinesfarm.com

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

from www.goatmeats.com

Chevon in a Blanket

1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/3 cup minced onion
1/2 cup fresh bread crumbs
2 lbs. ground goat
1 tsp. salt
1 egg
1/2 cup skim milk
1/4 tsp. allspice
Hot and Sweet Mustard Sauce
1 package (17.25 oz.) frozen puff pastry

Allow frozen puff pastry to sit at room temperature 20 minutes. In small bowl, soak breadcrumbs in milk until liquid is absorbed. Beat egg in large mixing bowl. Add ground goat meat, soaked breadcrumbs, onions, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and allspice. Divide goat into eight portions. Cut each sheet of thawed pastry into four equal pieces to make eight sections. On floured surface, roll out each section to about a six-inch square. Spoon one tsp. hot and sweet mustard sauce in center of each section. Place a portion of ground meat mixture on each pastry square. Fold two sides of pastry to center over goat and pinch together. Fold opposite sides to center. Press down gently on patties to make them three-and-one-half inches round. Place seam side down on jelly roll pan. Tuck under corners, rounding them. Repeat with remaining goat and pastry squares. Bake in preheated 350°F oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until brown. Makes eight servings.

A THIRD HAND

Put padding all around the opening of dehorning boxes to prevent damage to delicate facial structures such as nerves, blood vessels and salivary ducts. Some of these cross the lower jawbone quite close to the surface and have little protection. Restrain the head against the padded surface while dehorning to minimize tissue trauma caused by struggling.

NEW PRESENTATION ABOUT ERADICATING SCRAPIE AVAILABLE

from the Eradicate Scrapie! Information Initiative

Efforts to eliminate scrapie in sheep in the United States are succeeding. To ensure complete and successful eradication of this fatal degenerative brain disease, its occurrence in the goat population must also be addressed.

A presentation entitled "The Importance of Eradicating Scrapie in Goats in the United States" is now available as a compact disc (CD) as part of the Eradicate Scrapie! Information Initiative, conducted by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services.

The presentation covers basic information about scrapie and its prevalence in sheep and goat populations in the United States. It explores what is known about how scrapie is transmitted within sheep and goat populations and the clinical signs producers need to be aware of to help identify and report animals that could be infected. The CD also includes video footage of infected goats to provide producers with examples of behavior, posture and gait changes associated with scrapie infection, which are easily overlooked in the early stages of disease. The presentation thoroughly reviews two case studies of goat scrapie diagnosis: the West Coast Case and the Great Lakes Case. It concludes with a review of the official protocols of the National Scrapie Identification Program including:

- Identification Requirements
- Registry Information
- Identification Methods and Record Keeping

The presentation is also available at www.eradicatescrapie.org in PDF format for downloading to a CD or as a printed version. An order form to request your free copy of the presentation is also available at this web address.

FLORAL FOES

Several varieties of milkvetch belong to the Astragalus genus, commonly found throughout the Western U.S. Toxic members of this plant species contain nitrotoxins. Cattle are particularly susceptible to poisoning with these plants, in part because they have a real affinity for them. A dose of just 0.2% of body weight can be fatal to cattle.

The plants are poisonous throughout their entire life, though their toxicity decreases as the plants dry. Most of the members of this species have flowers similar to sweet pea flowers; colors range from white to violet.

Poisoned animals often die within a few hours of eating milkvetches with or without showing signs of illness. Evidence of poisoning includes weakness, hindquarter paralysis, severe respiratory difficulty, excitement, salivation, goose stepping, knuckling fetlocks and collapse. Post mortem findings include brain hemorrhages, degeneration of the pelvic spinal cord, emphysema and lung edema.

There is no treatment for poisoning with members of the Astragalus genus. Prevention includes keeping animals from grazing in areas where these plants are known to be, especially when the plants are young and toxin levels are high. The plants can also be controlled with herbicides; contact your Extension educator or weed control specialist for recommendations.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- Freeze Protection for Livestock Watering Systems: http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/freeze.pdf
- Paddock Design, Fencing and Water Systems for Controlled Grazing: http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/paddock.pdf
- Small Dairy Resource Book: www.sare.org/publications/dairyresource.htm.
- The Cornell Small Farms Livestock Program Resource Guide to Direct Marketing Livestock and Poultry: www.smallfarms.cornell.edu/pages/projects/workteams/LP/livestock.cfm.

MARKETING CORNER

For Sale: Intact male Gt. Pyrenees. Tim Shatraw, 509-773-6089 or tim@sacredheartsaddlery.com.

ENZOOTIC ATAXIA

Although most often reported as a problem in sheep, particularly in Australia, enzootic ataxia has also been reported in goats in the U.S. Two definitions first: *enzootic* means an animal disease or condition common in an area and *ataxia* means incoordination due to a disorder of the nervous system.

Enzootic ataxia is caused by copper deficiency and can manifest itself in two ways in kids. The congenital form (present at birth) is called swayback. These kids may be unable to rise or may be able to walk with severe incoordination. They may also be depressed and have muscle tremors; most die soon after they are born. These signs are due to the loss or abnormal formation of the "insulation" portion of the nervous system (myelin) and damage to some motor nerve cells.

True enzootic ataxia is the second form of this condition; it has a delayed onset of signs. Affected kids actually appear normal at birth but start showing problems between one week and six months of age. These animals are ataxic but also usually show hindquarter weakness or paralysis.

Both swayback and enzootic ataxia are caused by copper deficiency. This deficiency can be primary (diet low in copper) or secondary (dietary factors that affect how much dietary copper is absorbed). Copper is poorly absorbed from fresh forage, so grazing and browsing animals are most at risk of deficiency. Copper is more available from grains and hay, but these feedstuffs can be low in actual copper content. High levels of molybdenum and/or sulfur in the diet can interfere with copper availability and absorption, so deficiencies can occur despite the presence of adequate copper in the diet.

Diagnosis can be definitively determined by physical examination, laboratory tests, necropsy lesions and review of local copper status. Affected animals can be supported with palliative treatment (physical therapy, thick bedding, nearby food and water, etc.) but their conditions do not improve and most are euthanized.

Prevent both forms of enzootic abortion by providing supplemental copper to pregnant does, especially in the last half of gestation. Do not use mineral mixes formulated for sheep because these have restricted copper levels.

GOAT PARASITE WORKSHOP

A goat parasite workshop will be held in room F132 at the Ellensburg, WA High School on July 21 from 1 to 4 PM. Participants will learn about new trends in dewormer use, the FAMACHA system and fecal egg counts. Pre-register at kerrs@wsu.edu or 509-773-5817; $5 fee collected at the door.