



The Goat Source

October 2005 Vol. 2, No. 10

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

Summer seems to be gone or at least leaving fast!! Our nights are getting very cool. I will have to bring the tomatoes into the greenhouse pretty soon to keep them producing. The plum trees are beginning to change color – they are so pretty. I am constantly amazed at the gaudy show Mother Nature puts on every day. Our sunsets have been spectacular lately – purple, orange, silver and gold and flaming reds all at once. The goats are still producing well – we are feeding three calves with no problem. There is a lot of 3rd and 4th cutting hay available. The prices are pretty consistent – about 5\$ a bale for nice 60 – 70 # bales. The Goat Source Scavenger Hunt was fun – the winners will be announced in this newsletter.

What's News This Month...

- Are Livestock Guardian Dogs right for Your Herd?
- Winners for the Scavenger Hunt!!
- Quiz of the month...
- Classified Advertising
- New Pregnancy Test Available!!
- Answer to the Quiz
- Hints and Tips

Are Livestock Guardian Dogs Right For Your Herd?

Protecting our goats can be a challenging job at times. Good fencing helps keep the goats contained and predators out, but sometimes that is not enough. Maybe a livestock guardian dog is the answer to your problems. There are several breeds of dogs that are traditionally used to guard livestock. In the United States they are Great Pyrenees, Anatolian Shepherds, Akbash and Maremma. Other less common breeds are Kormondor, Kuvasz and Tibetan Mastif. As a rule these dogs are large and slow to mature, sometimes taking 2 ½ – 3 years to grow into adulthood. They need discipline, supervision, a firm hand and someone who is capable of being the “alpha” of the pack. You cannot just buy a puppy and turn it loose in the goat pen and expect good results!! An excellent site with links to various breeds, a wonderful library of articles and personal stories is <http://www.lgd.org/> Check out this resource if you think a guardian dog might be the answer to your predator problems!!

The Scavenger Hunt Is DONE!! And the winners are....

The September Scavenger Hunt is finished!! Here are the answers to the questions:

1. List a directory that The Goat Source is listed in.
www.Goatsites.biz (Goats Directory)
2. One of my favorite links that has goat meat recipes.
[Laffin K Goats](#)
3. What is the gestation period of a goat?
5 months from date of breeding
4. What does "[Heifer International](#)" do?
Works to end world hunger through the gift of farm animals and training.
5. How many kids did Anfa have? (hint – blog)
Triplets, one stillborn & remaining were a doe & a buck
6. Where is The Goat Source located?
www.goatsource.com (physical location is Wellington, Colorado)
7. What does [Castle Pine Soap](#) make (besides soap)?
skin care products (soaps, salves, and hand lotions) fabric creations
8. How much does it cost to subscribe to The Goat Source Newsletter?
Free via the web and 8\$ via “Snail mail”
9. What is a "cross-bred" goat?
A mix of two breeds, although some grade goats have more than 2 in their parentage.
10. What is the email address of The Goat Source?
goatsource9@cowisp.net

The Envelope please...

And the winners are ...

Everyone who entered got a free copy of “Cooking with Goat Products”

First entry – Tabitha Gruver

Last entry – Ken Hays

Tabitha and Ken both win a PDF copy of “Moon Jump” an illustrated story about the goat that jumped over the moon.

Grand Prize Winner and New owner of “Goatie” is...

Martha Tudgay

The Grand Prize winner was chosen by one of my goats – I put everyone’s name on a piece of paper, crumpled each one separately, tossed them on the milk room floor, and the first one that my 3 year old “Giraffe” picked up, was the winner. Random selection by goat!!

Thank you every one for your participation!!

Quiz for the Month...

Besides LGD (Livestock Guardian Dogs) what other animals have been used to protect goats and sheep?

Classified Advertising

Get the Goat Source Quick Course - a Beginner’s Crash Course in Basic Goat!!

<http://www.goatsource.com/Quick Course.htm>

New Pregnancy Test Available

The Western Farmer-Stockman reports that a new early pregnancy detection test is available from a company called Bio-Tracking. It is a simple blood test for pregnancy-specific protein B. The company claims to have nearly 100% accuracy on “open” cows and 91 to 95% on pregnant animals. The test works on cows, goats, sheep, bison, deer and elk. Read more at the Bio-Tracking website www.biotracking.com

Another pregnancy test is one for the presence of progesterone. It can be done with either blood or milk and this is the link for a lab that does this test:
<http://www.rockylab.com/GOAT.html>

Answer to the October Quiz...

Both llamas and donkeys have been used. Visit this site <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/LIVESTK/01218.html> for an informative article on using dogs, donkeys, and llamas for predator control

Hints and Tips:

Make changes gradually around the places that your goats travel daily. Anything new will be regarded as some kind of alien out to get them. I started painting the inside of the milk barn and when the girls came in for milking, I had to coax them in. The same goes for moving an object – they will startle and run if they come upon something new unexpectedly. If you are holding onto the collar, LET GO! I didn't let go fast enough once and got a face full of gravel and dirt. You can always catch them again and start over.

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

Leslie, The Goat Source

P.S. Don't forget the good people who have been misplaced because of the horrible weather down south – donate what you can to the Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/>

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