



Buckeye Meat Goat Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 1
January 2004

An educational publication of the Southern Ohio Meat Goat Task Force

Our Mission: To enhance the production and marketing of
meat goats through educational and practical experiences.

INDEX:

Meat Goat Regional Meetings
Ohio State University Extension District Programs
Producers Spotlight: Cedar Lane Farms
Kidding Management in the Goat Herd
Summary of Activities of the Ohio Meat Goat Task Force

All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status.

Meat Goat Regional Meetings: by Tony Nye

FEBRUARY 3, 2004: Piketon, South Centers, 6:30 pm

Terry Blair, Nutrition Consultant for Land O' Lakes and Active Meat Goat Breeder From Texas, will cover the following topics:

- * Growing the Doeling from Birth to Kidding
- * Management of the Mature Doe
- * Management and Feeding the Show Wether



Dave Mangione will speak on the Market Outlook and Task Force efforts in Ohio

Mark Brooker will speak on Health Issues of the herd.

FEBRUARY 4, 2004: Clark County Extension Office, Springfield Ohio, 7:00 pm

Terry Blair, Nutrition Consultant for Land O' Lakes and Active Meat Goat Breeder From Texas, will cover the following topics:

- * Growing the Doeling from Birth to Kidding
- * Management of the Mature Doe
- * Management and Feeding the Show Wether

Dave Mangione will speak on the Market outlook and Task Force efforts in Ohio.

Tony Nye will cover Health Issues of the herd.

FEBRUARY 5, 2004: Ag Service Center, Hancock Extension Service Findlay, Ohio, 7:00 pm

Terry Blair, Nutrition Consultant for Land O' Lakes and Active Meat Goat Breeder From Texas, will cover the following topics:

- * Growing the Doeling from Birth to Kidding
- * Management of the Mature Doe
- * Management and Feeding the Show Wether

Dave Mangione will speak on the Market Outlook and Task Force efforts in Ohio

Mark Brooker will speak on Health Issues of the herd.

FEBRUARY 21, 2004: Pushkarish Library, Cadiz, Ohio 9:30 am-3:00 pm

Contact the Harrison County Extension Office at 740-942-8823. A registration fee will include lunch.

Topics:

THow to get started in the meat goat industry.

TSupply and demand for meat goats in Ohio and beyond.

TGoals and objectives for your meat goat operation.

TWhat does it take to produce meat goats?

TMarketing of Meat Goats

TPanel of local meat goat producers

TSources of Assistance with goats

Ohio State University Extension District Programs

For Sheep and Goat Producers

This O.S.U. Extension Sponsored program is an effort to provide outreach programs in several areas of sheep and goat production. We would like for sheep and goat producers from around Ohio to come to one or more of the educational sessions to learn more about different areas of sheep and goat production.

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Location: Hancock County Agricultural Services Center, Findlay, OH

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Bill Shulaw: Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine – Topic: Parasite Control

Contact: Gary Wilson, Hancock Co. ANR Agent at (419) 422-3851

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Location: OARDC Fisher Auditorium, Wooster, OH

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Bill Shulaw: Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine – Topic: Parasite Control

Contact: Terry Beck, Wayne Co. ANR Agent at (330) 264-8722

Monday, February 23, 2004

Location: Upper Valley Joint Vocational School, Applied Technology Center, Piqua, OH

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Bill Shulaw: Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine – Topic: Parasite Control

Contact: Woody Joslin, Shelby Co. Program Assistant at (937) 498-7239

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Location: Muskingum Co. Extension Office

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Bill Shulaw: Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine – Topic: Parasite Control

Contact: Mark Mechling, Muskingum Co. ANR Agent

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Location: South District Extension Office, Jackson, OH

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Henry Zerby: OSU Extension Meats Specialist – Topic: Meat and Carcass Evaluation

Contact: Dave Samples, Jackson Co. ANR Agent at (740) 286-5044

We are setting these programs up as “district” programs to reach as many sheep and goat producers around the state of Ohio as possible. We encourage you to come and to get your sheep and goat production questions answered. Many topics will be discussed that will affect all sheep and goat producers in Ohio now and in the future.

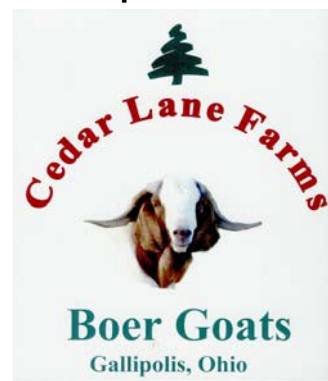


Producers Spotlight: Cedar Lane Farms Richard & Sara Northup

“If anyone had told me I would be farming in Southern Ohio thirty years ago, I would have thought they were out of their minds. My memories

of my father’s truck farm, requiring hard work with meager returns, were what prompted me to join the Air Force and get a college education” said Richard Northup.

