



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 3 Number 4 April 2006*

Here is your April issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. My girls have started doing their thing – all girls so far!! And all twins! Only 4 more to kid, all due in the next week or so. My old doe, Anfa looks like she needs a skateboard under her belly!! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Share Dairies – What are they?
 - This Month's Quiz...
 - Making chores more enjoyable
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Share Dairies – What are they and are they right for you?

You may have heard of a new way to buy milk – it is called a “cow” or “goat” share dairy. Actually, it is not a new idea – it has been tried several times with varying degrees of success. I remember years ago, a woman was selling shares of her goats that entitled the owner to the milk given by “their doe” plus any manure they wanted and her show ribbons if she won any. The state disapproved and hauled the woman into court on a regular basis. They

claimed she was not selling shares of a goat, but using it as a fiction to get around the milk laws of the state, and sell raw milk without a license. Now this type of sale has been embraced by small cow dairies and it is seeing some popularity. It has become legal in some states to sell shares of cows or goats, as long as the dairyman abides by the rules the state has put in place. Usually these rules address the quantity of milk, the container, and other misc rules. It varies from state to state.

If you wish to legally sell raw milk from the farm, first check out your states regulations. Some states allow it and it is totally illegal in other states. Sales of raw milk are legal in 28 out of 50 US states. Including the states, which permit the sale of raw milk for animal consumption, then the total, is 33 out of 50 states. In Colorado, Virginia and Wisconsin, raw milk is available through cow share programs. Here is a link for a site that has a list of the regulations on a state-by-state basis, as well as a list of dairies that have a share program.

<http://www.realmilk.com/happening.html>

This Month's Quiz

What percent of the world's milk production is supplied by goats and sheep?

Making Chores more Enjoyable

We spend a large part of the time we are with our animals doing chores. Making chores easy and enjoyable can make a big difference in how long we keep our goats and whether they are a joy or a burden. There are a number of things you can do to make chore time easy.

1. Get organized!!! Everything should have a place and get returned there every time you are done using it.
2. Get a routine and stick with it. The animals learn to expect it and learn quickly what you expect them to do. Changes confuse them, so make them gradually if you can and remember it will take a few times for the goats to get a new routine.
3. Save steps. Have grain cans available in convenient locations, with a measuring scoop left in. Hay should be near where you feed it. Trash cans or bags can be placed where you generate the most trash. All of the above should be secured so that the goats cannot get into them.
4. Have a place to write down notes and observations. Don't just say, "Oh, I'll remember that and write it down later." Believe me, you will forget! A dry erase marking board is ideal. It can also serve as a place to write down who is fed what, in case you have a new chore person.
5. Take time to look at your animals – this is vital to good management. Get to know how they behave on a daily basis. If they do not act right, they probably have a problem starting. Don't be afraid to take a temperature, look at eyes, gums, etc. You can't know what sick looks like if you don't know what normal looks like.
6. Replace and repair damaged equipment immediately. Broken equipment does not fix itself!!

7. Take time to enjoy your animals!! You can do your chores quickly and efficiently and still kick back and have a good experience. Most cases of burnout are caused by getting too big too fast and not planning for quick, easy and efficient chore management.

Classified Ads...

Get free recipes from my Mom's kitchen (as well as tons of other goodies)!! I am participating in an Easter Giveaway and you can get all kinds of freebies!! Just go to <http://www.easterjvgiveaway.com/success/go/266> to sign up. Included in the giveaway are numerous marketing books, scripts and resale rights. If you have a web site, you're sure to find something you like! This promotion only runs for 8 days, so sign up right away and don't miss a thing!! No catch - just free stuff!

Answer to the April Quiz:

Of 524 million tons of the world's annual milk production (FAO, 1988), goats and sheep are the third largest source of milk (8.2 and 9.0) million tons each), comprising about 1.6 percent each of the total milk supply in the world. (These statistics may be out of date – I got them from a paper put out by the Agricultural Research Station, Fort Valley State University in 1998.)

Helpful hints:

Keep all of your kidding supplies organized for easy use. I keep my clean towels in a big rubber tub. A stack of clean newspapers stays with the towels. Bottles, nipples, funnels and such are kept on one shelf in the kitchen. Extras are kept in the hall cabinet, in a clearly marked box. Betadyne for dipping navels is kept by the box where the newborns go for the first night. A calendar with a pencil should be handy to write down delivery dates, genders and description of the kids. Having everything nearby saves confusion and chaos when the kids are coming fast and furious!!

That's all for this month, ...
See you next month!!

Leslie, The Goat Source

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