



CapriNotes

Newsletter of the North Carolina Pygmy Goat Club

Maggie Leman, Editor

An Invitation

Hi! My name is Maggie Leman. I am the President of the North Carolina Pygmy Goat Club and a National Pygmy Goat Association Region 8 Director. I want to tell you about all of the wonderful Pygmy Goat enthusiasts who are looking for you!

Owning Pygmy Goats is just plain fun whether you have high-falootin' show goats or just some cute pets. Pygmy Goat owners are fun people too! We take our LOVE of Pygmies seriously but we don't take OURSELVES too seriously. But just like our goats we have lots more fun if we are members of a "herd", right?

I want to tell you about the **North Carolina Pygmy Goat Club**. Now don't let the name fool you; we have members from all over the Southeast and from all over the country! We offer some very nice membership benefits including a very informative quarterly newsletter, an exclusive for members only 39 page Booklet "*Helpful Hints for Your Herd*", an up-to-date website where members can advertise for free, we host several shows every year with classes for both registered and not registered Pygmy Goats and we offer educational seminars covering a range of subjects from beginner husbandry, Simple Cheesemaking and DIY parasite testing. Pygmy Goat Shows are not stuffy affairs; we love to visit with friends and can "talk goat" all day. Do you have a youngster who is interested in 4-H and showing Pygmy Goats? Want to actually try showing a goat? We will help get your feet wet and get you into the ring with a real show goat. Both the judges and your fellow exhibitors are very helpful and friendly; we want you to have FUN! We welcome newbie goat owners and old-timers too, young and not so young. We can help you find a vet, help you find new stock, help you find the best feed store and hay dealer and you can help us too. Visit our club website at <http://www.angelfire.com/nc/ncpgc> and browse this complementary newsletter. You will find a handy Application for Membership on the last page, come join our merry herd today!

We are looking at new locations for some for our 2010 shows. We may be having one at a member's farm in SC and one at a member's farm in the mountains of NC. Watch our website and newsletter for updates. The 2010 NPGA National Convention will be in Hamilton, Ohio in mid June.

So grab a cup of coffee, glass of tea or soda, sit back and browse through our newsletter. We can't wait to hear from you!

Maggie Leman



Is She Ready For Love?



If you don't keep a buck on your farm but want to know when your gals are ready for a tryst with Loverboy make a Buck Rag. Go visit a friend with a wonderful stinky buck, the exact breed doesn't matter so much as long as he is in rut and STINKY. Carry along a small towel, a washcloth works fine and a Ziploc bag, a pair of exam gloves for yourself will keep his scent off your hands. Rub that cloth all over Mr. Bucky's head and front legs and seal it up in the Ziploc. Every day open the bag and let your gals take a whiff. The doe in heat will usually show a lot of interest by flagging her tail, squatting and urinating, and curling her lip. You can examine her for a vaginal discharge. In this way you can track her heats and plan when to take her for a lover's rendezvous. This may help bring a doe into heat too!

Important Stuff

President: Maggie Leman maggidans@msn.com
VP: Iain White buffalo_hills@mindspring.com
Sec./Membership Ch.: Dan Dawson maggidans@msn.com
Treas./Show Ch.: Jason Overman bruno_goatboy@yahoo.com
Past President: vacant
Delegate: Laurie Getzendanner buffalo_hills@mindspring.com
Delegate: Ronnie Overman 336-622-3329
Delegate: vacant
Club Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/nc/npcgc>
NPGA Website: <http://www.npga-pygmy.com>
NPGA Reg. 8 Director: Andy Nash possumandy@aol.com
NPGA Reg. 8 Director: Maggie Leman maggidans@msn.com

2009 Tattoo Letter is Z 2008 Tattoo Letter is Y

The NPGA requires that all registered goats be assigned tattoos, even if they are not actually used. The letters "G", "I", "O", "Q" and "U" are skipped, as they are easily confused with other letters or numbers. There is a good article about how to assign and use tattoos and herdnames on the NPGA website at:

http://www.npgapygmy.com/resources/husbandry/tattoo_letters.asp

It's A Date!