As late as fifteen years ago, Richard and Sara Northup, owners of Cedar Lane Farms, had no plans to change their fast track urban lifestyle. But then Sara’s



father's health began to require weekend trips to the family cattle farm to keep the home place from growing up. They first bought the farm next door from Sara's uncle to have their own place to stay when they "visited". Richard remembers warning Sara not to entertain any thoughts of moving back permanently. As time passed however, they spent more and more time at the farm. They soon found themselves there more than elsewhere, so they bought the farm to keep it in the family.

Much research went into what kind of animals they would have at Cedar Lane Farms. Sara said, "I was not interested in having large animals and so we experimented with sheep and goats. We fell in love with the goats, and sold the sheep. Both of us maintain outside jobs as consultants, complete with home offices, to support the farm; but we are, indeed, farmers now, with plans for what was once a hobby farm to support us in retirement."

Business interests took them to Texas on occasion, where they learned more about South African Boer Goats. Local vets at that time knew very little about them, and so they were forced to seek out internet information from university veterinarian programs. Their contacts in Texas have helped, as well as publications from veteran goat ranchers. They have now spent the past five years cultivating good blood-lines and improving the goat gene pool. Their first customers were 4-H Club members and other farmers in the area looking for breeding stock.

With the exception of one pet Alpine/Boer

percentage goat, they now have all full blood Boer stock from the MoJo - Mufasa line. During the past two kidding season their breeding buck, Moses, has produced an excess of sixty kids. On Christmas day a new buck, Major Motoo, son of Tooter, 2001 African World Champion, was delivered to Cedar Lane Farms from a Texas ranch which specializes in pure South African stock. They have eight seasoned does, ten young does and nine yearlings to breed this year. The young does and yearlings will be bred to Motoo. Two of their seasoned does are also now bred to former USA champion Pistolero and will deliver this winter.

The goal of their breeding program is to have absolute top quality goats here in Ohio that can provide the genetics for meat goat producers. Richard says, "The real value is in the production of meat goats and it certainly fits Southern and Central Ohio agricultural programs well. We have just begun to see the tremendous potential in the market." Richard is a founder and the Executive Director of the Buckeye Meat Goat Producers Association in Ohio.

In addition to the goats they also have guard animals, Nazarene Donkeys, and Abby, a Great Pyrenees dog. The dogs are excellent guards if they are raised with the goats, but Abby is a pet. She does, however, keep the stray dogs and coyotes off the 275 acre farm. So far, no animals have been lost to predators. They also have barn cats and ducks that live with the goats. Sara keeps Tennessee Walking horses, a few chickens and rabbits, for their five grandchildren's entertainment. Sara's uncle, Gary, from whom they



bought the first farm, moved back after his retirement, and he and his wife, Peggy, help with the mowing and watch over the animals when Richard and Sara need to be away.

They grow and bale all of their own hay in the summer. They also sell several hundred extra bales every year. Sara is an avid gardener and experiments with different crops each year. Last summer, in addition to the regular vegetable garden for the enjoyment of family and friends, she had a bumper crop of popcorn. "We produce all sorts of fruits, nuts and berries, but fight with the deer over fruit trees," Sara said. Although life at Cedar Lane Farms is a sharp contrast to the one they were living a few years ago, neither would choose to live any other way. Visitors and goat producers are always welcome at their Gallipolis, Ohio farm.

Kidding Management in the

Goat Herd: by [J-M. Luginbuhl](#), [M H Poore](#), [J P Mueller](#) and [J T Green](#); North Carolina State University

Does should not be **dewormed** during the first 20 to 60 days of pregnancy because the stress associated with handling and deworming may cause the animal to abort. In addition, some dewormers may induce abortion. Cases of abortion have been reported, but not proven, with levamisole (trade name: levasol, tramisole, ripercol). Albendazole (trade name: valbazen) should not be used during the first third of pregnancy and oxfendazole (trade name: benzelmin) should not be used at all in pregnant animals. Does should also be dewormed 2 to 3 weeks prior to kidding or at kidding because the doe hormonal changes will induce gastrointestinal parasites to produce a lot of eggs. In turn these eggs will be excreted in the feces

and contaminate pastures and the animals' other surroundings.

