



CapriNotes

Newsletter of the North Carolina Pygmy Goat Club

Maggie Leman, Editor

An Invitation

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?

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 in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, even Nevada and California, and, of course, North Carolina. 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. Now a Pygmy Goat Show is not a stuffy affair, 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 an Application for Membership on the last page, come join our Merry herd today!

Did you know that the National Pygmy Goat Association is having their 2011 Convention in Monroe, WA this year? It will be on June 22 - 28, 2011. Now don't go thinking this is a stuffy affair for show goats and big-time breeders only! Not so! Mostly we just like to meet up with old and new friends and talk about our cute little goats. And just think about it, a chance to show your beloved and special pets IN A NATIONAL SHOW! Meet Pygmy Goat enthusiasts from all over the country, its so much fun to put a face with the name and everyone is so friendly. Attending the Convention Show is free; there is no admission charge for spectators.

Did you know that Region 8 has a very active email forum? Want to connect with other Pygmy Goat owners on line FOR FREE? Go to www.yahoo.com and join the NPGARegion8 group. Or just drop me an email at maggidans@msn.com and I will send you a personal invitation to join our forum. It's FREE and we need you!

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!



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 also help bring a doe into heat too!

Important Stuff

President: Maggie Leman
Vice President: Lisa Salmi
Secretary/Membership Chair: Debbie McGhee
Treasurer: Kim Shunney
Show Chair: Maggie Leman
Delegate: Iain White
Delegate: Laurie Getzendanner
Delegate: Kellie Kirkdoffer
Club Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/nc/ncpgc>
NPGA Website: <http://www.npga-pygmy.com>
NPGA Reg. 8 Director: Debbie McGhee
NPGA Reg. 8 Director: Matt Burton

2010 Tattoo Letter is A 2009 Tattoo Letter is Z

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!

2011 Proposed Show Dates

The Pygmy Stampede

April 1 - 3, 2011 at the Guilford County Ag. Center in Greensboro, NC

Goatie Mountain Getaway

July 16, 2011 in Boone, NC

This will be a backyard show, no pens will be provided and both shows will be on Saturday.

The NC State Fair Pygmy Goat Show

October 21 -23, 2011 at the NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC

This is a single Wether and Doe show. Cash premiums are awarded.

The Festival of Pygmies

November 11 - 13, 2011 at the Guilford County Agricultural Center in Greensboro, NC

Our Annual Holiday Show, Membership Meeting and Banquet

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.



Beware Footwear



Walk around the show ring a few times and you will find that you have picked up a considerable amount of fecal material on your shoes left by the goats being shown. And try as you may, it is impossible to avoid it. And the amount of fecal material in the ring increases as the show goes on and more goats decide to eliminate in the ring. As an experiment, I ran a fecal examination on some of the goat feces that had collected on the bottom of my shoes. I was surprised to find a number of internal parasites including several species of worms and coccidia not to mention any of the diseases that can be transmitted through the feces. While health checks are routinely done at shows, they do not check the goats for a potential contagious condition - internal parasites. And many of these parasites can go from the infected goat to the show ring to exhibitor's shoes to exhibitor's goats. To help protect your goats at our "goat get-togethers, change your footwear after showing your goats. Wear shoes in the ring that can be easily cleaned or disinfected after the show.

-----By Dr. Kay Orlando, DVM (Reprinted from WPGC Newsletter, May/June 2003)

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 Johnes 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 condone 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



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

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.

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]

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

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.



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/wormsorno.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.scsr.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.

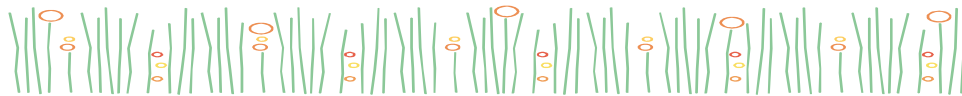
For spiced hot chocolate, add 1 teaspoon of cinnamon to mix, or ½ teaspoon nutmeg and ½ teaspoon of cinnamon.

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

The Laws of Nature As They Apply to Goat Raising

From the Goat Source Newsletter at <http://www.goatsource.com>

1. No matter which way the wind is blowing, when you throw the hay into the feeder, it will change directions and blow the hay in your face.
2. No matter how many layers of clothing you have on, the hay will get into the last layer and poke you all day.
3. If a goat can tip something over and make a loud noise, she will.
4. After tipping something over, the above mentioned goat will jump straight up in the air with appropriate panic.
5. A goat's head will fit in a very small hole in the fence. Of course it won't come back out! (I recommend petroleum jelly to grease the way out).
6. Hay feeders are just right to sleep in.
7. Slept in hay is not good to eat anymore. After all, it had someone laying on it.
8. Water should only touch the lips. Anywhere else is cause for hysterics.
9. If you put a clean bucket of water in your goats' pen at a show, she will dribble hay in it or poop in it immediately. She can't be expected to drink this of course, it's DIRTY!
10. Shoelaces are to be untied and chewed on.
11. Show whites are to be used to wipe baby goat feet on.
12. A goat can jump up on the barn roof, but is unable to get up on the milk stand (which is all of 8" off the floor).
13. When you walk in the show ring, your goat will forget how to walk.
14. The grain in the bucket that your goat has is not nearly as good as the grain in the bucket her neighbor goat has (it all came out of the same bag).
15. The weeds on the path on the way to the barn are delicious. The same weeds in the goat pasture are 4 feet tall.
16. Raising goats is never dull.



