



CASH MIRROR

VOLUME ONE, ISSUE NINE

JUNE 1990

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PRESENTS

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CASHMIRROR
REFLECTING THE CASHMERE INDUSTRY

CashMirror Publications, 200 Larson Road,
Silver Creek, Wa. 98585

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REFLECTIONS

My mother says I am a true farmer - I'm always griping about the weather and the feed bill! In our part of the world its usually the rain. And the rain and the feed bill have a direct correlation. Even my husband, who was born and raised here and has webs between his toes, is complaining. It is now June and still we have day after day of rain. The grass in the pastures is lush, green, and high, and the goats stand in the barn eating alfalfa. We are running out of hay. When I say "We" I mean everyone who feeds hay.

While the Northwest produces lots of orchard grass suitable for good goat maintenance it should be cut in June. Because of wet weather, many years we have to wait until July before its cut. As a result, there is little food value left in it and we must resort to the higher protein count of our rich alfalfa at a whopping \$8.00 a bale. The alfalfa in Washington comes from east of the mountains which has a very dry climate. The heavy rains and late frosts of this year, put off the first cutting by almost a month. This coupled with the fact that Korea, Japan, and Taiwan buyers are already walking the alfalfa fields has driven the price up to \$150.00 a ton. Last year I traveled to eastern Washington on two occasions, bought hay in the field only to return home to a phone call informing me I had lost the deal to an "overseas" buyer. In addition, recent reports from California and Colorado indicate they have cut their hay crop by 30% because of low water tables brought on by the drought.

As you may recall from other articles in CashMirror, Cascade Cashmere Company is compiling cost studies from 15 test farms across the country. It is quickly becoming apparent that the major economic factor is the hay bill. Those test farmers who raise hay or have plenty of pasture and browse for the goats have minimal costs compared to those who must buy it at the feed store. In the middle, are those like myself who buy hay 25 tons at a time and have pasture.

When you are investigating cashmere production on your farm, it is imperative that

you use your own set of economics. You can read economic feasibility and gross margin studies for cashmere production from other parts of the world that may have no meaning for your climatic region and farm operation. In my experience, Cashmere producers tend to dwell far more on projecting their revenues than to their costs. I would encourage each cashmere farmer to do his or her own economic feasibility study with regard to their needs and what their farm can provide to fulfill those needs. Perhaps then it will be possible for you to successfully manage your operation despite the changing weather and feed market.

So like most agricultural businesses around the world, cashmere production will be successful as long as the farmer keeps one eye on the sky and the other on the budget.

Cashmerely yours,



Judith Richardson Haralson

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ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY

By Kay Orlando, DVM
Reprinted from the Pygmy Goat Memo

Today there are more products than ever available to treat our animals, with more on the way every day. This is good news. But to anyone who has looked at the list currently available, it quickly becomes apparent that it is a "jungle" out there. Choosing the correct antimicrobial can be a confusing matter, and requires some considerations. If possible, the type of disease organism involved should be identified. This will have a definite bearing on the type of antibiotic used, as will the part of the body affected. A bone infection might be treated differently than an abscess. Cost, toxicity, and side effects must be considered. No drug should make the patient sicker than the disease being treated! Therapy should be continued 48 hours after resolution of symptoms, to better afford a cure and to prevent drug resistance.

Antibiotics with the ability to kill gram-negative organisms should be used with caution on the ruminant.

Following is a list of SOME of the antibacterial available to treat goats, listed by types. This can be useful when drug resistance is encountered and an alternative therapy started. (This is by no means a complete list!)

PENICILLIN GROUP

This a group of very low toxicity, which are bactericidal - meaning that they actually kill the susceptible organisms. They act on certain components of the cell wall of the bacteria which are not present in mammalian cells. Their action is mainly on gram-positive organisms, and for the most part they are inexpensive to use. Procaine Penicillin is the most common of this group, and should be in everyone's medical supply. It can be given under the skin or into the muscle, at 1 cc per 100 lbs. every 24 hours. Penicillin can be purchased with Dihydrostreptomycin added, commonly called "combiotic." If using the combination product, give twice a day and only in the muscle. Personally I do not feel that there is any real advantage to this combination product. Long acting penicillin is also available, and is an excellent drug when daily dosing is impossible. Combine a therapeutic dose of Procaine Penicillin with that of the longacting product to achieve an

effective blood level sooner. Methicillin and Cloxacillin are two synthetic penicillins available. They're effective against penicillin-resistant staphylococcal infections; however, they require 4 times per day treatment. Ampicillin and Amoxicillin are semisynthetic penicillins. They have action (especially Ampicillin) against both gram positive and negative organisms. The dosage is 5-10 mg/kg 2-3 times a day.

SULPHONAMIDES

This was one of the first groups of antibacterial available for chemotherapy. They are low cost and low toxicity. The group has a similar spectrum of action, and organisms resistant to one will be resistant to the rest of the group. They are bacteriostatic, meaning they only slow down the disease organism. They act by interfering with the organisms' production of folic acid, and are effective against gram positive and negative bacteria, some Chlamydia, and coccidia. The most common enteric sulfonamide which are useful in treating enteric disease are Sulfaguanidine and Sulfathiazole. The most common general sulfonamide is Sulfamethazine. Trimethoprim is a general sulfonamide which is bactericidal. General sulfonamide are useful in treating mastitis and fever of unknown origin.

TETRACYCLINES

This group is effective against both gram positive and negative organisms, some mycoplasma, rickettsia, and chlamydia. They are bacteriostatic. A resistance to one member usually means a resistance to the others. The group included Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline, and Chlortetracycline. The dosage is 10 mg/kg twice a day. They can be given in the muscle or intravenously. I.M. injections are painful, and can cause some necrosis of the muscle at the site of the injection. Higher doses or prolonged dosage can produce rumen dysfunction.

