



ewe GOaT NEWS

Ivan Rush, Scottsbluff NE

Happenings

I felt we had a wonderful tour in June of four of our members' places where we were able to see and hear of their operations. Ample time was available to ask questions and visit with fellow members. The Tarrs had wonderful greeters at the gate that started the day making people feel welcome. They discussed their operations and their goals for their ewe flock and we saw some nice ewes and two excellent good big rams. They demonstrated that you can start with a bare prairie field and in a few short years with steady growth they have a nice operation with future growth in mind. Sissons showed even faster growth because in a short time they have a lot of good sheep and goats and starting with zero experience with livestock, they stated "We had a dog before and that was it." There we saw some excellent Suffolk sheep and Boer goats. They had utilized embryo transfer last year to produce a large number of very high quality Boer kids. This resulted in selling some excellent wethers for 4-H at a premium price. Their sheep were impressive. They had purchased some ewes on internet sales and several from the Drudiks at Grand Island, Nebraska. The Reizens have a large flock of mixed breeds which they are crossing with blackface rams. They have a super place to lamb so cold chill can be avoided – for both the lambs and the people. Rudys had an impressive set of commercial ewes and are using both blackface and a Columbia ram from Sheila Neal. Mike stressed how he liked the speckled face lambs and also the ewes. He also had a great insulated place to lamb. At each stop we learned that it was not all successes and glamour because at every stop each discussed some things that did not go well. I think we could all identify with these problems and we can all learn from others. It was a great tour and I sure want to thank the hosts for allowing us to tour. We also thank Larry Hays for generously sharing his equipment with members. Santa came in a pickup.

I hope you are all planning to attend the Annual Picnic at Riesens Sunday, July 17, 2011. This is a time to relax, visit with fellow members and just enjoy the day. Special thanks go to the Campbells for providing the roasted lamb again this year. They are truly gracious plus super cooks. Again we thank you.

How profitable are you?

As I wrote in the last news letter we are all enjoying relatively good prices now and we hope they will continue to be strong in the future. Even though we enjoy good prices it seems costs are ever increasing at a fast pace. Fuel, services, equipment and now feeds have all increased dramatically in the last few years. Every so often someone will comment to me about

how much I am getting for my livestock and I immediately counter with “I need every bit of it so I can pay my bills.” Because of my concern for increasing costs and because I want people to stay in business and for most of us that means being profitable, I constantly look for ways to cut costs without drastically hurting production. For example, I buy very little if any minerals. I offer salt blocks and now have switched to iodized salt blocks. Other than a little creep feed to get lambs started I buy very little prepared feeds. I can get almost everything I need from alfalfa hay and whole shelled corn and it is almost always the cheapest for sources of protein and energy which is our two most costly ingredients.

Considering the cost of production I am attaching a budget that was put together for meat goats. Next time I will share one for sheep. The budget can be accessed on line at: <http://sheepandgoat.com/spreadsheets/meatgoatbudget2004.xls>. As you note it assumes various income and costs values. Their bottom line shows a \$77/head return to land, labor and capital. On a cash flow basis that could be called profit but keep in mind it does not include the costs of your investment in breeding stock, buildings, major equipment nor cost of your or hired labor. They estimate that start up costs for 30 Boer females would be \$7400 or \$250/ female that would need to be paid off over time with the \$77. I have attached the spread sheet not to tell you what your income or expenses should be, but to encourage you to study and then put in your own numbers to see where you may be and hopefully find areas where you can improve. If any questions I would be happy to visit with you.

Caseous Lymphadenitis of Sheep and Goats

Sometime ago I noticed considerable correspondence on Mel Uphoff's, Boer goat breeder at Elwood, Nebraska, list serve concerning Caseous Lymphadenitis or CL. I must confess I didn't know what it was so asked Mel and Doris to write something for this newsletter. It certainly is not to scare anyone but if we can do anything to avoid getting the disease or if misfortune should strike we need to know how to prevent it getting into our herds or flocks. Sounds like a good question to ask when buying breeding stock. Thanks Mel for sharing.

Caseous Lymphadenitis of Sheep and Goats

Mel Uphoff, Uphoff Boer Goats, Elwood, NE

Caseous abscessation of lymph nodes and internal organs caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* occurs worldwide and is widely distributed throughout North America. It is an important endemic infection in regions with large sheep and goat populations. Economic losses result mostly from condemnation and trim of infected carcasses and devaluation of hides. Caseous lymphadenitis is also a cause of ill-thrift and sudden death in animals with internal abscesses. However, producers often report that the major impact in the flock is from disagreeable aesthetics, which may result in loss of breeding stock sales as well as early culling. Although principally an infection of

sheep and goats, sporadic disease also occurs in horses and cattle (see Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis Infection of Horses and Cattle), camelids, water buffalo, wild ruminants, primates, pigs, and fowl. It rarely causes regional lymphadenitis in humans.

That's the way the Merck Veterinary Manual describes it, but to meat goat producers it is know simply as CL. It is one of the most feared and least understood of all diseases effecting goats (and sheep)

It is most commonly expressed as an abscess in the lymph nodes of goats and usually occurs along the jaw line under the ear. It grows usually to about the size of a golf ball and when it is "ripe" it becomes soft, loses the hair on it and can be lanced and drained and treated with iodine, along with 10cc of penicillin and a CL booster vaccination. Producers who drain abscesses should always wear protective gloves and avoid getting any of the pus on them or on the ground. The animals contract the disease by the organism actually entering through an opening in their body, eyes, nose, open wound, etc. It can be brought onto the farm by birds, infected animals, human visitors (on their shoes), and even carried in the air. Once on a place, the organism lives in the soil for many years.

