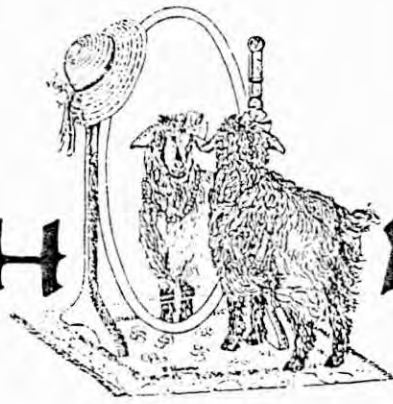


CASH MIRROR



VOLUME ONE, ISSUE TEN

JULY 1990



CASHMIRROR



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

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REFLECTIONS

The torrential rains have finally stopped in my small segment of the world. We luxuriate in the bright sun and blue skies. The goats are all on pasture and the barns have been cleaned and dried out.

The emerald green landscape in the Northwest does not come without cost to goat farmers however. We fight the rain constantly - its not that I get depressed with rain, its all the work and expense that it causes. But this week we watch the T.V. and see the fires of California and Arizona. We look upon whole housing developments that have been incinerated to ash, chimneys and charred twisted remains of automobiles and kitchen appliances. Then I think to myself that perhaps the rain isn't so bad after all. I always wonder about the animals-both domestic and wild-when I see one of those large fires. And then I wonder about the sick mind that deliberately started this fire. And is that sick mind a reflection of our world today? Are we all vulnerable to being a victim of persons with such a mind? And worse - are we vulnerable to becoming one of the sick ones? I ponder that and then I decide that life on a goat farm in the mountains, working dawn to dusk, isn't so bad. In fact, its pretty darn good!

Cashmerely yours,

Judith Richardson Haralson

COVER PHOTO: Dennis Funderburgh and Don Jackman of American Breeders Cashmere Co., Camp Wood Texas, checking fiber to determine whether it is 15 or 17 micron! Photo courtesy of Beverly Jackman ABC Cashmere Co.

VETERINARY ADVICE FROM DR. KAY ORLANDO

Reprinted with permission from the "Pygmy Goat Memo"

Q. Can I give my goat aspirin?

A. Aspirin is an excellent painkiller and anti-inflammatory drug for goats. Give a 5 grain aspirin for 50-75 lbs. body weight, up to 4 times per day to reduce fever and pain.

Q. One of my bucks recently had a stone lodge in the urethra, blocking urination. This was very painful for him, and a scary episode for us. I am really worried about this happening again. What causes this problem, and what can be done to prevent it?

A. Minerals precipitate out of the urine in the bladder, and form stones or calculi. These stones then travel down the urethra and can become lodged, especially near the end of the penis where the urethra is the narrowest. When such calculi are removed, have them analyzed if at all possible. The most common type is called struvite. These are composed of ammonium magnesium phosphate.

Some animals' biological systems may be more prone to produce calculi than others. By reducing the minerals available to produce stones in the urine, stone production can be reduced or eliminated. Grain, which is high in phosphorus, should be fed judiciously. Alfalfa hay, with its higher calcium content, will also help reduce phosphorus levels in the urine. Alfalfa also increases water consumption, which helps dilute the urine making precipitation less likely. Check your trace-mineral salt. Use one that does NOT contain added levels of magnesium. Have the water supply checked for levels of phosphorus and magnesium. Make sure that drinking water is fresh and palatable. Warm water may be necessary during periods of cold weather.

Q. I recently had to pay a veterinarian to euthanize an animal. It was expensive, since it involved an emergency call on a holiday. I routinely give my own shots, and feel confident I could competently and emotionally handle an injectable euthanizing solution. However, my vet tells me that the substance he uses is strictly controlled and he is forbidden by law to sell me any. Why is this?

A. Most euthanizing solutions contain a barbiturate, phenobarbital. This is a strictly

controlled substance requiring a narcotic license to obtain. The liability of having something like this sitting in a cupboard in your home is tremendous, and more than a little scary. To be most effective, these solutions should be given in a vein or the heart. Given properly, they provide a humane death for the animal. Given improperly, unwanted reactions and a prolonged, lingering death can occur.

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SHEEP, LAMBS AND WOOL AMERICAN STYLE

Impressions after a 5 week tour
By J.T. Williams, "Eastlake", Uralla.
New South Wales, Australia

Five weeks only gives one an impression of the industry so therefore please forgive me if there are a few mistaken ideas.

The conditions in the U.S.A. are very different to ours, therefore management is quite different. Taking these two factors into consideration the industry could not be classed as efficient, even though there are some well run ranches.

It could be suggested that they try to handle sheep like cattle. Their general management practices are years behind ours because research etc. has not reached the Rancher.

The sheep industry is based on lamb production as the main enterprise, with wool as a bi-product. One gained the impression that the Rambouillet sheep was the base breed with many other breeds being crossed with them over the years and now in many cases all mixed up. Other breeds mentioned were Lincoln, Corriedale, Polworth, British Breeds and Black Face.

The aim for many years has been to breed a large framed sheep with abundant milk supply for lamb raising and in some cases cheese production.

The carrying capacity for sheep (ewes) seems to be in a range of 1 sheep to 7 acres with cattle. This rate may be bettered in places but the climate is very harsh in many areas and the rate in desert areas can be as low as 25 sheep for 1 square mile. The ewes are fed grain and hay in most areas during winter. In the North, South Dakota/Wyoming and similar are as the climate is very severe in winter and with the sheep living open range, they are fed on the snow which is up to 5 feet deep for long periods.

The lamb industry can be efficient where management is good. Shed and yard lambings produce up to 160% whereas open range very rarely exceeds 90% and can be greatly reduced if conditions are unfavorable. The week before visiting South Dakota and Wyoming areas there was a snow fall and the ewes and lambs on open range suffered heavy losses because the snow was 1 ft deep and lasted for 5 days.

The efficient producer sells his lambs at 4 1/2 to 5 months and sells for \$100 to 120 per head.

May I suggest that the Rancher at this stage of his operation is worse off than the prime lamb producer in Australia.

Wool production in U.S.A. is very difficult to compare with Australian production because in the first instance wool is only a byproduct and secondly the climate is very harsh in comparison to ours and this climate tends to make the animal produce large amounts of wool grease to protect its body from the extremes of hot and cold. Average yield of wool are around 45% to 50%. The micron range can be anything from 21 micron up, in north and center America with the fine wools in the south. These fine wools in Texas are 20 micron and finer.

