



Wild & Woolly

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4 □ WINTER 2007

Maryland's Sheep & Goat Producer Newsletter

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For more information, visit:
www.sheepandgoat.com

Shepherd's Notebook Blog
<http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com>

2007 Meat Goat Pasture-Based Performance Test

Forty-seven (47) Kiko, Boer, Kiko x Boer, and meat x dairy male goats finished the 2nd annual Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test on October 6, 2007. The goats were consigned by ten (10) producers from Maryland and four other states (VA, DE, PA, and KY).

Growth performance

The average starting weight of the goats was 54.9 lbs. The goats were weighed every 14 days. Average daily gain ranged from 0.103 to 0.338 lbs. per day and averaged 0.253 lbs. per day. During a two week period in August, the goats lost an average of 0.19 lbs. per day. The weight loss was attributed to the poor pasture and grazing conditions caused by the drought. Nutritional tubs were introduced to improve forage utilization.

Parasite resistance/resilience

While on test, the goats were handled every 14 days to determine FAMACHA[®] eye anemia and body condition scores and the need for deworming. Fecal samples

were collected four times. Only four goats required deworming during the test period and their needs were marginal. No FAMACHA[®] scores below 3 were observed, despite high fecal egg counts. The lack of parasitism was attributed to the drought conditions and ample grazing heights of the pasture.

Carcass merit

Towards the end of the test, realtime ultrasound was used to determine carcass traits: ribeye area and backfat thickness. Among the 47 goats, ribeye area ranged from 1.01 to 2.28 square inches and averaged 1.52 square inches. Backfat measurements did not vary significantly. They ranged from 0.04 to 0.07 inches and averaged 0.053 inches. It is important to note that goats fatten differently than most other livestock. They deposit their fat internally around their organs vs. externally over their bones. Thus, a goat with much external backfat is usually a VERY fat goat.

Continued on page 2

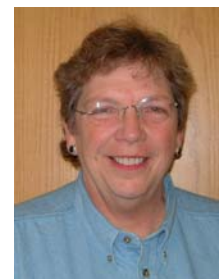
New Ag Marketing Program

Ginger S. Myers began work for the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension (UMCE) as the Regional Ag Marketing Specialist at the beginning of September. She is stationed at the University of Maryland, Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC) in Keedysville.

The Ag Marketing Program's mission is to assist individuals with marketing plans, develop profitable, sustainable marketing opportunities, and work in coordination with other supporting agencies to enhance Maryland's agricultural economy.

Ginger publishes a quarterly newsletter, "Mastering Marketing" that includes tips for producers, grant opportunities, upcoming programs, and other information to help producers.

For more information or to join the e-mail list for the newsletter, please contact Ginger Myers at 301-432-2767 x338 or gsmyers@umd.edu. *Note: Ginger raises sheep on her farm in Carroll County.*



Ginger S. Myers

(continued from page 1)

Scrotal circumference

Scrotal measurements were also taken towards the end of the test. Scrotal circumference ranged from 22 to 32 centimeters and averaged 26.2 cm. A 7 to 8 month old breeding buck should have a scrotal circumference of at least 25 cm.

Top-performing goats

The top-performing goat in the test was a 94% Kiko buck consigned by Don Smith (Virginia). This goat did not require deworming while on test. Only 0.02 lbs. per day separated the top two goats. The second highest gaining goat was a Kiko x Boer buck consigned by Bill Lowe (Pennsylvania). This goat also did not require deworming. Both goats were sold via private treaty for breeding, as were several other bucks.



Don Smith and wife with top performing buck

2008 Test

The 2008 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test will begin on June 7 and end on October 4. A field day and sale will be held in conjunction with the test.

Up to 50 male goats may be consigned to the test. The consignment period is April 1-May 15. Eligible goats must be between 3 and 5 months of age and weigh between 35 and 70 lbs. at the start of the test. Any breed or breed cross is eligible. Consigners are limited to 5 goats; at least 2 is suggested. The testing fee was \$75 per goat in 2007. Additional information about the test can be found on the blog at <http://mdgoatstest.blogspot.com>.

