

# NZ Dairy Goat Farming

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## From the Editors

i All,

Well our mating season has come to an end except for one goatling who didn't hold the mating from the first time. Hopefully everything has gone well for you and now we all look forward to the new arrivals in Spring! We have been busy finishing the autumn jobs – making sure we have enough hay and firewood, and tidying up the garden. Today is a drizzly day so a good excuse to stay indoors and get this newsletter finished and out to members.



In this edition we have some interesting articles and a piece submitted by Lorraine Youngman. Please send through anything you would like published especially useful articles and personal pieces about you and yours!

Cheers,

Kim and Janine

# Recipe of the Season

## Goat Ragu (Jaime Oliver)

### *Ingredients*

- 2 onions
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 10 large ripe plum tomatoes or 1 x 400g tin of plum tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon rice bran oil
- 3 fresh bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon red chilli flakes
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano or mixed herbs
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 450 g higher-welfare leg of kid goat , diced (ask your butcher to do this), 150 ml red wine
- 2 tablespoons tomato purée, 175 ml beef stock
- 2 carrots, 2 heads of broccoli
- 2 cloves of garlic, 25 g butter
- a few sprigs of fresh basil



### *Method*

1. Peel and dice the onions, then peel and finely grate the garlic. Pick and chop the rosemary leaves. Dice the tomatoes (if using) and keep separate.
2. Heat the oil in a large heavy-based saucepan over a medium-low heat, then add the onions and gently sauté for 6 to 7 minutes, or until soft and translucent.

3. Stir in the garlic, rosemary, fresh bay, chilli flakes, nutmeg, oregano and sugar, then fry for a further 3 minutes.
4. Turn the heat up to medium-high, add the kid goat and brown for a few minutes, stirring often. Season with sea salt and plenty of black pepper.
5. Pour in the red wine to deglaze the pan, give it stir, then add the tomato purée and fresh or tinned tomatoes. Top up with stock – you'll only need about 100ml of stock if using fresh tomatoes.
6. Season, then bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover and leave it to bubble away for 2 hours 30 minutes, or until thickened, reduced and smelling incredible.
7. About 20 minutes before it's ready, grate the carrots (peel them first if they're not organic), then stir into the ragù. Check the seasoning, adding more salt and pepper, if needed.
8. Chop up the broccoli, including the stalks, then cook in a pan of boiling salted water until softened. Drain and return to the pan. Peel and grate in the garlic, then mash well with the butter.
9. Divide the ragù between your plates, garnish with basil leaves, then serve with the mashed broccoli and some warm, sliced baguette, if you like.

## DOES IN SEASON

By Lorraine Youngman

How do you know your doe is in season? This is a question I am often asked by new owners, or people with only a couple of does.

There is no straight forward answer to this as they are as different as humans.

First of all there are those like 'the ladies of the night', that stand on corners down Manchester Street Christchurch, blatantly flaunting themselves and advertising their wares. They scream frequently, flick their tails continuously, and upset every buck for miles. Even if they have been mated many times. This can go on for up to 3 days, until everyone is feeling heartily sick of them.

The other extreme is the quiet genteel type, 'No sex please we are British'. They discretely hang back in the back ground, with just the occasional flick of a tail. They can be in season, for a few hours or up to 2 days. Do not confuse the pleased to see food, or having just passed some goat fertilizer, flick. You may have to stand back quietly and watch for a while.

Very helpful is to go to your nearest, smelliest, dripping in spray, buck and rub him down with a rag.



I do suggest taking an ice cream container with you, with a lid or else you will have to drive home with all the car windows down.

This rag is then tied to a fence and a doe in season will come up and smooch against it. You can further check by lifting her tail and checking for a slight pinkness around the vagina, and lightly run your hand down her rump to see if she will flick.

Finally, to further confuse the amateur, in certain years you may get a false season, vets say it only happens at the start of her cycling, this is not true and annoyingly can happen further through the cycles. She will take the buck but unfortunately if it happens it just means 2 trips, as she will cycle in another 5-7 days instead of every 3 weeks.