Lets move now to the shearing operation and wool handling. This has to be seen to be believed. Having been warned beforehand to be prepared for the worst, those worst fears were far better than the real thing.

In the majority of cases it seems that shearing is an operation that must be got out of the way as quickly as possible. There are a few exceptions to this rule but I was assured that they are rare.

A contractor is engaged and he supplies all the gear and labor that is necessary to get the job done. Up to 10 shearers may arrive to shear 1,000 or 1,200 ewes. In some cases there is a shed to set up in but in most cases just a combined cattle and sheep yard so the operation is set up there. A tarpaulin is strung up over a few poles for a roof and the shearing gear is strung up on poles if electric or if no electricity available the contractor brings 110 portable generating set or arrives with engine and gear on a trailer, 3 or 4 stands on either side of trailer. The portable electric gear is primitive; electric motor direct couple with cog on end of shaft and thus runs the stands. This gear is similar to what we had here around 60 years ago in 2 stand coffee pot plants made by Cooper Lister & Wolsely.

The only thing modern in the whole set up is the handpiece with wide comb. In the north the comb has 7 or 9 teeth with the outside one

WOOL...CON'T

pulled out as far as possible. This comb also has skids welded onto the bottom side of it to lift it up off the skin making it into a type of snow comb. Moving south the combs become more conventional and are the same as we use but once again the outside tooth is pulled outwards.

Grinding combs and cutter in north and central America is similar to what we do but in the south where the Mexicans take over there is a completely new method of grinding. The comb emery is vertical and runs more slowly than our normal disc does. The shearer takes the comb on his fingers and pushes it on to the emery disc until it gets too hot to hold, then drops it or takes it off and with much rubbing of fingers to cool them continues until all combs are ground. The same procedure is repeated for the cutters, the only difference is the cutter disc is horizontal or on the flat.

The shearing board is a number of pieces of 6 ply timber which is roughly laid on the ground and pegged in place so as not to move about too much.

Well everything is ready to start shearing so provided it does not rain the operation can begin. The sheep are run into the yard by 4 or half a dozen cowboys with whips, cattle prodors (electric), sticks and bags.

The shearer walks off the board grabs a sheep by the back leg, drags it towards the board while at the same time it is struggling to go in the opposite direction. Once on the board the shearer knocks it down, gets it in position near the shearing gear which depends on the length of the down tube and they shear the sheep in a somewhat similar way to what we do. The 7 and 9 tooth comb tends to tear the wool off rather than cut it so the sheep leaves the board to return to the woolly mob in the yard looking rather like a badly plucked chook. (chicken)

As we move south the ordinary wide comb is used and the sheep does not get such a bad time until we reach the south where Mexican type shearing takes over. The sheep is caught in the same way but once on the board it is laid on its back because the shearing gear is only about 3 ft above the board and the shearer does the job on his knees or half standing. With the sheep on its back the belly wool is removed, with this done the shearer then places his left knee just above the udder

and pins the sheep to the board while he cleans the back legs, crutch and just over the tail. At this point he pulls out of gear grabs a piece of rope from his hip pocket and ties 2 back legs and one front together, then continues shearing neck, longblow and whipping side, unties sheep and lets it back into mob and no doubt by this time the sheep has a bad gut ache because for the neck and long blow the right knee was pushed into the gut.

Average tally for day for all shearing about 80 to 100. Hours of work, 7 to 8 hour, no set time for runs and shearing goes on for 7 days a week. Very little or no union involvement.

Moving now to wool handling, and this is minimal and rough. In the majority of cases the fleeces are just collected in a lump and presented to the grader (classer) who assesses it. There are usually 3 grades, sometimes four. Long and clean, short and clean (clean means good color), bad color, tender, bellies and locks all go together. Black wool may get taken out and if so will be thrown into bellies and locks. Should a black face or X breed turn up in the mob, well that wool is lost somewhere in the lines.

The average owner contractor or grader has no ideas of the damage that is caused by contamination or black wool.

There are a few ranches where an attempt is being made to prepare the wool in a proper manner. They have great trouble because the shearer ties the fleece in knots and no one seems to know how to pick up a fleece and throw it onto a table and when it comes to skirting they have no idea what to do.

There is a feeling in the industry that something must be done quickly to upgrade. Ten years ago the sheep numbers in the U.S.A. were 20 million, today it is about 10 million.

The wool once past the grader is put into long sausage type hessian bags, only stamped in, no wool presses. The next stage is to send it in to the local wool merchant or direct to a wool mill. When it reaches its destination it is sampled and cored. The results are then sent to the gower and the merchant or mill make an offer in cents per pound.

These prices seem to me to be accepted by the Rancher without much bargaining. I got the feeling that the wool mills were leaving themselves plenty of room to move and that

WOOL ...CON'T

the wool merchants were doing very well out of this system. I don't think most of them would like to see change.

The wool merchants having purchased the clip from the Rancher, then in most cases re grade it and make it up into mill lots. These lots are either sold direct to mills or samples with measurement results are sent to a sale center where mill representatives (buyers) attend, and are shown the samples. The only comment I heard about these sales was that the buyer hoped that the lot he bought was something like the sample he was shown.

COMMENTS

If the wool industry in America is going to survive it must upgrade quickly. In its present form it is an embarrassment to the average American because they are a proud people who are proud of their achievement and the wool producing industry is not one of them.

I came to the conclusion that the average American sees wool as something rough to touch or harsh. They say about our wool "your wool is beautiful but expensive".

When it comes to selling woollen goods in America we do have some hurdles to jump. May I suggest that if their industry was a successful one they would be more likely to support it. For example Cotton and synthetics are very successful in the eyes of Americans and they support them very strongly. If they supported their wool industry it would make our job in promoting wool easier as wool would be seen generally as a product one should support. I see the first push at this point would be Australian/American wool blends and then just wool.

Finally I must stress that from what I saw of the American wool Industry there is no way that American raw wool can ever challenge our product no matter how much good breeding takes place.

I go so far as to say "Take a good average 21-22 micron Australian flock and put it under American conditions and in 12 months it will look no different woolwise and will have the characteristics of the average American flock".

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CASHMERE BREEDING IN NEW ZEALAND

By Peter Read

A major problem when we first started breeding goats in New Zealand was a lack of knowledge. Breeders assumed that what happened with sheep breeding was applicable to goats.

