



The Goat Source

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Hello , Here is your November issue of The Goat Source News. Thanks for subscribing!

I have joined several fun and informative groups on Yahoo. There are groups for almost any interest you might have. I enjoy chatting with people from all over the world – they have the same interests but different perspectives.

Breeding season is in full swing – half of my does have been bred and I hope the other half comes in heat soon!!

What's News This Month...

- Breeding Bucks and Safety
- Crafts for the Winter Months
- Quiz of the month...
- Classified Advertising
- Answer to the Quiz
- Hints and Tips

Breeding Bucks and Safety

Goats are the ideal animal for a small homestead in that they are much smaller than a cow and easier to handle. However, “smaller” is relative! A mature breeding buck can weigh in at over 200 pounds or more. Some bucks become extremely aggressive when in rut. Other bucks are just as mellow as can be. You need to know how your buck behaves and prepare to handle him so that no one gets hurt.

I have one buck that is mellow all year and turns into a raving nut case during breeding season. I have to be careful when I have a doe in heat in with him. He will do anything to keep me away from the doe. My other buck doesn't care if I am in the pen or not.

Dress appropriately – heavy boots and coveralls are good. Light gloves to protect your hands will help. After a session with a buck in full rut, I can almost guarantee that you will need to wash everything that came in contact with him. Make sure both animals have collars on. Carry a short double ended lead to use as a lead rope. If you have help, that is great. One person can run the gate and the other one can shuffle animals. I always take the doe to the buck. I tease her through the gate (a really stout gate I might add) to see if she is in good heat. If she is, I turn her in with the buck and let him breed her twice if he will. Taking the doe out can get tricky. With an aggressive buck, I will catch him with the lead rope and tie him up, then remove the doe. If the buck is mellow, I will run the doe out the gate and just cut him off at the gate. Use caution with any breeding buck – they can hurt you without even trying very hard. Consider culling any buck with a really nasty temperament – it is heritable and his daughters may be just as nuts as he is!

Never turn your back on a buck. They can move very quickly. If you know a buck is very aggressive, carry a short stick (a cut off shovel handle is great) about 1 ½' feet long. Bonk him (gently) on the nose if he gets threatening. You are not trying to hurt him, just make him back off. If you are caught in the middle of the pen without your stick, try this – spit in his face. I know it sounds dumb but it works on some bucks. I have had a very aggressive buck, that was out to hurt me, back off when I spit on him and yelled loudly. Do not make the mistake of thinking just because you raised him, he won't hurt you.

Use your common sense and have a safe and productive breeding season!

Crafts for the Winter Months

With the coming of the winter months, things start to slow down (at least a little). Now is the time to plan for the crafty things you never have time to do in the summer.

I have two herd signs that I made – both are simple, inexpensive and will look really nice hanging over your tack pen during the next show season.

The first is a bread board with your herd logo wood burned on it and painted. Get a nice wooden bread board at the hobby and crafts shop. Copy your herd logo onto a sheet of paper about the size of the board and using carbon paper (or similar) trace the outline. Using a fine tip woodburning tool, go over the tracing, burning it into the board. Then, take a fine paint brush, and acrylic paint, color in the drawing. When it is dry, spray an acrylic sealer on it. Use a nice fine link chain to hang it.

The other sign is a sewing project. Basically it is a flag with your logo painted on it with fabric paint. Use weavers cloth or similar light weight, tightly woven cloth. Pick a color that compliments your logo and cut to size. Hem neatly and put brass grommets about 1 or 2 inches from the edge (three on top and bottom and one in the middle on each end. Enlarge your logo and trace onto the fabric. Paint and let dry. Glitter may be added as an accent in a couple of places, using white glue. This herd sign has the advantage of folding into a small package, for easy transport to shows. It can be tied up on your tack pen with colorful ribbons or you can make a frame for it out of pvc pipe with joints that come apart for easy storage.

Quiz for the Month...

What is Lutalyse™?

Classified Advertising

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Answer to the November Quiz...

LUTALYSE™ (dinoprost tromethamine) Sterile Solution is a dairy prostaglandin – used for synchronizing estrus, improving first-service pregnancy rates and returning the uterus to breeding condition. It requires the presence of a “corpus luteum” in order to work. LUTALYSE™ causes rapid regression of the CL and lowers levels of the hormone progesterone, which is produced by the CL. This drop in progesterone causes ovulation to occur, and estrus to be expressed. As with any drug, consult your vet before using!!

Hints and Tips:

Write heats and breeding dates down immediately before you forget them! Don't trust your memory. I use a calendar with big spaces and write who she was bred to, and if it was a good heat. This becomes part of each doe's permanent record.

Now is the time to start collecting names for the new babies. Keep a list of any interesting names you run into so you can refer to them when kidding starts. Look everywhere – newspapers, books, junk mail, etc. Keep in mind any naming schemes you use and search on the internet under those categories. I once had a series of names that started with “PF” – Pfox's Pfox, Pfoxes Pflux, and Pfluxes Pflax. It was fun and I knew who they came out of!!

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

Leslie, The Goat Source

P.S. Hope your Halloween was fun, and wishing you a cheery holiday season!!

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