The purpose of the Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test is to measure genetic differences in meat goats consuming a pasture diet with natural exposure to internal parasites. The test also provides the opportunity to evaluate the performance of meat goats under typical Mid-Atlantic production conditions. While on test, the goats are evaluated for growth performance, parasite resistance and resilience, and carcass merit.

The test is conducted at the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center in Keedysville, MD (approximately 9 miles south of Hagerstown, MD). Ten (10) acres of pasture is utilized for the test.

The meat goat test committee includes Susan Schoenian, Jeanne Dietz-Band, Jeff Semler, Mary Beth Bennett (West Virginia), Willie Lantz, Dr. Niki Whitley, Dr. Dahlia Jackson (Delaware), and Dr. Kevin Pelzer (Virginia). Cindy Mason and Pam Thomas provide administrative support.

Another Successful Lambing & Kidding School

Approximately 130 people attended the Lambing and Kidding School held December 8th at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. The first school was held in 2005 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Participants of both schools were an equal mix of sheep and goat producers.

The Lambing and Kidding School was sponsored by University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, with support from Sheepman Supply Company (Frederick, MD). Door prizes were donated by Premier 1 Supplies, La Belle Colostrum, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Lambing and kidding pocket record keeping booklets were provided by Shepherd Magazine and University of Missouri Cooperative Extension. Participants in the school received a lambing and kidding kit and resource notebook.



Dr. Kevin Pelzer

Dr. Kevin Pelzer, a Production Management Medicine Specialist from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech was the featured speaker. Breakout sessions covered a variety of topics.

The next lambing and kidding school will be held in 2009.

2008 Maryland 4-H Tail Docking Policy

The 2008 Maryland 4-H Tail Docking Policy remains virtually *unchanged* from 2007. 4-H lambs should be docked no shorter than the distal end of the caudal tail fold. The caudal fold is a flap of skin attached to the underside of the tail near the rectum and is clearly visible when the tail is lifted.

Lambs docked in this manner will have a minimum tail length of 0.7 inches at the time of show, as determined by the approved measuring device.

Purchased lambs should have a minimum tail length of 1.4 inches at the time of "weaning." This gives a high probability that the lamb's tail will measure at least 0.7 inches at the time of show. 4-Hers should use the DeTail device to select lambs that have been properly docked.

Voluntary compliance

In 2008, compliance with the Maryland 4-H Tail Docking Policy will be **VOLUNTARY**. Lamb tails (docks) will not be officially measured at Maryland 4-H activities. No lambs will be disqualified from showing due to tail length, unless the short dock results in a rectal prolapse.

The policy will be re-evaluated at the end of 2008.



Measuring tail using DeTail device.

Rectal prolapses

Any sheep or lamb that exhibits a rectal prolapse at a 4-H activity will be ineligible for the activity and sent home by the Extension Educator, Sheep Superintendent, or other appropriately deemed individual. The following will be used as a guideline to determine the occurrence of a rectal prolapse:

"A rectal prolapse is defined as an inversion of the rectum that protrudes 4 cm (1.6 in.) or more outside the body and remains exterior to the body while the animal is standing." (Journal of Animal Science, 2003).

If a lamb is observed with a rectal prolapse (by one of the above people) and in the future

is not observed with a rectal prolapse, it is still classified as having a rectal prolapse. This was the criteria used in the 2003 multi-year study that established a link between tail length and the incidence of rectal prolapses in lambs fed concentrate diets.

Questions about Maryland's 2008 4-H Tail Docking Policy should be directed to Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu.

Compensation for Natural Disasters

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) 2005-2007 provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters (e.g. drought) occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007.

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must have been maintained for commercial use in an eligible county on the beginning date of the disaster period. Producers incurring a loss in more than one year, must choose only one year for which to receive benefits.

