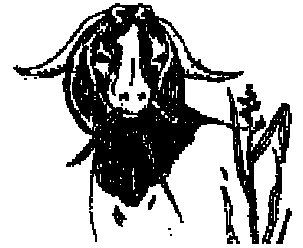




Buckeye Meat Goat Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2005

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.

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Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, OSU Extension TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868

Australia's meat industry reports a strong start to 2005 for goat meat exports

Australian goat meat exports have started 2005 at a record pace, with total exports for the first two months of the year reaching 3,330 metric tons -- 57 percent above the same period last year, according to Meat and Livestock Australia.

Exports during February jumped by 48 percent, to 1,830 tons, as increased Australian goat slaughter levels were matched by strong demand in the United States, Taiwan, and the Caribbean.

MLA said the United States remained Australia's major market for goat meat exports, receiving a record 1,040 metric tons during February -- 68 percent higher than last year -- while exports for the first two months of the year were up by 57 percent, to a record high 1,550 tons.

Exports to Taiwan, Australia's second largest goat meat market, increased by three percent during February, to 357 tons, with combined exports for January and February up by 78 percent on last year, to 1,010 tons MLA said. Goat meat shipments to the Caribbean increased by 188 percent during February -- to 230 metric tons.

Category:
Announcement, Marketing, Research, Trade
[Domenick Castaldo, Ph.D.](#)

Fresh, High – Quality Goat Meat Hits Area Markets

Fresh goat meat now is available in area supermarkets and convenience stores, thanks to a marketing program spearheaded by a [North Carolina Cooperative Extension](#) agent.

The Franklin County Goat Producers Cooperative's goat meat display at a local

grocer's "fiesta" promotion in Franklinton in early July was met with great interest.

Goat meat, increasingly in demand as the Triangle's population diversifies, is especially popular among Latinos, says Martha Mobley, agricultural extension agent with the [Franklin County Center](#) of North Carolina Cooperative Extension. About 500 Hispanic families live in Franklin County, where the co-op sells fresh goat meat to a restaurant and at least two convenience stores.

Previously, goat meat to meet the Triangle's growing demand was brought in frozen from New Zealand.

"It's selling well," she says. "We make a new shipment every week."

The product launch, complete with brand-new gold package labels, is not the co-op's only activity.

"We're providing educational programs for producers on the certification process all summer," says Mobley, who helped organize the 40-member co-op.

For certification, goat meat producers must successfully pass a six-week, multi-course curriculum developed by [North Carolina A&T State University](#), which provided a \$18,000 grant to establish the educational and marketing cooperative. Also involved are [N.C. State University's College of Veterinary Medicine](#), Cooperative Extension's Franklin County Center, the [North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#) and the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).

Topics include a nutrition foraging and management course taught by Dr. Jean-Marie Luginbuhl, who initiated the meat goat program in the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Animal Sciences Department](#) at [N.C. State](#) several years ago.

Also offered are courses in goat reproduction, diseases and herd health, safe handling of

vaccinations and goat grading.

Course graduates are named as Franklin County Certified Goat Producer Cooperators and receive a metal roadside sign for their farm to that effect.

“We wanted to take raising animals one step further for our producers, to add value to their product. One of the greatest things about this project is getting farmers to work together for that common goal: raising quality goats for the public,” Mobley says.

And the word is getting out.

“We just keep getting calls from people who want to sign up for the quality assurance certification program,” she says. Although courses continued through the summer, the next full certification training won’t start until January, Mobley says.

“This is the first high-quality fresh goat meat marketing program in North Carolina,” she says. “This pilot project will help determine alternative agricultural enterprises for Franklin County farmers.”

For information, call Martha Mobley, Agricultural Extension Agent in Franklin County, 919.496.3344, or e-mail her at martha_mobley@ncsu.edu.

Pooled Goat Marketing Opportunity

Don Everetts at United Producers in Hillsboro has scheduled another **Pooled Shipment** of goats. Goats can be brought to the yards on Sunday May 29th from 4pm to 8pm or from 7am to 11am on May 30th. Producers bringing in goats for this shipment must designate that they are for the POOLED SHIPMENT. This is because Monday, May 30th is also their weekly auction. If not designated for the pooled shipment lot they could be sold through auction instead.

Requirements:

Goat kids must weigh between 50 and 70

**pounds. (NOT 40 and NOT 80 pounds)
These kids must be of good quality.**

They can be male or female

***these goats will be bid out based on high quality and a lot size of 150 to 200 animals.

Special note: This has been an excellent opportunity netting producers \$6 per head or more than what they could have sold for through weekly auction.

One other Note:

Goat Producers wanting to bring cull animals or other animals for weekly auction can do so at the same time as bringing in POOLED Goats. Producers just need to designate for Pool or Auction.