The breeding flock should be vaccinated against **enterotoxemia** (over-eating disease) and tetanus. Adult breeding males should be vaccinated once a year. Breeding females should be vaccinated 4 to 6 weeks before kidding, so that some immunity will be passed to their offspring. An additional vaccinating of breeding does could take place 4 to 6 weeks before breeding. Following birth, kids should be vaccinated against enterotoxemia and tetanus at 8 weeks of age, followed by a booster at 12 weeks of age.

Trimming the hooves of breeding animals is another practice that will increase reproductive success. Limping does may not let bucks breed them and bucks with hoof problems may breed only sporadically or even not at all.

Kidding

Have the pregnant does graze a pasture close to your house, so that you can easily check them. If you supplement your does with a concentrate or hay, feed it at night. Somehow late feeding delays birthing toward the early morning hours in the majority of animals. It is a good idea to have some kidding pens ready for weak kids. It is not always easy to detect pre-kidding signs in goats: however, mucous discharge is a sure sign that kidding is imminent. Following birth, the navel of newborn kids should be dipped in iodine.

Nutrition of Newborn Kids

Colostrum is the first milk produced after parturition. Colostrum contains a high content of immunoglobulins (antibodies), vitamin A, minerals, fat and other sources of energy. Antibodies are proteins which help the goat kid fight diseases. The ability

of kids to resist diseases is greatly affected by the timing of colostrum intake and the quantity and quality of the colostrum fed. Reports from cattle indicate that if left alone, 25% of the young do not nurse within 8 hours and 10 to 25% do not get sufficient amounts of colostrum. Colostrum should be ingested or bottle-fed (in case of weak kids) as soon as kids have a suckling reflex. In cases of extremely weak kids, they should be tube-fed. The producer must be certain that all newborn kids get colostrum soon after birth (within the first hour after birth, and certainly within the first 6 hours) because the percentage of antibodies found in colostrum decreases rapidly after parturition. It is crucial that the antibodies in colostrum be consumed before the kids suck on dirty, pathogen-loaded parts of its mother or stall. In addition, the ability of the newborn kid to absorb antibodies also decreases rapidly 24 hours after birth. Newborn kids should ingest 10% of their body weight in colostrum during the first 24 hours of life for optimum immunity. The extra colostrum produced by high lactating does during the first 24 hours following kidding can be frozen for later use when needed. Only first milking from healthy animals should be frozen for later feeding, and the colostrum from older animals that have been on the premises for several years is typically higher in antibody content against endemic pathogens than is colostrum from first fresheners. Revaccination against tetanus and enterotoxemia (over-eating disease) 2 to 4 weeks before the kidding date is commonly used to improve the protective value of the colostrum against these conditions. Ice cube trays are ideal containers: once frozen, cubed colostrum can be stored in larger containers and the trays used for another batch. Ice cubes are the perfect size for newborn kids, thus thawed colostrum is always fresh, and

wastage reduced to a minimum. It is recommended to thaw colostrum either at room temperature or at a fairly low temperature. Colostrum should never be overcooked during the thawing process.

When to kid and when to wean?

Kidding season and weaning age depend on several management and marketing factors. However, kids born in very late winter and early spring (March-early April), when grazed with their mothers on lush, high quality small grains or cool-season forages, will grow faster and will be healthier than kids born during the heat of late spring and early summer when forages mature and worm burdens increase.

Letting the kids nurse and graze with their mothers for as long as the doe stays in good enough body condition so as not to impair the success of its next breeding season is a sound management practice that will ensure rapid growth of the goat kids.

Weaning is a very stressful period for kids and coccidia infestations generally show up at weaning. It is important to frequently observe weaned kids. Kids showing signs of coccidia infestation should be treated immediately, otherwise they will dehydrate and die. Coccidia can damage the lining of the intestines and if not treated properly surviving kids may not grow to reach their normal size and production potential.

Excerpted from an article at the NCSU Meat Goat web page:

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/meatgoat/ahgoats_index.html

Summary of Activities of the Ohio Meat Goat Task Force by

Dave Mangione and Jeff Fisher

The Mission of the Ohio Meat Goat Task Force is to enhance the production and marketing of meat goats through education and practical experience.



The Objectives of the Ohio Meat Goat Industry Task Force are as follows:

- Identify and access emerging ethnic markets having a preference for goat meat in their diet.
- Develop producer networks, alliances and or cooperatives to supply and meet the demands of emerging markets.
- Provide leadership for education and research.

