



The Goat Source

April 2005 Vol. 2, No. 4

Hello , Here is your April issue of The Goat Source News. Thanks for subscribing!

What's News This Month...

- Proper Identification For Your Herd
- This Month's Quiz...
- Hint and Tips...
- Milk strainer drains to slow?...
- Answer to the April Quiz ...
- Creep Feeding Kids

Proper Identification For Your Herd

All herds, regardless if registered or not, must have proper ID on each animal. Most registered animal are tattooed in the ears (or in the tail web in the case of LaManchas). Most commercial herds use ear tags for easy visual identification of animals.

Tattoo pliers are available at most supply houses. Take into account the size of the area to be tattooed. Goats with vary small ears (Swiss breeds) will be better off with small digits and large eared animals (Nubians) can be done with large digits. If you get a certain size of tool, just remember, the digits are usually not interchangeable. I ID my kids when they are first born with paper collars that you can write on. I put the sire, dam, sex, and the tattoo to be used. When I dehorn and tattoo, all the information is right there.

Ear tags have the advantage of being visible from a distance, so you don't have to catch the animal to look in her ears. Goats are hard on tags, pulling them out of the ear and ripping the ear in the process. Correct insertion of tags greatly reduces the incidence of lost tags. Check

out Premier's catalog for more info on ear tags and their proper use. They are an approved supplier of tags for the Government's Scrapie program.

Premier Supply Co. <http://www.premier1supplies.com/>

This Month's Quiz...

Why should goats be given free choice baking soda?

Hints and Tips:

I keep my grain in 55 gallon barrels to keep the mice out. Sometimes it is hard to find good clean barrels with lids. I found some plastic, food grade barrels. They were two types - one with straight sides and one with a taper to it. I cut the straight barrel off about 4" down from the top and the tapered barrel off right at the top. The top of the straight barrel fits right over the other barrel - just right!!

Milk Strainer Drains To Slow...?

Drill extra holes in the insert to your strainer low on the rim to allow the milk to drain faster. (Be sure to file off the sharp edges left by the drill).

Answer to this month's quiz...

Baking soda should be fed free choice to all goats to provide an alkaline buffer for their rumen. An acid rumen is not good for the bacteria that keep your goat healthy. Remember, feeding your goat is mainly keeping the bacteria happy!!

Creep Feeding Kid Goats

Read this interesting article on creep feeding from Texas A&M University
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/publications/sheeppubs/ASWeb077-creepgoats.pdf>

That's all for now!! See you next month....

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