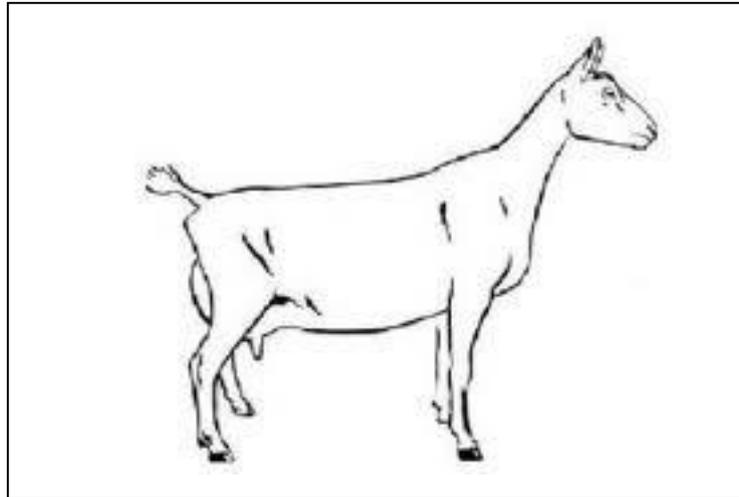


NZ Dairy Goat Farming

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Autumn 2019

From the Editors



Hi All,

Well we have just had our first wintery blast right at the end of autumn. It's nice to see the firewood shed full to overflowing and the hay stacked in the woolshed. We always feel good to see the provisions stocked up and ready for winter!

Mating went slowly for us. The girls seemed to spread their cycles out and it took months to get everyone mated that we wanted to. We still have several weeks to go before we will finally believe they are all in kid. Then the fun begins – waiting to see what the kids will be like next spring.

In this issue is an update about the new animal welfare standards. Interesting to note the requirement for anaesthetic prior to disbudding/dehorning only appears to apply to cattle. This is good news but although we do not have to get the vet involved now, we will be trialing an anaesthetic spray before we disbud this coming season and will update you all as to how this goes. It would be good to hear from anyone else about how you undertake this job and what products you apply afterwards etc.

Have a good safe warm and dry season everyone!

Cheers

Kim and Janine

Recipes of the Season

Walnut Crusted Goats Cheese with Herbs and Honey

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 cup 3-inch-long rosemary sprigs, plus leaves for garnish
- 3/4 cup chopped toasted walnuts
- 1 large log (10.5 oz.) goat cheese
- crackers and apple slices, for serving



Preparation

In a small saucepan, bring the honey and rosemary sprigs to a simmer over medium. Reduce the heat to low.

Simmer until the honey is infused with the rosemary, 2 to 3 minutes. Let cool. Scrape the honey from the rosemary sprigs; discard the sprigs. Spread out the walnuts in an even layer on a cutting board. Carefully roll the cheese in the nuts, pressing to adhere. Transfer the cheese to a platter. Drizzle the cheese with the rosemary honey and garnish with the rosemary leaves. Serve the cheese with the crackers and apple slices

Code of Welfare: Painful Husbandry Procedures

From 1 October 2019, Minimum Standard 5 reads:

Minimum Standard No. 5 – Disbudding and Dehorning

Animals with intact or “tipped” horns must be managed to minimise the risk of injury to other animals.

When disbudding is performed, the following must apply:

- the method must be chosen and undertaken so as to minimise the pain and distress and other negative health consequences (e.g. infection) for the animal, and
- if used, thermal cauterising equipment must be used in such a way as to minimise the risk of thermal injury to tissues other than the horn bud and adjacent skin, and
- if used, caustic or chemical techniques of disbudding must only be used by personnel skilled with the procedure, and only used when injury to the animal beyond the horn bud, or to other animals, is minimised.
- a cattle beast must not be disbudded unless throughout the procedure the cattle beast is under the influence of an appropriately placed and effective local anaesthetic that is authorised by a veterinarian for the purpose of the procedure.

Dehorning (c) When dehorning is performed, the following must apply: i) the method must be chosen and undertaken so as to minimise the pain and distress and other negative health consequences (e.g. infection) for the animal, and ii) dehorning without pain relief must be performed when animals are as young as possible, and not greater than nine months of age, and iii) when dehorning any animal over the age of nine months, pain relief must be used. iv) a cattle beast must not be dehorned unless throughout the procedure the cattle beast is under the influence of an appropriately placed and effective local anaesthetic that is authorised by a veterinarian for the purpose of the procedure.

Recommended Best Practice a) Animals should be disbudded in preference to being dehorned. b) To facilitate the humane and effective management of the animals, and to minimise tissue damage and pain, horns should be prevented from developing, or be removed, at the youngest age compatible with minimising associated negative health and welfare consequences for the animal. c) When dehorning, effective means of preventing excessive blood loss should be used. Likewise, a wound dressing or medication should be applied and if flies are likely to be a problem the animals should be treated with insecticide. d) All animals should be inspected regularly during the healing period, especially for the first two weeks after disbudding, and any infected wounds treated. e) Where dehorning has exposed the frontal sinuses of the skull, animals should be inspected regularly during the healing period, and any infected wounds treated. f) Precautions, such as vaccination, should be taken to minimise the risk of clostridial infections.

