

NZ Dairy Goat Farming

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Winter 2018

From the Editors

Hi All,

Well it's almost spring and kidding will be well underway for most members. This year we have had 85% buck kids and the doe kid we really hoped for, died shortly after birth. So not so good for us, although we don't really need more goats so perhaps not having lovely does to keep is a good thing after all!



As we write this the weather forecast predicts a wintery blast hitting us tomorrow with snow to low levels and sleet to sea level. We have spent the morning making sure of the availability of shelter and getting the hay feeders placed under cover. Hopefully you are all warm and dry and as ready for spring and a new show season as we are.

Cheers,

Kim and Janine

Fun Goat Fact

While the origins of the phrase "get your goat" are somewhat unclear, many people believe that it originated with the practice of stabling a goat in with a racehorse to keep the horse calm before a race. Unsportsmanlike competitors would remove the goat in an attempt to agitate the horse. When you consider that the phrase means to irritate or upset someone, the story makes sense!

Recipe of the Season

Roasted Pumpkin and Cranberries with Goats Cheese

Dig into this perfect fall recipe of roasted pumpkin with cranberries and French Goat Cheese. It's warm and beautiful in color with the added touch of creamy goat cheese.

Author: Neha Mathur

Recipe Type: Side

Serves: 4 servings

Ingredients

- 3 cups Pumpkin Cubed
- 2 tbsp Olive Oil
- 1 tbsp maple Syrup
- Salt to taste
- ¼ cup Cranberries
- 100 g French Fresh Goat Cheese Log

Instructions

1. Pre heat the oven to 200 degree C.
2. Line a baking tray with aluminium foil.
3. Add pumpkin, olive oil, maple syrup and salt in a bowl and mix well.
4. Line the pumpkin on the baking tray in a single layer.
5. Sprinkle cranberries on top.
6. Bake for 20-25 minutes.
7. Transfer the pumpkin in the serving bowl.
8. Scatter goat cheese on top.
9. Serve warm.



Health Problems of Pregnant and Lactating

Does

Suzanne W. Gasparotto, Onion Creek Ranch, Texas

2/1/18

HEALTH PROBLEMS OF PREGNANT & LACTATING DOES

Familiarize yourself with the many possible problems that can affect pregnant and lactating does. I have detailed articles on each of these topics and how I handle them on the Articles page at www.tennesseeatgoats.com and in MeatGoatMania.

Worms: The single biggest health problem with all goats in general and pregnant does in particular is *Haemonchus contortus* (barberpole worm) infestation. Everything in the goat's health revolves around controlling the load of blood-sucking stomach worms. Do fecal counts using an MSK-01 microscope on random goats at least once each month. Keep the population density low; no amount of deworming can overcome the worm load that comes from over-crowding.

Nutritional Deficiencies: Improper feeding, either too much or too little or the wrong formulation. A fat doe can produce kids too big to be delivered easily. Too much fat around the doe's heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys causes problems. Layers of fat around her uterus restrict its ability to expand as the fetuses grow. On the other hand, too little or wrong nutrition means she cannot successfully grow her fetuses in utero. Weak labor can result from nutritional deficiencies. Improper feeding causes the pregnancy diseases Ketosis, Pregnancy Toxemia, and Hypocalcemia. Incorrect feeding is probably the most common cause of abortions. The hardest thing to get right when raising goats in any managed herd is proper nutrition.

Mastitis: Bacteria enter the udder through the teat orifice, infecting the udder and affecting her ability to produce milk. If any milk comes out, it will be stringy, chunky, or blood-tainted. The outside of the udder can be hot (fever and infection are present) or cold (udder is dead). Mastitis can develop at any time during the pregnancy, during lactation, or in an open (unbred) doe. Mastitis tends to be chronic (recurring). Visual examination is inadequate; you must "hands on" the udder.

Congested Udder: The udder may initially seem mastitic, but it is really over-filled, tight, and so uncomfortable that the dam won't let the newborns nurse. A congested udder isn't infected. Hot compresses and other treatments should allow milk to come out. If it is congested and not mastitic, the milk will be good. You must put your hands on and try to milk out the udder to diagnose the problem properly. Visual evaluation is misleading.

No Milk/Udder Not Filled: Milk let-down hasn't occurred. This can be hormonal or nutritional. Prescription Oxytocin injectable may be appropriate.

Retained Placenta: A placenta is not considered "retained" for 24 hours after birth. Do not pull the afterbirth out of the doe; she must pass this herself. Pulling can result in internal tearing that can cause her to bleed out and die. Prescription Oxytocin injectable may be used.

