



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 4 Number 3 March 2007*

Here is your March issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Well, March is coming in like a lion – a windy one at that! Anything that was not picked up and latched down is in Kansas now. Some of my Nubians look like they want to be the Flying Nun. What fun!! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Can You Make Money Raising Goats?
- This Month's Quiz...
- Classified Ads
- Answer to the March Quiz
- Product Recommendation - Hoof Trimmers That Work!
- Nigerian Investments by Connie Reynolds
- Helpful Hints

Can You Make Money Raising Goats?

You have had goats for awhile now and just love them. You have sold a few kids and are thinking “easy money.” How about quitting your day job and doing what you love – Let’s raise goats! Whoa!! Let’s think about this for a minute before doing something rash!!

I have seen many people get into goats, get too many goats and burn out from work overload in a short time. Many of them were ones who wanted to start a business raising goats. What went wrong? And can you really make money raising goats?

The first thing you need to do is sit down and write out a plan. Answer a few basic questions and go from there.

- What are your goals?
- What kind of goats do you want to raise?
- How many goats will you have to keep to support your family?
- What kind of market is present in your area?
- What facilities do you have available?
- If you don't have facilities, how much money will be required to provide them?
- Can you treat your goats as a business investment? They are not pets in a business.
- Are you physically able to do all the work that will need to be done, and if not, can you hire the labor needed?
- What permits will you need?
- Is your land zoned properly?
- What kind of record keeping will you need for tax purposes?
- Do you feel comfortable with both the business end and the livestock end of a farm based business?

These are just some of the questions you will need to answer. Raising goats can be a rewarding lifestyle and, under the right circumstances, a profitable business, but you must make realistic decisions based on hard facts, not just dreams. Taking care of one hundred goats is a lot different than caring for one or two does and their kids. Conditions vary year to year. What is profitable this year may not be next year. So go ahead, get a business plan written down and see just what the numbers tell you. Talk to other people in the goat business and see what their experiences have been.

Here are some websites to visit for more information:

<http://www.newfarm.org/features/2006/0306/paintedhand/miller.shtml>

<http://www.txfb.org/TexasAgriculture/2006/060206/060206goats.htm>

<http://whitehousegoats.com/money.html>

This Month's Quiz...

What is entropion?

Classified Ads...

Great Holiday Presents for the Goat Person in Your Life!! Check them Out Here – [St. Patrick's Day Goats!](#) Fun T-shirts, tote bags, coffee mugs and more!!

Learn about raising animals, gardening and making your own bread!! [Click Here](#) Learn how to say "Good-bye" to city life!

Computerized recordkeeping for your goats – [The Goatbreeders Notebook](#)
Easy to use and affordable for the small herd.

Answer to the March Quiz:

Entropion is a condition affecting newborn kids and lambs – the eyelid is inverted and the eyelashes rub against the eye. This condition is considered a genetic defect and animals with it should not be kept for breeding stock. Carefully observe the newborns eyes. If the eyelid is

turned inward, flip it out and see if it stays. Sometimes it will stay with no further attention, other times it may require a veterinarian to surgically fix it.

Here are some websites for a more detailed explanation:

http://www.quintillion.com/sheepbreeders2/reader/1999/jan_1.html

<http://www.danekeclublambs.com/Entropion.html>

Some people recommend injecting penicillin in the lid to roll it outward. Aside from the fact that I am uncomfortable waving needles around a squirming kid's eyes, I have found sometimes I can correct the problem by putting a small amount of petroleum jelly on the inside of the lid, with my finger, and rolling it outward. This doesn't always work, but gives the kid a small amount of relief from the irritation, until your vet can fix it.

Product Recommendation - Hoof Trimmers That Work!

I just got a new pair of hoof trimmers and I have to say I wish I had bought these babies years ago!! They are the Felco Sheep Hoof Shears carried by NASCO. They are a bit pricey – 50\$ but worth every penny. They have a one-year warranty, are adjustable (the key for this is enclosed in the package) and the blades can be replaced. I have a buck with extremely hard feet and I have always struggled with trimming him. I have tried almost every other kind of trimmer and none are as good as the Felco. The thing I like most about them (besides the really SHARP blades) is the comfy handle. It fits my hand and rotates as you trim, preventing the blisters that I always used to get with the other kinds of hoof nippers I have used. I highly recommend this product!!

As an aside – because of the sharp pointy blades on hoof trimmers – please make sure **you** are up to date on **your** tetanus shot! I stabbed myself right through my gloves with the pointy end of dirty hoof trimmers several years ago. OUCH!!

