



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 4 Number 7 July 2007*

Here is your July issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Here at The Goat Source, we are having some exciting new changes! We have a forum!! Please join us – the link is on the home page of the website, upper left corner. Sign up and join the fun! We also are busy updating the Resource Guide and adding a brand new membership and affiliate program!! On the home front, Giraffe, my old doe that I thought wasn't pregnant – well now she really isn't!! She had one tiny, black buck, just as cute as a button, I call him Nibblet! Mom and baby are doing fine. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Changes Coming To The Goat Source
- This Month's Quiz...
- STAMPEDE! by Connie S. Reynolds
- Classified Ads
- Identifying Weeds
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- Helpful Hints

Changes coming to The Goat Source!

We are one step closer to opening our membership area! It will be priced at a very affordable \$10 for a Gold membership. You will get a copy of the Resource Guide (newly updated by the time I get everything up and running!) and many other bonus items! There will be an affiliate program allowing you to sell Goat Source products and get a commission for them. The details are still being worked out. I will let you know as

soon as I get everything done! Don't worry – the Goat Source Newsletter will still be available as a FREE resource for you, my valued subscriber!!

This Month's Quiz..

What are Cyanogenetic Plants and what do they have to do with goats?

STAMPEDE!

by

Connie S. Reynolds

<http://www.autumnfarmboers.com>

Ravenswood, WV

Each group of weanlings can be so different in attitude. This year's Jan./Feb. girls, even at two months of age, tended to stampede. The least little thing and they would just fly off the handle and stampede. In June, they are still stampeding.

You might think what kind of harm can a group of twenty-two little girls do to you when they stampede. Well, you are in fear of your knees when they decide to stampede through you, and they can easily take the feet right out from under you.

But, besides that, hearing the stampede of eighty-eight little hooves heading right for you, it makes the hairs on the back of your neck just stand on end. Maybe it's all those years of watching westerns and seeing hundreds of cattle stampede, horses stampede, buffalo stampede on television that just preconditions you to want to go running for your life too. Even if they are just a bunch of cute little Boer weanlings.

Why this little group stampedes so much is beyond me. Twice a day, when I give them a little grain for breakfast and supper, they stand tightly at the gate of the feeding area, impatiently waiting for me to put out their grain in the hanging feeders (six inch PVC pipes cut in half), and to open the gate.

They are pressed tight at the gate and hollering and when I swing that gate open, then the charge is on. They shoot past the feeders and don't stop until they hit the fence at the end of the feeding area, and then they bounce back and fan out to the feeders, having to double back every time to get to the ones they had just shot past. No kid peels away from the herd to a waiting feeder, they just stay tightly together until they hit the fence at the end.

Now I don't know if this is because they have got so revved up at the gate that when they burst through the ones in front are afraid to slow down, afraid they will get run over, and the ones in the back are afraid they are being left behind, and the ones in the middle know they had better put the pedal to the metal or they are going to be sandwich spread. Whatever it is, they stay tightly packed, charge ahead, hit the fence at the end, and then spread out to gobble down the feed in the many feeders.

One little girl actually had a thought of her own once and peeled away from the stampeding herd as it went through the gate and started to immediately eat, and just couldn't take it. She stopped eating, whirled around in a circle twice and caught up to the herd to hit the fence at the end with them, and then she went to eat at the first feeder she had been tempted with.

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It sort of reminds you of that old spaghetti western, My Name is Nobody, made in 1974. There's a mob of bad guys in this western that is always riding at a dead run. I don't remember them ever stopping, maybe they did at the end, after all it's been at least thirty-three years since I've seen it, but those little girls remind me of that group of stampeding riders that keep appearing throughout the film. Everything is done at a dead run.

Walking in the barnyard, one of the girls can snort loudly to only clean out her nose, and before you can say "Whoa", those little girls will band up tight and be in a dead run. They don't know where they are going, but they are getting away. Several yards later, they run out of steam, after all nothing is really chasing them, and they'll stop, mill around, and say, "Well, I didn't get ate. That was a successful run."

They do this out in the pasture, up on the hillside, down in the barnyard, going to their grain, and heaven help you if you are standing in the middle of them, petting and talking baby talk to them and they get scared over something. They swoop in tight around you and start running. It's like trying to keep on your feet in a violently moving wave.