It does no good to treat the abscesses with antibiotics injections because they are sealed off from the rest of the animal's system and the antibiotics never reach them.

Some veterinarians recommend lancing and treating the abscesses with everything from Coca Cola to formaldehyde. The only way to effectively control it is to vaccinate for it. The best vaccine is an autogenous vaccine that is made by extracting pus from an infected animal and sending it to a laboratory where the organism is grown and vaccine made from it. Lots of abscesses on goats are not CL, but are caused by cactus, sandburs, pieces of straw and other injuries. Pus from a CL "lump" is usually light green and has the consistency and look of cottage cheese.

The labs that make the vaccine only sell it in "full batches" so a producer who has a batch made has to buy all of it and ends up with several hundred doses of it, usually in the range of 2500 to 2800 doses. So, anyone who has the autogenous vaccine usually is willing to sell some to other producers in order to help with the expense of buying his. It is bottled in 100 cc bottles and some labs make a 2 cc dose and others make a 1 cc dose. One lab in Texas is making a product that is compatible with their pneumonia vaccine and a "combination" shot can be given. It is usually given to young stock starting at weaning at no younger than 90 days of age, in an initial dose and a booster 2-3 weeks later and then an annual booster.

Animals that have already shown the symptoms of the abscesses can be treated with repeated vaccinations of 2 cc a couple of weeks apart. These shots will eventually suppress the lumps and then the producer can evaluate the value of the animal and

determine his value to his breeding program. Most experienced breeders will tell you it is not a matter of IF you'll contract CL, but WHEN.

It is common knowledge that there is only 1 strain of the disease. One Texas goat rancher collected pus from goats in a 250 mile radius of her ranch, several years ago, so she would be sure to get every strain that might be available. Her lab people asked her how come she had collected so many samples and she told him to be sure she got every strain. He told her that it was only necessary to get one sample cause there was only one strain of the disease.

Most veterinarians are notoriously ignorant about treating/combatting CL. Some of the more aggressive ones have recommended everything from isolation to putting the animals down. Most of them treat it like it's the end of the world and scare the living daylights out of their clients. In all fairness to these doctors, there has not been much instruction on goat health until the last few years in the vet colleges. Younger vets just leaving vet school seem to be more aware of what CL and other goat diseases are and how to treat them. One veterinarian had his client quarantining one of her main bucks in her stock trailer and had recommended she euthanize him. Another vet had his client destroy 5 fullblood registered Kikos because they had contacted it. Most experienced goat raisers have more than one horror story about the lack of knowledge that veterinarians have concerning CL. We're aware of one new producer who brought the disease home with his first load of goats from Oklahoma several years ago. One of them sprouted a lump under it's ear and he called his local vet. The vet came out, looked at the abscess and took out his scalpel and lanced it and squeezed all the pus out on the ground in the producer's goat pen. He had no idea what he was trying to treat.

CL is a very common, very widespread disease and is easily treated, controlled or eliminated with the continued use of the autogenous vaccine. Use of the vaccine is just another good management practice that will pay off in healthier, more profitable goats and sheep in the years ahead for serious producers who are willing to make the investment.

Hay for Sale: I had a call from Patrick Maag who lives 5 miles north of Scottsbluff on Hwy 71, stating he has 1st cutting hay for sale for \$3.50/bale His phone number is 308-672-5288.

SAMPLE MEAT GOAT BUDGET

by Susan Schoenian

Annual kidding

You can only edit values highlighted in yellow.

HERD COMPOSITION:		PRODUCTION PARAMETERS				
Number of Does	30	Percent kid crop raised		170%		
Number of Bucks	1	Doe replacement rate		20%		
Adult death loss	5.0%	Buck Replacement Rate		33%		
INCOME CALCULATION:						
	No. Head	lbs./hd	Net Price	Unit	Total	Per doe
Market kids	45.0	70	\$1.35	lb.	\$4,253	\$141.75
Cull does	4.5	90	\$0.75	lb.	\$304	\$10.13
Cull bucks	0.33	170	\$0.75	lb.	\$42	\$1.40
Other income					\$0	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME					\$4,598	\$153.28
OPERATING COSTS:						
	No. Head	Amt/hd	Unit	Cost	Total	Per doe
Feed costs						
Hay	31	0.25	ton	\$90.00	\$698	\$23.25
Grain	31	135	Lb.	\$0.09	\$377	\$12.56
Salt and Minerals	31	12.0	Lb.	\$0.16	\$60	\$1.98
Supplemental feed for kids	51	0.0	Lb.	\$0.10	\$0	\$0.00
Pasture maintenance	total acres	6.0	acre	\$30.00	\$180	\$6.00
Health program						
		doses				
Deworming (adults)	31	3	doses	\$1.00	\$93	\$3.10
Deworming (kids)	51	3	doses	\$0.75	\$115	\$3.83
CD-T booster (adults)	31	1	doses	\$0.50	\$16	\$0.52
CD-T vaccinations (kids)	31	2	doses	\$0.50	\$31	\$1.03
Other vet costs	31		head	\$4.00	\$124	\$4.13
Buck replacement	0.33		head	\$250.00	\$83	\$2.75
Bedding	31		head	\$3.00	\$93	\$3.10
Marketing and Hauling	50		head	\$5.00	\$249	\$8.31
Supplies	31		head	\$3.00	\$93	\$3.10
Additional Cost			Total cost	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Additional Cost			Total cost	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Interest on operating money	5.0%		Cost for 6 months		\$55	\$1.84
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS					\$2,265	\$75.49
RETURN TO LAND, LABOR AND CAPITAL					\$2,334	\$77.78