

## Vine That Ate the South...

### **Goats Get to Work**

*(Article reprinted from the New York Times by Theo Emery)*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - Summer is settling onto Missionary Ridge overlooking this southeast Tennessee city. Swallows glide on the warm breeze rustling the hackberry trees, kudzu vines sprout along the hillside and the goats are back at work. Chattanooga's goats have become unofficial city mascots since the Public Works Department decided last year to let them roam a city-owned section of the ridge to nibble the kudzu, the fast-growing vine that throttles the Southern landscape. The Missionary Ridge goats and the project's tragicomic turns have created headlines, inspired a folk ballad and invoked more than their share of goat-themed chuckles. "Usually, in dealing with this, you've got to get people past the laugh factor," said Jerry Jeansonne, a city forestry inspector and the program's self-described "goat dude." Despite the humorous overtones to the city's methods, the program represents an environmentally friendly effort to grapple with a real problem in Chattanooga and the South.

To read more on this article, please click on the link below.

[Goats Get to Work...](#)

## This Week in the Meat Goat Markets...

### **Market Trends**

The American Boer Goat Association has embarked on providing its members a weekly service consisting of meat goat market trends from two of the largest markets in the United States.

Seasonally softer demand most likely explained weaker prices for Selection 1 kids in San Angelo, Texas and Lancaster, Pennsylvania last week. Click on the link below to view market trends relative to the week ending September 21, 2007.

[Marketing Trends...](#)

## Figuring the Future...

### **Assessing the Current Meat Goat Status**

According to Sandra G. Solaiman, PhD, PAS of Tuskegee University in a study titled Assessment of the Meat Goat Industry and Future Outlook for U.S. Small Farms, the purpose of this paper is to assess the current meat goat status in the world and meat goat industry in the United States to determine its future outlook. In the United States, meat goat production has been gaining popularity in recent years particularly because of a growing population of ethnic and faith-based groups who

consume goat meat. The national estimates, based on import data only, indicate that the United States is more than 750,000 head deficient in meeting current demands for goat meat.

[Figuring the Future...](#)

## The Cream of the Crop...

### **ABGA Ennobled Animals**

Below is a total number of animals appearing in the ABGA Ennobled Herdbook:

- Ennobled Traditionally - 346
- Ennobled Non-Traditionally - 19
- Percentage Doe of Excellence - 25

Animals which attain registration into the Ennobled Herdbook provide breeders with visual definitions of the Breed Standards as adopted by the American Boer Goat Association. The Ennoblement program is meant to provide a direction and an incentive for the continual improvement and growth of the Boer goat. For more information, please visit the following link.

[ABGA Ennoblement Program...](#)

## Minor Modification...

### **Presentation of the Pedigree Tree**

The presentation of the pedigree tree has been modified to separate the right ear tattoo of the animal from the registered name. The right ear tattoo is now displayed before the registration number, followed by the registered name of the animal.

If you have any further questions, please contact the ABGA office at 325.486.2242.