The NC State Fair Pygmy Goat Show

October 23 - 25, 2009

NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC

Judge: Rebecca Mumpower

1 Wether Show, 1 Doe Show, Showmanship and Fun Classes

Contact Maggie Leman; see the Members List in this Newsletter.

The Festival Of Pygmies

November 6-8, 2009

Guilford Co. Agricultural Center in Greensboro, NC

2 full shows: Showmanship, Wethers, Does and Bucks

Annual Holiday Potluck Banquet

Contact Jason Overman or Maggie Leman; see the Members List in this Newsletter.

Many members enjoy showing their goats. Newbies are very welcome in the show ring; you will find your fellow competitors to be very friendly and helpful. Our shows have classes for both registered and non-registered pygmy goats, wethers, does, and bucks, and showmanship classes. The NCPGC hosts four NPGA sanctioned shows a year. They are usually scheduled for the first weekend in April, the second weekend in June, Labor Day weekend, and the November Show and Holiday Banquet. There is also a Pygmy Goat Show at the NC State Fair in October.

Updated show information, Entry Forms and Showbills and Event Registration Forms will be available online at the NCPGC website, or by snail mail or email by contacting the appropriate persons for each event. Watch the NCPGC website for updates!



A Sticky Situation

A generous spritz of Pam Cooking Spray will help keep post birthing goop from sticking so badly to a doe's tail and makes daily cleanup much easier. It also helps to keep sticky baby poop off the new kids' bottoms. A hardened blob of baby poop can keep a kid from being able to defecate.



Problems Which Can Frequently Be Related to Nutrition
From the Saanendoah website at www.saanendoah.com

Paralytic Problems:

Problems:

Possible nutritional answers:

Milk Fever	Ca/Phos. Ratio; Vit. D; inorganic sulfate
Downer milk fever	The above + magnesium
Grass tetany	Magnesium
Knuckling fetlocks, weak hindlegs	Vitamin E, Selenium, Copper
Nerve loss	Copper
Ataxia	Copper, copper-molybdenum

Breeding Problems:

Problems:

Possible nutritional answers:

Retained placentas, metritis	Copper, zinc, selenium, vitamin E
Lack of estrus	Copper, zinc, selenium, vitamin E
Tailless sperm in semen	Selenium
Lack of libido	Copper-molybdenum

Hoof Problems:

Problems:

Possible nutritional answers:

Hoof Rot	Copper, iodine
Abnormal hoof growth	Copper
Soft hoof growth	Copper
Swollen fetlocks	Copper
Laminitis	High rumen acid upsets copper absorption
Hairy wart resistance	Copper (nutrition), formaldehyde (foot bath)

Intestinal Problems:

Problems:

Possible nutritional answers:

Acidosis (pH balance)	Sodium bicarbonate
Low butterfat test	Sodium bicarbonate
Undigested feed in manure	Copper, cobalt
Scouring	Copper, molybdenum
Worm resistance	Copper, molybdenum
Low production	Copper, zinc, manganese, inorganic sulfate
Abnormal appetite	Copper, cobalt

Metabolic Problems:

Problems:

Possible nutritional answers:

High somatic cell count	Copper, zinc, selenium, Vitamin E
Ketosis	Copper, inorganic sulfate
White muscle disease	Selenium
Pneumonia	Copper, zinc, selenium, Vitamin E
Heart abnormalities	Copper, selenium, magnesium
Anemia	Iron, copper, cobalt
Tongue lolling	Copper
Retarded growth	Copper, molybdenum
Sudden death	Copper, selenium, grease & nitrate
Off-flavor milk	High iron (feed or water; Vitamin E
High culling rate	Poor mineral nutrition program
Fat cow syndrome	Copper, inorganic sulfate
Hair off color, no bloom	Copper, selenium

Free Goats - Friend or Foe?

By Gary Pfalzbot

<http://www.goatworld.com>

"Free goat" or "free goats" available to a good home are quite often seen in ads as well as in private situations. While I do not want to rain on the entire concept of freely giving a goat to a good home for a good reason, I would like to point out a few tips and facts that may help a person decide whether or not "free" is really the best option from which to choose.