The two main things that we got wrong were the assumptions that bucks will throw progeny 2 microns finer than themselves and that goat fiber will only coarsen by an average of 2 microns from 1 year to maturity.

So all cashmere breeders started off breeding coarser goats than they anticipated.

The next mistake we made was to assume that if we picked the finest of the does and mated them to the finest bucks then the result would probably be fine fiber. Not so. We had either forgotten or never learnt our basic genetics. Animals will throw to the average of the herd or flock that they came from.

It was in 1984 that New Zealand really got started with cashmere breeding. One or two breeders started in 1981 and a few more in the intervening years, but in 1984 CAPRONZ held its first conference and officers were elected (in 1983 a steering committee had been formed).

Two group breeding schemes were started and several studs began breeding. By 1987 there were 11 GBS's and even more studs.

As early as 1984 a small number of breeders realized that if the industry carried on breeding as it was, the only fibre produced under 16.5 microns would be from the first shearing of kids that would be nearly 100% lame with scald and footrot!

By 1989 100% of New Zealand cashmere breeders understood how difficult it was to breed goats that produced good weights of fine cashmere and goats that had good feet and constitution.

A high percent also realized that a goat's production altered dramatically with its environment.

In 1987 a Sire Referencing Scheme was started by MAF. In 1988 it got even smaller.

In late 1988 at a cashmere breeders seminar the SRS (sire referencing scheme) was well

presented and that last understood by CAPRONZ and several prominent breeders.

Early last year CAPRONZ formed Goat Genetic Services which took over the running of the SRS and changed its name to Sire Proving Scheme. This was a major breakthrough for cashmere breeders. The proof of a sire is in the production of his progeny. Nearly all studs are run on good country so naturally their goats have good production. But now NZ has the mechanism with which to compare one sire with another and to say which is producing the better progeny under a variety of environmental conditions and management regimes.

One of the best features of the scheme is that breeders who wish to put more emphasis on certain traits can. So by putting a higher value on that particular trait the ranking of the sires could change.

As the scheme progresses more traits can be added if enough breeders want them.

Dairy farmers have a long list of traits and the percentage accuracy that these traits will come through from the sire.

NZ goat breeder's big advantages are a small country geographically so breeders can physically get together at least once or twice a year to discuss problems and exchange ideas. Seminars, meetings and communication are relatively cheap and easy to organise. The other advantage is a long history of top pastoral research and pastoral farmers that are educated and used to making full use of the research.

These two factors have been the major reason why N.Z. cashmere breeders have been able to progress so far in such a short time.

ABSCESSES AND DAIRY GOATS

Reprinted from Countryside & Small Stock Journal, Vol. 73 No. 5

COUNTRYSIDE: I am writing about the use of burdock extract to treat boils in dairy goats.

We have a herd of about 50 animals. They are on browse, eating hay only in winter or during the rainy season when it is too wet to go out. Our original animals had been boarded at large commercial dairies in California before we came to New Mexico. We usually have had one or two boils a year in our herd.

Three years ago a doe we recently purchased developed two huge boils, one on either side of her head under her ears. We bought a small bottle of burdock extract to treat them. We soon ran out of the burdock so the next time we were in town we got another bottle, and when we ran out of that we tried on more time. It seemed to us that the boils were slightly smaller but it was hard to tell. These were the largest boils we had ever seen.

It was costing more to treat the doe with the burdock than she was worth, and since it was hard for us to get to town and stay stocked with it we stopped the treatment. The boils began to grow again, or continued to grow, and we lanced them eventually but we wondered what would have happened if we had treated her continually for a longer time.

Last fall a couple of does who were new to our herd developed boils, both at the base of the throat. We culled these animals.

In December a 1988 kid developed a boil at the base of her throat. In January two more of our homegrown does developed boils. In February the 1988 kid still had her original boil and then showed up with a new one under her ear.

We purchased a liter of burdock extract and began giving these three animals 25 drops (1/2 cc) once a day. (BioBotanica suggests 10 to 15 drops on its bottle.) At first we drenched them individually; then we switched to giving the burdock on a piece of dried bread. We put the extract on immediately before feeding it.

After two weeks we observed no change so we put these animals on 25 drops (1/2cc) twice a day, while also including the rest of the herd on the extract once a day as a preventative measure.

We continued this treatment for another two weeks. At this point the original boil on the kid came to a head so we isolated her and lanced and cleaned the boil. Five more animals had developed new boils by this time and we gave up treating the herd with burdock as we felt we were not getting any results.

Some of these boils were very fluid and had pussy, not cheesy contents. These boils may have been infected with staph or strep as opposed to coryne. A staph or strep boil might be caused by a tiny puncture in an animal's skin. Last fall we had replaced all our feeders using inexpensive rough cut lumber which was very splintery and rough. We have now smoothed over all the areas of our barns that a goat might put her head and neck against and hope this surface smoothing helps stop the rash of boils we have been having.

Three weeks after we stopped treatment the large soft boil at the base of one of our doe's throat disappeared. We were very excited, hoping this was a cure! Unfortunately, the doe immediately became deathly ill. After five days she started to stand up on her own and come into the milking parlor, but although we had stripped out what little milk she had during her illness to keep up her production, she still is not milking very well. We are afraid the boil broke internally and the infected pus slipped down into her body cavity.

We would really like more feedback from others who have used burdock.

At one time my partner and I had some kids come down with sore mouth. We freaked out and vaccinated the entire herd. You are supposed to vaccinate every year once you start vaccinating for sore mouth to protect against the now artificially introduced disease. We never vaccinated again and never had sore mouth again. My animals, moved into other herds and stressed, never had this disease but the herds in residence developed cases.

When new animals were introduced into our herd in New Mexico we once again got sore mouth, but only on the new animals. Nancy Coonridge, Pie Town New Mexico.

ABSCESSES....CON'T

The first question would have to be--why burdock extract? Herbalists consider burdock extract (made from the roots) a remedy for blood disorders and a few other things, but not for anything resembling caseous lymphadenitis.

What are these boils, or abscesses as they're more commonly called?

First, it's caused by an organism, usually *cornebacterium ovis* (also called *cornebacterium pseudotuberculosis*). It's common in sheep, and is the major disease of dairy goats in the United States.

