

New Place, New Plan, More Passion...

Introducing the 2008 ABGA/JABGA National Show

A new place will capture new light to the national show. A new plan will help bring a sense of enthusiasm and excitement to linger in the atmosphere, and more passion will enhance productivity as planning for the 2008 ABGA/JABGA National Show showcase of events is underway. Check out the national show webpage and quicklinks by clicking on the link below.

[National Show Webpage...](#)

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.

Prices mostly held or gained in San Angelo with reduced numbers of goats offered last week. At an estimated 1,473 head, goat numbers sold in San Angelo were down 50% from the previous week. Last week 1,116 head was sold at New Holland, about the same as the previous week. At New Holland, "demand was very good, especially for kids weighing between 30-80 pounds," (USDA, 2/18/08).

[Marketing Trends...](#)

Genetic Selection for Parasite Resistance ...

Volunteers Needed for Research Project

In 2005, the ABGA submitted a proposal to National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (now renamed as American Sheep and Goat Center) to initiate development of procedures to conduct a genetic evaluation for resistance to internal parasites. The proposed project was a joint effort among ABGA, Katahdin Hair Sheep International, Virginia Tech University, and Texas A&M University. The project was partially funded in 2006. This project was awarded funding because of its potential to impact the US sheep and goat industries. The ABGA will benefit from the work that the Katahdin breeders have already done, the Katahdin breeders will benefit from the ABGA's involvement in the program. Katahdin breeders now have an EPD for parasite resistance. They had started research on developing the building blocks a few years earlier. The initial efforts on the goat portion of the project are aimed at estimating the amount of genetic variation for parasite resistance (Fecal egg count after being exposed) within goat herds. Analyses conducted in 2006 and 2007 on fecal samples from a research herd of goats at Texas A&M showed less phenotypic variation than expected. Requirements to obtain meaningful data for this purpose

are: pedigree records, substantial variation in fecal egg count, and sufficient genetic diversity or number of sire groups. Because of the low variation in FEC in the Texas A&M research herd, volunteer breeders are now being sought to help develop the building blocks necessary to develop an EPD for parasite resistance in goats. The ideal participant would have:

- Complete information: Birth date, sire, dam, weaning weight, age at weaning
- Several sires (4 or more) represented in the group to be sampled
- The willingness and ability to collect fecal samples and send them to a lab for analysis

Costs of fecal analysis would be paid for by the grant. We may not find participants with the ideal data set. If your goats meet most of the requirements, consider getting involved. If you are interested in participating in this project, send the details about your goats to: Dr. Dan Waldron, Texas A&M University - San Angelo, 7887 US Highway 87 N, San Angelo, TX 76901, Phone: 325-653-4576, Email: d-waldron@tamu.edu.

Goats...They Got it All...

Check out this Article Published in the Chicago Tribune!

In reference to an article titled, "Horning in on Longhorn State," by Steve Mills of the Chicago Tribune, the goats at the annual livestock show here, with their white bodies and reddish heads, parade around a ring behind their teenage handlers. A judge evaluates them, grabbing them across the spine to feel for their tenderloins and back straps. Before too long, most of these animals will be sent to the auction market and slaughtered, their meat destined for grocers and supermarkets that cater to ethnic consumers.

To read more, please click on the link below.

[Chicago Tribune Article...](#)

The Year of the Goat...

A Title Captured from a Photo Essay Located on Time Magazine's Website!

In a fascinating new book, photographer Karl Schatz and writer Margaret Hathaway spend a year traveling across the United States, capturing the heart of American goat culture. (*This introduction is published on the front cover of Time Magazine's, The Year of the Goat.*)

To check out this photo essay, please click on the link below.

