



The Goat Source

May 2005 Vol. 2, No. 5

Here is your May issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Spring has sprung and it is snowing off and on. I had to turn the automatic waterer heaters back on and I am burning a fire in the trusty wood stove. All my "graduated babies" are back in the nursery pen in the barn. If you don't like the weather - wait 5 minutes!! After 5 years of drought, I am grateful for the moisture, but I wish it would RAIN - NOT Snow!!!

What's News This Month...

- Summer is coming - Saddle up those Pack Goats!!
- The Common Milk Crate - Reincarnated - as Hay Feeder...
- Milk Crate as water bucket holder...
- Milk Crate as grain pan holder...
- This Month's Quiz...
- Spring Things...

Summer is coming - Saddle up those Pack Goats!!

With the coming of spring, it's time to get ready for those trips into the high country with your pack goats. But wait - while you have been going to the health club and keeping fit have you been doing the same for your goats? After a long winter, even the best of us can be out of shape, goats included.

Putting a big pack on an out of shape goat and expecting him to "go for it" is not a good idea! Think how you would feel if you sat around for 6 -8 months and then hopped an 80 pound pack five or six miles. Not good is my bet!!

Take a good look at your equipment, also. Check for worn and frayed straps, missing or loose pieces, or holes, etc. Make sure everything is clean, fixed and in order for you first trip of the year.

Check out these Pack Goat Links These are some of the many good places to look for information about training and conditioning your goats.

<http://www.napga.org/> North American Packgoat Association

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/packgoat> Pack Goat Discussion Group

<http://www.goatworld.com/breeds/packgoats.shtml> Goat World Pack Goat Page

The Common Milk Crate Reincarnated as...

Hay Feeder – Use in the baby kid pen with a flake of hay. It’s down at kid level and they will nibble on it out of curiosity. Or, put it in with an ill doe or in the kidding pen where there is not regular feeder.

Water Bucket Holder – Putting a water bucket in a small pen usually winds up with a spilled mess and wet bedding. Place the bucket into a milk crate that is wired to the pen and it won’t spill and is easy to remove to fill.

Grain Pan Holder – Put a small grain pan (the kind that hangs on the fence) in the milk crate and it isn’t as easy for the doe to spill it.

May Quiz

How do I tell if my goat is pregnant?

Spring Things

Spring is clean up time around the farm. I have spent the last week cleaning tumbleweeds out of the fences. They blow into the fence and pack up around the posts. If you don't clean them out periodically, they will knock the fence down!! What a pest!! The goats will actually eat some of them, but there are so many, they can't keep up with them. I need an automatic fence cleaner or something that eats more of them, faster!!



Answer to the May Quiz...

Columbine CT Anfa - Due May 7, 2005

That's all for now!! See you next month....

Leslie, The Goat Source

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