



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 3 Number 10 October 2006*

Here is your October issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Fall is definitely in the air! The trees in the high country are almost completely turned and will soon begin to drop leaves big time. The higher mountains are cloaked in a skiff of snow, the first time it has been this early in several years!! My goats are beginning to come in heat, although I plan on waiting to breed most of them in mid to late November. Hope you are having a great fall season!

This month's issue will be short, because I am helping a friend do his chores while he is recovering from surgery. Double chores, and travel time = no computer time!! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Buying Animals at the Auction
 - This Month's Quiz...
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Buying Animals at the Auction

The first thing that comes to mind when people ask about getting goats at the auction is DON'T!! For many reasons, the first and foremost being disease, buying at an auction may

not be a good idea. If you don't know who is selling the animals and what kind of herd health practices they used, you may be dragging home all kinds of problems.

That said, there can be some great bargains to be had at the local sale barn. If you are not familiar with auctions, I recommend going to the regular sale and just sitting in for a few times, until you become used to the terms used and can understand the auctioneer. I love to attend sales just to see and hear the different styles of auctioneering. If you have a friend that is experienced in buying at auction, take them along to translate.

Animals may be sold "by the head" or "by the pound". Prices by the pound may be listed as the price per hundredweight. Pay careful attention as it makes a huge difference in the final price. If you aren't sure, don't bid until you find out. Don't be afraid to ask. In order to bid, you will need a buyer's number. You can get this at the office before the sale.

Walk through the yards before the sale and look at the animals offered. This gives you a close up so that you can see defects that may not be visible in the ring. Take note of the number assigned to the animal you are interested in, especially if they are not a memorable color.

Sometimes, an animal that you are interested in will be part of a group. There are several options for this possibility. You can ask if the auctioneer will "sell choice". This means that you bid on the animals as a single and the successful bidder can choose one or more of the group. If you are not the high bidder, you may get another chance at bidding on the group. However, the winner may take the whole group, or may take the animal you wanted. There are no guarantees! If the auctioneer chooses to sell the group as "gate cut", the winning bidder will say how many of the group they want. Then the ring man will open the gate and chase out however many the buyer wants. You don't get to pick and choose the animals, it's whoever runs out first!!

When bidding, you need to get the attention of the ring man. You don't need to make a big production out of it. Once they know you are bidding, they will watch you for further bids. Pay close attention to the auctioneer's chant. Don't bid right off when the bidding starts, as it usually starts high. Wait until you see if the price will come down. As an example, the bid may start at 50\$ and the auctioneer will see if anyone bids. If nobody does, he will come down to a lower price. The final price may be right about where he started, but if you had jumped right in, you probably would have paid more than you needed to. Just remember, if you're not bidding, don't wave at your neighbor or you may wind up buying something!!

After you successfully purchase your prize, wait a bit to give the office a chance to process the paperwork, then you can go and pay up. They will want to know your buyer's number and have you sign any necessary paperwork. You will get a bill of sale, any registration papers that were provided and a load out sheet. Take this to the load out chute and give it to the load out person. They will go and get your livestock. Keep all of your papers in a safe place, as the bill of sale will be required if you should resell your purchase. It is up to you to know and abide by the brand and health laws in your state.

Auctions can be fun and you can actually pick up some nice animals there, but you need to be aware that the animals that are sold at auction are there FOR A REASON! It may be health related, or the owner may be cutting back or moving. Some sales are “specials” such as production sales. Check it out before buying! If you walk around the yards, you may want to clean you shoes before going out to your animal pens. It pays to be safe and not sorry. Most of the time, you will not drag anything home, however there is always that chance. Remember – Buyer Beware!!

Check out this article - [They are getting their goats and 4-H kids are raising them](#) .

This Month's Quiz:

What is Cabrito?

Classified Ads...

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

Answer to the October Quiz:

The Spanish use this term referring to goat meat. Literally "little goat". Go to [Laffin K Goats](#) for some delicious cabrito recipes.

Helpful hints:

Keep a large coffee can with a lid for a “sharps” container. After you vaccinate, put your used needles (with the caps on) in this can. Contact your local landfill for proper disposal instructions.

That's all for this month,...

See you next month!!

Leslie, The Goat Source

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