General Information While horn buds are generally evident at or soon after birth, there is some variation in the age at which horns develop, and the age at which the frontal sinuses become continuous with the hollow inner portion of the horn. Usually, the sinuses invade the horn when it reaches a certain size (often when the calf is about six months of age). The skull of goat kids is much thinner than that of calves. Thermal cautery disbudding techniques must be carefully used to avoid damage to underlying tissues, including the brain. If the initial burn is not adequate, or does not cover the diameter of the horn bud, then the site should be allowed to cool before heat is reapplied. As well as being shallow, the horn bud of kids is more diffuse and a wider piece of adjacent skin (5mm around each horn bud) should also be taken to avoid regrowth of horn material (scurs). Caustic chemical disbudding requires careful management to ensure the chemical does not come into contact with other tissues, either on the animal itself, or other animals, including humans. This risk is exacerbated when the animals are hungry and suck or rub their dams or herd mates, and by rain. The use of petroleum jelly around the horn bud can lessen injury to surrounding tissue. The technique is best performed when the horn bud is just palpable or just erupting, usually when the animals are 7- 10 days old.

Stable Goats Help Calm Skittish Racehorses

Christine Winter CHICAGO TRIBUNE



It may come as a surprise to some racegoers--at least the ones who don't spend much time back in the stables--to discover that horses aren't the only animals that occupy the barns at Arlington International Racecourse.

In addition to the approximately 1,200 horses stabled there, by some estimates there are more than 60 goats that call the barns home as well. No, goat races are not the track's latest scheme to attract crowds away from the riverboat casinos.

But the tough little animals do play an important role at the track. They serve as "pets" for the racehorses and exert a strange, calming influence on many of the skittish, high-strung thoroughbreds.

"The practice of keeping a goat in the stall with a nervous horse has been around for a long time, probably as long as there have been racehorses," said Arlington trainer Bette Gabriel, recalling that she has seen cases where a horse would become so attached that its goat would have to be brought along to the paddock every time the horse raced.

Although most of the track goats and horses develop a lifelong friendship, Gabriel's goat, Sally, has actually baby-sat three different horses in the four years she has had her. "She almost seems to know when one has calmed down and it is time to move on to another one that needs her," Gabriel said of her arthritic goat, which currently spends most of its time resting in the stall of Touch the Light, a high-strung 2-year-old.

As long as Sally's previous horse can still see her in the barn, the change of allegiance doesn't seem to be a problem. "In most cases, however, the relationship is more one-on-one, and the horse and its goat are inseparable for life," Gabriel said.

She recalled one billy goat she owned that would bellow every time its horse went off to practice or race. "He used to try to follow the horse, and we would have to tie him up," said Gabriel, recalling that its frequent loud and plaintive cries did not particularly endear that goat to other humans around the barn.

While most horses don't seem to mind the short separation for racing and exercising, if their goats aren't around the barn with them, it often means trouble. They will pace the stalls, and fail to get the rest they need. "It really affects their performance. They just can't relax unless that goat is nearby," she said. Goats also frequently ride in the trailer with the horses when they are moving from track to track. Gabriel said that when a horse she was training was sold in a claiming race, she sent its goat along with it.

"It was the only humane thing to do," she said. "A horse that loses its goat is just bereft and actually mourns." And there is no substituting another goat either because the horses unquestionably know the difference. "Racehorses are by nature nervous animals, and some of them handle the stress of racing and traveling better than others," said Melissa Bennett, an exercise rider for Arlington trainer Gene Cilio.

She noted that every track and many horse farms she has worked at have had goats around, and that a fellow pony rider at Arlington even keeps one to soothe his exercise pony, which isn't exactly a high-strung thoroughbred.



"I remember one farm where I worked 'breaking babies,' where the goat would follow behind us while we trained, running around the track as fast as it could," she laughed.

However, while goats may have the run of the barns, they are definitely not allowed to run around on the

tracks at Arlington. After all, a world-class racetrack has to have some standards.

Oddly enough, dogs don't enjoy the same open-door policy at Arlington as the farm animals do. They are, in fact, banned from the barns there.

The dogs and horses usually get along OK, according to Gabriel. But many dogs don't take well to the fact that a lot of people come and go through the typical stable. Most goats, despite their gruff reputation, are pretty docile.

They also stick pretty much to their horses' stalls and don't wander around. The casual observer touring a barn might not even notice that several goats are in residence.

Gabriel noted that miniature goats have become especially popular around tracks, and during the last 10 years, some horse owners and trainers have found that potbellied pigs form a similar attachment to horses and perform much the same function.

The pigs, however, sometimes get too big and too stubborn to transport around with the horses as they move from track to track.

