



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 3 Number 8 August 2006*

Here is your August issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. I can't believe this summer has flown by so quickly. It's already County Fair time! I remember, as a kid, the fair was the high point of the summer. All the hard work on our 4-H projects paid off with a week of fun at the fair and just maybe – a blue ribbon or even a Champion rosette! Here is hoping you have a great time at your County Fair!! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- What is Linear Appraisal?
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 - You Can Give Your Own Injections – Really, You Can Do It!!
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What is Linear Appraisal?

The American Dairy Goat Association's linear appraisal program provides the dairy goat breeder with a tool to help in the selection of sires that transmit desirable type to their offspring. There are four parts to the linear appraisal program scoring. The first part uses a 50-point scale for each selected trait. The program is designed to objectively assess traits that a sire passes on to his offspring. It really is helpful to have a trained and objective eye looking at your goats. The evaluation of these traits is the basis of the information used to create the "Sire Summaries."

The other three parts of a linear appraisal are modifications of descriptive type classification features. This information provides a descriptive evaluation of a particular animal, which will be useful to the herd owner in making management decisions about individual animals. We sometimes don't see the faults or good points in our animals because we can't be objective about them. The appraiser evaluates each animal in eight general structural/functional areas: head, shoulder assembly, front legs, rear legs, feet, back, rump, and udder texture. The appraiser will note, for each of these eight areas, if it is poor or fair, acceptable, good plus, very good, or excellent. and assign a point score to it. The last category of a linear appraisal is the evaluation of the four (3 for a buck) major categories and the assigning of the final score.

The categories are:

- General Appearance
- Dairy Character
- Body Capacity
- Mammary System (except in bucks, of course!)

The point scores are broken down as follows:

- EXCELLENT 90 points or more
- VERY GOOD 85 to 89 points
- GOOD PLUS 80 to 84 points
- ACCEPTABLE 70 to 79 points
- FAIR 60 to 69 points
- POOR 59 points or lower

Go to the [ADGA](http://www.adga.org) website for more information on how to sign up for appraisal.

The Online Goat Show

Show your goats online! Join the forum at <http://goatshow.proboards92.com/index.cgi> Entries will open soon and we need your goats! While your animals are all dolled up for the county fair, take some good pictures and post them – most breeds and ages will have a class. In order to enter, you will need to sign up (free) and have a place to put your photos online, such as <http://www.photobucket.com/> (also free). There will be fun had by all and prizes, too!! Entries will be opening soon. Join us for the fun.

This Month's Quiz

How much salt do goats consume in a year?

You can give your own injections – Really, you can do it!!

Giving injections is simple and will save you a lot of money! Here are definitions of the various kinds of shots you need to learn about. Remember - only give shots to YOUR OWN GOATS. It is illegal to do veterinary procedures on other people's animals without a license!!

Intramuscular (IM) Injected deep within a major muscle (Into the muscle) mass, such as that in the hind leg or on the shoulder. It should be given with an 18 gauge, 2.5 to 4 cm needle, pointed straight into the muscle. Before injecting the drug, always withdraw on the syringe plunger to make sure you have not hit a blood vessel. If this happens, blood will flow into the syringe. To correct, simply replace the needle in the muscle. Usually injected in the neck or behind the shoulder. Most antibiotics are used IM.

Subcutaneous (S/C) Usually a 1 to 2.5 cm needle is inserted at an angle through the skin. So that you do not stick yourself, pick up the skin with your fingers and insert the needle through the skin while it is pointed away from your fingers. Used for CDT vaccinations.

Intravenous (IV) (*Into the vein*) Injected into a vein, usually the jugular or neck vein. **This procedure takes some skill and practice and should be done only by your vet!!** The vein must be blocked with one hand near the shoulder to enlarge it and make it visible. Usually a 4-cm, 18-gauge needle is used for IV injections. All IV injections should be given slowly. The heart should be closely monitored - I have seen goats nearly collapse when medication was given to quickly. **Most people should leave this one to their vet. Improper use of this technique can kill your goat!!**

Intramammary (Into the udder) Injected within the milk gland, through the teat orifice. Always wash the teat end with soap and water and wipe it with alcohol before injecting. Use only sterile, blunt, teat infusion needles or "throw-away" mastitis medicine applicators. Unclean material entering the teat will cause mastitis. Never split a syringe of mastitis treatment between teats.

Have your vet or an experienced goat breeder show you how to give shots. It really is easier than it sounds.

Classified Ads...

[Digital Beginners Pack](#) – made with the beginning goat keeper in mind. Resources to find the answers to your questions, forms for recordkeeping, articles and more. Free gifts!
[Click Here to Begin Learning!!](#)

Enroll in the Cheap Cheap University and learn how to get more month for your money!! Free gifts, reports and fun things.
<http://www.cheapcheapu.com>

Get a custom-made screensaver! Use your own pictures with custom captioning. 10\$ for a 10 picture screensaver, complete with dissolves and floating gems!! Go to [Custom Screen Saver](#) for an easy “how to” manual. Contact me with any questions at [The Goat Source](#)

Answer to the August Quiz:

It is estimated that milking goats consume about 18 pounds of salt yearly. Meat goats and kids consume about 9 pounds and 4.5 pounds of salt, respectively. These are average figures and can vary due to many factors. Heavy milk-producing goats require higher levels of salt, since milk contains considerable sodium and chloride. Free choice loose salt and a good 12-12 mineral should always be available to all of your goats, along with free choice baking soda. Clean, fresh water should always be supplied in addition to salt and minerals. Salt deficient animals will begin showing symptoms in as little as 4-6 weeks, including persistent licking, restlessness, dull shaggy hair, poor growth and intake of feed and marked emaciation during lactation. Take care in feeding salt to deficient animals as too much salt at one time can cause “salt poisoning” which is fatal.

Helpful hints:

When you are trimming hooves, use a wood working tool called a “surform shaper or rasp” for the final touch up. It takes off fine slivers of the hoof so that you don’t quick the foot. Especially handy at the last minute right before a show. Don’t walk in the show ring with a limping goat!! Your local hardware store should have them for under 5 dollars and the blade can be replaced when it is dull.

If you do quick your goat when trimming hooves, don’t panic!. Usually, the bleeding will stop by itself in a short while. If it is bleeding badly, put direct pressure on the hoof for a

little bit and the bleeding should stop. If the blood is coming out in pulses, this is more serious and needs immediate attention. Direct pressure and a call to the vet are in order!! (I have never quicked a goat that badly, and I have trimmed a lot of feet in 25 years!!) Try not to quick your goats as it makes them hate hoof trimming, and they will resist if they think they are going to get hurt!!

Goats don't like to put their head in a bucket or feeder where they can't see out. I use short buckets, so that when the goats head is in the bucket, her eyes are above the level of the rim. It makes them more secure and less jumpy if they can see out.

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

Leslie, The Goat Source

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