CHLORAMPHENICOL

This should be a good antibiotic; the spectrum includes both gram positive and negative bacteria, chlamydia, and rickettsia. It has a low toxicity, but it is expensive and results are

inconsistent. Dosage is 20 mg/kg (or higher) in the muscles three times per day.

AMINOGLYCOSIDES

Streptomycin, Dihydrostreptomycin, Neomycin, Kanamycin, Gentocin, and Spectinomycin are included in this group. They are bactericidal, inhibiting protein synthesis. There does not seem to be cross resistance within the group. They are useful for enteric diseases and septicemia. Spectinomycin are included in this group. They are bactericidal, inhibiting protein synthesis. There does not seem to be cross resistance within the group. They are useful for enteric diseases and septicemia. Spectinomycin has shown effectiveness against Mycoplasma. The dosage is 10-25 mg/kg twice a day. These particular antibiotics are, as a group, potentially the most toxic; especially to the kidneys, and should be used with caution.

CEPHALOSPORINS

This includes some relatively new and useful antibacterial. Cephapirin is available as an intramammary infusion for treating mastitis. It has a wide spectrum of activity, including gram positive and negative bacteria. Naxcel (cefiofur sodium) has been touted as an excellent drug for the treatment of upper respiratory disease and pneumonia. The dosage is .5 mg/lb once a day, in the muscle, for 3-5 days.

MOST of the information available on antimicrobial treatment of goats has been interpolated from results in cattle and sheep. It is important to remember that your veterinarian is the best source of information for treating a sick animal. Many of these antibacterial are available by prescription only. Adverse reactions are always a possibility, and the animal should be watched carefully.

It is important to remember that, when treating a sick animal, daily evaluations of progress must be made. The drug must be administered at the correct therapeutic dosage for the correct length of time. Most antibiotic failures are due to incorrect dosage and improper duration of treatment.

Remember to check withdrawal time on any drug used if the animal is being milked or used for meat. ALWAYS take time to read the label instructions thoroughly.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reflections.....	1
Antimicrobial Therapy..... Kay Orlando, D.V.M.	3
Working with Your Vet..... Miriam Jeswine	5
July Speaker - Reproduction Specialist..... Biography	7
Market Report..... Australian Cashmere Marketing Corporation	8
Feature Farmer of the Month: Champagne Cashmeres.....	9
Doc Bogart Says..... Doctor Ralph Bogart	11
Bo-Se Alert..... Reprinted from Pygmy Goat Memo	12
Cashmere Down Under..... Jenny Eddington	13
Bacterial and Viral Diseases..... Robin Sillman, D.V.M.	14
Dr. Barrie Restall & Bill Pattie Featured.....	15
Kidding Folklore..... Reprinted "Pygmy Goat Digest"	17
Is C.A.E. Transmissible by Buck Semen?..... Reprinted from "Wool And Wattle"	18
Real Time Ultrasound..... Reprinted from "Farm & Dairy"	18
Breeders Directory.....	19
Classified.....	22

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Working with Your Vet by Miriam Jeswine

When my veterinarian friend finished her degree, she wanted to establish a large animal practice based on preventive care. She wanted to work with goat breeders on programs to maintain herd health, and thus minimize the kinds of problems that generate the midnight panic calls. To her disappointment, she soon found that she had "a fire engine practice," racing from one emergency to another. She was a fine goat vet, and we were fortunate to have her services, but there weren't enough prevention-minded people out there, and she gave up private practice.

Before emergencies come up, and they will of course, establish a relationship with a veterinarian who has an interest in goats. You need to realize that small animal vets don't work on goats. The reason is that the drugs, supplies and equipment for small animals (carnivores) are very different from those for large animals (herbivores). Many vets specialize in horses (monogastrics) and don't do much with ruminants (cud-chewers). The first thing to do is to find out whether the vet you have in mind has a practice with ruminants and, if not experienced with goats, at least is interested in them.

Many of the younger vets, especially if they went through vet school at Washington State, Oregon State, or UC Davis, have had some exposure to goats. If not, you will have to break someone in to the fact that they are valuable, there are scientific publications on their care, and they respond to treatment somewhat differently than other ruminants. They are similar enough to sheep and cattle, though, that your vet can figure out something. The other thing you need to be aware of is that, if this vet is accustomed to working on commercial herds of sheep or other livestock, he might not be used to thinking of an individual animal as having much worth. The average sheep, after all, is hardly worth a big vet bill. So, be frank, and ask questions.

Another thing to remember is that most vets don't do some of the little routine chores on livestock, like dehorning, hoof trimming, even castrating and vaccinating. Owners of commercial livestock do those chores themselves to save money, and vets do the jobs that their specialized training

and access to controlled drugs enable them to do. That brings us to the question of what you can expect from your vet.

Assuming you have decided who to call upon for services, find out what she recommends for preventive care. Have her come out to look the flock over, and look at their housing and other accommodations to make recommendations for improvements. She'll appreciate the opportunity to confer with you and to warn you about potential problems so that you can prevent them. You would do well to have a clean, dry, well-lit place to work, and some isolation pens to house ailing animals. Ask, too, about first-aid supplies and tools to have on hand in case of emergency. Sometimes emergencies come in groups and the vet can't be everywhere at once so you will need to fill in.

Talk with the vet about health problems in your area. You will get suggestions about what diseases to vaccinate for, the best times for routine deworming, delousing, and whatever else is appropriate. Your vet will be much more sympathetic to your problems if you have both worked on health care than if you call in the middle of the night for the first time with some dire emergency.