With sheep, it's believed that the bacterium enters the body mostly through skin abrasions, principally caused by shearing, but unhealed navels, docking and castration wounds are also suspect. Goats most likely pick it up from eating contaminated feeds, although external parasites have also been suspected.

The superficial lymph nodes are usually the primary sites of the abscesses. That's why we generally see them under the ears, on the throat, in front of the shoulders and on the flank. However, the visceral lymph nodes can also be affected, and of course we can't see those without opening up the animal.

By the time we can see an abscess as a small lump, the animal might have been infected for several months. In some cases the lump will become as large as a grapefruit. What's happening is that the affected lymph nodes become a dry, firm capsule. (If the pus is yellow or greenish yellow and more fluid, it may indicate the presence of *corynebacterium pyogenes* rather than *C. Pseudotuberculosis*.)

Eventually the abscess will rupture by itself--causing further contamination and the spread of the highly contagious disease. Before it bursts, isolate the animal, make an incision--preferably a vertical one and as low as possible to promote drainage-- and carefully squeeze out the pus without getting any on your skin. Collect it in a paper towel and burn it immediately. Flush the wound with an antiseptic solution and keep the affected animal isolated.

If the abscess is in the throat behind the jaw or under the ear, a veterinarian should perform the procedure, since these areas contain major blood vessels and nerves.

Dr. Sam Guss recommends four daily injections of 100,000 units of penicillin with dihydrostreptomycin after treating the abscess.

With any luck--and good management and strict sanitation--you can control the problem. However, some herds never eradicate caseous lymphadenitis. Then it might be necessary to raise kids completely separated from older animals until you can build up disease-free herd--or to depopulate, thoroughly disinfect the premises, and start over with animals known to be free of the problem.



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CASHMERE DOWN UNDER

By Jenny Eddington

The first snows of Winter have arrived, and although we never get snow here the mountains aren't far away as the "crow flies" so we are getting the freezing winds.

The past few weeks have been very exciting for us. After spending several years attempting to conceive via I.V.F. and applying for overseas adoption, out of the blue we were contacted by our own local adoption - child welfare agency to ask if we would take a baby girl named Aimee. Aimee was considered "special needs" and therefore could not go through normal adoption channels where babies are matched with parents of similar genetic origins. We had but four days notice and so with much joy we welcomed Aimee into our lives just over a week ago. To say the least it has caused some re-organization around here but she is a real darling and we are all very happy.

The news of Aimee capped a great week for us as it was Campbell Town Show one of the most prestigious on the show calendar. We were very proud of our team who won all but one class. Grand Champion and Reserve buck and doe and Supreme Champion cashmere all came home with us.

Our doe, Greenmount Brownie, was Supreme and that was particularly emotional for me as she was born in the middle of a terrible hail storm and I found her comatose. I spent four days in front of the fire to revive her. With my special friends in the herd I sometimes feel I am clouded in my judgement of their quality, but Brownie really stole the show. Last year she was an embryo donor for export to the U.S.A. and her mother and sister have both been exported to Cascade Cashmere Company in Washington State.

Brownie and I also met the state Governor and his wife, Sir Phillip and Lady Bennet. Maybe I should explain, our governor is non-political, but serves as the Queen's Vice Regal representative. I was invited to afternoon tea with the Governor, Brownie was disappointed she wasn't. I couldn't believe it when they served cucumber sandwiches. I hope not to many noticed I was the one who smelled of buck. I had been showing bucks all morning and couldn't change clothes.

I am disappointed that with Aimee's arrival I have had to cancel my trip to the seminar in July. I was so looking forward to meeting you

all. Today I had a video maker out and have made a tape of my message I was to do at the conference. It was fun to do and I hope my message to all of you to learn "hands-on" selection skills and not rely solely on scientific tests to make breeding decisions, comes over.

Tomorrow is the shortest day of the year, in our hemisphere, so all those little secondary cashmere producing follicles are about to shut down for the season and shearing time is with us. We will shear some goats next week and the remainder in around a month. I also have to class some other grower's fleeces so Aimee will be getting in some early classing lessons.

Sorry I can't be meeting you all I'd as planned and I hope your Spring kidding has gone well.



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HOW TO MONITOR YOUR FEEDING PROGRAM

Reprinted from Countryside and Small Stock Journal

Large-scale commercial livestock producers monitor their feed carefully, watching both cost and nutrition. Even small differences add up when you're dealing with large herds or flocks. An extra penny per chicken doesn't mean much to the homesteader with a dozen hens, but when you have a million of them, that's \$10,000.00. Have 10 or 15 million birds like some of the big boys do, and pretty soon you're talking real money.

Does this mean the homesteader doesn't have to pay attention to feed costs or quality and nutrition? Of course not. Whether you're feeding a few rabbits, some poultry, pigs or anything else, there are several things you can do to monitor your feeding program.

First, be aware that the cheapest feed isn't necessarily the least expensive. To use a ridiculous example just to dramatize this, you could feed a goat sawdust: the cost is zero...but so are the results. Or you could feed the animal granola from a health food store: the goat would probably love it, but the cost would be prohibitive, and the benefits would be negligible. The trick is to find the point between these two extremes where cost and nutrition are in balance.

If you purchase commercial feed the problem is simplified - somewhat. For example, if you had a choice of getting laying mash from Dealer A or Dealer B and the feed from Dealer B is cheaper, all other considerations being equal, that's where you'll buy it.

But "all other considerations" include not only the distance you'll have to drive to get it and the friendliness or helpfulness of the feed store personnel and whatever else of that nature you consider important: you also want to know if the feeds have the same nutritional value.

One way to determine this is to look at the bag tags. Compare values and ingredients. But in the final analysis the proof will be in your own barn. Your animals must do well on whatever feed you purchase for them.

If you attend rabbit shows sooner or later you'll undoubtedly hear breeders complaining about the feed of one company or another. They'll blame breeding problems, kidding problems and just about anything else, on the feed. And sometimes their gripes are

legitimate.

There have been several well publicized incidents in recent years where feed manufacturers changed formulations or used minerals or vitamins that were stored for too long or improperly, resulting in wide spread problems for breeders.

Of course, feed manufacturers often change formulas. They're always looking for "least cost rations," which presumably saves you money. There are many situations where one grain can be substituted for another or proportions of ingredients can be altered in response to price and availability, with little or no effect on the animals consuming that feed.

Generally speaking, the small scale livestock raiser can depend on reputable manufacturers, mills and dealers to offer feeds that will do the job they were intended for.