Abortions: Abortions have many possible causes -- heavy worm load, bacterial or viral infections, poor nutrition, certain medications and dewormers, malformation or interrupted development of the fetus (spontaneous abortion), physical injuries. Sudden onset of multiple abortions is an "abortion storm." Abortion diseases include but are not limited to chlamydia, herpes, neospora canum, toxoplasmosis, listeriosis, salmonellosis, Q fever, akabane virus, leptospirosis, and campylobacteriosis. Some diseases are zoonotic (humans can catch them). Dewormers Valbazen, Synanthic, and Levamisole can cause abortions at certain stages of pregnancy. Abortion vaccines for other species (including sheep) do not work with goats.

Failure to Deliver Kids: The doe's water has broken but kids aren't coming out. Numerous possible scenarios include improperly positioned kids, dead kids, weak labor, cervix not dilated. Figure out what is wrong and take appropriate action; read my articles on these conditions.

Delivers Single Kid; But Normally Produces Multiple Kids: If I have a doe that normally delivers twins or triplets and she has only one kid, I glove up and go inside to find out if there are more kids. If the sac has broken, I pull the kids. You have to have some experience and history with your does and know them to understand when this action should be taken.

Prolapses: If either the vagina or the rectum is outside the body, the goat has prolapsed. Prolapses in pregnant does usually happen during the final 30 days of pregnancy, as the kids are growing rapidly. Most fetal development occurs in the last 30 days of gestation. Rectal prolapses are usually the result of the doe's being too fat (over-feeding). Vaginal prolapses are sometimes hereditary and, if so, might be able to be bred out by mating the doe with an unrelated buck whose female offspring do not prolapse. In my herd, does that prolapse more than once are sold for slaughter.

Periparturient Edema: Appears late in pregnancy in does heavy with multiple kids. Fluid (edema) builds up in the lower legs. Often related to a heavy worm load. There is no cure - only supportive care until the doe delivers the kids, at which time it should disappear if the worm load has been addressed.

False Pregnancy: A doe can go through a five-month pregnancy, develop an udder full of milk, have her water break, and deliver nothing but fluid. Also known as a cloud-burst pregnancy. Not common but occurs occasionally.

Superfetation: A doe can be bred on two heat cycles and even by two different bucks, delivering kids and again in 21 days. Also not common.

Dystocia: This term describes the entire range of kidding difficulties, including improper/abnormal presentation of kids in the birth canal that require manual assistance. Dead kid in front of live kid is only one example of Dystocia.

Metritis: Uterine infection.

Pyometra: Pus in the uterus.

Ringwomb: Failure of cervix to dilate.

Uterine Torsion: Twisted uterus. Vet assistance required.

Pregnancy Diseases: Pregnancy Toxemia can occur within the last six weeks of pregnancy and is caused either by underfeeding (starvation toxemia equals an energy shortage) or overfeeding. A doe's nutritional balance is especially critical during this timeframe. Feeding too much grain or feeding the wrong kinds of grain is usually the culprit. During the last weeks of pregnancy, a doe has little room in her body for lots of grain, fast-growing fetuses, and the amount of roughage (grass hay) vital for proper rumen function. Growing fetuses take up abdominal space, reducing the size of the rumen. A goat goes off-feed when it doesn't get enough roughage. Huge stores of body fat plus a uterus full of fetuses set the stage for Pregnancy Toxemia. Symptoms of Pregnancy Toxemia include off-feed, dull eyes, slow moving, general weakness, tremors, teeth grinding, stargazing, leg swelling, and coma. When fetuses die, toxemia results from the decaying bodies inside the doe and she also dies. All of this happens because of improper feeding.

Ketosis: Symptoms similar to Pregnancy Toxemia that occur very close to kidding or once kidding has taken place. If the pregnant female does not receive adequate amounts of proper nutrition to feed both herself and her unborn kids, when she begins the kidding process or has just completed kidding, her body will draw upon stored fat reserves in order to produce milk to feed her babies. Her own body tissues begin to go into starvation mode and deadly ketones are released as by-products of this process. A quick way to diagnose Ketosis: a doe with sweet-smelling urine is ketotic. A ketotic doe's urine will turn purple when added to KetoCheck powder. Jeffers carries this product. Tip: A goat urinates and then defecates when it first stands after having been in a sitting position for some time.