Nigerian Investments

by Connie S. Reynolds

Lately I have been receiving one or two emails a week concerning rich Nigerian citizens wanting to invest in my goat business. Evidently, worldwide, they have heard about my ability to make vast amounts of money on goats. Ever since I was a kid I've always had this business sense. I can remember my mom looking at purchases I had made at the store and asking, "What's wrong with you?!" She was probably trying to figure out where my sharp business acuity came from.

One email came from a sad Nigerian widow who had just last year lost her husband. He had something to do with the government. After he had died suddenly, some business deal he was working on for the Russians came through. The kind Russian government, realizing the financial plight widows can get into, gave her the payment her husband would have received, had he lived. Now she had eighty million dollars and wanted to make sure she invested it wisely to have enough to do her into her old age.

And, where else could she be sure of a wise investment, but with my goat business! Right away I saw she had the same business sense I had. And, how right she was to want to trust me with her eighty million. What could be more profitable than goats?

Later that week I received another email, only this was from a Nigerian doctor. Evidently he had heard this widow was onto a good thing and wanted to join in. He only had twenty million to invest. I was certainly sympathetic to him, as I've had to work with less money,

too. Just because he only had twenty million, I was not going to be prejudiced. They both must have heard about my not too badly leaning buildings, fencing held frugally together with pieces of barbed wire and electric wire, and the skillful way I can sell my kids and impress the most hardhearted bookkeeper. I can sell a kid for \$45-55 and only have \$90 maintenance in his mother, plus another \$15 in the kid after he's been here a few weeks. I can go to a sale and bid against myself and still come home with the goat. I can bring home several does, feed them up to a glossy show shine, and sell them for much less than I paid for them. I don't know. It's just a gift I have. And, finally this gift is paying off. My reputation has reached Nigeria.

With the first million I believe I'll put in one of those fancy swimming pools. It will be perfect to rinse my barn boots off in before going into the house. With enough chlorine added, all new visitors can dip their shoes too to keep from bringing any diseases onto the place.

Then, I'm going to put one of those fancy town vet's on payroll. Anytime any worming or foot trimming needs to be done, I'll call him and let a professional wrestle around with my goats. He'll be particularly handy during kidding time. I'll just leave him at the barn to handle all kidding. It's only good business sense to make sure I get all live kids. While he's out there, he might as well clean a few stalls, too, waiting for the next doe to kid. Gotta get the most for my money. See, good business sense.

All of our old antique farm equipment will have to go. We will definitely need a 4-wheel drive John Deere tractor with air conditioning, heat, CD and cassette player, TV, DVD player, phone, and one of those super padded seats with arm rests. Also, a computerized round baler that does everything and you just go along for the ride. Sometimes you need to square bale, so a new John Deere, top of the line, square baler should be enough to make do. A brand new bobcat will be needed to clean barns, I'm sure the vet will appreciate using it while waiting for the does to kid.

We will also need a one ton dually truck with more than the stuff that's in the tractor and also an air-conditioned and heated stock trailer to haul the goats in. Where we are going with them, I haven't a clue, but we'll be ready. An international business must always be prepared.

I believe I'll need to hire one of those publicity agents to promote the farm. Possibly put on payroll a professional photographer to take pictures of me with my goats. Why be satisfied with international fame? You should always try to improve yourself.

The barns definitely need heat in the winter. Those big cracks between the boards can whistle through quite a draft. Adding a furnace and ductwork, registers, and a good blower will warm the place up very nicely, especially if I keep the furnace working day and night. That should fight back the cold air from the two-inch cracks in the boards.

Okay, I have a few things down on the list now, but I've got to get back to work doing goat business stuff. I just read in the paper that someone is having a sacrifice Boer sale. Looks like they are selling their older, 18 years old, Boer does at sacrificial prices of \$5000 each. With my glib tongue, I bet I can get them down to \$4950 each. I'd better hurry before they are all gone. Oh, and while I'm going through town I can drop off at the post office the \$10,000 my investors need to get the millions sent over to me. Happy goating everyone.

autumnfarmsboers.com

Connie Reynolds
Autumn Farm
Ravenswood, WV

Helpful hints:

The floor in the barn where I feed my kids is dusty and the kids kick up a lot of dust. Not good for me or them to breathe! I put down a large piece of old carpet padding in the traffic area. It cuts the dust and if it gets to gross, I can replace it easily.

I keep a folding lawn chair by the baby pen in the barn. When I have to feed a “lap baby,” I can do it in comfort! It can be folded up and hung on the wall when not in use.

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

Leslie, The Goat Source

The Goat Source
13611 NCR 9
Wellington, Co 80549
(970) 568-9622
www.goatsource.com
goatsource9@cowisp.net