If you mix your own feed it's up to you to do the monitoring. This includes not only determining least cost rations, but palatability and nutrition. Figuring costs and palatability is easy. Costs can be figured with a calculator, and the animals will soon let you know if a feed is palatable or not. But nutrition? That can be tough.

Feed manufacturers--and big farmers rely on laboratory analyses of feedstuffs. One reason this is a necessity is that grain tends to vary in nutrient content. You can find average protein content of corn or oats or barley in a book but those charts only provide averages. The grain you grow or buy might be far different, and hay nutrients vary even more wildly.

Contact your county agent, state extension specialist, feed dealer or veterinarian for names and addresses of commercial labs that do feed analyses. Then call a lab and check on cost, sample size needed, and types of analyses available.

A lab can also check commercial feeds. If you suspect a problem, a lab can confirm or dispel your fears.

Labs do make mistakes, and there are normal variations in test results. Because of this, and the fact that batches of feeds will vary, testing at least four times a year is recommended.

Many homesteaders buy a commercial feed, then "supplement" it with other feeds to save money. This can be acceptable, if the same principles are followed. All too often, they're not! Feeding an animal a portion of nutritionally balanced feed and then providing anything that's not balanced unbalances the total. You wouldn't give your children a good hearty breakfast then let them fill up on marshmallows the rest of the day.

As with human nutrition, animal nutrition requires good sense laboratory analyses and calculating cost to the penny might not be any more necessary for your animals than for your-self if you're not raising livestock in huge numbers to make a profit. But keep the principles of feed monitoring in mind. Your animals' health and well-being depends on it.

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GOATS GET NO RESPECT FROM HOTEL, NEWSPAPER, AT ADGA CONVENTION IN VIRGINIA

Reprinted from Countryside and Small Stock Journal Vol 73 No 5

The biggest news from the 1989 American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) convention held in Roanoke, Virginia, apparently wasn't the \$4,300 paid for the top selling animal in the Spotlight Sale: It was the hotel and a newspaper column.

The problem with the Hotel Roanoke was that it wouldn't permit the Spotlight Sale animals into the ballroom where the sale was held. Instead, the goats were televised outside and shown in the ballroom on a large screen video.

"This sale has been held for 85 years and this is the first time it hasn't been permitted in a ballroom", the Roanoke Times & World News quoted Molly Matejka of Spencer, Ohio, as fuming. "We've had sales in Las Vegas casinos. We didn't take this very well. If we had known this would happen we would have left the goats at home and brought videotapes".

"This is the first hotel in the country that has refused us their best ballroom". Judy Hoy of Washington state told a reporter. "We were disappointed." One of her LaManchas brought \$2,200 at the sale.

Then to add insult to injury, Times & World News columnist Ed Shamy wrote a piece which blistered many of the 350 conventioners. An obvious attempt at humor, the main theme was that goat people have to get together once in a while just to reassure each other that it's okay to raise goats. Anyone who found anything funny about it—regardless of how they feel about goats—has a serious problem.

"Here in Virginia, you can't legally sell unpasteurized goat milk, though goat milk connoisseurs prefer their milk raw." Shamy wrote. "A black market for the stuff flourishes, I am told, but I can think of far better reasons to break the law than goat's milk."

And he agreed that goats are different than cows"...very different. Cows we consider the foster mothers of the human race. Goats? They eat tin cans, right?" Har har.

For not enjoying those and a few other equally sophomoric quips, goat owners were accused of not having a sense of humor.

The 1990 convention will be held in California...where goats get more respect, hopefully.

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MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES TO MAXIMISE CASHMERE PRODUCTION

By Tod Kirwan

Reprinted with permission from Western Australia Region Newsletter of A.C.G.A.

A number of cashmere producers are not collecting much of the cashmere their goats grow or are capable of growing. People say they are leaving the industry because there is no money in it. This is not so. Even in a herd of selected domesticated feral does there is at least \$20.00 gross per head per year to gain.

Two important decisions to be made before undertaking a cashmere enterprise are:

1. There must be appropriate time allocated during the year for someone permanently in the work force to carry out necessary management procedures.

2. The size of the involvement must be large enough to make a worthwhile contribution to the farm income.

Without these two components, the enterprise is doomed to failure or will become nuisance value.

With ten years experience farming cashmere and mohair goats, together with many years developing a mob of merino sheep for wool, differences are evident between running sheep and goats. With sheep we have established types of animals with flexible breeding and shearing patterns to accommodate our farm programmes.

This is not so with cashmere goats. To maximize returns you must kid and shear at certain times.

KIDDING: Plan to drop kids from late *July to late *September (2 months) hence join does late February to end of April. Use 2% bucks. Single sire mating is very important for several reasons.

A) You are able to evaluate quality of the buck used.

B) Goats are better run in small mobs. This is more important at mating and kidding time. Allocate a leader colored tag to each buck and the does he is joined to. The does can then be drafted into sire groups at any time.

C) Mark all commercial buck kids. There is nothing worse than an odd buck in the herd.

SHEARING TIMES: There are three times of the year which I have found goats may or will have sufficient cashmere to shear. Bear in mind, at present, there is no premium for long fiber and no penalty for fiber over 35mm. If an animal has 40mm or more of growth draft it to shear. It has been established that most animals grow more fiber if shorn when there is a certain length of fiber on the body, given favorable seasonal conditions. The shearing dates or drafting dates based on the recommended kidding time (and there can be no other kidding time) are:

1. *Late November/early December: Mostly weaners and some does who lost their kids, or wethers.

2. *Late February early March: It is very important to shear all goats with 40mm of fiber now. I have found if long fiber is not shorn now there will be indiscriminate shedding and rubbing on fences in April and May.

3. *Late June/early July for main shearing before kidding.

These recommendations are based on a doe herd completely. I believe with a kidding rate of >100% and shearing controlled as suggested, the returns per head are better from does.

I do not mate maiden does until 18 months of age to allow:

- more accurate culling for fiber production quality and quantity.

- Does can grow out more. If you select for fine fiber you will notice animal size reduced.

I believe our best cashmere cutters will be wethers and there are many now which would average >\$20.00 per head but due to uncertain markets for mature goats it seems that the cabrito market in the short term will return more.

It is good sense to dock horns to preserve hide quality.

Management...Con't

TYPICAL CALENDAR OR WORK PROGRAM:

Feb 23 - Mar 16 : Draft for shearing, cull weaner and 18 month does, dock horns. Perhaps drench and inoculate. Put bucks in for 6 weeks.