Speaking of emergencies! What is an emergency? One is an injury bigger than a scratch or two. Don't wait to see what's going to happen, especially if the animal seems to be distressed. Shock can kill an animal that is only superficially wounded, especially if there was a prolonged period of fright such as a dog attack. Another emergency is bloat. Yet another is an animal found in a coma when there has been no previous sign of trouble. Any of these cases can result in death sometimes, unfortunately before anything can be done.

What is not an emergency? One is an animal that has been sickly for several days while you ignored it or dosed it yourself with something some neighbor recommended. Turpentine, pine oil, and such are not cures for anything. Vets really get frustrated when called upon to fix a problem the owner, through neglect or ignorance, has made worse. Realize that you can always learn something from your vet, and think of the bills you pay as tuition. Ask lots of questions, especially about how

to prevent problems in the future.

How do you know when a goat is sick? That is a question that can be hard to answer. Goats seem to be somewhat like wild animals in that they don't show much sign of illness. According to a zookeeper friend, that is because animals that look sick become dinner for some watchful carnivore. You have to be as watchful as any lion or tiger. When you feed the flock, watch to see who hangs back, who seems to lack energy, who doesn't want to eat. A goat that misses a meal is a sick goat. Look closely. Are the eyes dull, the head droopy, the ears too cold or too hot? Listen to the chest. If you don't have a stethoscope, a rolled up cardboard tube and a finger in the other ear can substitute. Does the heartbeat seem regular and normal? Is the breathing a nice, regular whoosh, or does it rattle and rasp? Take the temperature. Normal is about 103, but that can vary a little. Watch her to see how she eliminates. Are the urine and feces normal?

So, you call the vet. Be prepared to answer some questions. What is she doing? What does she look like? Is she eating? What have you been feeding? When was she last wormed? What has her vaccination schedule been? What are her urine and feces like? Temperature? Respiration? Sometimes the vet can tell you over the phone what might be the case. I recall an old Toggenburg developed mystery symptoms in early fall. She clearly felt bad, and her hair stood on end. Her skin felt thick and swollen. I called a vet who reputed to be a superb diagnostician and he asked if she was light-colored. She was. He asked if she was eating windfall fruit. She was. He suggested she might be suffering an allergic reaction causing photosensitivity and I should put her in a dark barn and keep her away from fruit. So, forever after, old Molly spent fruit season in the barn, grumpy but healthy.

Now you have called for help and either taken the goat in to the office, or the vet has come out to your clean, well-lighted place, and you have a fistful of drugs and supplies and instructions. Follow the instructions. Don't give the medicine for a day or two and quit because she looks better. There are good reasons to give antibiotics for many days. You have heard of resistant strains of bacteria such as hospital Staph. These develop when inadequate doses of drugs kill off all but the strongest bacteria. Survival of the fittest bacteria occurs and the

next time, cure is much more difficult to obtain. Believe your vet when she says twice a day for three weeks. Ask why, so you will understand the importance, and get it all in writing so that when you forget, you have something to refer to.

Pay your bills promptly, especially when, in spite of everything, the goat dies. Sometimes animals die in spite of everything you can do. You have to accept that. You also have to accept the fact that there are some problems with no cures, like John's disease, or cryptosporidia. The vet does the best he can, and if you have a good working relationship, manage your flock well, follow his instructions and pay your bills promptly, you will have a vet who is really on your side. Believe me, so few people do put out the effort to work well with their veterinarians that you will have a friend for life if you do. After all, don't your goats deserve the best you and your vet can do?

Next Month: *Nifty Gizmos*

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REPRODUCTION SPECIALIST TO MAKE PRESENTATION AT JULY SEMINAR

Doctor Paul E. Mennick, DVM of Pacific International Genetics, Clemente, Ca. will discuss reproduction in goats at the July seminar in Vancouver, Wa. July 13, 14, and 15th. Dr. Mennick first developed an interest in veterinary medicine as a freshman fifteen years ago at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Volunteering several hours per week in radiology and surgery at a local small-animal hospital, Paul quickly realized that he preferred working out-of doors with the larger animal species.

As an Undergraduate at U.C.S.C., Paul was able to undertake an extensive Field Research project studying feral horses in the White Mountains of Nevada. Living out of a tent for up to 2 1/2 months at a time, and tracking the horses on foot over a nine year period, his resulting 300 page thesis has been used by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in developing management programs. Paul graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology in 1979.

Doctor Mennick's first professional position following his graduation from the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1985 was as the resident veterinarian for Nevele R Stud in New Zealand, one of the ten largest horse-breeding farms in the world. For the next three years, Paul worked back-to-back breeding seasons in both Hemispheres, with positions in California's Santa Ynez Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula, a second season at Nevele R Stud, and an appointment with a private practice in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales, Australia.

It was "down under" that Doctor Mennick was introduced to the technologies being developed and applied to sheep and goat reproduction. Intrigued by the potential application to the comparatively minuscule and less advanced North American sheep and goat industries, Paul arranged to visit and work with several local practitioners and companies specializing in laparoscopic A.I., semen freezing, and embryo transfer. Dr. Mennick learned to perform these procedures, picking up subtle differences in technique from his several visits, and upon starting his own practice in 1988, equipped himself with all of the required supplies and gadgets, and began offering these procedures commercially in

California. His is still the only practice in California offering laparoscopic A.I. on a commercial basis.