## Reproductive Problems in Buck

The most common cause of a buck not breeding is that the does are not coming into heat (cycling). Many goat breeds mate seasonally (especially dairy and dairy-crosses) as daylight shortens; in the northern hemisphere, that time frame is mid-July to mid-December. The same breed may cycle differently under climatic conditions in other locales. Experienced breeding bucks in hot climates often mate in the cooler night hours.



Malnutrition is a major factor in the buck's ability to breed. Malnutrition, as used here, refers more to quality than quantity of feed and forage. Don't overlook the importance of minerals that have been specifically formulated for goats. The buck will lose interest in eating during breeding season, so he needs to be in good physical condition when placed with does. Too thin or too fat -- neither situation is good. Evaluate your nutritional program in advance of breeding season rather than after it begins.

Examine the buck's testicles for defects. Testes should feel "muscle" firm. Abnormally small testes reduce his chances of successfully breeding. Intersexed animals (hermaphrodites) tend to have small testes. Hermaphrodites have both male and female genitalia. Make sure that both testicles are descended from the body into the scrotal sac. A buck with one or more undescended testicles is known as a cryptorchid. Since cryptorchidism is hereditary, these bucks should not be used for breeding. Some chryptorchids may not be able to breed at all. Sperm need the cooler environment of the scrotal sac in order to develop and survive. Body cavity temperatures are too high for good sperm production. Sexually-immature bucks are likely to have abnormal sperm. Small testes can also be the result of malnutrition. Bucks with very short necks can be poor breeders. At first glance, this might sound silly, but think about it. When a buck mounts a doe and ejaculates sperm, at the same time he throws his head back as part of his thrusting movement. If his neck is too short, he can lose his balance, fall over backwards, and not complete his insemination of the doe.

Various infectious diseases can reduce or prevent the development of healthy sperm. Staph, coliform, and pseudomonas bacterial infections, trichomoniasis, granulomas, and herpesvirus can impact the buck's breeding ability. Bacterial infections require antibiotics and topical cleansing of the affected areas. Trichomoniasis is a

protozoan that lives in the urethra and/or its sheath and can prevent insemination. Medication is necessary to kill this parasite. Because it is a virus, herpes does not respond to antibiotics and usually must run its course. Herpesvirus can cause abortions in does. Mites can be a major cause of infertility. If a buck's scrotum is infested with mites, sperm production declines because the scabs that form on the surface of the scrotum hold in heat.

Ulcerative posthitis (pizzle rot) interferes with breeding. The pizzle is the curly appendage on the end of the buck's penis. Pizzle rot is believed to be caused by a high-protein diet. Such a diet increases the amount of urea in the buck's urine, resulting in the production of excess ammonia. The ammonia provides fertile ground in which bacteria can live and reproduce. Dense and/or twisted hair around the urethral process, as well as penile ulcers and pustules, can interfere with breeding. Testicular tumors, while possible, are rare in goats. Scrotal hernias, although not common in goats, will impair sperm production. Wounds, cuts, bites, and frostbite are more common problems. Adhesion of the urethral process to the glans penis prevents breeding. While this condition is normal in immature bucks, they should separate at sexual maturity, allowing the penis to extend from the sheath so the buck can impregnate the doe.

Arthritis restricts the buck's ability to breed; if the buck isn't flexible, he won't be able to mount the doe. Urinary calculi is a major problem in many bucks. Stones or crystals block urine flow, preventing the male from urinating. A buck that cannot urinate also cannot breed. A buck that cannot urinate will soon be dead. Refer to my articles on urinary calculi on the Articles page of the Onion Creek Ranch website <http://www.tennesseemeatgoats.com>. Urinary calculi is quite preventable. Simply feed the buck properly. Do not over-feed sacked feeds and always use a goat feed that has at least a 2:1 ratio of calcium-to-phosphorus (preferably 2.5:1). Occasionally the mineral content of drinking water contributes to causing urinary calculi. For example, water high in sulphur can cause problems. However, most cases of urinary calculi in bucks are the direct result of improper feed management -- specifically overfeeding grains. Hay fertilized with chicken litter can result in urinary calculi because chicken litter is very high in phosphorus. If your hay fits this description, you will need to add extra calcium to your goats' diet. Urinary calculi tends to be chronic (recurring), even when immediate medical attention has been given. Do not rely exclusively on products like ammonium chloride and methigel to prevent urinary calculi. Learn how to feed properly.