"I've had both, and the goats have better personalities," Gabriel said, recalling one pig she owned got angry when she tried to lift it into a van, and moved to a neighbouring barn and refused to come back, upsetting both the horse and the goat it left behind.

Not every horse needs or even wants a goat in its stall, and no one is quite sure what the bond is between the two dissimilar animals, but horse trainers take advantage of the equine-goat connection whenever they can, especially since goats eat the same grain as the horses and are very little trouble.

"It just seems to be a security blanket for the horse, like it has a friend who is always there waiting," Bennett said. "It's a useful tool."

Waikato Cheesemaker Meyer's Foray Into Goat Milk Continues To Pay Dividends



is "absolutely ecstatic" with the win.

Last week the family business scooped the Countdown Champion of Champions (Commercial) award for its Goats Milk Gouda.

Traditionally makers of cow milk cheese, Meyer Cheese started using goat milk in 2016.

In 2017, its Meyer Smoked Goat Gouda won the champion of champions award for commercial cheese.

Meyer Cheese chief executive Miel Meyer says the company

"It's really a positive result for our business and team behind the scene and acknowledgement of my brother's hard work as lead cheese maker for our business," he told *Dairy News*.

He says cow milk is still the bread and butter of the business but the demand for other milks is helping drive sales.



“Since 2007 when I took over the business we started making a little bit of sheep milk cheese after constant positive feedback and building confidence in making cheese.

“Ten years later with an opportunity to buy some goat milk from a local supplier in Morrinsville we took the plunge in 2016 and started producing goat milk Gouda style cheese.”

The company gets its goat milk from the Averil family in Morrinsville.

“Our supplier owns and manages Goatland Farm Ltd. They are suppliers of the Dairy Goat Cooperative but with the co-op’s support we are able to take some of the milk to produce this wonder product.”

Meyer says goat milk products are on the rise and consumers are looking for the products on the shelves.

“We are forecasting about five tonnes of goat cheese per year but after last night I expect this might increase.”

Meyer Cheese is a fully fledged family affair. Founded in Waikato in 1976 by Fieke and Ben Meyer, their next generation is now at the helm. Their son Miel took over as general manager in 2007 when Ben and Fieke retired. In 2011, eldest son Geert returned from The Netherlands to become the head cheesemaker.

Geert also collected a trophy at the awards when he was named Milk Test NZ Champion Cheesemaker – the second year in a row he has won the title.

Meyer cheeses are widely available at supermarkets and specialty retailers NZ-wide.

Australian master cheese judge Russell Smith reflected on the results saying the awards for Dutch style cheeses reflect the quality of these cheeses in NZ.

“Kiwis are fortunate to have a handful of brilliant cheesemakers here making these types of cheeses.

“I judge across the world and Dutch style cheeses made in NZ are as good as anywhere in the world.”

Commenting on the Meyer Cheese Goats Milk Gouda, Smith said “It doesn’t come any better than this. This is a cheese you never want to finish. It’s just stunning. It’s superbly made and offers beautiful, sweet, nutty flavours.”

Cumin gouda tops

The Mahoe Farmhouse Cheese entry Cumin Gouda was awarded Puhoi Valley Champion of Champions in the boutique cheese category.

It is made to a traditional Dutch recipe that adds the cumin seeds to the curd. After three to six months of ripening the refreshing lemon zing of the cumin flavours the whole wheel. According to master judge Russell Smith, Mahoe Farmhouse Cheese’s Cumin Gouda “is an exceptional cheese”. Anna and Bob Rosevear and their family have been making Mahoe cheese in the Bay of Islands since 1986.

New Local Fencing Solution

Styx Solutions, www.styxsolutions.com

Review by Janine Tasker

At the 2019 Methven show, Kim and I came across a stand for Styx Solutions. They are a local company which uses plastic to manufacture a number of fencing products. We had a 7 strand wire fence which the goats had given a hard time. The wires were stretched and sloppy and allowed the goats to push against it and almost pop through completely. We had tightened the wires, but just couldn’t keep it tight enough to be sure the goats would remain on the right side.



We purchased the 7 strand styx (they come in a range of sizes) and also the outriggers. We easily applied these to the fence. Each styx has several options of twisting and securing the outrigger and no special equipment was required other than elbow grease!



They are UV stable, lightweight and when we fixed 3 to the fence between each post, you cannot now pull the wires apart at all! The outriggers fit tape, polywire or any other kind of electric line. They have multiple attachment points and can also be used on their own to either nail upright off the top of a post for extra height, or nailed to wooden posts as outriggers on an existing fence. We can’t recommend these highly enough if you have an old wire fence that needs goat proofing! The company was excellent to deal with and the product arrived speedily!



Registration Fee's

Does \$10.00 Doe Kids \$10.00 Bucks \$20.00
Leases \$5.00 Goatlings \$10.00
Buck Kids \$20.00 Transfers \$5.00
Production Recording \$5.00 per goat
Nominate Herd \$20.00
Inspection Appendix D \$5.00 per doe

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