There are a variety of people raising goats for a variety of reasons. From the person who just wants to have a goat or two around the place as a pet to the people who raise goats for specific purposes such as breeding, meat, milk, fiber, etc. There is also a certain type of people that are just wanting to "get their feet wet" to see if goats will become a good hobby or endeavor as well as the youngster wanting to get started with a 4H or FFA project. No matter the purpose, there are specific diseases and conditions that make the prospect of a "free goat", not so enticing and not so free.

The three specific diseases that come to mind are Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL), Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis (CAE), and Johne's Disease. Each of these should be considered a direct threat not only to the "free goat", but also to any other goats that are either present on the prospective farm, or the future expansion of the herd.

While at least one of these diseases can be directly passed to humans and other animals as well, the other diseases can be passed throughout the other goats in a herd and are either incurable (at this writing), and/or remain an active bacteria living in the soil for many years - difficult to eradicate.

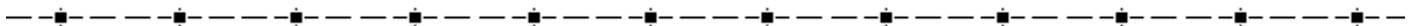
For the person just wanting to get started with goats and possibly looking to expand in the future, the ramifications can be devastating. It will be very difficult to maintain a healthy herd and have peace of mind that the farm or ranch will be disease free. For the person just wanting to add a few more head to the herd at the cheapest cost possible, it is also a devastating prospect - the risk of infecting otherwise healthy goats is great.

Many professional and herd health conscious breeders and owners will simply refuse at great length, to accept any goat that has not been recently tested as a "disease free" animal. They fully understand the complications and heartbreak one dear, sweet and beautiful (but infected) goat can pose to the health of their herd. These same breeders more often than not are also the same breeders that advise to NOT purchase animals from stockyards, auctions, and other facilities where an innumerable amount of animals pass through on a regular basis - the risk of disease is just too great.

But, on the bright side (and as I said, I don't want to completely condemn the idea of free goats), some goats that are offered for free may be disease free. The reasons for parting with these goats in the first place may be for reasons other than disease. Some simply find that goats are not for them. Some rid themselves of their goats for their own health issues. The list is long for "good" reasons.

In my opinion, if you are considering getting a free goat, please, for the sake of the goat industry and your own well-being, have the goat tested. Goats that carry these incurable, communicable and often unmanageable diseases need to be disposed of (and even though I have a soft heart) through a means where they will not turn back up in a herd that is to be used for production purposes. By following this simple rule, you will be saving someone the heartache of finding out that their goats have become ill all because "they didn't know".

To put it bluntly and in terms that I think everyone can understand, think of the AIDS virus. If you know that a person has AIDS, I seriously doubt that you would be inclined to enter a sexual relationship with that person for fear of becoming infected yourself. Some of the diseases that goats can carry are no different in scope and should be treated accordingly. If we are going to further popularize the goat and goatkeeping throughout the world, we need to take extra precaution before we let goats enter our farms and premises.



Treating Tiny Terrors, Controlling Lice

Late winter and early spring are the season for lice. At some time or another all goat herds will be infected. Watch for goats that scratch or stomp their legs as if a fly were biting. There are 2 types of lice, biting and sucking lice. Biting lice cause a good deal of irritation but since they don't suck blood they aren't as dangerous to the health of the goat. Sucking lice can cause severe anemia and are especially fond of tender young kids. Lice spend their entire lives on their host animal, they can only survive about a week or so away from their host. However nits (eggs) attached to shed hairs may allow for lice to survive in the environment for up to 3 weeks as it takes that long for them to hatch. Lice are species specific for the most part although goats and sheep may share some species of lice. You can't catch lice from your goats; your goats can't catch lice from your chickens. To truly control lice the whole herd must be treated at the same time. No insecticide or treatment will kill nits so treatments must be repeated once weekly for 3 weeks to kill those that will hatch in that time. Most of these treatments are effective for mange mites too.

A cattle pour-on such as Boss II works well; adjust the dose according to weight.

Ivermectin or Cydectin pour-on works well if used as a pour-on. Ivermectin given orally does very little to control lice.

Sevin Dust (5%) and Insecticidal Livestock Powders are also effective. Powders can be tricky to apply so try this: Put the powder into a sock and use this to rub the powder all over the goat. Be sure to do the top of the head but avoid the face.

Goats Thrive in Arid and Savannah Climates Because That's Where They Evolved

By D. de Treville

Previously published in THE GOAT RANCHER MAGAZINE November 2003.