FSA will calculate payments by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category (sheep and goats, \$2.67; adult beef, \$10.66; non-adult beef, \$8.00; and some equine, \$7.89) by the number of eligible livestock in each category. Camelids are not included. For more information about LCP and to find out if you are eligible for payments, visit your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Source: USDA-FSA Fact Sheet: Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007 (September 2007).

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lcp07.pdf

No Link Found Between Ca and Vaginal Prolapses

A vaginal prolapse is a protrusion of the vagina through the vulva. In New Zealand, it occurs on-average 13 days before lambing and is estimated to cost the New Zealand sheep industry \$30-50 million per year. It is a troublesome problem in many U.S. sheep flocks. It is less common in goats.

Calcium (Ca) status has been implicated as one of the causes of vaginal prolapses, so New Zealand researchers conducted a series of experiments to evaluate the role of Ca and the incidence of vaginal prolapses in ewes.

In one experiment, researchers monitored the calcium status of old twin bearing ewes under normal commercial conditions. They sampled the ewes' blood at 60, 30, and 7 days prior to lambing. While 11 to 41 percent of the ewes had marginal serum Ca and magnesium status 60 and 30 days prior to lambing, no relationship was found between serum minerals and the incidence of vaginal prolapses.

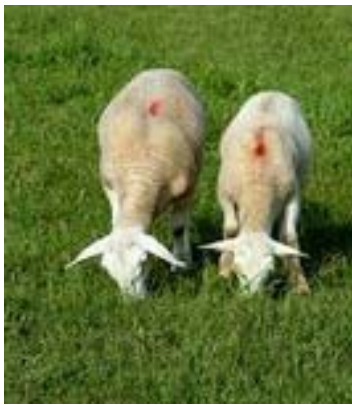


In the second experiment, the researchers manipulated the Ca status of twin bearing ewes in flocks with a history of vaginal prolapses. However, neither the feeding of anionic salts in mid-pregnancy (to reduce urine losses of Ca) nor Ca or vitamin D supplements in late pregnancy consistently changed serum Ca concentration or the incidence of vaginal prolapses.

The researchers concluded that there is a strong "environmental" component associated with vaginal prolapses, not associated with feeding level; and that "the factors or combination of factors which make up this environmental component remain frustratingly elusive."

Read full article in 2007 Proceedings of New Zealand Society of Animal Production on the web at <http://chuckstuff.org/nzsap/2007/ab07011.pdf>

Wethers vs. Short-Scrotum vs. Entire Rams



A comparison of wethers (WTH), short scrotum (SSC), and rams (RAM) was made on 552 crossbred Romney lambs in New Zealand. A short scrotum is a ram whose testicles have been pushed into the body and had its scrotum removed. It is also called a cryptorchid.

The experiment began when the lambs were five weeks old. They were grazed on ryegrass/white clover pastures in New Zealand's hill country. The lambs were weighed at day 0, 81, 120, 154, and 192 and slaughtered when they weighed approximately 36 kg (79.2 lbs.).

WTH lambs grew slower than SSC and RAM lambs. Due to higher dressing percentages, WTH and SSC lambs had heavier carcasses than RAM lambs. The carcasses of WTH lambs were fatter than the carcasses of SSC and RAM lambs.

Due to fatter carcasses and extra costs of feeding and drenching (deworming), researchers deemed the WTH lambs to be less profitable than SCR and RAM lambs. They found no difference in growth, carcass, and value traits for SSC and RAM lambs.

Read full article from the 2007 Proceedings of the New Zealand Society of Animal Science on the internet at <http://chuckstuff.org/nzsap/2007/ab07008.pdf>



A Yule Goat?

Prior to Christianity's arrival in Scandinavia, the Yule Goat was used to celebrate the arrival of winter solstice - around the same time of year Christmas is celebrated.

The Yule Goat was a person disguised as a goat who went from house to house entertaining families with songs and dances, receiving drink and food in exchange for the entertainment.

Visit <http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com/2007/11/yule-goat.html> to find out more!

Featured Web Site

<http://AgMarketing.umd.edu>

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension web site, AgMarketing.umd.edu, provides information on alternative enterprises, marketing outlets and tools, value-added products, resources for new farmers, and the quarterly newsletter, "Mastering Marketing." The Marketing 101 section covers all aspects of developing a marketing plan and will steer your business in the right direction.