The task force is directed by personnel of The Ohio State University Extension and also consists of producers, multi-disciplinary OSU faculty, and seeks input from Allied Industry and other interested persons. Interest in meat goats has grown rapidly over the past 10 years. Goat is the most frequently consumed meat in the world. In the United States, meat goat production is growing because of goats' economic value as efficient converters of low-quality forages into quality meat, milk, and hide products for many specialty type markets. A big reason for the growing popularity of meat goats is the growing population of ethnic and faith based consumers having a preference for goat in their diet. National estimates indicate, the U.S. is nearly 500,000 head deficient based on current demand. Initial on-farm suggests, that a 100 doe herd can generate as much as \$10,000 profit annually on twenty acres of land. This generation of sustainable income on small, diversified farms holds significant positive implications for rural communities.

Ohio's meat goat industry could potentially generate in excess of 40 million dollars to Ohio's livestock industry. Where resources are limited, a small herd of goats may be the only livestock enterprise that a small, part-time farmer can raise efficiently and profitably and become self-sufficient. Goats are growing in popularity as a 4-H or FFA youth project, and many youth are raising meat goats for breeding or show. These interests are leading to viable commercial value-added enterprise opportunities.

Educational Accomplishments:

- Published Ohio Meat Goat production and budgeting Fact Sheet. Over 400 producers adopted the Ohio meat goat budget as a guide for establishing this value added enterprise.
- Collaborative multi-state initiative for marketing and production of meat goats.
- Designed and conducted eight regional workshops, seminars, and on-farm tours to transfer knowledge to over 500 participants.
- Conducted three seminars at the Farm Science Review increasing awareness to 150 participants.
- Marketing study tour of eastern Pennsylvania and New York State markets.
- Development of the "Buckeye Meat Goat Newsletter" which is received by nearly 500 producers in Ohio and is recognized in the U.S. and internationally.
- Website developed to enhance the exchange of information related to production and marketing to allow greater access to emerging ethnic populations having a preference for goat meat. <http://south.osu.edu/cle/>

Research Initiatives:

- Initiated on-farm meat goat research.
- Conducting on going feasibility studies of ethnic markets, Ohio processing,

and development of farmer cooperatives.

- A statewide survey revealed a ten fold increase in the adoption of meat goats as a value added income generating enterprise and provided baseline data on production demographics and marketing strategies.
- \$63,000 in Research and Extension grants.

Leadership Development:

- Formation of Buckeye Meat Goat Association.
- Establishment of three producer-driven marketing networks
- Developing leadership among emerging ethnic market consumers

Partnerships -

Internal:

- Department of Animal Science
- Department of Food Science and Technology
- Department of Agricultural Economics
- Ohio's Meat Goat Task Force
- South Centers: Business Team, Aquaculture, Co-op Development Center, Direct Marketing Team

External:

- Wilmington College
- Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Pro-Beef Alliance
- University of Dayton
- Jewish Family Services
- Institute for Social & Economic Development
- Somalia and East African Organization (SEADOC)
- University of Kentucky
- Ohio Tobacco Foundation
- Heifer International

Presentations:

- National Association of County Agricultural Agents; Poster Presentation and Animal Science Seminar
- Animal Science Department In-Service
- National Conference on Grazing Lands

- Farm Bureau National Meeting

There is a real opportunity for farmers to network together through co-ops or other ventures to build the meat goat industry. As with any other livestock commodity, capturing niche and/or seasonal markets can yield tremendous added value. As the saying goes "If you build it; they will come." Meat goats just may be our field of dreams for animal agriculture.

Changes, which occur in the building of the infrastructure for the goat industry, include the following:

- The establishment of uniform meat goat production systems and market standards based on carcass yield and quality
- The establishment and/or coordination of facilities that process livestock according to associated faith and cultural specifications.
- Marketing a fresh and safe product directly to emerging ethnic and faith based populations' consumer to capture the most value.

Behavioral changes will include, an increase in farmers producing for emerging markets, an increase in communication abilities between producers and markets, the development of packing and/or processing facilities where needed, and coordination for both consumers, retailers, and producers through cooperative activities. In summary-farmers, ethnic markets, and consumers will develop functioning marketing partnerships that fit the social and ecological paradigm.

Revenue Generation

The development of a center at Piketon legitimized the opportunity to access financial resources to fund value added

project endeavors. Sources of funding will include state and federal monies, grants and private funds. Collaborative efforts to generate funding will include partnerships on a state, regional and national level.

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