Now at The Heart of Africa Burundi Goat Rehabilitation Project Website
http://burundigoats.tripod.com/Tropical_Emphasis/Evolution/evolution.html

I was thinking about the very negative impacts on your goats that a lot of you experienced in humid areas of North America, during Summer 2003, due to high temperatures/heavy rain - climates that are technically associated with subhumid and humid ecosystems. Maybe that's not the kind of climate that you normally experience in your area - but it is clearly seems to have been the ecosystem construct for many of you over the last year.

This has had major implications for parasite population explosions: coccidiosis, stomach worms, flukes, etc. - affecting goats to a far greater extent than cattle and horses, and other livestock. As well, pasture grasses in wet climates will be less nutritious because they will be waterlogged and minerals will have been leached out of them. As well, heat stress, lowered libido / estrus, pneumonia, hoof-rot, and increased vulnerability to other diseases are often found in goats experiencing these climatic conditions – when either by breed or by conditioning, they are not able to efficiently cope with these conditions.

Why do most goats suffer so much in these conditions? Simple. For tens of thousands of years they evolved in, and developed optimal survival strategies for living in arid and semiarid ecosystems where extensive pastoral, rather than intensive sedentary farming systems, are the norm.

For a view of how close the species-breed-ecosystem link is, here's how goat (and sheep) populations stack up in Africa - where over 30% (160 million) of the world's goat population is found (see table below):

Why are there only 9% of Africa's 160 million goats in humid zones, while 39% are in arid and 27% in semiarid areas - the latter two representing a whopping 66% of the goat population? Because that's the kind of climate in which they evolved and therefore thrive: able to travel long distances in search of forage that is often coarse and of high tannin content and so unsuitable for other stock, and able to go long periods without water - 5 days for some breeds.

By nature goats are not heavy water drinkers as they have a highly efficient digestive process whereby liquid is efficiently extracted from ingested food. Compare, for example, goat berries with cow dung and you'll see how much more liquid the goat's digestive tract removes than is the case with cow dung. As well, goats HATE rain! They evolved largely in ecozones where there is little rainfall – and when rain does fall in arid and semiarid regions, it is generally a brief cloudburst. Hence, goat coats in many breeds do not have the oily, protective 'anti-rain/snow' features of cattle, horses, dogs and other breeds that evolved in wetter climates. As well, many goat breeds are easily susceptible to hoof-rot in these wet conditions.

Due to extensive browsing patterns by which goats in their natural habitat travel many hundreds of square miles annually in search of food, as well as due to the pattern of browsing whereby goats do not generally eat close to the ground, it was not necessary for the original breeds to develop high levels of resilience or genetic resistance to parasites. Therefore, many of today's breeds coming from arid and semi-arid regions simply cannot naturally (efficiently) cope with high worm burdens and some diseases that are met in more humid areas – without substantial inputs by way of wormers and more intensive management practices. In such humid or wet areas, goats may have to graze close to the ground rather than browse, thus increasing parasite intake from pasture and forbs. As well, the goat-to-land ratio may be so high as to result in dangerously high parasite populations in pastures

Percentage of Goats By Ecosystem On The African Continent:

Zone	Goats	Sheep
Arid	39%	36%
Semiarid	27%	22%
Subhumid	16%	14%
Humid	9%	8%

[Note - %'s do not add up to 100% due to irregularities and/or ambiguities of some of the data associated with this survey]



West African Dwarf of Guinea origin browsing Ficus leaves and twigs.

Goats do exist in humid areas, but without increased inputs and more systematic management practices, a high price is paid as regards productivity: prolificacy can be much lower and pre/post-weaning mortality much higher. As well, heat/humidity stress, virulent tick-borne diseases, lower nutritive value of fodder, hoof problems, etc, are common.

Some of the breeds in Africa that have been many generations in humid and subhumid ecozones have, through natural selection, developed a certain varying degrees of genetic resistance to certain parasites. Examples include West African Dwarf breeds, the Small East African Goats, and our own Central African Goats. These breeds have adapted to a wide variety of brush and grasses that are closer to the ground and generally denser. Hence, traveling long distances and 'reaching high' are not necessary adaptive strategies. Shorter, more compact body types and

greater resilience or genetic resistance to parasites have apparently been the adaptive strategies for goats that have been in these areas over the last several millennia.