"Marketing Mania" is a blog that will soon be online to complement the web site. Both the web site and blog are still in the development stages, but will provide important information to help your business grow.



USDA Publishes "Grass-Fed" Standard

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a voluntary standard for grass (forage) fed marketing claims. The standard has been published as a Notice in the Federal Register and is titled the U.S. Standard for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claim, Grass (Forage) Fed Claim for Ruminant Livestock and the Meat Products

Derived from Such Livestock.



The grass-fed standard states that grass and/or forage shall be the feed source consumed for the lifetime of the

ruminant animal, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning. The diet shall be derived solely from forage, and animals cannot be fed grain or grain by-products and must have continuous access to pasture during the growing season.

The standard may be obtained from the web at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/stand/claim.htm>.

Source: USDA-AMS news release, October 15, 2007.

Read Grass-fed lamb and goat at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/grassfed.html>

Effects of Concentrate Feeding

Forty-six (46) crossbred Boer goats were used by researchers at Kansas State University to assess the effects of concentrate feeding on the carcass composition of goats.

The goats were fed *ad libitum*, with no concentrate (range) or with one of three levels of concentrate (low, 50%; medium, 70%; and high, 90%) for 126 days before slaughter. Carcasses were fabricated according to the Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS).

Overall, goats fed concentrate-based diets had heavier carcasses and primal weights, but lower percentages of trimmed primal cuts and less off-flavor intensity compared to range-fed goats.



Longissimus (ribeye) samples from concentrate-fed goats had higher percentages of total, saturated, monosaturated and n-6 FA; but lower percentages of n-3 FA, compared to *longissimus* samples from range-fed goats.

Source: Abstract from *Small Ruminant Research*, November 2007 - Volume 73, Issues 1-3, Pages 67-76.

DSU Update from Dr. Dahlia Jackson

Dewormer Resistance in a Small Goat Herd in Delaware

Regardless of the intense dry weather this past summer, Delaware State University's goat herd had a hard time dealing with heavy parasite infestations, especially the kids. For example, fecal parasite egg counts from fecal samples taken from the entire herd in July indicated that the average parasite load of our adult goats was 764.8 eggs per gram (epg) and ranged from 0 – 4450 epg. For our goat kids, initial fecal egg counts averaged 2827 epg and ranged from 0 - 24,150 epg.

With the help of undergraduate students working at Hickory Hill (DSU's Ruminant Farm), a study was conducted in July to determine the levels of dewormer resistance in DSU goats. To determine resistance, we used the Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) to test three dewormers that we already had at the farm.

Forty-four goats were separated into four groups according to age, production status, and initial fecal egg counts. The four groups included a Cydectin® (CYD), Ivermectin® (IVR), Valbazen® (VAL) and a control (CON) group. A CON group should always be included when conducting a FECRT to help ensure that nothing else (but the dewormer) is accounting for the reduction in fecal egg counts. The FECRT involves taking an initial fecal sample, deworming at the same time, and then taking another fecal sample 7-14 days after to determine reduction. A dewormer is deemed effective if it results in a > 90% fecal egg count reduction. According to the results, CYD was the only effective dewormer resulting in a 98% reduction in fecal egg counts. Both

IVR and VAL failed to reduce fecal egg counts in this study. The results of using either of these drugs were similar to not treating the goats or simply giving them water. This result makes it imperative for us at DSU to integrate techniques such as FAMACHA, fecal egg counts, good nutrition, and pasture management into our plans to control internal parasites and prolong the efficacy of Cydectin®.



For 2008 we plan on submitting fecal samples for the Larval Development Assay (LDA) conducted at the University of Georgia in order to see how well our results correlate with this alternative, more sensitive test. This is also a good time to remind subscribers about the opportunity to get free LDA tests on their flock.