Located in Clements, just a half hour southeast of Sacramento, Doctor Mennick's practice specializes in large animal reproduction, including semen freezing, storage, and distribution, embryo transfer, and the treatment of fertility problems. He has developed a unique method of freezing horse semen, heretofore a difficult and not always successful proposition, and is probably the only person in the world guaranteeing the production of commercial-quality frozen semen from any stallion having a normal semen evaluation. His recent development of an extender to successfully freeze jack semen resulted in the birth this past Easter Sunday of the world's first "frozen mule". He currently provides freezing and storage services on dozens of animals, including some of the United States' top jumping and dressage stallions, the 1988 World Champion Jack, and the first frozen sheep semen ever imported into the United States from Australia. He is currently working with the USDA to develop an approved quarantine center for the export of frozen semen and embryos.

Doctor Mennick has taught courses in semen freezing and embryo transfer in New Zealand and Australia, has written a dozen articles concerning animal reproduction and health for various publications, and he is listed in "Who's Who in Veterinary Science and Medicine". He provides consulting work with two other specialists for the Humphrey, Giacomuzzi and Cox Equine Hospital in southern California, and was recently asked to join a delegation of specialists travelling to Eastern Europe to exchange scientific information under the Citizen's Ambassador Program of People to People International. Paul is a member of six professional organizations, including the Embryo Transfer Society, and the Society for Theriogenology. Also a member of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, he serves on their Long-Range Planning Committee.

Doctor Mennick is currently working with Doctor Nancy East of U.C. Davis on semen freezing and embryo transfer projects, and will be providing the vasectomy services for the teaser bucks involved in this project. Paul's long-term plans are to develop a quarantine center and reproductive laboratory specializing in worldwide consultation, genetic preservation, and international trade. ◊



MARKET REPORT
The Australian Cashmere Marketing Corporation

**Marketing Division of the Australian Cashmere
Growers Association Limited**
30 Cann Street
Guildford, N.S.W. 2161
Phone (02)632 1449

Prices received for Pool--Closed 18.12.89

Line	Net Wgt. Kgs	Description	Yield %	Price Aus cents/kg
WW1	159.00	White Cashmere<16.0>35%yld	38.2	17017
WW1	339.00	White Cashmere<16.0	28.8	16206
WW1	155.00	White Cashmere>35%yld	35.1	16206
WW1	757.00	White Cashmere<16.5um	30.4	15434
WW2	981.00	White Cashmere>16.5um	33.9	10640
WC1	1978.00	White Cashmere/Col.GH<16.5um	28.4	14700
WC2	2058.00	White Cashmere/Col.GH>16.5um	29.0	10640
GY1	3560.00	Grey Cashmere<16.5um	25.5	13965
GY2	1754.00	Grey Cashmere>16.5um	29.2	10108
BR1	1141.00	Brown Cashmere<16.5um	24.9	13965
BR2	215.00	Brown Cashmere>16.5um	27.2	10108
LCV	946.00	Low Commercial Value	11.0	570 H/IN
BR5	459.00	Coloured Cashgora	38.7	800 H/IN
CV	166.00	Cashmere/Veg Faults/Cotts	28.3	4000
CS	109.00	Cashmere Stain	15.8	4000

Exchange rate on day of conversion 14.02.90 - 75.15

Total fiber offered: 16,201 kgs
Total Fiber Sold: 14,777. kgs
Total Sale Proceeds: A\$486,682.43

RECORD PRICES RECEIVED FOR CASHMERE LINES

Growers in this pool benefitted from the declining Australian dollar with prices received for all cashmere lines pooling the \$100.00 mark. The top premium white line sold for 170.17 Kg an all time record for the Australian Cashmere Industry while the grey and brown weaving quality reached \$101.08/kg.

This is a fitting culmination to the three year period which saw all cashmere lines sold under a contract agreement. This contract ensured sale of all lines and gave the growers price stability.

A new contract agreement under similar terms and conditions as the first one is in its final stages of negotiation.

With commodity prices expected to fall over the next few years in light of a worldwide fall in economic growth, the value of Australian exports including cashmere should rise due to our weakening dollar.

The sale of cashmere through a contract agreement will ensure a total clearance in each pool.

FEATURE FARMER OF THE MONTH

CHAMPAGNE CASHMERES

If you had somehow stumbled upon our small ranch in mid-October 1989 you probably would have wondered what was up. Crowded into a 6' by 12' barn area were seven friends using bales of hay for seats and to hold cheese, crackers and champagne--our cashmere venture was officially being launched. Instead of breaking the champagne bottle over the brand new goat barn it seemed both safer and more festive to serve it and thus came the name--Champagne Cashmeres. We had been searching unsuccessfully for a name to denote quality cashmeres and suddenly we looked at one another and said Champagne Cashmeres! Let me back up a bit and tell you how we had come to that point.

It was in March 1989 that our veterinarian learned about the young cashmere industry in the U.S. and her enthusiasm was contagious. It really sounded like a good project to help out financially for our future retirement years and we were excited when we learned that we could get some does from Judith Richardson's August importation. Thus the stage was set--Dan and I and Terry Smith had been running an Arabian business here for ten years but we still had room to spare on our seven acres.

I called my long time friend, Adrienne Hochee, in So. Calif. to see if she wanted to buy some goats. She did and it was arranged that they would stay in Central Oregon in a partnership.

The goats arrived before their facilities did. Five does plus one newborn waited in the well fenced foaling stall and paddock. I had picked a 1/2 acre area next to the house which contained a nice lava outcropping and then drew my plans and showed them to our builder and fencer. Fortunately he is extremely talented and could understand and bring to life my ideas. I had a good idea of what I wanted but not how to create it.

In planning I took several things into consideration: (1) neighbor's loose dogs, (2) wild, hard to catch goats that can jump and climb and (3) protection from the weather. The perimeter fence is tightly constructed 48 inch field fencing with a hot wire 18 inches from the ground to keep goats off it and discourage any dog noses that might be sniffing through it. Two hot wires are strung above the fence and they would stop human

or animal from trying to go over. The area has a large gate for vehicles and a four foot one for wheelbarrows and goats. Both are made of welded rod on steel frames.