As well, lower twinning rates, reduced estrus cycles, greater heat/humidity tolerance, tolerance to some tick-borne diseases, resistance to pneumonia and foot-rot, etc, are adaptive strategies that have helped indigenous goat breeds to survive - and thrive - in these more humid areas. However as mentioned, the price paid is lower productivity - with the exception of the Boer, whose origin in the South African veldt fairly closely replicates the semiarid regions in which goats originally evolved.

So, it's a risky strategy to think that – in subtropical areas of North America where meat goat production is increasing

goat-to-land ratios and where goats are being grazed rather than browsed - that wormers and medical inputs *alone* are going to solve the problems. When exotic goat breeds – such as the Boer, which originated in a semi-arid environment – are introduced into these areas they simply aren't genetically equipped to deal with the problem in ways that can sustainably lead to high production levels and therefore high economic returns. In areas typified by cold weather part of the year, the parasite and disease cycles will be cut or at least modified.

Improved management and breeding for genetic resistance seem, now, to offer the best, non-chemical methods to begin to deal with the problem of increasing sustainable, intensive production of goats in subtropical and tropical ecosystems - both in Africa and in North America. Improved management can be accomplished in the short term, particularly management that works to strategically incorporate browse and agro-forestry species into the farming system and to manage pastures in ways that minimize parasite loads.

As for breeding for genetic resistance, this is a long-term and sometimes costly process – possibly more easily sustained in Africa, Australia and New Zealand than in the Northern Hemisphere for reasons of cost and prior experience in resistance breeding. But with lessons learned that are wholly applicable to North American and elsewhere.



Dwarf breeds in tropical areas of West Africa have over generations evolved to deal effectively with high parasite burdens.

From Wikipedia: The Yule Goat

(Danish: *Julebuk*, Norwegian: *Julebuk*, Swedish: *Julbock*) is one of the oldest Scandinavian and Northern European Yule and Christmas symbols. Its origins might go as far back as to pre-Christian days, where goats were connected to the god Thor, who rode the sky in a wagon drawn by a pair of goats.

The function of the Yule Goat has differed throughout the ages. As far as until the 19th century, youths would go from house to house during Christmas time to perform small plays or sing Yule Goat songs, with one of the in the group dressed up as the Yule Goat. In Finland, the Yule Goat was originally said to be an ugly creature that frightened children, and demanded gifts at Christmas. During the 19th century its role shifted towards becoming the giver of Christmas gifts, in Finland as well as the rest of Scandinavia, with one of the men in the family dressing up as the Yule Goat. This tradition would have the goat replaced with the *jultomte* (Santa Claus) at the end of the century, and the tradition of the man-sized goat disappeared.

The Yule Goat is nowadays best known as a Christmas ornament, a figure, often made out of straw or roughly-hewn wood. In older Scandinavian society a popular prank was to place the Yule Goat in a neighbour's house without them noticing; the family successfully pranked had to get rid of it in the same way. The modern version of the Yule Goat figure is a decorative goat made out of straw and bound with red ribbons, a popular Christmas ornament often found under the Christmas tree. Large versions of this ornament are frequently erected in towns and cities around Christmas time — these goats tend to be set on fire before Christmas, a "tradition" that is dangerous, illegal and certainly unasked for by the goat makers. The Gävle goat was the first of these goats, and remains the most famous as well as the most burnt down.



Excerpts from: *Grandma, why are you planting that peach tree?*

Thoughts shared by Gloria Winters



I recently read a fantastic article by Cathie Keblinger in Goat Rancher magazine. It spoke to me because it was truly about leaving our legacy here on earth; leaving the good of the goat breeds and earth for the next generations. I believe many of our club members will appreciate her thoughts as well so here are some excerpts I wanted to share with the club:

“When my grandmother was 90 years old she bought an improved type of peach tree from a nursery. While she was superintending the planting of it by my uncle, my aunt asked Grandma, “Mother, why are you planting that peach tree?” Grandma looked at her in genuine surprise and said, “Why, I like peaches”. Grandma did enjoy two crops of peaches from that seedling tree before she died. She ate some of the fruit fresh and put some up as preserves. Out in Grandma’s yard, which is now our yard, we still have peach trees descended from the ones she brought up here and planted even as a young bride.

