Supplemental Winter Feeding of Goats
In reference to an article written by Frank Pinkerton, Ph.D. and Bruce Pinkerton, Ph.D., when deciding what to feed and how much to offer your goats this winter, it would be useful to remember that goats evolved over time and place as forage-consuming animals. For centuries they maintained and reproduced themselves on browse, forbs, "weeds", and pasturage without added grain, protein, or minerals. Doubtless mortality was high and productivity low but . . . they did survive.

In recent times, as goat prices have improved, goats are being selected and managed for increased productivity (kidding at younger age, more twinning, larger birth weights, greater milk production and heavier weaning weights per day of age). Gains in productivity are made only through better genetics and/or superior nutrition. Theoretically superior nutrition throughout the entire year can be achieved in the South via year round grazing or by a combination of grazing and preserved forage (hay, silage, or stockpiled grasses). In the real world, however, most goat owners find they must provide, in addition to forages, some supplemental dietary protein and/or energy and/or minerals during the winter period of 90 to 120 days. To read more, please click on the link below.

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.

As the number of goats offered at auction last week fell so too did prices. Supply likely exceeded demand in this post-Eid period. In San Angelo, 4,508 goats sold compared to 5,524 head the previous week. In Lancaster, 1,855 head sold last week, compared to 2,141 head the previous week and 1,604 head a year ago. Click on the link below to view market trends relative to the week ending October 26, 2007.

Above and Beyond...
Students Prepare Business Plan to Open Goat Farm
According to an article published in the Indianapolis Star on October 28, 2007 by the Associated Press, high school students who created a
business plan detailing the market potential they see in the rising
demand for goat meat in Indiana will get a $28,000 school district loan
to open a goat farm. Spencer- Owen school board members voted 5-2
on Thursday to finance the 7-acre farm, which will be run by Owen
Valley High School students about 15 miles northwest of Bloomington.
The students will work together to raise and market Boer goats to
Indiana's growing number of ethnic groups that favor goat meat.

Tom Wallace, the rural high school's agriculture teacher and leader of
its Future Farmers of America Club, said the students chose goats in
part because they learned that 90 percent of goat meat consumed in
Indiana, mostly by immigrants from Middle Eastern countries, is
imported. "When you look at the growing ethnic market, you see that it
needs to be serviced and that's what we are doing," he said.
Superintendent Marsha Turner-Shear said was surprised when FFA
students came to her last spring proposing the goat farm. Then the
students showed her and assistant superintendent Greg Linton, whose
children raise goats, a power-point presentation outlining the specifics.
To read more, please click on the link below.

This Might Come in Handy...

Covering all Aspects of Meat Goat Production
According to a press release submitted regarding the Meat Goat
Production Handbook developed from a program housed on the
American Institute for Goat Research website, the handbook is a 418
page text comprised of 24 chapters covering all aspects of meat goat
production, is now available through the American Institute for Goat
Research of Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma. Chapters in the
handbook were written by leading, qualified authorities in academia or
goat industry and cover management, health, nutrition, predators, farm
business, reproduction, marketing, quality assurance, and many other
topics. The handbook's price is $50 that includes shipping and handling
in the continental U.S. (Alaska, Hawaii and international orders are
$65). The Meat Goat Production Handbook can be ordered online at the
Institute's website (www2.luresext.edu).

The American Institute for Goat Research of Langston University
recognized the meat goat industry's need for a comprehensive source
of accurate information. In response, the American Institute for Goat
Research of Langston University led a consortium of universities, breed,
and producer organizations consisting of Alcorn State University,
American Boer Goat Association, American Kiko Goat Association,
American Meat Goat Association, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley
State University, Kentucky State University, Langston University, Prairie
View A&M University, Southern University, Tennessee Goat Producers Association, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, United States Boer Goat Association, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, and Virginia State University in the development of the website and handbook. Please click on the following link below to order!

Meat Goat Production Handbook...

A Little Past Little Rock...

JABGA Board to Host Meeting in Arkansas

The JABGA Board of Directors are conducting a face to face meeting at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock, Arkansas on December 1, 2007.

A leadership/teambuilding seminar, national show and leadership conference planning and executing special projects will all be part of the fun as the JABGA Board of Directors work to make 2008 a positive, successful year for the organization.