



Buckeye Meat Goat Newsletter



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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

Meat Goat Presentation at Farm Science Review

Tony Nye, Dave Mangione, and I will once again be making a Meat Goat Production presentation at the Small Farm Center at the Farm Science Review. The Small Farm Center is located on lot #155 at the corner of Corn Ave. and Beef St. at the northwest corner of the review site. This year's theme will be forage considerations for extended grazing and we will address issues related to this year's dry weather and short forage supplies. The presentation will be on Thursday, September 20th at 11:00 am. Refer to the complete schedule included for more information. Pre-sale Farm Science Review tickets are available at your local Extension Office for \$5.00.

June 2007: The First Graded Market Goat sale in Ohio was HUGE SUCCESS!!!!

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is working with meat goat producers by providing livestock grading. The next sale will be September 24th.

Here are the results:

40 to 60 pound Grade #2's
Average weight – 47.37#
Bid price per pound - \$1.45
Amount per head average = \$68.69

40 to 60 pound Grade #3's
Average weight – 50.63#
Bid price per pound - \$1.32
Amount per head average = \$66.83

60 to 80 pound Grade #2's
Average weight – 67.73#
Bid price per pound - \$1.32
Amount per head average = \$89.40

60 to 80 pound Grade #3's
Average weight – 62.50
Bid price per pound - \$1.26
Amount per head average = \$78.75

We had no #1 grades. That is something we will need to work on as producers.

Supporting Document: [Goat Grade Examples](#). 
(114 kb)

GRADED MARKET GOAT SALE DATES - UNITED PRODUCERS – HILLSBORO, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007
NOVEMBER 26, 2007
JANUARY 28, 2008
MARCH 24, 2008
MAY 26, 2008
JULY 28, 2008
SEPTEMBER 22, 2008
NOVEMBER 24, 2008

Managing Forage Shortages on the Goat Farm - Jeff Fisher, Extension Educator; Pike County

This year's below normal precipitation in May was preceded by an extraordinary freeze in April. That adds up to what many are describing as only 30-60% of normal spring forage production.

Despite some rain throughout Ohio, it's unlikely we'll see forage growth that replaces what's already been lost. While the southern half of Ohio is abnormally dry, the recent above normal temperatures combined with the lack of timely precipitation has certainly taken its toll on the cool season grasses and even alfalfa. Adding insult to injury are high feed grain prices that have also converted some hay acres into corn production.

Many producers are considering the alternatives for managing around poor producing pasture and hay fields. Certainly it's never too early to take a look at your forage and feed resources, and give some thought to alternatives that will hold you until cooler temperatures and timely rains return. Consider some of these alternatives which will help best utilize limited resources:

Feed grain. Even at today's corn price it is still a cheaper alternative than purchasing hay. One pound of corn replaces about 2 pounds of hay nutritionally. Plus, it's easier and less expensive per ton to haul. A mature ruminant animal can be fed approximately one fourth of its diet in corn without effecting digestibility of

the forage component. As an example, a mature goat weighing 150 lbs. will eat 2.5 to 3 % of its body weight per day or approximately 3.75 to 4.5 lbs. Feeding approximately one pound of whole corn per head per day will reduce the hay requirement and add body condition from the extra energy. Feed it in bunks or on the dry ground under an electric fence wire and the goats won't waste any. If you have adequate bunk space, wheat middlings might be an alternative that's less expensive than corn.

If you do still have forage that's suitable for grazing, allow at least 2-3 inches of top growth to remain in the field. Also, extend rest periods now to 35 or more days for most forage species. If your forage growth has stopped, pull the goats off pasture and feed hay or silage. If a pasture must be overgrazed and abused, make sure it's a mature, well established one. It will recover more quickly than younger seedlings.

For future consideration, wheat harvest and dried-up pastures will provide vacant fields that you might want to consider planting summer annuals. Some options include turnips, oats, sorghum, sudan, and millets. For more information, refer to the Ohio Agronomy Guide at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b472/index.html>.

Early weaning can reduce the total forage and water needs by 25% when the doe and kid are fed separately. If feeds need to be purchased, the young kids are more efficient at converting them to gain and subsequent value.

Cull soon. Moving culls now will not only save feed, but cull prices are pretty good in the period just prior to some of the Islamic holidays as demand increases. If culls are thin feed them some grain until marketing time to add value.

Plan to apply ammonium nitrate to resting grass pastures; especially fescue. With sufficient rain, fifty pounds of nitrogen per acre

is can provide over a ton of stockpiled forage for fall grazing.

When a little pasture top growth does return, don't be impatient about grazing it. If you must graze on it, only top graze it lightly and move the grazing goats on.

Be aware that when forage availability is low, poisonous plants can be a bigger issue.

PASTURE FERTILIZER COSTS - Clif Little, OSU Extension Guernsey County

Are you wondering how much to invest in fertilizer this year? We will soon be approaching the period of the forage growing season critical for stockpiling pastures. Will it pay to purchase fifty units of nitrogen this August? In order to make this decision forage producers should be able to answer a few logical questions in regards to forage growth and economics.

As we approach the summer slump, it may be important to recognize that the majority of forage production from cool-season grasses has already occurred. Normally we do get a needed burst of forage growth in the fall. How much extra growth can we cause to occur in a cool-season grass this fall with the addition of fifty units of nitrogen? Many studies have found that under good growing conditions, fifty units of nitrogen can yield an additional 2000 pounds of dry matter (DM) per acre. If this is true how much did the 2000 pounds of dry matter cost?

Let us consider the following fertilizer scenario, the conditions are:

Purchase and spread 50 units of actual nitrogen per acre to a fescue field for winter stockpiling. Spreading cost is \$6 per ton.

The application is expected to yield 2000 pounds of DM per acre of additional forage.