The effect of scrotal volume, scrotal circumference, and split scrotums on sperm production are debatable issues in bucks, with arguments to be made on either side. You may decide to have a sperm count done on the buck if all other efforts to identify the problem have been examined and determined not to be the cause.

Producers tend to think that a non-breeding buck is not \*fixable.\* Illness and injury can be dealt with, as can poor nutrition. If the does are coming into heat, poor nutrition or injury is likely the cause of the buck's inability to breed. Before you decide to demand replacement of what you think may be a non-breeding buck, you should exhaust all avenues of investigation, including sperm count testing. The answer may be as simple as the buck is breeding at night or your calculation of breeding-to-kidding dates is incorrect. Does do not always settle on the first breeding. In my 20+ years of experience, very few bucks are non-breeders. Usually the problem is keeping bucks and does from breeding when you are not ready for them to do so.



Suzanne W. Gasparotto, ONION CREEK RANCH, Lohn, Texas 2/5/12

# Who Knew??? For the Coffee Drinkers



Adapted from Selamta, The In-Flight Magazine of Ethiopian Airlines

Edited By Professor Nkiru Nzegwu

Abyssinia, now Ethiopia, is the original home of the coffee (arabica) plant. Kaffa, the province in the south-western highlands where they first blossomed, gave its name to coffee. The formal cultivation and use of coffee as a beverage began early in the 9th century. Prior to that, coffee trees grew wild in the forests of Kaffa, and may in the region were familiar with the berries and the drink. According to Ethiopia's ancient history, an Abyssinian goatherd, Kaldi, who lived around AD 850, discovered coffee. He observed his goats prancing excitedly and bleating loudly after chewing the bright red berries that grew on some green

bushes nearby. Kaldi tried a few berries himself, and soon felt a sense of elation. He filled his pockets with the berries and ran home to announce his discovery. At his wife's suggestion, he took the berries to the Monks in the monastery near Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile River.

Kaldi presented the chief Monk with the berries and related his account of their miraculous effect. "Devil's work!" exclaimed the monk, and hurled the berries in the fire. Within minutes the monastery filled with the aroma of roasting beans, and the other monks gathered to investigate. The beans were raked from the fire and crushed to extinguish the embers. The chief Monk ordered the grains to be placed in the ewer and covered with hot water to preserve their goodness. That night the monks sat up drinking the rich fragrant brew, and vowed that they would drink it daily to keep them awake during their long, nocturnal devotions.

## Word Find For Rainy Days

G A G G E O D T K Y N Y Q G F  
H E Q G N R A L E L X A G E E  
M N S G N I T A E L B H E S E  
I W Q T L V D R D E C U X I D  
K S C C A G F E W M U X E I I  
X H C I E T L Q E S M X M D N  
N E C A L L I N G R N T R Z G  
Q M D W P D C O G E B E N S N  
Y R U B J R K N N S S E H B I  
G N I T A M I P C P M E G U L  
S F S D U C N N O H L G C C C  
R T N L A A G N E T V R C K Y  
G G A P A N S L E S G V E V C  
C A W N J E F R S E A S O N J  
D D R U D W S H Y Y E D W U V

AUTUMN, BLEATING  
BREEDING, BUCK  
CALLING, CAPRINE  
CYCLING, DOE  
FEEDING, FLEHMEN  
FLICKING, GESTATION  
HAY, MATING  
PACING, RAG  
RESPONSE, SEASON  
SHELTER, SMELLY  
STAND, TAIL

## Historical Date Letters

2017 – T, 2016 – O, 2015 – P, 2014 – M, 2013 – L,  
2012 – K, 2011 – H, 2010 – G, 2009 – E, 2008 – D,  
2007 – C, 2006 – B, 2005 – A, 2004 – Z, 2003 – X,  
2002 – V, 2001 – T

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## 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**

Year Letter for 2018 – V