And, if you are standing in the path that they prefer while they are stampeding, Oh My. Having all those little bodies pound into your knees. I just hunker down a little to protect the knees as they rebound off me. You learn real fast to leap behind trees, buildings, and just forget about trying to out run them. They double their speed because they think the booger chasing them must be really bad, if you are running! I laugh at them all the time, as long as I am no where near them to make them stampede.

I have a new group of weanlings just about ready to be put out in the stampeding herd. I just wonder how this will go. These girls are laid back. They really don't care if it snows oats. They firmly believe that the world is a safe place to live in. Either they are going to have a rude awakening when the other girls stampede, or the stampeders are going to have a rude awakening when they fall over little girls who are not afraid. My continuous stampeders are definitely going to be quite surprised when they run into girls who don't run. I want to make sure I'm standing behind a building for this one.

THE END

Classified Ads...



Celebrate Independence day with this adorable teddy bear from The Goat Source Shirt Shop! He's "**Proud to be an American**"!!

Look for more shirts, caps and totes at <http://www.cafepress.com/goatsource>! Remember, I can customize any of the items in my shop. Also available are bumper stickers, cups, baby apparel. Buy a custom item and get your farm name imprinted on the back at no extra charge!! Discount for ordering three or more items at one time. Larger quantities will get a larger discount – ideal for prizes for the summer shows!

Computerized recordkeeping for your goats –Easy and affordable software for goat keepers! **The Goat Keepers Notebook**

<http://www.goatsoftware.com/affiliates/idevaffiliate.php?id-127>

Here's a cool tool - You'll never need another ladder! It's the **BIG LADDER STORE**

<http://www.bigladderstore.com/cgi-bin/affiliates/clickthru.cgi/applegoat>

Here is a good PDF on identifying weeds – Identifying and Managing 25 Pasture Weeds of Wisconsin <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/add.pastureweeds.pdf>

Answer to the July Quiz:

Cyanogenetic Plants contain, under certain conditions, prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid), a deadly poison which interferes with the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood. Death in these cases is usually rapid and with little outward symptoms. Members of the prunus family of plants, especially wild cherries, are dangerous. Peaches, plums and other stone fruits belong to this group of plants. Wilting of the green leaves caused by frost, storm damage, or by cutting, changes a glucoside found in the leaves to hydrocyanic acid (HCN) and sugar. The sweet, wilted leaves are thus more attractive to animals than normal foliage. HCN content varies widely; but under some conditions a few handfuls of leaves may be enough to kill a horse or cow. This type of poisoning should be suspected when sudden death of animals follows windstorms or early sharp frosts. These leaves apparently lose their poison after they have become dry; the limp, green or partially yellowed leaves are the most dangerous. Sudan grass and sorghums are also cyanogenetic plants. These plants are usually deadly when damaged or frozen. Aftermath sprouts following an early frost are particularly dangerous. Very little sudan grass poisoning occurs from animals trampling down plants and later eating them although this is often listed as dangerous. In dry weather, sudan grass is often pastured to the ground without ill effects. After sudan grass has been repeatedly frozen and the plants are completely dead, it is safe but not very valuable for pasture.

Excerpt from Extension Handbook from the National Agriculture Library

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Helpful hints:

In the pens where I don't have automatic waterers, I use a large, flat backed bucket with a bail. I weave a flat stick through the fence and the bail so that the goats can't tip the bucket over. The stick is easily removed to clean the bucket.

Something I had done this spring and was a topic of discussion in the forum – innovative housing using an old camper shell. Take the back door off and fasten the shell to some landscaping timbers to raise it up and keep it from tipping over. Make sure it is sturdy enough in case the goats jump on the top. I had sheep in mine and it wasn't a problem as they didn't jump up.

Most of the big scoops sold for feed are made for cow and horse feed, and are too large for the amount you feed to your goats. They are also heavy and hard on the wrists. I use coffee cans – the one pound and two pound ones are perfect for my feed mix. Experiment with different scoops until you find something that holds exactly that amount of feed you need. Many stores have inexpensive scoops in their pet or cookware departments. Fill them with feed, dump it on a scale and see how close you can come to the right size for the amount you feed.

Here are some words to live by – **Grandpas Country Wisdom**

<http://www.boergoats.com/clean/articleleads.php?art=491>

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

Leslie, The Goat Source

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