I mention all this because some of you have asked me why we spent a fair sized chunk of money to buy our new goat when we were suppose to be retiring. And we’re surprised that you ask a question with such an obvious answer – we like goats!

I remember being a very young child standing with my family beside the bed where by Grandma’s mother lay ill. She asked Daddy about the bay mare. He told Grandma that her colt had been born that morning and Grandma listened with a beaming smile to his description of the colt. She asked questions and discussed the colt’s future with great interest. Grandma died just a few hours later. People don’t cease being what they are just because they get too old to take care of a ranch full of livestock. If you don’t have grown children around you doing all the hard work and you can’t hire help, you have to sell down to a handful of stock, but they still fascinate you and you still plan for their future. Livestock are not just a short-term business investment, they are an ongoing legacy.

I can’t speak for other goat breeders who have sold out or cut down the size of their herds, but most of them probably did it because they had to face the same facts we did. Seventy years of age rob the body of elasticity, fleetness of foot, and 95% of the energy a person had at the age of 25. But many of us would still like to have some goats around the place. We would be lonely without them. That’s why we said in every ad that we were keeping a few goats because we didn’t want to mislead people into thinking we had cleaned our pastures of everything that bleated.

It is true that we will only be breeding a small number of nannies, but we still wanted a quality billy goat to breed them to. We still think it is important that our nannies produce good offspring. Why, you ask, is it important to produce good kids if you only sell about a dozen a year? Because one of the most interesting things in our lives is our livestock – our goats and our cattle. They are not only our business, they are our hobby and main focus in life, and they link us to our past and the future.

So we wouldn’t dream of using some kind of billy less than the best we could produce or afford to buy, the one we judged best suited to improve our livestock according to the qualities we consider important.

Now John and I are neither one anywhere near dead, both getting around just fine and feeling good, so we’ll probably see lots more generations of goats. But when we die, if the Good Lord is willing and the stock don’t have to be sold to take us through our last days, our nieces and nephews and friends will end up with the best goats we could turn out because that’s the example that has been set for us in life and that’s the example we want to set.”

(To read the complete article you can get the November 2007 issue of Goat Rancher magazine or contact Cathie and John Keblinger at Seven-A-Plus ranch at 7aplusboers.com)

Goat Toy Safety

When using an empty wire spool as a goat toy be sure to cover the center hole to avoid serious leg injuries before giving it to the goats to play “King of the Mountain”.



Parasitism in Goats

By Maggie Leman

Goats are not naturally resistant to internal parasites. In the harsh environments where most wild goats occur, resistance is not particularly needed; the environment itself kills most parasite eggs and larvae quickly. Wild goats range over great distances looking for adequate food; so many parasites dropped in the feces are never consumed by the host animal and die before the herd returns to that area. Goats are browsers not grazers, preferring to eat at least 10 inches from the ground feeding on brush, leaves, bark, twigs and tall grass where parasite larvae are not found in great numbers. When man domesticated goats that changed. Goats are now kept in fenced pastures "forced" to graze grass close to the ground and are often overcrowded. They are kept on the same pasture for years. They are kept in warm and moist environments where parasites can flourish, rather in the desert conditions of their wild ancestors. Their exposure to parasites can be overwhelming in many areas.

Gastrointestinal nematodes, worms, are the number one killer of goats in the US. The most harmful is the Barberpole Worm (*Haemonchus contortus*). There are other blood-sucking worms that infect sheep and goats *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*, *T. axei*, *Teladorsagia (Ostertagia) circumcincta*, *Cooperia* spp., *Oesophagostomum*, *Trichuris ovis*, *Strongyloides papillosus*, and *Bunostomum*. All of these contribute to the problem of parasitism in our herds, but the Barberpole Worm is the most serious. It is very hardy, the eggs and larvae can survive a long time in the environment. It reproduces very quickly with the lifecycle completed in less than 3 weeks. One female Barberpole Worm can lay 5000 eggs A DAY. The signs of a heavy infestation of Barberpole Worm include anemia, edema under the jaw (Bottle Jaw) and in lower extremities and the lower abdomen, underweight, unthrifty, and sparse rough hair coat. Sometimes, but not always, a goat gets clumpy stools or loose diarrhea, but these worms can kill before that symptom appears. Tapeworms are not on this list. They do not suck blood but eat the partially digested food in the gut of the goat. Tapeworms very rarely bother a well-fed goat.