June 22 - July 13: Draft for shearing, fox control program, place does in their kidding paddock.

Sept 1-7, Oct 1-7: Castrate kids and inoculate.

Oct 10 to Nov 20: Approximate dates for cabrito. Time must be allocated to maximize returns. Collect samples for worm egg count.

Nov 23 - Dec 14: Wean doe kids, drench and inoculate. Draft to shear.

Allow at least one week for: Fiber course, attend store, field days and or sales.

- You must learn to class your own fiber. Without this knowledge you will be unable to develop your herd in the direction of your breeding goals.

-Visit property where bucks were purchased.

-Attend Field Days and ask questions if you are unsure on any point.

I am quite sure cashmere production can be quite profitable when proper management and breeding skills are applied.

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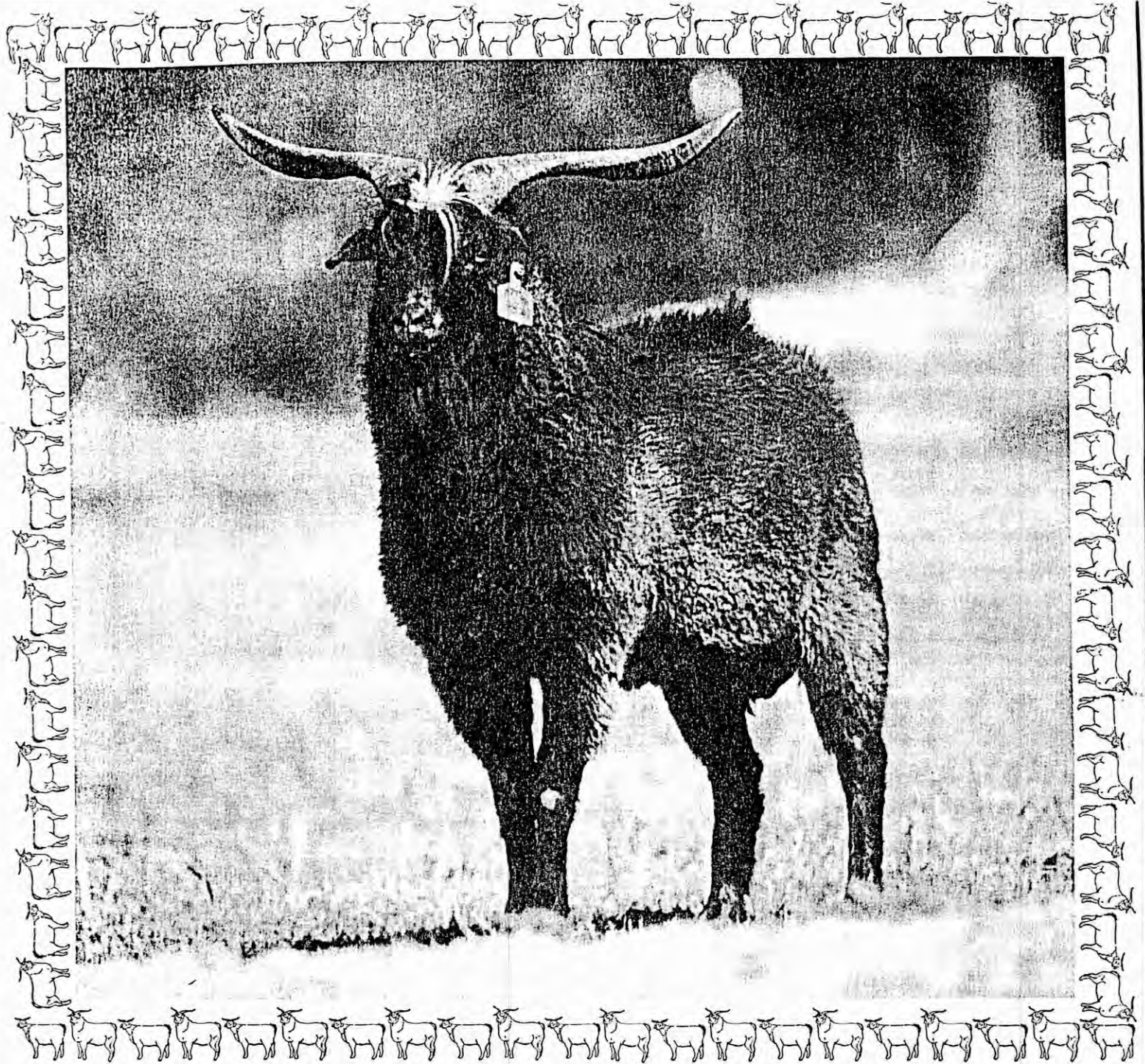


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DANCING SCHOOL

By Marcia Adams

During the second week of May I spent 5 days dancing with sheep in Corvallis, Oregon. The event was sponsored by the New Zealand Wool Board and the various organizations that host the school across the United States. Its purpose is to teach ordinary folks like you and me the professional methods and techniques of sheep shearing.

My journey to Corvallis began in Northwestern Washington with a search for someone with the experience and willingness to shear my own small herd of fiber goats. Eventually, I was able to locate someone who fit the criteria, but when he was done I was left with a herd polk-a-dotted with yellow antiseptic spray which covered numerous nicks and cuts. I was also much lighter in the pocket. Brashly thinking I could do at least as well myself, I enrolled in shearing school.

This year, the course instructor (lead choreographer) was a professional shearer and teacher from New Zealand named Rob Middleton. Rob was very calm, patient, and good humored. And besides teaching us to shear, he also taught us some new anatomical terminology. Take for instance the word "tile". Knowing there was nothing much ceramic about sheep I waited patiently for some indication of what or where this thing might be. It was a couple of days into the class I finally figured out he was talking about the tail!! Not a very big man, Rob was tremendously inspiring with his graceful and seemingly effortless demonstrations of sheep shearing.

There were sixteen students in the class, half of whom were women, ranging in age from twenty to fifty. Most were part time farmers who were attending the class so they could shear their own small flock at home. There were also several people who intended to supplement their incomes by becoming professional shearers. We may have been a little shy with each other the first day but by the end of the week we experienced the comradeship that comes from sharing five days of intense learning and hard labor.

