

Gettin' Your Goats Winter Ready...

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.

[Supplemental Winter Feeding of Goats...](#)

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.

[Marketing Trends...](#)

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 she 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.

[Students Open Goat Farm...](#)

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.