



The Goat Source

September 2005 Vol. 2, No. 9

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

Breeding season is fast approaching – are you ready? I am getting there – I just finished the first round of vaccinations that need to be given before breeding. I need to trim feet (a never ending chore) and make sure papers are in order. I have what I refer to as “port-a-bucks” (a term I got from my vet) and they need to be registered, still. They will be leased out to people who just have 1 or 2 does and can’t catch them in heat. All of these babies are from good milkers with decent conformation; I just can’t use them in my herd. After breeding season, they will be sold.

I got some really good hay for the milkers – every one else will have to eat old hay until it is gone. There is lots of hay available – I hope you have found as much as you need at a good price.

What's News This Month...

- Artificial Insemination - Is it for your herd?
- Join the Scavenger Hunt!! Win a beanie baby – “Goatie” of course!!
- Quiz of the month...
- Classified Advertising
- Snack food for Goats
- Answer to the Quiz
- Hints and Tips

Artificial Insemination – Is it for your herd?

With artificial insemination (AI) you can breed you does to a vast choice of bucks, some of them many years dead. What are some of the advantages, disadvantages, costs and problems with using AI?

The biggest advantage is the variety of bloodlines available. Often, semen is for sale from some of the top bucks in the nation, or their sons. Buying a new buck every year is expensive and impractical. What if you want to use more than one buck? AI makes it possible. Reputable companies travel the countryside collecting bucks. The resulting choices are bucks from every corner of the country, some that are sure to complement your herd!

The biggest disadvantage is the learning curve! You have to have some equipment, and you have to know what you are doing to have any chance of success. If you can find someone who already knows AI techniques and is either willing to breed your does, or teach you how to, you have leaped the first hurdle. AI courses are taught every year by many different people. Take a course if you are serious about learning – the hands on experience is great!

Equipment to do AI yourself is for sale in many goat related catalogs. Check it out and see for yourself if this is something you want to do and can afford! Just get the bare basic needs at first and add to it when you can. The goal is to get you goat pregnant, not to impress anyone with your huge toolkit!

Here are two links for good information on AI -

http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/_d/d-704.html

<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~pazzani/4H/AI.html>

The Scavenger Hunt Is ON!!

An exclusive contest available only to you – a Goat Source Member! Answers to the clues will be on my webpages. Collect all of them and email me the correct answers. Put “Goat Source Contest” in the subject line of your email. At the end of September, all of the correct answers will be “put in a hat” and a winner will be randomly drawn. There will be an extra prizes for the first correct answer (determined by the time stamp on your email), and the last correct answer (for us procrastinators). Everyone who enters will receive a free copy of “Cooking with Goat Products”. Only one entry per subscription, please. There are 10 items in this hunt. Find them all on my website www.goatsource.com Contest ends on September 30th 2005 and results will be published in the October Goat Source Newsletter. Decision of the winner will be determined by The Goat Source and will be final. I reserve the right to change the prizes or cancel the contest without notice.

NOW – On to the HUNT!!!

1. List a directory that The Goat Source is listed in.
2. One of my favorite links that has goat meat recipes.
3. What is the gestation period of a goat?
4. What does "Heifer International" do?
5. How many kids did Anfa have? (hint – blog)
6. Where is The Goat Source located?
7. What does Castle Pine Soap make (besides soap)?
8. How much does it cost to subscribe to The Goat Source Newsletter?
9. What is a "cross-bred" goat?
10. What is the email address of The Goat Source?

GO FOR IT – Find the answers on my webpages and email me with the answers.

GOOD LUCK!!!

Snack Food for Goats

Goats love whole unshelled peanuts (at least mine do).

They are a great source of fat and fiber. Feed sparingly - 4 or 5 nuts at milking time or when you socialize with your goats. Be careful as always when feeding a new food. And be careful your goats don't stomp on your feet trying to get to the treats!!

But them in bulk at the local feed store or coop. Go easy - they are expensive!!

September Quiz Question...

What is the most important nutrient that you provide for you goats?

Classified Advertising

California dairyman seeking dairy goats doelings to mature milkers.

All breeds and ages

Jim Pacheco (707)763-1025 or pachecogoats@aol.com.

Beginner's Guide for Goat Owners!! Now available on my website – Just click on the “buy now” link to get your very own copy!!

Go to http://goatsource.com/beginners_packet.htm



Answer to the September Quiz...

Fresh clean water is the most important nutrient that you provide for your goats. It should always be available, especially for milking animals. Goats will consume 1 to 4 gallons of water per day, and more in hot, dry weather. I like electric, thermostatically controlled automatic waterers. They are great in the winter – no ice breaking!! The goats drink more water if it is freely available, also.

Hints and Tips:

Use distilled water to make up your teat dip, especially if you have hard water. It doesn't cause the dip to get cloudy like hard water will. Buy your teat dip in gallon concentrate and mix it up as you need it. I like clorahexadine and it is available in most vet supply stores. Buy it locally if you can to save on shipping.

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

Leslie, The Goat Source

P.S. Join the Scavenger Hunt and win “Goatie”!!!

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