



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 3 Number 11 November 2006*

Here is your November issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Breeding season is in full swing. My boys are busy! I am looking forward to drying the does off and taking a rest from milking!

The wind has been blowing big time out here – it's tossing the cinder blocks off of my haystack that I put on the tarp. We have gotten some snow but really do need MORE!

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

What's New This Month?

- Vacationing From/With Your Goats
- This Month's Quiz...
- Classified Ads
- Answer to the November Quiz
- Helpful Hints

Vacationing With/From Your Goats

When you have livestock, taking a vacation can be a major undertaking. I have found there are two kinds of vacations – those you take **with** your goats and those you take **from** your goats!

Back when I was showing my goats, when I left home, all of the milkers had to go with me. I had no choice, as I had no one who would milk for me at home. This effectively limited my milking herd to six does. This was all I cared to milk as well as all I could stuff in my little

pickup truck. I, then, would have to find someone to take care of all the animals left at home. If you don't have milking animals, this usually isn't a problem.

Taking a vacation (from) without your goats can be more difficult. A few years ago, I got a chance to go to Alaska for three weeks. All my does were still milking, so this presented a challenge! I finally decided to dry them all off. I sold all the calves that were on milk, dried the does off, and got my neighbor to come over twice a day to feed. This presents a completely new list of problems. No one takes care of your animals like you do. The challenge is to make a list of chores that includes everything. Things that you do as a matter of course need to be broken down into steps.

Making a list of your chores needs to include all of the animals, their locations, descriptions, how much of what each animal gets and where it is located. Don't forget the all-important location of the feed – I once spent about a half an hour looking for the cat food for a friend's kitty. She told me how much and when but not WHERE! It helps if your feed containers are labeled clearly.

The master list that I make has a simple map showing the locations of the pens and they are numbered or named. The feeding list starts where I normally start my chores, listing how many goats are in each pen, who they are (numbered neck chains are great for this) and how much of each type of feed they get, any medications they get and any incidentals about the goat. Each pen is listed.

Dogs and cats have their own section as well as any garden or greenhouse needs. I try to have all the needed buckets and such sitting in one place for the chore person. One page of the list is devoted to emergency instructions. I include a contact person if I will not be available and my vet's number. This sounds like overkill but better safe...

An easy way to do this is to set up the list on your computer in a program like Word. Save the list and every time you need it, update it. Some sections won't have to be changed at all and others will change with the season. Print out a copy for the chore person, and a spare copy in case someone eats the first copy (this does happen, trust me!).

Actually finding someone to do the chores may be the real trick! Professional pet sitters are fine as long as they have experience with livestock. They can be pricey but are used to doing this kind of work and generally are reliable. Your local 4-H or goat club may have a goat person that will chore for you. You may be able to trade chores with them. If they chore for pay, the price is almost always reasonable.

Make your chores easy to do both for you and for your chore person. It will pay off in the long run and you both will be happier as will your goats! Everything should be clean and organized. If possible, have a time set for the chore person to come over and go over all of the chores with you so you can answer any questions. Then, you can go on your vacation worry free!!

Judging for the Online Goat show is open until November 1 – Results will be posted on the forum as soon as all judging is finished.

Thanks to all of you who completed the survey that I put on my website – I will try and get the results put in next month’s newsletter. If you haven’t filled it out, please do. Get a free gift just for filling it out. Help me make the newsletter more useful to you! [Click Here](#)

This Month's Quiz: What is mucopolysaccharidosis IIID, or G-6-Sulfase deficiency?

Classified Ads...

Recordkeeping for your goats the easy way – [The Goatbreeders Notebook](#)

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

Get Yer Goat had new calendars out – Check them Out Here - [2007 Goat Calendars & Goat T-Shirts and Gifts](#)

Answer to the November Quiz:

G-6-S (The short name) is a recently discovered genetic defect in Nubian goats. “The affected goats lack an enzyme (G-6-S) and this results in a variety of symptoms of varying severity. The main symptom exhibited by affected goats is failure to grow. Sometimes the kid is smaller than normal at birth, and grows slowly. Some breeders have reported kids, which grew normally for the first three months and then stopped growing. Other affected goats grow to what appears to be normal size but is in fact small for the particular bloodlines. They lack muscle mass, appear "slab-sided", sometimes with blocky heads. Immune function appears to be compromised, and sometimes they become deaf or blind. The longest-lived goat known to be G-6-S affected died at just under four years of age, and death is usually due to heart failure. Unfortunately affected animals can and do grow up to breed, although they often experience reproductive problems.” Quote from an article by Dagny Vidinish. For the full article go here: <http://hometown.aol.com/goatlist/g6s.htm>

Helpful hints:

I have a plug in coffee cup warmer in the barn. I use it to set my teat dip on while I’m milking to keep it from being ice cold. The milkers sure don’t like teat dip with ice cubes in it!

That's all for this month,...

See you next month!!

Leslie, The Goat Source

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