



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter
Volume 2 Number 1 January 2005

Here is your January issue of The Goat Source Newsletter.

What's New This Month?

- Special Offer – Photo Keepers/Brag Books
- Pregnancy Detection - Ultrasound
- Money Saving tip – Paper Towels
- This Month's Quiz...
- Have you ever heard of a Geep?
- Answer to the December Quiz
- Helpful Hint

Special Offer – Photo Keeper/Brag Book

A special offer for Goatsource members only! Handy, pocket size photo keepers hold thirty 4X6 photos (back to back). During January they will be available ONLY to YOU – Members of The Goat Source!! A great place to stash those pictures that you can't wait to show all of your goat friends (the two legged variety). Show off the new (goat) kids, the big show wins, even your (human) grandkids!! Buy 5 for \$5, 10 for \$8 or 15 for \$12, plus shipping – USPS Priority Mail. Postage for 5 would be \$4.00 and for 10 or 15 it would be \$7.00.

Take advantage of this special offer – for January only. These would make great prizes at the local show – given out with a picture of your winning animal. Use it as an advertising piece to send to prospective customers with pictures of the animals you have for sale. Crystal clear plastic to show off your pictures to their best advantage. Hurry this is a limited offer!! After January the price will go up!!

Pregnancy Detection – Ultrasound

While not of immediate concern in extensive goat operations that utilize extended natural mating, the early determination of pregnancy can be a useful management tool under more intensive production conditions, or when A.I. and embryo transfer is employed. Pregnancy diagnosis will identify the females requiring repeat breeding or insemination and/or will allow the separation of pregnant and open females for differential management. When fetal numbers can be determined as part of the pregnancy diagnosis, different feeding regimes can be applied to single and multiple litter bearing females.

To be most useful to the producer, pregnant animals need to be identified as early as possible in gestation and provide an estimate of fetal numbers. A variety of approaches have been explored for the early detection of pregnancy and possibly fetal numbers. Techniques have either focused on the detection of physical changes resulting from pregnancy (fluid accumulation and presence of a detectable fetus) through palpation and ultrasound, or been concerned with the identification of maternal and fetal physiological signals (progesterone, uterine proteins) associated with pregnancy. The most promising technique currently available for pregnancy diagnosis in the goat is the use of real-time ultrasound scanning. The arrival of lower cost, portable veterinary scanners, combined with the advantages of their use (fetal number determination, minimal animal restraint, high throughput), has made the application of this technology economically feasible on the farm level. Transcutaneous real-time ultrasonography allows reliable pregnancy diagnosis as early as 35 days of gestation, whereas transrectal examination will reduce this period further to 25 days. Ultrasound examination can be expanded through the application of fetometry, allowing the aging of the fetus. Guidelines for fetal aging have been developed for the goat, using biparietal diameter as the main measurement. Linear array and sector scanners are available for use in transcutaneous ultrasonography and 5 and 7.5 MHz linear transducers can be used for transrectal examinations. The latter can also be successfully employed for the examinations of ovarian structures. In view of the versatility and benefits provided by the real-time ultrasonography, many of the other techniques will find only limited application for routine diagnostic purposes. The use of A- and B-mode and Doppler sound ultrasonic devices has now been succeeded by the real-time linear array and sector scanners. Techniques using hormonal or metabolic (i.e. blood glucose) signals have not found widespread use in small ruminants. With the introduction of animal-side testing for blood and/or milk progesterone by enzymeimmunoassay and the validation of these techniques for goats, the turn-around time for laboratory analysis has been reduced. However, progesterone and estrogen determinations for pregnancy diagnosis should not be expected to find wide-spread application.

Success to predict litter size from progesterone and estrogen concentrations has only been moderate (around 60%) and is confounded by breed differences.

This article was taken from:

Meat Goat Production and Marketing Handbook

Sponsored by

Rural Economic Development Center

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and

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Money Saving tip – Paper Towels on Sale

After a big holiday, the grocery stores will put all of the holiday printed paper towels on major sale. This is a great time to load up on them! I use the single ply towels to wash and dry udders on my milkers before milking, and this uses A LOT of towels. Right after Halloween of 2003, I bought 2 whole shopping carts of printed towels at a huge discount and I am still using them. What a deal!!

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**This Month's Quiz...**

Feeds and Feeding...

Maintenance requirements used for basal metabolism (to maintain body temperature and support vital functions) and for physical activity require:

1. more energy than protein OR
2. require more protein than energy.

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Have you ever heard of a Geep?

Although sheep and goats seem similar and can be mated together, any offspring are generally stillborn due to chromosome mismatch (sheep have 54, goats have 60). At Botswana Ministry of Agriculture, a ram housed with a female goat impregnated the goat and a live offspring was produced with 57 chromosomes. Although often cited as a hybrid, the famous "geep" is not a true goat/sheep hybrid, but was a laboratory experiment which fused a sheep embryo with a goat embryo (a type of animal called a chimera). For more on the "Geep" visit <http://members.aol.com/jshartwell/hybrid-mammals.html> which is where I got this information. Fascinating!

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Answer to the January Quiz:

Maintenance requires much more energy than protein; contrarily, growth and pregnancy (particularly the last 6-8 wks) require more protein than energy.

**Helpful hint:**

A thirteen-ounce coffee can hold one pound of goat feed (depending on it's texture). This is very helpful when you are trying to measure how much food you are giving your goats.

Example: If the bag of goat feed says feed 1-2 pounds of feed per day, you can easily measure the feed with the coffee can. I would suggest dividing the feed up into two feedings instead of one. Feeding twice a day allows for more efficient utilization of the feed and less waste.

That's all for this month, ...

See you next month!!

## *Leslie, The Goat Source*

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