Our fertilizer will be urea and cost \$400 per ton. The value of like forage is \$50 per ton of DM.

Calculations; we need 50 (units of actual N) divided by .46 (% nitrogen in urea) = approximately, 108 lbs of fertilizer per acre. The fertilizer cost \$400 divided by 2000 lbs = \$.20 per pound X 108 = \$21.60 per acre plus spreading cost. The actual spreading cost at \$6 per ton is approximately \$.32 per acre. For our purposes, we will round our cost to \$22.00 per acre. Therefore, we have a \$50 - \$22 = \$28 per acre net profit. As with all farming practices, there is a risk and we may not see any additional forage from this application of nitrogen.

From these calculations, our net profit is highly influenced by the value we put on the grass produced. What price do you place on the forage you produce?

CAN FENCES DETER COYOTES? - Stan Gehrt, Assistant Professor and Wildlife Extension Specialist

The coyote is one of the most successful carnivores in Ohio, as indicated by its widespread occurrence throughout the state. Some producers are fortunate and have few conflicts with coyotes, whereas others seem to have extreme conflicts each year. Unfortunately there is no single solution for managing coyote predation, and a combination of preventive and responsive strategies are sometimes necessary. Fencing is one option that has been used successfully under certain situations. Coyotes are devious and it can be difficult excluding them with fencing, but some designs are more successful than others.

Net-Wire Fencing is one fencing design that has been effective at deterring coyotes in certain situations, but it can be expensive. Horizontal spacing of the mesh should be less than 6 inches, and vertical spacing less than 4 inches. A barbed wire at the bottom can discourage digging, as will a buried wire apron (often an expensive option). The fence should be at least 5 feet high to discourage coyotes from jumping over it (coyotes usually jump and climb over fences 5 feet high or taller, they cannot typically clear a fence of that height). Because of its expense, net-wire fencing

is usually used for smaller areas used for temporary holding.

One fringe benefit to using this type of fencing is that if predation occurs, it is easy to find where the coyote is getting underneath the fence, which makes removal (such as with snares) that much easier.

An alternative to net-wire fencing is electric fencing, which is often used for livestock. This design is usually cheaper than net-wire fencing, but requires more maintenance. The fences are made of high-tensile wire stretched to a tension of 200 to 300 pounds. The original design of electric fences for controlling predation consisted of multiple, alternately charged and grounded wires, with a charged trip wire installed just above ground level about 8 inches outside the main fence to discourage digging, but most recent designs have every wire charged. The number of wires, and spacing between them, can vary considerably among sites. A standard design uses 13 strands, but other designs have used less. Electric fencing is best used in areas of flat terrain with relatively little vegetation, and high tensile wire requires adequate bracing at corners.

Labor to keep electric fencing functional can be significant. Tension of the wires must be maintained, excessive vegetation under the fence must be removed to prevent grounding, damage from livestock and wildlife must be repaired, and the charger must be checked regularly to ensure that it is operational.

Finally, another option is to electrify an existing fence. This can be particularly effective if a net-wire fence is modified with electric wire. In this case a charged trip wire is placed 6 to 8 inches above the ground about 8 to 10 inches outside the fence. One to three additional wires may be added with variable spacing (in each case, maintaining the 8 to 10 inches away from the fence, terminating with a top wire to discouraging climbing over the fence.

If coyotes are climbing or jumping a fence, charged wires can be added to the top and at

various intervals. These wires should be offset outside the fence. Fencing companies offer offset brackets to make installation relatively simple. The number of additional wires depends on the design of the original fence and the predicted habits of the predators.

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As with all aspects of predator management, producers must consider the economic loss to predation balanced against the cost of the fence, expected life of the fence, and the relative effectiveness of the design when determining which fencing system is most suitable.

Buckeye Meat Goat Marketing

<http://www.ohiomarketgoat.com>

Editor - *Jeff Fisher*

2007 Farm Science Review Small Farm Center

Sponsored by: OSU Sustainable Agriculture Team &
American Small Farm Magazine

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9:00 a.m.		Developing Successful SARE Farmer Grant Proposals -Jerry Nelson & Maria Marshall Purdue Extension	Developing Fair Rents For Farmers & Landowners -Don Breece OSU Extension
10:00 am	Starting A Small Apple Orchard -Jim True Purdue Extension	Forages For Horses -Gary Wilson OSU Extension	Top 10 Ways To Profit From Direct Marketing -Eric Barrett OSU Extension -Christy Eckstein Ohio Dept. of Agriculture
11:00 a.m.	Organic Apple Production -Rick Foster Purdue Extension	Starting A Horse Boarding Business -Randy James OSU Extension	Meat Goat Production Dave Mangione Tony Nye, Jeff Fisher OSU Extension
12 Noon	Earning \$100,000 Per Acre With High-Value Crops -Joe Kovach OSU Extension	Agri-Tourism – Bringing Together Agriculture & Tourism -Louise Miksell-Wireman, Center for Innovative Food Technologies (CIFT)	Be Remarkable At Farmers Markets -Mark Mechling -Mike Hogan OSU Extension

1: 00 p.m.	Blackberries & Raspberries For The Small Farm -Maurus Brown OSU Extension	Marketing Your Agri-Tourism Enterprise & Developing Advertising -Roy Ballard Purdue Extension -Sarah Yeager Indiana Department of Agriculture	Pasture Raised Poultry Production -Herman Beck Chenoweth
2:00 p.m.	Developing Aquaculture Enterprises In Ohio -Laura Tiu OSU Extension	Liability Issues For Small & New Farms -Peggy Hall OSU Extension	
3:00 p.m.	Wind and Other Alternative Energy Sources For Small Farms -Green Energy Ohio	Baitfish Production -Shawn McWhorter OSU Extension	