Because of the misuse, overuse and underdosing of anthelmintics (deworming medications) the most serious parasites have become very resistant and difficult to kill. Many years ago rotating the type of dewormer was recommended and many drug companies jumped on the bandwagon, neatly packaging several different types together so the livestock owner could buy a year's worth of deworming medications at once. The thought here was that parasites could not build up a resistance because the drug was changed every time. The truth is that some worms would survive each time and with each passing year the survivors would become more resistant to ALL of the different drugs at once. This left the livestock owner with nothing to turn to once this program stopped working. Every day low dose deworming became the rage. Again the surviving parasites were soon resistant to those drugs and every drug in its class. Livestock owners were told it was ABSOLUTELY necessary to deworm ALL of their animals regularly whether they needed it or not. So once again all surviving worms in that herd were resistant to the dewormer(s) being used.

This has become a critical problem with keeping goats all over the world, but there is hope. The FAMACHA program was developed in South Africa to help control the Barberpole Worm. Goats are examined, looking at the color of the mucus membrane of the lower inner eyelid once every 14 to 28 days. The level of anemia is determined and goats are dewormed accordingly, this is called Smart Drenching and is part of the FAMACHA program. This does several things; it saves the goat owner time and money, only those goats needing treatment get it. You can begin to select goats for natural immunity; those goats that always need treatment can be culled. Suffice it to say a goat should have deep pinkish red membranes, much the same as ours (saying you aren't anemic yourself). Pale pink to white membranes indicate a severe problem and the goat should be dewormed. It has been observed that 20-30% of the animals in the herd harbor 70-80% of the parasites. Treating these goats dramatically decreases the level of parasite eggs being put into the environment. Smart Drenching slows the development of resistant worms in the herd by creating *refugia* for the non-resistant worms. Leaving some worms that are not drug resistant to lay eggs, be consumed by the herd and mate with the remaining resistant worms lowers the genetic resistance in future generations of worms. This particular parasite control strategy has been largely ignored until now because it seemed we always had powerful dewormers. The only time a goat is automatically dewormed is right after kidding. Due to the stress of kidding, even a normal delivery, and the hormonal changes occurring in the doe's body, dormant worms become very active taking advantage of the doe's lowered resistance. Kids are also especially vulnerable and susceptible to ingesting any eggs passed by the worms the doe is carrying.

Pasture rotation, resting a pasture for 30 to 90 days, was once thought to be very helpful for controlling worms, but this does not work well for controlling the Barberpole Worm. It can survive a year or more in the environment, especially in the south. For rotational grazing to work best you need to graze a different species behind the goats to clear the infective larvae from the pasture. Grazing horses or cattle behind your goats will accomplish this, grazing sheep will not as they share the same parasites as goats.

Checking the level of anemia and deworming accordingly is only one part of a comprehensive deworming program. Doing fecal egg counts is the other testing procedure necessary to a good parasite control program. Doing routine testing of the goats you deworm and a representative population of your other goats will tell you if the deworming was effective or if the worms are becoming resistant to the drug you are using. It will tell you this LONG BEFORE you have a problem so you can take action. Doing routine fecal exams will tell you if another species besides Barberpole worm is becoming a problem in your herd.

I have taken the FAMACHA course and have the color chart for detecting anemia. I feel it does the program a disservice to try to scan it and include it here as colors do not stay true. Several websites have pictures of anemic goats and examples of Bottle Jaw, a good one can be found at <http://www.barnonemeatgoats.com/wormsomo.html>. You really should take the entire FAMACHA course, it only takes about 6 hours to become certified and you will learn SO MUCH. The FAMACHA program is being taught all over the country. You can learn more and get a listing of classes at <http://www.scsrpc.org/index.htm>.