Donny has been told this could be a good opportunity due to holiday weekend and that the Texas and south supply could be getting low. For more information contact *United Producers* at 937-393-3424

Producer Profile: Pine Bank Boer Goats



Pine Bank Boer Goat Farm is owned and operated by Timothy, Arlan, and Becky Humble. The goat farm was established in 1997. They are very active in the Pike Co. 4-H program. Timothy and Becky started a 4-H club (Goats N’ More) focusing on goat projects in 2004. Timothy is a member of the Pike Co. 4-H Advisory Committee. They are

members of the Ohio Meat Goat Association (OMGA), with Timothy serving as Treasurer. They are also members of the American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) with whom all of their Boer goats are registered. The Humbles are active in showing their stock throughout Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

The history of the goat business began in 1990 when Timothy bought one goat to exhibit as a 4-H project at the Pike County Fair. After showing market wethers and Nubian dairy goats for several years, they began breeding Nubians in 1997 and bought their first Boer buck in 1998. The Humbles changed the breed of goats they were raising in 1998 - 1999 due to the market demand for meat type market wethers. Boer cross wethers are more competitive in the show ring. The Humbles now have approximately 75 full blood and percentage Boer goats. The addition of the Boer goat to the herd has increased the value of each animal they have raised. They are receiving at least \$50 more for market wethers and between \$100 and \$400 more for the breeding does.

The Humbles market their kids to 4-H members and sell percentage and full blood bucks and does to breeders for breeding stock and show goats. They sell about 35 goats for market wether and meat doe projects. The goats are 10-12 weeks old and are dehorned, castrated, vaccinated, wormed, and eating grain before they leave the farm

The Humbles feel that providing great customer service results in repeat customers. They follow up all sales by either phone or e-mail and feel that it is especially important to follow-up with their 4-H youth customers. They try to visit each youth's home at least one time during the summer in order to evaluate the progress of the market project and also worm and weigh each goat.

Besides direct marketing the Humbles also employ other marketing and advertising options including:

- Print Advertising
- OMGA Breeders Directory

- ABGA Breeders Directory
- Free web-based breeders directories
- Website: www.pinebankboergoats.com
- Customer referrals
- Business card distribution
- Misc. sponsorships

Grazing Goats on Steep Terrain

Reference: Plants and Soil Sciences and the Animal Sciences Departments of the University of Kentucky have jointly written a publication relating to managing pasture and grazing steep terrain with cattle, sheep, horses, and goats.

Goats have a very diverse diet, much more diverse than do sheep or cattle. Goats have been described by grazing ecologists as browsers, but they can be opportunistic generalists because they consume the most palatable forage first and move on to the next level within the palatability and nutritional plane.

Goats prefer to graze uphill in a zigzag motion and conversely, graze very little coming down hill. They often graze steep slopes and around rocky areas first, showing a preference for areas inaccessible to cattle and sheep. Furthermore, goats generally approach the feeding area from the outermost boundary of the feeding perimeter and eat toward the center and forward to the initial starting point. Goats often return to the starting point of the grazing area and congregate for resting and rumination. This grazing habit creates a concaved grazing pattern that provides maximum visibility of the surroundings for the grazing goat herd.

Goats are resistant to many plant toxins and anti-nutritive factors commonly found in non-agricultural areas. Therefore, goats are capable of defoliating most plants species, many of which cattle will not utilize. The primary anti-nutritive factors are naturally occurring plant tannins. The tastes of tannins are bitter and generally unpalatable for cattle

and for most ruminants. Tannins bind rumen proteins and render them unusable. Goats favor the bitter taste and can utilize the bound proteins as bypass protein. Bypass protein is non-degraded protein that passes directly to the abomasum, or true stomach, for more efficient utilization. Therefore, goats can sustain themselves on low protein vegetation for sometime by utilizing protein more efficiently than can cattle.

Given the opportunity; goats consume a predominance of browse (73%) and lesser amounts of grasses (23%) and forbs (4%), although the proportion will vary with availability of standing forage. Time of year and weather conditions also may dictate what goats eat. Goats tend to eat vine plants like honeysuckle early in the browse season while in wooded areas. As the weather gets warmer and the succulent plants are either consumed or no longer favored, goat consumption turns to a more diverse plant population including hardwood seedlings and broad leaf foliage from low hanging branches.

Likewise, red cedars remain untouched by goats until they become more desirable for browsing in mid-to-late winter.

This diverse grazing habit of goats helps the restoration of the plant-soil nutrient balance to degraded and eroded soils. Wood plant species store large quantities of plant nutrients within the woody tissue. These nutrients (N, P, K), remain bound in the woody tissue for very long periods of time. Woody plants must die and decompose before the nutrients are released to the soils. As goats consume a variety of woody species and assorted plant parts, plant nutrients are more rapidly released to the soil by way of goat waste degradation.

Similarly, goats are a beneficial addition to a mixed species grazing pasture environment. Goats preferentially consume seedling stems of weedy plants, thus reducing the spread and perpetuation of weeds by seed. Range management scientists have observed that goats reduce the seed bank of thistles when used to control thistles and sericea lespedeza in the tall grass prairie of the western United

States.

Goats can be used in cool season pastures by allowing goats to satisfy their desire for highly preferred plant species such as blackberry, green briar, sumac, winged elm, poison ivy, iron weed, and kudzu.

Goats have a moderate preference for post oak, multiflora rose, sunflower, ragweed, hickory, Hawthorne, tall thistle and eastern red cedar, and a lesser preference but often consumed pasture pests such as Osage orange, Illinois bundleflower, hackberry, buckbush, and giant ragweed.

Finally, goats can graze in combination with cattle, horses, or sheep, with the main benefit being that goats utilize and thereby suppress plant species that are not utilized by cattle. Scientists have observed that pasture utilization and carrying capacity was improved 10-24% by grazing goats with cattle.

Editor, Jeff Fisher fisher.7@osu.edu

<http://south.osu.edu/cle/news.htm>
(newsletter archive)