The pole barn was planned to be 12' by 18' with the front 6' being a separate area. Used at first for the champagne party it now holds hay, cleaning implements and other tools and is also a people waiting room for does in labor. The 12' by 12' goat area was designed with a removable divider so that in just a minute or two one stall can be made into two. Seven foot high welded rod panels separate the front area and divide the stall. The divider is held in with pins dropped in place on steel posts. The rear post can be lifted out so that a tractor can access the entire stall for cleaning at the end of winter. Seven foot high wooden doors can close off either the whole barn or just one of the stalls should we be keeping a goat confined.

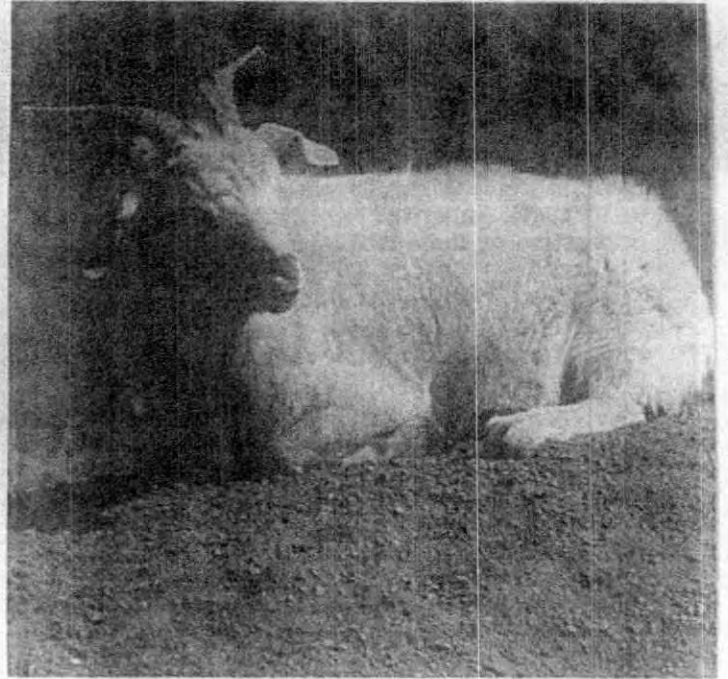
Catching wild goats can be challenging so I planned for this by attaching a 12' by 16' paddock to the end of the barn. Six feet high, it's constructed of 2 inch by 4 inch non climb woven wire on pipe posts and the gate is large enough to drive through. The goats must go into the paddock to get to the mangers in the barn and so spend much of their time there. I taught them that when I called "Girls, girls" that grain was being put into the manger trays. They come running and to catch them I merely close the paddock gate.

Moving day from the horse barn was exciting for both goats and people. Rather than drag does by their horns for several hundred feet we loaded them one at a time into an extra large dog crate and pulled goat and crate in a large utility cart. That convinced me that all kids born at Champagne Cashmeres would be leash trained and taught to tie. What a difference that is making! Sure it takes time to leash train all the kids but it pays off for us and our buyers. I take kids and lead them all over the property--they really start looking forward to their outings. They also learn to stand while being groomed and this TLC treatment teaches our goats that we are their friends. And we sure are. We are longtime livestock breeders but goats are a new species for us. The challenge of learning is stimulating and I look forward to the July seminar in Vancouver.

The 1/2 acre goat area is only the first of several still in the planning stages. It is a dry lot with a long gravel ridge and rocks and even a whole tree top that blew down. What a jungle gym that makes. The dry lot cuts down on the parasite problem although we still worm every two months. We use mostly grass hay with just a bit of alfalfa and very little grain as we have found the cashmeres to be very easy keepers.

The gravel and rocks cut the need for frequent foot trimming and also makes for tough goat feet. In addition the irregular terrain gives the kids and moms a place to be mountain goats. Who needs TV when the kids are having races and leaping obstacles while the does dance and play? We even have one doe who has a game which ends up in throwing herself over backwards and rolling down hill.

We see a bright future for cashmere in the U.S. and plan to breed the finest stock possible. Our few acres means that we can know our goats individually, enjoy them immensely and keep tight quality control. We are aiming to become a "breeder's breeder". What other business promises to be so profitable and so much fun at the same time?



Champagne Cashmere's Berrambool Megan of Victoria Australia.



Champagne Cashmere's Champagne Serena Chewing bubble gum.



Champagne Cashmere's Berrambool Sno-fire of Victoria, Australia

DOC BOGART SAYS.....

Dr. Ralph Bogart is Professor Emeritus of Animal Science and Genetics of Oregon State University.

ENVIRONMENT AND GENETICS BY RALPH BOGART

Each individual results from environmental influences, inherited influences and the interaction of these two influences.

There are environmental influences that one could think about as being external influences such as temperature, amount and quality of feed, availability and cleanliness of the water supply, rain and/or snowfall, air currents, and external excitement. All of these can be controlled by the person caring for the animals even though some of them are difficult or expensive to control.

There are also some environmental influences that one might classify as internal environmental influences. The invasion of an animal by micro-organisms such as bacteria or by macro-organisms such as internal parasites are examples of internal environmental influences. Some of the environmental influences are amount and quality of feed available for the animals, the environmental temperature, feeding space, shelter space and how clean and free from drafts of wind it is.

Keep in mind that there are environmental influences affecting an animal from the time it starts to develop in its mother's uterus until it is born. Genetic influences start affecting an individual at the time the sperm and egg unite to form a new individual. These genetic influences continue to affect how an individual will perform as long as it lives.

