



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 3 Number 9 September 2006*

Here is your September issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. It's time to start thinking about getting your does bred! Have you picked out the perfect buck to use? Hopefully you have had a good summer and have found plenty of great hay to tide you over the winter. Just how do you tell what good hay looks like anyway? Read on to find out! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Breeding Your Does With AI
 - The Online Goat Show
 - This Month's Quiz...
 - Finding and Identifying Great Hay
 - Classified Ads
 - Answer to the September Quiz
 - Helpful Hints
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Breeding Your Does With AI

AI is artificial insemination. It is a process where the doe is bred with semen previously collected from a buck and preserved for later use. Goat breeders generally freeze semen to allow ready transport over distance and long term storage.

Many goat keepers think AI is out of reach for them for various reasons. Fortunately, with the right help AI can be an excellent way to breed your does for less expense, less trouble and less risk than many other forms of breeding. Taking a doe off farm or bringing a buck onto your farm exposes your animals to possible disease and a lot of stress. Does transported shortly after breeding rarely “take” or conceive reliably. Bringing a buck home means extra, secure housing, a strong, dangerous buck to handle and that fabulous smell!!!

Trying AI for yourself can be tricky, expensive and have mixed success. It is always better to hire an AI technician who is practiced with AI and has successfully bred does. Using an AI technician is more convenient and they can help you select the right bucks for your does. A tech will help you find your doe in heat and come to your farm to breed when she’s ready. Breeding with AI can also help in breeding does that may not be able to handle the rough treatment offered by some eager bucks during breeding.

AI service costs \$35-\$50 per doe including semen. When done right, the success rate is as good as live breeding without many of the risks and troubles associated with buck keeping. For more information on how to have your doe(s) bred by AI contact North County Farm northcountyfarm@earthlink.net or 970-568-3315.

We can also help with buck collection services and semen marketing!

Katherine Reid

North County Farm

northcountyfarm@earthlink.net

Raw Milk Goatshare Dairy

Natural Meats & Fine Fibers

www.home.earthlink.net/~northcountyfarm

For more on Artificial Insemination:

http://www.cybergoat.com/links/AIL_goat.shtml

The Online Goat Show

Don't forget to enter your goats in the Online Goat Show. Entries close on October 1st. Join the forum at <http://goatshow.proboards92.com/index.cgi> Entries are open now and we need your goats! While your animals are all dolled up for the county fair, take some good pictures and post them – most breeds and ages will have a class. In order to enter, you will need to sign up on the forum (free) and have a place to put your photos online, such as <http://www.photobucket.com/> (also free). There will be fun had by all and prizes, too!! Join us for the fun. **Just for my newsletter subscribers – enter the show and get a free surprise gift from The Goat Source.** Just drop me an email letting me know you have entered to get your gift!!

This Month's Quiz:

What is an Anthelmintic?

Finding and Identifying Great Hay

Our goats need a certain level of nutrition to produce for us and one way to ensure this is to buy great hay! Hay this year in our region is in short supply due to the ongoing drought. Good hay is in even shorter supply. The prices are the highest I have ever seen, but the hay producers are still not making much money, because of the high cost of production. Fuel costs have skyrocketed and irrigation water is scarce. It is up to us to get the most for our hay dollars by picking out superior quality hay. The hay I am going to discuss is alfalfa, because I raise dairy goats, and I have some experience in finding dairy quality alfalfa. Because I am going to use both pictures and audio to show you what quality hay looks like, I am putting a link [HERE](#) so that you can go to the web page to view this article. I will put the pictures in the PDF version of the newsletter along with the text, for those of you that have a slow connection or do not wish to listen to the audio. If you want the PDF version of the newsletter sent to you, let me know at goatsource9@cowisp.net.

NEW!! [Goat Related Crossword](#)

Classified Ads...

Get a custom-made screensaver! Use your own pictures with custom captioning. 10\$ for a 10 picture screensaver, complete with dissolves and floating gems!! Go to [Custom Screen Saver](#) for an easy “how to” manual. Contact me with any questions at [The Goat Source](#)

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Answer to the September Quiz:

An Anthelmintic is a dewormer. There are various types available for use in goats. The type used depends on the parasite that you are trying to get rid of. Talk to your vet and see what is recommended for your area. To keep your goats healthy, follow your vets recommendations for what to use and how often. Many products are sold over the counter and picking out the right one can be confusing!

Helpful hints:

Another hoof trimming tip: For animals with really hard hooves, such as bucks, trim right after a good rain or snow when their hooves are softer. It makes it much easier on both you and the goat!!

Make sure your older, dominant goats will let the younger ones in the barn during bad weather. Yearlings often are bullied if they are in with older goats and can be left standing out in the rain. If they can't get in the barn, make better arrangements for them.

If you keep grain in a barrel outside, be sure that moisture can't get in to mold the grain. I keep a bag of grain for the calves in a metal trash can near their feeder. I leave it in the sack and put a couple of pieces of scrap wood in the bottom of the can to raise the bag up. Make sure the lid fits tightly!

That's all for this month,...
See you next month!!

Leslie, The Goat Source

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