



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 3 Number 7 July 2006*

Here is your July issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Independence Day is bitter sweet for me as it is the day my Mom passed away 14 years ago. We always made a big celebration with lots of food, friends, and fireworks. I approach this 4th of July with reflections of years past and anticipation of the good times we are sure to have in the future!

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Traveling with your goats
- This Month's Quiz...
- Got Goat's Milk?
- Classified Ads
- Answer to the July Quiz
- Helpful Hints

Traveling with Your Goats

Summer is here and with it show season. It is up to you to make traveling with your goats trouble free and safe. Preparation can make all the difference between a disaster and an easy journey.

Your vehicle should be in tip top shape. Get the oil changed and the tires rotated (or replaced). Check your spare tire for air pressure. Take care of all the filters, and fluids that need tending. A good bath and cleaning will make traveling much more pleasant. Carry a first aid kit for both you and your goats and your vehicle. I usually put windshield washer fluid, oil, antifreeze, brake fluid and paper towels behind the seat along with a small set of tools and a pair of jumper cables. A portable air compressor (a gift from a friend) sits quite nicely there, too! Make sure you have a lug wrench and jack.

Take care of your trailer maintenance at the same time. Check the lights and the brakes and grease the springs (Mine has grease zerks at various places). A shot of light weight molybdenum grease works fine. If you don't use a trailer, but prefer a camper shell, check all the windows and screens. Tighten the clamps and check the back latch.

I have seen goats carried in all types of rigs, some of them down right bizarre! Air flow is a big concern, especially in this hot weather. Goats will overheat quickly in an enclosed trailer or camper. You want the air to circulate, but not beat on the animals. If you must use an open stock rack, a tarp can be tied on for a wind and sun shade. It must be securely fastened so it doesn't flap and so the goats can't chew on it. Beware of sunburn, especially with newly clipped animals.

Bedding should be put down so the goats have secure footing. Remember, they don't have hands to hold on when you go around a curve! Straw over sand or old carpeting works great. If you use carpeting, be ready to give it a good washing or discard it after you get home. If you are traveling a long way, have some means to offer water to the goats when you stop for a break. Home water is best if you can haul it along. If not, some goats will drink flavored water if you have gotten them used to it. Experiment with different flavors – some electrolyte solutions work well. As a last resort, I once almost had to buy bottled water! Fortunately, the water in the horse barn next door had good water. I spent the entire weekend hauling my goats water from the next door barn.

Get a free copy of a worksheet that I have found handy – a list of things to take to the show here: [Show List](#) It is a word document so you can edit it to fit your special needs. Goats are very easy travelers. Going to the summer shows will be a fun, stress free experience, if you take the time to prepare!

This Month's Quiz

What disease organism causes brucellosis in goats?

GOT GOAT'S MILK?

The goat is often called “The Poor Man's Cow” but I like to think of my goats as a smaller more compact and efficient substitute for a milk cow. Many benefits have been attributed to goat's milk, so let us take a look at the composition and compare it to cow's milk.

Fat Content

Cow's milk contains about 8 to 9 grams fat per 8 ounces milk compared to 10 grams in goat's milk. Most cows' milk that is consumed is produced commercially, while goat's milk is commonly produced and consumed on the farm of origin. Commercial milk is usually standardized for fat content, so that you can get skim, 2%, or whole (4%) milk. Goat's milk can vary widely depending on feeding practices, stage of lactation and breed. I raise Nubians and they tend to have higher fats than some of the Swiss breeds, such as Sannen, Toggs or Alpines. Goat's milk does not contain agglutinin which causes the fat in cow's milk to clump together and rise to the top quickly. The fat globs in goat's milk are slightly smaller and more fragile, and more easily digested by some people. The fatty acids in goat's milk are short-chain and medium-chain types and also are easily digested.

Lactose

Goat's milk is not free of lactose (milk sugar) although it contains slightly lower levels of lactose than cow's milk, which may make it tolerated by people that are intolerant of high levels of lactose.

Proteins

Goat milk protein forms a softer curd than cow's milk and is more easily digested. Goat's milk contains only trace amounts of an allergenic casein protein, alpha-S1, found in cow's milk. Goat's milk casein is more similar to human milk, yet cow's milk and goat's milk contain similar levels of the other allergenic protein, beta lactoglobulin. Goat's milk may also be better tolerated by persons with allergies. This is not the result of scientific study but rather, observation by generations of people who drink goat's milk.

. Minerals

Goat's milk contains 13 % more calcium, 25 % more vitamin B-6, 47 % more vitamin A, 134 % more potassium, and three times more niacin than cow's milk. It is also four times higher in copper. Goat's milk also contains 27% more of the antioxidant selenium than cow's milk. Goat's milk is deficient in folic acid and Vitamin B-12.

All over the world, there are many people who already know the benefits of fresh, whole goat's milk firsthand. I like my goat's milk because it is good – and it is good for you!!

Classified Ads...

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](#)

[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!
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Answer to the July Quiz:

Brucella melitensis is the organism that causes brucellosis in goats and sheep and can cause abortion, retained placenta and, to a lesser extent, impaired fertility. While not common in the US, this disease causes problems in some developing countries. See <http://www.fao.org/AG/againfo/subjects/en/health/diseases-cards/brucellosi-ov.html> for more information.

Helpful hints:

When I am giving my CDT vaccinations to my bottle babies, I do it while they are eating their bottles. They don't even notice the shot! I have my syringes all prepared so I can work quickly.

Keep a container of good hand lotion (I use the [Cross-A Ranch](#) lotion, it's the best!) in the milk barn and use it on your girls udders. Great for chapping and minor cuts and nicks, and your hands will like it, too!

Carry an extra collar or two along when you haul your goats, just in case one breaks.

I always use sunscreen on my newly clipped goats. I like the kind that goes on colored and then blends in, so you know just where it has been applied. Prevents having to show a irritable and peeling goat!

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

Leslie, The Goat Source

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