There are strong interactions between the environmental factors and the genetic factors that govern what the animal will exhibit as its phenotype. The person who cares for the animals and plans the matings in an attempt to improve the animals, as producers of what is desired, must keep in mind that he should have a constant genetic and a constant environment program so that his efforts at improving the genetic makeup of his herd or flock will yield positive results.

One can not compare animals for improvement through selection if the animals have been under differing environmental conditions. The point that should be emphasized is that those persons who are interested in genetically

improving their flock of Cashmere goats should plan ahead and do what is needed to assure a similar environment from year to year, and from one group to another so that they are making genetic selections rather than environmental difference selections.

Some people who have animals for sale will put the sale animals on better pastures, feed them more concentrates and make unsuspecting buyers think they are buying animals of superior genetic makeup. If one does this over a period of years, the information will become common knowledge and buyers will be informed which will lead to an unwanted bad reputation of an individual who is using dishonest methods of selling.

In my next article, I plan to discuss the selection for several traits and how we can put all traits into one figure so that we can select for overall genetic superiority.

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BO-SE ALERT

Reprinted from the PYGMY GOAT MEMO

Editor's Note: The following article was originally published in THE SHEPHERD, 2/90 issue. Obviously this is a sheep magazine, and Bo-Se is primarily a bovine product. Since much of the medical information and procedures we use are derived from these 2 species, their problems may very well also be OUR problem. Breeders who routinely use these injectable selenium products are advised to discuss this article with their veterinarian. Please keep MEMO posted of the outcome of such discussions!

"Schering-Plough Animal Health has marketed BO-SE and MU-SE (Selenium Vitamin-E for injection) since 1980. Prior to that time, the products were sold by Burns-Biotec, Inc. of Omaha, NE."

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---Jack foster, Product Manager
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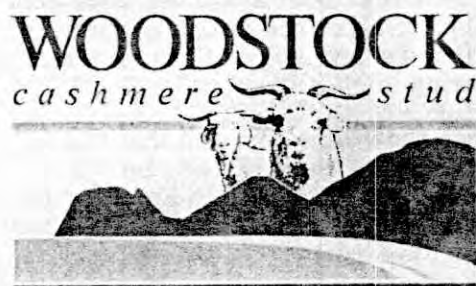
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CASHMERE DOWN UNDER

By Jenny Eddington - Tasmania

If three or so years ago anyone had told me that my herd of goats, which amused the neighboring sheep farmers, would lead me to the pleasures (and sometimes tribulations) of an involvement in the birth of a cashmere industry for America, I would have laughed.

Here it is 3 years later and not only do I look on with pride at many of the goats we have bred being half a world away, but I have so many new and wonderful friends. Just this past week two new Americans joined the list. We have had Mike and Sue Spurlock spend a week with us. After a stint in Hawaii in the tourist industry they are about to begin an adventure into Cashmere on their new ranch in Colorado. They have spent recent months researching cashmere. It was a great pleasure like all previous U.S. visitors to be able to show them goats, farming methods, fiber identification, and shearing. They also were able to fit in their schedule visits to other herds. They even had time to lure a few trout from the lake at the dam. They played tourist. Their next few months will see them getting the ranch straightened out. It is satisfying to think that we have helped them set their aims in entering into Cashmere.

Its sheep show time here and that also means the largest goat show of the year tomorrow. My troupe is as ready as they are going to get. I look forward to showing the goats, but also to the getting together with other breeders for some good goat talks. After the show it seems there is a focus on the winners in the show, but really we are all winners as everyone has learned from the experience. Cashmeres are judged mainly on their fleece quality while of course taking into account conformation traits that are important for a healthy animal. The judges give a commentary of their decisions from which everyone learns a great deal. Therefore, it is possible to gain from a judges decision whether you win or lose. I am, excited and looking forward to tomorrows decisions.

Now we are into June and we have to keep an eye out for goats shedding early. In most years the final two weeks of July are our best shearing time but this year has been warmer than normal. I'm keeping an eye out for cashmere being left on the bushes by passing goats. As we are capable to do our own shearing, we shear any early shedders we may notice. This saves the dropping cashmere rather than to risk losing it waiting for the day

the shearer is booked. We are also stepping up the feeding of hay. We feed just enough hay to give the goats plenty of roughage. We have good pasture through Winter as our climate is quite mild. We don't get snow and the pasture remains very green. So we find with plenty of hay the goats do well and at times we don't need to feed any grain at all.

I am looking forward to the middle of July when I will be in Vancouver, Washington U.S.A. to meet all of my new found American friends. See you at the "Step in the right direction" seminar - July 13, 14, and 15th.

**NOTE: We just received word that Jenny will be unable to attend the seminar due to the arrival on June 12, of 6 week old adopted daughter, "Aimee".*

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BACTERIAL AND VIRAL DISEASES

By Robin Skillman, DVM

Reprinted with permission from the "Pygmy Goat Memo".

CHLAMYDIA

This bacteria affects many animals and birds. In goats, it causes two serious diseases:

1. **ARTHRITIS AND PINKEYE** - This often looks very much like mycoplasmosis. The kids usually feel better, though, and fevers aren't quite as high. Some will have concurrent pneumonia. One or more joints will be swollen and painful. If you have a similar disease among your sheep or in your neighborhood and no history of mycoplasma, Chlamydia is a distinct possibility. Treatment is with oxytetracycline, and recovery rates are very good. There is no vaccine. Isolation of affected animals is recommended.

2. **ABORTION, STILLBIRTHS, OR WEAK KIDS** - Some kids will survive. They are very weak, and have a variety of digestive and kidney problems. Treatment with oxytetracyclines will pull some through. These kids then become carriers and usually abort their first or second kidding.