Participating producers will be asked to collect fecal samples from their animals and submit to the University of Georgia (UGA). Results will indicate dewormer resistance on your farm and which drug/drugs is still effective at no cost to you. This study is a collaborative effort between DSU, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and UGA to characterize levels of dewormer resistance (AR) in gastrointestinal nematodes (GIN) of small ruminants in the Mid-Atlantic U.S (USDA funded). The information will help sheep and goat producers in implementing a chemical deworming strategy that is most effective on their farm in order to prolong the efficacy of available chemical treatments.

If you would like more information on worm control in sheep and goats and for more information on the project mentioned above please do not hesitate to contact me at (302) 857 – 6490 or djjackson@desu.edu.

Try this goat milk recipe - Cajeta (Mexican Caramel Candy)

3 quarts goats milk
2 tablespoons cornstarch
3 cups sugar
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Dissolve baking soda and cornstarch into 1 cup milk. Stir well to dissolve any lumps. Add rest of milk and add sugar. Bring mixture to boil, stirring constantly while cooking. Cook until the mixture is thick and looks like caramel sauce. Pour into jars, cool, and refrigerate. This makes a great topping for ice cream and makes a delicious apple dip!

Source: American Dairy Goat Association web site: <http://adga.org/>

UMES Update from Dr. Niki Whitley

We split breedings again this year at UMES so that we will have some goats and sheep at different ages. Nearly all of our early breedings (due Jan/Feb) are purebred or high percentage Suffolk and Fullblood or high percentage Boer, though I did breed a few Kiko cross females to a Kiko buck as well. The rest of the sheep and goats are due anywhere from March until June.

Tammy Holler, a graduate student at West Virginia University came to UMES the first week in December to ultrasound (sonogram) our ewes for a project and found that over half the ewes with the only Dorper ram I kept (a black headed one) were either open or less than 2 weeks bred. So we put the Texel ram she had brought back (she borrowed it for an out-of-season breeding study this summer) in with them to "clean up." So we "might" have some half Texel, half Katahdin lambs again this year along with our high percentage Suffolk, Katahdin, and Katahdin x Dorper lambs.

We finished the first round of our "Wild Bird" study at UMES. Virginia State University (VSU) is conducting a similar study with an animal portion there as well as here



at UMES. We are trying to determine if and how often wild birds, especially migratory birds, pass on *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *E. coli* to sheep and goats grazing on pasture. We have four pastures with open water containers and four with nipple waterers (like for pigs and dogs in kennels). The purpose is to see if the open

water containers attract more birds than the nipples. We plan to conduct the study in the fall and spring for two years, with the first fall already completed. The microbiology data (bacteria) is being collected by VSU and they have not yet compiled all the results for this first study.

The Lower Shore Goat and Sheep Producers Association is planning to have a Spring Production Sale, probably in April.

UMES will have some lambs and goats for potential 4-H Youth projects (a few wether projects possibly) or producers interested in breeding stock. For more information on the research studies or other items in this article, please contact me at 410-651-6194 or nwhitley@umes.edu.

Counting Sheep and Goats

America's farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come.

That opportunity will come in mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

Policy makers factor census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) utilizes this data as it prepares briefs and comments about the industry. All sheep and goat operations, regardless of size, are encouraged to respond.

NASS mailed out census forms Dec. 28, 2007, to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due

back by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or fill the census out online via a secure Web site at www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Source: *ASI Weekly for December 28, 2007*

The screenshot shows the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) website for the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The page includes a search bar, navigation links (Home, Take the Census, About the Census, Newsroom, Publications, Help, Contact Us, NASS home), and a section for the 'Online Census Response' option. The 'Online Census Response' section highlights that the 2007 Census marks the first time that farm and ranch operators will have the option of filling out their questionnaires online. It also mentions that the 2007 Census data will be released in both electronic and print formats, beginning in February 2009. A 'Continue' button is visible at the bottom of the page.