Goat Cheese Fudge

This is absolutely the creamiest, easiest fudge recipe EVER.
No real cooking is involved!

- 4 (1 oz.) squares unsweetened chocolate
- 8 oz. chevre (a mild chevre works best, you can substitute cream cheese)
- 4 C confectioner's sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 to 2 C nuts toasted (toasting brings out the nutty flavor, don't skip this step.)

Melt the chocolate in the microwave, cool to room temperature. Let the cheese come to room temp to soften and mix the cheese with the chocolate. Add the confectioner's sugar and vanilla extract. Beat it well; this increases the creaminess. Pat into an 8 or 9 inch pan a light spraying of PAM Cooking Spray make is come out easy. Refrigerate a couple of hours before cutting. I did find it tended to "chunk" more than cut into neat squares as my chevre tends to be drier and more crumbly than most. So I just briefly dip the bottom of the pan in warm water and turn out the whole square of fudge onto a plate and then "chunk" off a piece when I want some.

If you want a peanut butter flavor add 1/2 C peanut butter and increase the confectioner's sugar to 5 cups.



Hot Chocolate Mix Recipe

1½ cups skim milk powder
1½ cups white sugar

¾ cup unsweetened cocoa
¾ cup non-dairy creamer

Place all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and stir well. For a finer mix, combine all ingredients in a blender or food processor and mix well. After processing all other ingredients in the blender or food processor, empty mix into a bowl and stir in 1 cup of mini marshmallows. Store in an air tight container.

Place 2 or 3 tablespoons in a mug and add boiling water.

Variations:

For Mocha Hot Chocolate, place 2 or 3 tablespoons of hot chocolate mix in a mug and fill with hot coffee.

Replace the plain non-dairy creamer with a flavored creamer such as French Vanilla or Hazelnut.

For spiced hot chocolate, add 1 teaspoon of cinnamon to mix, or ½ teaspoon nutmeg and ½ teaspoon of cinnamon.

For raspberry hot chocolate, add one package of raspberry Kool-Aid to the mix and increase the sugar to 2 cups.

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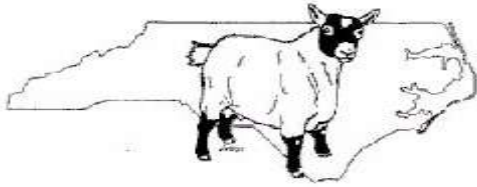
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Updated 5/31/09



The North Carolina Pygmy Goat Club
A National Pygmy Goat Association Affiliated Club
<http://www.angelfire.com/nc/ncpgc>

The North Carolina Pygmy Goat Club was founded in 1981 by a group of dedicated pygmy goat enthusiasts to promote the pygmy goat breed in the central region of North Carolina. They called their group the Piedmont Pygmy Goat Club. In the following years the club's name has changed twice to reflect it's growing membership, which now includes members not only from North Carolina but from several other states as well.

The club's purpose is to aid and encourage the keeping, breeding, perpetuation, and exhibition of pygmy goats under the National Pygmy Goat Association's breed standards. We want to stimulate popular interest in pygmy goats, and their proper care and management. We research and study the characteristics of the pygmy goat, the husbandry and breeding, and collect and make available useful information concerning them. Finally, we encourage and conduct exhibits for the purpose of advancing the cause of the pygmy goat as a useful breed within the American agricultural system.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues are \$25.00 per year due on January 1, for existing and renewing members and \$15.00 a year for new members. Dues received after November 1 will apply to the following year.

Please fill out and return this application with your check, made payable to the North Carolina Pygmy Goat Club to:

Maggie Leman
1205 Olive Branch Rd.
Durham, NC 27703

New Members will receive *Helpful Hints For Your Herd*, a 30+ page booklet filled with up to the minute vital information covering all aspects of pygmy goat care.

Your Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's names: _____

We like to remember you on your Special Day! Please list your Family's Birthdays and Anniversary:

Address: _____

City: _____ State and zip code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Your herd or farm name: _____

Number of goats you currently have: Bucks _____ Does _____ Wethers _____

Renew _____ New Member _____ Date: _____

Maggie Leman
1205 Olive Branch Rd.
Durham, NC 27703

We Hope To Meet You Soon!