Isolate all aborting does until there is no longer any discharge present. Contact your veterinarian to aid in diagnosis and control of current outbreak. Remember to save both placenta and kid. In the future, vaccinate before breeding season commences.

OTHER BACTERIAL DISEASES

There are various other bacteria causing pneumonia, diarrhea, arthritis, and other syndromes in kids. Whenever kids go off feed, become listless or lackluster, consult your veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment. Like any young animal, their reserves are few; they may be lost if you wait too long.

VIRAL DISEASES

SOREMOUTH

This common disease in kids and lambs is caused by a pox virus. In its simplest form, small round scabs are present at the corners of the mouth and around the eyes. The kid feels fine, and the lesions resolve in about one

week. At its most severe, soremouth can be deadly. Scabs cover the head, pasterns, teats, and often the skin of the abdomen. Feathery "growths" fill the mouth. These kids may have high fevers, pneumonia, and gastroenteritis.

Treatment in both cases consists of supportive care. Keep the flies under control, and wounds dry. Do not remove the scabs, as this will actually slow healing. Antibiotics are recommended if infection occurs.

To control soremouth, do not expose new kids to the contaminated pens. The scabs are infective, and the virus is very stable in the environment. Once completely healed, an animal is NOT contagious. In a previously clean herd, vaccinate all exposed kids at the time of the first case. In the future, vaccinate the kid crop at least four weeks before show season, or with the first case. Kids should not be raised in contaminated pens, if possible.

C.A.E.

This much talked about disease is becoming more widespread among our goats in the United States. It seems that the incidence is low in the rest of the world.

Kids become affected at 2-4 months of age. They develop a hind end weakness that progresses to paralysis. Death is due to bacterial infections, usually pneumonia. There is no fever with the first signs, and the kid is alert with a normal appetite. There is no response to selenium or copper injections.

Signs in adults include enlarged knees and other joints, particularly hips and spine. As with any arthritic disease, wasting and ill-thrift is common. An unusual form of pneumonia that may be due to C.A.E. has also been identified.

There is no treatment in the neurological form. In the arthritic form, only supportive therapy is available. Diagnosis is made at necropsy.

Fortunately, CAE is not as easily transmitted as mycoplasma. It is spread primarily in the colostrum and milk. Pasteurization goes a long way to control the disease and seems to be sufficient with eventual culling of affected adults. As our research continues, we will undoubtedly find out more about CAE.

OTHER VIRAL DISEASES

There are other viral diseases that cause

Bacterial ..Con't

pneumonia, gastroenteritis, and fetal deformities. Some are spread by insects and others pass directly between goats. As with many diseases in goats, we know precious little about them. The more we work with veterinarians and other researchers, the better tuned our therapies and controls will be.

CASHMIRROR FEATURES RESEARCHERS PATTIE AND RESTALL AT JULY SEMINAR

CashMirror Publications announces Dr. Bill Pattie and Dr. Barry Restall as featured speakers for the July 13, 14, and 15 seminar in Vancouver, Wa.

Both Dr. Bill Pattie and Dr. Barry Restall graduated from the University of New South Wales, Australia, with Bachelor of Science degrees and later, PhD degrees in animal production disciplines. They both began our working careers with the NSW department of Agriculture as research officers at the Agricultural Research Centre at Trangie, a name that will be recognised by sheep breeders. For some 20 years their work was with sheep, in breeding and reproduction, in various research institutions. They both have had periods working in research institutes in France and the Netherlands.

Their joint work on goats began 12 years ago when Barrie set up a goat research centre at the N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture's field station at Wollongbar. They have jointly conducted all the research work since that time and have an extensive network of collaboration with other scientists in other Universities and the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organisation. They have conducted research on goat genetics, reproduction, nutrition and growth, fleece biology, management and health. Post graduate students have been used extensively in the program and currently 3 are working at Wollongbar.

Bill Pattie has been involved in animal production and training programs in Asia for some 10 years. Since 1985 both Bill and Barrie have been involved in a goat research project in southern Thailand, directing and assisting in various research aspects and training scientists. They have both provided extensive consultant services to the New Zealand goat industry, and are well known to Australian goat producers through frequent

field day and seminar appearances.

Their studies of the genetics of the production characteristics of cashmere goats are the first complete studies of this subject in the world. Their information is being sought by many countries interested in cashmere production. They have been invited to present a review paper on breeding fiber goats to the 4th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production, in Edinburgh, Scotland in July 1990.

Bill is currently Associate Professor of Animal Production (Genetics), in the Dept. of Farm Animal Medicine and Production, University of Queensland. His title is Principal Research Scientist, Division of Animal Production, NSW Dept of Agriculture. Bill and Barrie have each published over 100 scientific papers, articles, book chapters.

They are both active types, Barrie teaches martial arts (Hapkido) and Bill trains regularly at a gym; he used to play a fair game of squash before his knees collapsed! They are both married, Bill has 4 children, Barrie has one. They are also keen on fishing and have been known to take the odd drink or two. Bill is a computer buff and carries a portable with him at all times; he has been known to take it into the bathroom and his wife complains that he even takes it to bed!

Dr. Bill Pattie and Dr. Barrie Restall will present their findings on the heritability of cashmere at the July seminar in Vancouver, Washington. For more information please contact: CashMirror Publications (206) 983-3154.





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FEEDING SO THAT DOES WILL KID IN DAYLIGHT HOURS

BY:Stephani Steele
Borrowed from AVDGIA
Dairy Goat Notes
Via Kern Capriculturists Assoc
March 1990 and Pygmy Goat Digest
1990.