Not All Masses in Goats are Contagious Abscesses

Most goat owners assume that all external masses in goats are contagious abscesses caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. Although this bacteria leads to a significant number of herd infections, not all masses are abscesses and not all abscesses are contagious. Determining the correct origin of an external mass requires a detailed history, thorough physical examination, and aspiration or biopsy. Once the correct diagnosis has been made, an appropriate therapy can be chosen and prognosis for recovery determined.

Numerous bacteria live on the surface of healthy skin and mucous membranes and can be introduced into body tissues through small ulcers or puncture wounds. Coarse hay, grass awns, wood splinters, used injection needles, and trauma introduce bacteria into tissue. Once inside the body and deprived of oxygen, bacteria replicate rapidly, destroy healthy tissue, and attract white blood cells to fight infection.

Fibrous connective tissue surrounds the infection to prevent its spread throughout the body. In most cases the immune system functions properly to destroy the bacteria, and the abscess is either resorbed or breaks through the skin to the outside. Some abscesses interfere with body functions due to their location or size and may need to be surgically drained or removed.

In order to select an appropriate treatment, the cause of the abscess should be determined by bacteriologic culture. The skin is clipped and aseptically prepared, and the aspirated sample should be refrigerated until delivered to a diagnostic laboratory for culture.

Abscesses caused by common bacteria such as *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus* or *Pasteurella* usually do not require treatment unless the goat shows symptoms of systemic involvement such as swelling, anorexia, or fever. Lancing superficial abscesses caused by common skin bacteria may shorten the course of the disease and yield a more cosmetically pleasing scar. This type of abscess commonly occurs around the mouth, lips, cheeks, and injection sites, and does not spread between animals.

Abscesses caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* spread from one animal to another and are referred to as caseous lymphadenitis. These bacteria are found in the thick pustular discharge from ruptured abscesses and can

survive for many years in contaminated soil, barns and on equipment or instruments.

While the bacteria may find easy entrance into the body through wounds, they may also penetrate intact skin. *C. pseudotuberculosis* produces a toxin called phospholipase D that allows it to spread from lymph node to lymph node throughout the body. The immune system tries to encapsulate the infection with layers of connective tissue, but the enzyme allows the bacteria to escape.

The vast majority of lesions begin in the head and neck and then travel to internal lymph nodes around the lungs, heart, liver, kidneys and small intestine. *Corynebacterium* abscesses frequently increase in size with age and interfere with body function. Because these abscesses interfere with normal organ function, Caseous lymphadenitis is the most common cause of wasting or chronic weight loss in goats.



Goat with abscess on neck
Photo by Jeff Semler

Goats infected with *Corynebacterium* are permanently infected and shed the organism in body fluids, abscess contents, and coughed aerosol droplets. One study indicated goats can develop clinical disease within three months of exposure, and the organism can be spread from open abscesses for as long as three weeks.

Careful interpretation of the SHI test at the University of California, Davis may be useful in determining which animals in an infected herd have internal abscesses. Herds infected with Caseous lymphadenitis should work to eliminate the disease through culling affected animals, careful screening, and isolation of purchased animals, and raising young stock away from adults on a pasteurization program.

Colorado Serum Company produces two sheep vaccines, Case-Bac and Caseous DT, for use in infected sheep flocks. The manufacturer recommends two doses of two milliliters administered subcutaneously in the auxiliary space two weeks apart, followed by a single annual booster.

The company suggests that the vaccine should be used only in herds that currently suffer from Caseous lymphadenitis or those that are at extreme risk for infection. Because this vaccine is not labeled for use in goats, goat

"Abscesses" continued on page 9

Rich Barczewski is MSBA's Shepherd of the Year



Rich Barczewski marks a bale of wool at the Wool Pool.

The Maryland Sheep Breeders Association (MSBA) held its annual meeting and banquet on October 20 at the Carroll County Ag Center in Westminster.

Dr. Mara Mullinix is MSBA's new vice president. She is joined on the executive board by returning officers: Joe Frey, President; Connie DeLamater, Treasurer; and Jordan Thomas, Secretary. New directors include Greg Thorne, Patty Loun, Steve Archer, and Jeff Hevner.