Do You Have a Good Relationship With Your Vet?



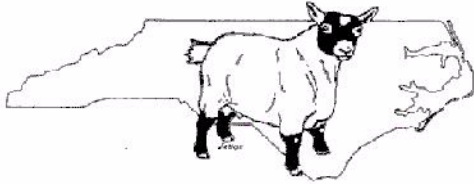
Most of the time, herd health ticks along on an even keel. You feed properly, vaccinate and worm on schedule. You goats are happy, healthy and well cared for. But what happens when you have a problem? Do you feel comfortable calling your veterinarian? If you have a good relationship with her, you should be able to discuss herd health issues with no problem. It is essential for your goat's health that you have a vet who is willing to listen to your concerns, explain the answers to your questions and is knowledgeable about goats. On your part, you need to be willing to listen to her advice, implement it, and ask if you don't understand something. Write things down, so you are clear on dosages, and proper administration.

Part of a good relationship, is listening to the advice you are given. If you are asking a professional's opinion, then you had better be willing to follow their advice. Another part of a good relationship is using your vet BEFORE you have a crash, rush, middle of the night emergency. If you use your vet's professional services for run of the mill things AND PAY PROMPTLY, the middle of the night thing won't be such a big deal. Note that I emphasize PAY PROMPTLY. Your vet is running a business. Remember that and be willing to honor your commitment.

Knowing when to call the vet is a large part of a good relationship. As an example, don't have everyone and their brother examine your doe in labor, before you give up and call the vet. And, if the goat dies in the middle of the night, don't call and wake your vet up to report it. Believe me, she can't fix it (I won't do that one again!) When you call, be sure you have the pertinent information at hand. Your vet cannot make a diagnosis or help you without it. Be able to give the doe's temperature and a general description of her behavior – is she depressed, breathing hard, in pain, etc.

Call well in advance to schedule routine procedures, such as blood draws for CAE testing. When you have her out, have your work area organized and efficient. This means good lighting, clean work area, proper information and the ability to present the animals to be worked on in a timely manner. When you schedule work, don't add tasks as an afterthought when the vet arrives. Your house call is probably not the only one on the schedule!

If you are willing to do these things, it will make keeping your goats happy and healthy a much easier task!



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 returning members and \$15.00 for New Members

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

Debbie McGhee
47 Community House Rd.
Henderson, NC 27536

New Members will receive **Helpful Hints For Your Herd**, a 39 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: _____

I would like to get my newsletter by Email _____ By Postal mail _____

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

Renew _____ New Member _____ Date: _____

NCPGC Member List

Tom Goodwin & Christine Bashore	7017 Indian Wells Rd.	Cary, NC 27519	(919) 368-1717	dchrisdi@aol.com	
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Dan and Dee Brazell	6975 Hacklebarney Rd.	Blackshear, GA 31516	(912) 449-2921	danbrazell@accessatc.net	Hacklebarney Farm
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Kim Shunney	111 Wizard Lane	Hedgesville, WV 25427	(304) 754-7116	kshunney66@yahoo.com	Hope Hill Farms
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Sheryl Taylor	2575 Joe Ashton Rd.	St. Augustine, FL 32092	(904) 808-7175	sherylt@coj.net	Melody Acres

Updated 10/4/2010 (NM) New member 2010

Roasting Pumpkin Seeds

When you're carving your Halloween pumpkins, don't throw away the seeds!

Toasted and salted, pumpkin seeds have a nutty flavor. They're even better flavored with sweet and savory spices, such as cumin and chili powder, cinnamon and sugar, garlic salt, use your imagination.

You can also roast butternut squash seeds or acorn squash seeds, you get the picture!

Pepitas are pumpkin seeds with the white hull removed. They're popular in Mexican cooking. Try sprinkling a few on your next bowl of chili, or on top of enchiladas.

Have more seeds than you know what to do with? Substitute pumpkin seeds for peanuts in your peanut brittle recipe.

1. Rinse pumpkin seeds under cold water and pick out the pulp and strings. This is easiest just after you've removed the seeds from the pumpkin, before the pulp has dried. Rubbing between the hands will loosen the pulp.
2. Place the pumpkin seeds in a single layer on an oiled baking sheet, stirring to coat. If you prefer, omit the oil and coat with non-stick cooking spray. No oil makes for a crunchier treat.
3. Alternately you can toast them in a heavy skillet, stirring often until they are beginning to puff and pop and are slightly brown and to the desired crunchiness.
4. Sprinkle with salt and bake at 325 degrees F until toasted, about 25 minutes, checking and stirring after 10 minutes.
5. Let cool and store in an air-tight container.

Most people eat them whole, hull and all. These are loaded with fiber and high in vitamins and minerals.

Maggie Leman
1205 Olive Branch Rd.
Durham, NC 27703

We Hope To Meet You Soon!