To encourage the does to kid during daylight hours a heavy feeding of roughage per day instead of the usual two or three feedings. This feeding must be late in the day. The author finds that by feeding by 4:00 P.M. will have the does kidding between 9 A.M. and noon with the appropriate adjustment in kidding time if I feed earlier or later than this. The theory is that the full rumen causes suppression of labor. This feeding schedule can be quite an adjustment to most of us. It is also harder if there is not sufficient feeders in which to place roughage. This system is used by sheepherders. The author had used this system for two years and it has given her many good nights sleep at kidding time. Feeding the roughage once daily at 4 P.M. and sufficient so that they will have cleaned it all up by the following day. This encourages eager appetites at feeding time. They pick out the choicest parts of the hay first, then for the greater part of the day they are forced to eat the less choice parts and therefore are eager for something a little more tasty. They then bed down for the night with full rumens and no desire to disrupt their owners sleep. The author has had only one out of 60 kidding occur outside of the time frame mentioned, and then it was only 3 hours earlier. She also has installed intercoms in the barn so that she can monitor the labor from the house. The intercom serves as a supplement to the "in person" visits and goes a long way in relieving anxiety of waiting for that special doe to kid.

MORE KIDS

Reprinted: Goat Uddering
Newsletter August 1989
By Michelle Simmons, DVM
Article from Statewide Goat
Sales - Vol. 5, #5 via Foot-
notes Vol 4, #3, Pygmy Goat Digest
1990.

Who among us does not wish for more doe kids this season? The question is how to get them. I thought that I would review some of the popular theories on how to produce more doe kids.

1. Breed does early in their cycles, at first.
2. Feed does vinegar in the water or supplement their diet with Vitamin C for several weeks before breeding.

Both of the above theories are based on the same principle, and that is the acidity of the vagina is higher when the doe is supplemented early in the heat cycle. Apparently, sperm cells carrying the female chromosome are stronger, longer lasting, and more resistant to the acid PH than those carrying the male chromosome. Early breeding in the heat cycle would also weed out the "male" sperm cells because they couldn't survive to the end of the heat period and ovulation as well as the "female" sperm.

3. Probably the most controversial and the least known theory is that of "Moon Breeding". This theory is based on the "old farmers" beliefs that the outcome of an event such as planting or breeding could be predicted by the phase of the moon at the time... I have been able to gain this knowledge from a friend of a friend of an old pig farmer who swears by the results.

MOON BREEDING SCHEDULE:

New Moon...more favorable for doeling
Full Moon...more favorable for bucklings

I don't know about you, but I will try anything to get doe kids! Good Luck!

IS CAE TRANSMISSIBLE BY BUCK SEMEN?

The role of the buck in spreading the CAE virus was the subject of several clinical observations which suggest that the buck is not an important source of infection. In herds where all the does are serologically negative, but the bucks are seropositive, this situation can last several years. Introduction of the virus into a clean herd by artificial insemination has never been observed.

Contact on the farm between males and females is usually limited to the breeding period. A study of 20 seropositive bucks (some clinically affected) is reported where semen was collected 5 times over 2 years. Culture of these samples for 2 months failed to reveal any slow viruses. Although laboratories have isolated virus from buck semen, the disease is far less apt to be spread by 1 or 2 inseminations a year than by macrophage-laden milk on hands during milking.

(Reprinted from Wool & Wattle; J Assoc, La Chevre 173:18, July-August 1989.)

Real-Time Ultrasound May Help Goat Breeders

High-frequency sound waves can quickly and accurately tell whether your goats are pregnant, according to Ohio State University veterinarian Dr. George Haibel. Even a one-month pregnancy can be diagnosed with a real-time ultrasound unit. This is much sooner than many other pregnancy detection methods. The examination takes only seconds, and there's little room for error, notes Dr. Haibel.

The likelihood of a false positive diagnosis is virtually zero, while false positive diagnosis can be a problem with other machines such as amplitude/depth ultrasound units. The amplitude/depth machine interprets amplitude and depth of reflected sound waves of linked tissue and fluid depth in the womb, and success depends on the operator's skill. A series of lights or a tone indicates a positive diagnosis. Amplitude/depth units are most accurate in the third month of pregnancy. The real-time ultrasound machine, on the other hand, is similar to those used in human prenatal medicine. The reflected sound waves are read by the machine, and are shown as a two-dimensional image on a small television screen. The image is constantly updated because the sound waves are continuously sent

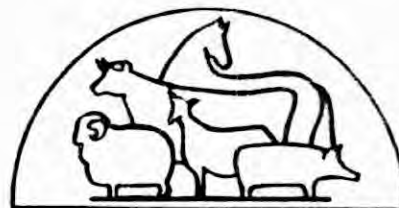
and received. This shows fetal movement.

The sound waves are generated from a small probe held under the animal's back leg, against the belly. The probe is placed directly against the goat's skin. Goats are clipped in this area so their hair doesn't affect the probe's function. If there is any air between the probe and skin, there won't be a picture; so a gel is put on the probe to ensure good contact.

The image created by the sound waves can reveal important information about the fetus. With proper interpretation, fetal age can be measured. The image also shows the number of fetuses, and the sex if examined between 80 and 120 days of pregnancy.

Breeders should consider the cost of the exam in deciding whether ultrasound is worth the expense. If the benefits of confirming the pregnancy and knowing the sex of the offspring outweigh the procedure's cost, real-time is a good idea. Local veterinarians should have information on real-time ultrasound, and where it is available. For more information, Dr. George Haibel may be contacted at (614) 292-6661.

(Reprinted with permission from "Farm & Dairy", Salem, Ohio.)



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Freeport, Michigan 49325

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