The first few hours of the class were spent discussing our equipment: how to attach the combs and cutters to the handpiece, how to sharpen the equipment and keep it lubricated and how to adjust the tension on the handpiece. During the course of the week we had

plenty of opportunities to practice these first lessons. We also learned how to make a pair of burlap mocassins. After a few days of shearing sheep, the lanolin that builds up on the shearing surface becomes very slippery. The mocassins prevent your feet from sliding. The class was then divided into eight groups of two and for the rest of the week we sheared sheep.

There is a technique and an art to shearing which has been developed and refined over many years and is in a constant state of evolution. There is a purpose and an order to the pattern of "blows" by which an animal is separated from its fleece. Not only does it involve a specific path for moving the shears, there is also a technique for controlling the animal and a technique for moving your feet. Though the pattern may vary, this is true, whether you are shearing a lamb or a llama. When your arms, your legs and the animal are all coordinated, the result is smooth, graceful, and efficient. Kinda like dancing. The way to learn shearing and the way to Carnegie Hall are the same: practice, practice, practice.

We were also taught how to shear around and over udders and pizzlies and everyone in the class sheared at least one ram. Yearlings which have never been sheared are terrible dance partners: they want to struggle against you every moment you hold them.

Learning to shear is hard, hot, greasy labor. Images from the school will remain with me for a long time: eight, noisy motor-driven shearing stands under an open shed filled with baaing sheep; red-faced, perspiring students chasing after a half-shorn sheep that has gotten away; the instructor kneeling over a sheep suturing a particularly bad cut. But once you have sheared your first animal you are compelled to try another one. Each new animal becomes a challenge to improve the job you did on the previous one.

Now, about shearing those goats. The instructor admitted that he would rather shear a baby than shear a goat. They are bonier and their skin is looser and more tender than a sheep. If you shear them parallel to the lie of the fiber, the shears have a tendency to run over the top of the hair rather than cutting it. They are also more sensitive to the moods of the shearer: if you are tense, they become tense. He also strongly recommended using a special shearing comb made especially for goats.

Forearmed with that knowledge, this fall I will

Dancing...Con't

do the shearing dance with my own goats. In the meantime I intend to get as much practice on sheep as possible. Always in the back of my mind will be the sound of Rob's words of advice and encouragement. If ever you have an inclination to learn to shear sheep, the National Shearing School is a wonderful way to learn.

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AMERICAN BREEDERS CASHMERE COMPANY

CashMirror's Feature Farmer of the Month

On the western edge of Southwest Texas' beautiful hill country, you will find the AMERICAN BREEDERS CASHMERE Co., a partnership which incorporates the expertise and elbow grease of Don Jackman and Carroll Vernor of Camp Wood, Texas, and Dennis Funderburgh of Del Rio, Texas. Having ranched Angora and Spanish goats for more than 30 years each, these three partners are enthusiastic about the formation of the new and highly profitable Cashmere goat industry in the United States. The extremely adaptable Cashmere offers an excellent opportunity for diversifying their existing goat ranches in this dry, rocky area with year-round mild climate, which has already proven to be good goat country.

AMERICAN BREEDERS CASHMERE chose to enter the cashmere industry on two levels. They imported a small but very select group of Cashmeres, because of the reliability of their contacts in Australia; and they carefully selected good open Spanish nannies for breeding to suitable imported Cashmere bucks.

Their location, in the heart of Spanish goat country, enables them to select from the very best cashmere-bearing Spanish goats available anywhere and also provides an already established market for goat meat, or "cabrito."

For their cashmere foundation stock, Carroll made several trips to Australia, selecting top quality goats from a number of premiere breeders, assisted by various prominent judges. AMERICAN BREEDERS' goal is to produce high-quality fine cashmere fiber of 16 1/2 microns or less, with less than a 20% coefficient variation. Selection was not only for fine fiber but also for size and ruggedness, as experience has proved you can't neglect the goat for the fiber. Because of their very careful selection, the AMERICAN BREEDERS CASHMERE Co. believes their goats to be as good as any in Australia and their top buck one of the best ever imported into the U.S.A.

Their Cashmeres left Australia after being shorn expecting summer but arriving with fall. After a brief period of confusion, they acclimated and grew a good fleece, had their kids, and bred back as soon as the billy was turned in with them. The flock consists of 18 nannies, 3 billies, and their fall kid crop. The spring kid crop is already on the ground, as the immediate goal is to increase their number

of quality cashmeres. Because of the high quality of their top buck, AMERICAN BREEDERS CASHMERE is now considering flushing embryos from their nannies in order to maximize their out-put of top quality kids.

The cashmeres were kept on a small farm-type operation when they first arrived and then moved to a large ranch. They do well on either place and seem to be hardier, more rugged, more adaptable, and quicker-breeding than either Angora or Spanish. They have already surpassed ABC's expectations, especially for the first year in America.

Each partner also has a flock of Spanish nannies being bred to other stud bucks imported for crossing with Spanish. These high-quality bucks were chosen especially for quantity and length of guard hair, and greater size and ruggedness.

AMERICAN BREEDERS manages both Cashmere and Spanish goats alike...keeping them in good physical condition but not pampering them. They feed year-round on weeds, forbs, grass and brush (mostly shin oak and liveoak). Their diet is supplemented with Moorman's Sheep and Goat Minerals and in the winter with raw cottonseed. Even when there's little rainfall, they do well with a minimum of supplemental feeding. They're good browsers and clean up the country, utilizing poor-quality forage other animals won't eat.

Forty-five to sixty days before putting the bucks in with them, the nannies are flushed (moved to fresh pasture or supplemented, to get the nutrition curve going up during ovulation) for quicker breeding and multiple births. Dennis' first four Spanish nannies to kid this spring produced eleven kids (three sets of triplets and one of twins). Both spanish and cashmeres kid out in the pasture with virtually no problems.

All of the goats are drenched with Ivermectin in the spring and SafeGuard in the fall, and the kids are vaccinated for soremouth. Management, of course, depends on location, but this seems to be sufficient for the Southwest Texas area.

AMERICAN BREEDERS CASHMERE Co. is proud to be a member of CaPra and to have one of the partners, Carroll Vernor, serving on the board of directors. Their discussions with

ABC...CON'T

other breeders have been positive and educational, increasing their enthusiasm and respect for the association. They welcome both present and potential cashmere goat breeders and offer to share their knowledge and information for the benefit of the industry. AMERICAN BREEDERS plans to continue their careful selection and management, along with thorough record keeping, to assure the maintenance of quality.