During the meeting, Dr. Richard Barczewski was presented with MSBA's "Shepherd of the Year" award. Dr. Barczewski manages the Maryland Wool Pool, co-instructs the beginning and advanced sheep shearing schools, and presents beginning shepherd seminars at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. He is the Chair of the Department of Agriculture at Delaware State University.

Bev Pearsall named MACAA's Honorary County Agent

Bev Pearsall was presented with the "Honorary County Agent" award from the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACAA). The award was presented by David Greene, retired county agent from Carroll County and life member of MACAA. Pearsall is a sheep breeder in Frederick County. Her Texel sheep typically win the carcass contest at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival.

Membership in the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association is \$25 per year and includes a subscription to the quarterly *Maryland Sheep News*. Checks made payable to MSBA should be sent to Jordan Thomas, MSBA Secretary, 447 E. Catherine Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201.



Jordan Thomas (L) and Beverly Pearsall (R) demonstrate how to eartag a lamb/kid.

Maryland Had #1 Producing Goat

A Hagerstown, Maryland farm had the nation's #1 milk-producing goat. "Stargate," a 3-year old Saanen doe produced 5,150 pounds of milk between March 2006 and March 2007. The American Dairy Goat Association listed Stargate as the country's No. 1 milker in July, according to a written release from the farm.

Stargate is owned by Alice Orzechowski and Scott Hoyman, who's Caprikorn Farms recently received a license to sell cheese. The dairy sends its milk to a Pennsylvania cheese maker and then sells it at the Middletown Farmer's Market. According to Orzechowski, "the market for goat's milk continues to grow."



Stargate of Caprikorn Farms
Photo by Caprikorn Farms

Source: *The Delmarva Farmer*, August 21, 2007

Abscesses (continued)

producers who use these vaccines in goats do so at their own risk, as reactions have been reported when the sheep vaccine was used in goats.

Careful physical examination, aspiration, and biopsy can be used to determine the cause of external masses in goats. Accurate diagnosis can lead to correctly chosen treatment and prevention programs. Although not all causes of external masses can be prevented, their incidence can be markedly reduced through good management practices.

Source: *Summer 2007 Sheep & Goat Health Report*, a FREE publication of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

Calendar of Events

January 8 – Small Ruminant Session at Delaware Ag Week

6 to 9 p.m., Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, DE
Contact: Dr. Dahlia Jackson at (302) 857-6490 or djackson@desu.edu

January 11-12 - VA-NC Shepherd's Symposium

Alphin Stuart Livestock Arena, Blacksburg, VA
Contact: Dr. Scott Greiner at (540) 231-9159 or sgreiner@vt.edu

January 12 – Virginia Commercial Bred Ewe Lamb Sale

Alphin Stuart Livestock Arena, Blacksburg, VA
Contact: Dr. Scott Greiner at (540) 231-9159 or sgreiner@vt.edu

January 18-19 – 9th Annual Farming for Profit & Stewardship Conf.

Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Hagerstown, MD
Call (410) 549-7878 or visit their web site, www.futureharvestcasa.org

January 23-26 – American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and National Lamb Feeders Association (NLFA) Annual Convention

Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
Contact: ASI at (303) 771-3500 x35 or judym@sheepusa.org

January 24 & 31 – Sheep & Goat Nutrition & Feeding Short Course

7 to 9:30 p.m., Washington County Extension Office, Boonsboro, MD
Contact: Jeff Semler at (301) 791-1304 or jsemler@umd.edu

February 7-9 – PASA Farming for the Future Conference

Penn State Conference Center, State College, PA
Contact: PASA at (814) 349-9856 or info@pasafarming.org

For additional events, visit <http://www.sheepandgoat.com> and click on the "Upcoming Events" link on the right.



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Comments and suggestions regarding the newsletter are always welcome. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

More information on sheep and goats can be accessed at <http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com> and <http://www.sheepgoatmarketing.info>.

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Sheep & Goat Extension Program
University of Maryland
Western Maryland Research & Education Center
18330 Keedysville Road
Keedysville, MD 21756-1104