With the advantages of their many year's experience in goat ranching, availability of good Spanish nannies, excellent goat country, and a ready-make goat meat market, AMERICAN BREEDERS CASHMERE Co. is looking forward to their part in the development of the new and highly profitable cashmere industry in America.

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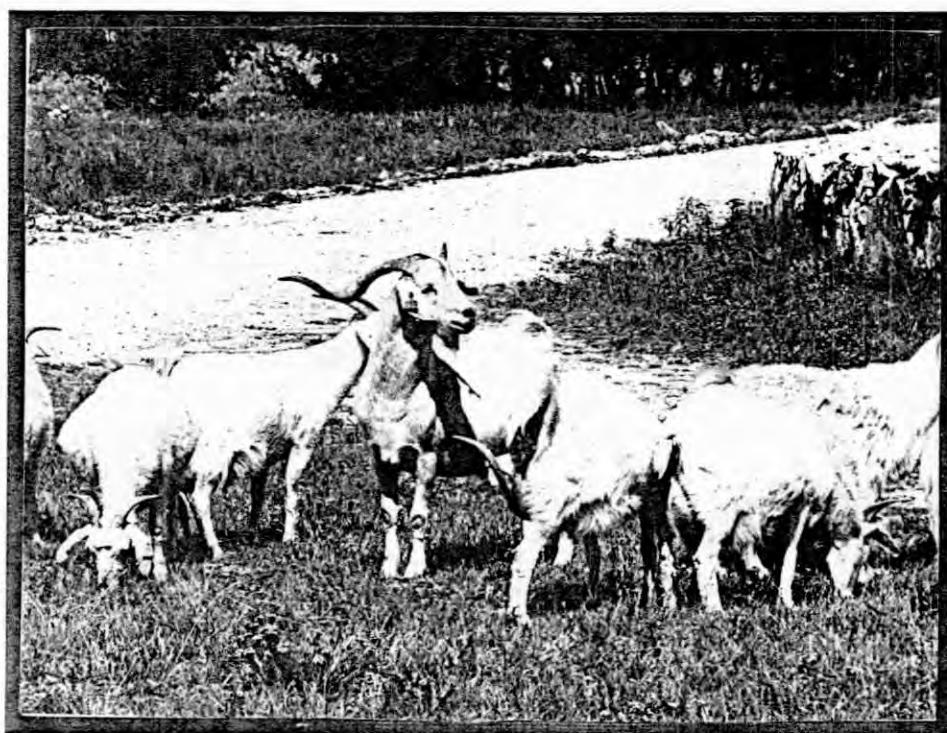
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AmBerCash #1 with his "harem." These photo's were made on the ranch near Del Rio in March. The goats were still a bit confused at that time, having arrived in the fall after shearing, and were growing fleece



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YERSINIOSIS-A THREAT TO YOUNG GOATS IN WINTER

By Keith Thompson, Massey University
Australia

Most farmers are well aware of coccidiosis, salmonellosis and worms as diseases capable of causing diarrhoea and death in young animals, but many have never heard of yersiniosis. This is hardly surprising since the disease is a relative newcomer to livestock in this country, but it is definitely making its presence felt in goats, sheep, cattle and deer. In fact it is a far more important disease of goats than salmonellosis, to which goats seem highly resistant.

Yersiniosis is also gaining more recognition as a human health problem, although the role of animals in spreading infection to people is far from clear.

So what is yersiniosis, how does it affect goats and what is the risk of human infection?

Yersiniosis is an infectious bacterial disease caused by either *Yersinia enterocolitica* or *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*. Several other species of *Yersinia* can also infect man and animals but most do not cause disease. A notable exception in *Yersinia pestis*, the cause of bubonic plague.

Yersinia bacteria prefer cold, wet conditions so it is not surprising that the disease is most common during the later autumn and winter months. Birds, rats, mice and other wild animals probably act as reservoirs of infection, contaminating food and water supplies, but domestic animals can also harbour the organism and shed it into the environment without developing the disease.

The disease itself is usually triggered by some form of stress, and in goats this includes: undernutrition, shearing, inclement weather, transport and severe worm infestations. It is most common in young animals but adults can also be affected.

Typically there is a foul smelling, watery, green diarrhoea which could easily be confused with worms or coccidiosis. It is important to distinguish yersiniosis from these other diseases because death could occur quite rapidly unless the correct treatment is given. Don't just assume that every scouring goat has worms. Goats with yersiniosis will obviously not respond to a worm drench. They will usually be depressed, disinterested in food and

have an elevated body temperature. Blood test will probably reveal increased numbers of leucocytes in circulation and *Yersinia enterocolitica* (or occasionally *Y. pseudotuberculosis*) may be cultured from the faeces. Early treatment with an appropriate antibiotic (eg tetracycline) will offer a good chance of recovery.

Although some goats with yersiniosis die quickly, others may develop a more prolonged illness characterized by diarrhoea, dehydration and weight loss, so the signs can be variable and the diagnosis is not always straight forward.

Just to complicate matters, *Yersinia* species can often be cultured from the faeces of normal animals. In a recent survey conducted by professor Roger Morris, Dr. Stan Fenwick and graduate student Eugene Landa of Massey University, goats on 18 of 30 Manawatu farms were found to be shedding *Yersinia*.

Amongst positive flocks the average level of infection in kids less than 1 year of age was 24%. In hoggets (1-2 years) and adults (2-5 years) the average levels of infection were 12% and 10% respectively. Although none of the goats were showing signs of the disease the study demonstrates that the level of infection is much higher in young goats. It was also of interest that 94% of the isolates from kids were identified as *Y. enterocolitica*, while other apparently innocuous species of *Yersinia* were isolated more commonly from the older goats. This may help to explain why young goats are much more susceptible to the disease.

Postmortem examination of animals which die of yersiniosis is useful to confirm the diagnosis. It is important that the postmortem be performed as soon as possible after death, and several sections of intestine, preserved in formalin for microscopic examination, be kept.

Each winter yersiniosis is responsible for deaths on goat farms throughout New Zealand and its importance is almost certainly underestimated. Now that goat values have dropped, goat deaths are investigated less frequently and many cases will be missed.

It is important to recognise that yersiniosis is stress-related and, if it is occurring in your goats, then you should suspect an underlying management or disease problem. Unless the cause is removed then further cases are likely.



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