Hypocalcemia: "Milk Fever" is not fever but a calcium imbalance in the doe's body. Hypocalcemia occurs near kidding time. She will become uninterested in eating (go off-feed), may be mildly bloated or constipated, have a cold dry mouth, difficulty walking and/or rising from a sitting position, sub-normal body temperature (under 100°F), cold rear legs and drag them, and may have weak labor contractions. Sometimes the only symptom is hind-leg dragging. Rear body parts feel cold to the touch. Hypocalcemia is a complex process involving hormonal changes that occur as the doe's body mobilizes calcium in the production of milk. Feeds rich in calcium, as well as alfalfa and peanut (legume) hay, are believed to be the culprits. These products contain calcium in excess of what the doe needs at kidding time. This excess calcium sets off a chain reaction, causing calcium to be deposited in the doe's bones when her body needs to be releasing it from the bones for milk production. Hypocalcemia is a failure of the body's system to mobilize calcium properly. It is not a deficiency of calcium reserves.

Don't feed hay (or feed) high in calcium during the last 30 days of pregnancy. After the doe has delivered and is nursing her kids, legume hay (alfalfa and peanut hay) is fine to feed.

The variety and complexity of problems that pregnant and lactating does can experience should make it clear to you that appropriate supplies and medications should be on hand at least 60 days before the first doe is scheduled to go into labor. Not every problem can be solved nor every kid or doe saved, but being prepared will make a huge difference in whether or not you are successful in your goat-raising business.

Scientists Have Found Goats Are Drawn to Humans with Happy Facial Expressions



The result suggests a wider range of animals can read people's moods than was previously thought.

The researchers showed goats pairs of photos of the same person, one of them featuring an angry expression, and the other a happy demeanour.

The goats made a beeline for the happy faces, the team reports in the journal Royal Society Open Science.

The result implies that the ability of animals to perceive human facial cues is not limited to those with a long history of working as human companions, such as dogs and horses.

Instead, it seems, animals domesticated for food production, such as goats, can also decipher human facial cues.

The study was carried out at the Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats in Kent, UK.

Co-author Dr Alan McElligott, from Queen Mary, University of London, and colleagues set up pairs of black-and-white photos about 1.3m apart on one wall in their test area.

Then, a goat would be let loose to explore the set-up.

Doe eyes

The researchers found that the goats strongly preferred the smiling faces, approaching the happy faces before acknowledging the angry photos. They also spent more time examining the smiling faces with their snouts.

But the effect was only significant when the happy-faced photo was placed on the right-hand side.

When the happy photos were placed on the left, the goats showed no significant preference either way.

The researchers think this is because the goats are using one side of their brain to process the information - something that's seen in other animals.

It could either be that the left side of the brain processes positive emotions, or that the right side of the brain is involved in avoidance of angry faces.

Dr McElligott, who is now based at the University of Roehampton, said: "The study has important implications for how we interact with livestock and other species, because the abilities of animals to perceive human emotions might be widespread and not just limited to pets."

Co-author Natalia Albuquerque, from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, said: "The study of emotion perception has already shown very complex abilities in dogs and horses.

"However, to date, there was no evidence that animals such as goats were capable of reading human facial expressions. Our results open new paths to understanding the emotional lives of all domestic animals."

The study could also have implications for animal welfare, helping change perceptions of these livestock animals by highlighting their sentience.

Huge boost for goat milk industry

NZ Herald, 21 Aug, 2018 5:00pm



A new programme aims to position goat's milk infant formula as the leading alternative to conventional formula.

A new Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) programme launched today has its sights on growing a sustainable, high-value goat milk infant formula industry in New Zealand.

Caprine Innovations NZ (CAPRINZ) is a 5-year, \$29.65 million PGP programme between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Dairy Goat Co-operative (NZ) Ltd.

The end goals include improving the health and well-being of families, delivering a range of benefits such as growing research and farming capability and increasing export revenue across the New Zealand dairy goat milk industry to \$400 million per annum by 2023.

The programme was launched today in Hamilton by Minister of Agriculture Hon Damien O'Connor.

"Our CAPRINZ PGP programme aims to strengthen the position of goats' milk infant formula as the preferred alternative to conventional milk infant formula," says Dairy Goat Cooperative chief executive David Hemara.

"We recognise breastfeeding as the best source of nutrition for babies and infants. Our aim through this PGP programme with MPI is to target consumers in New Zealand and overseas by meeting demand in situations where breastfeeding requires supplementation or isn't feasible."

The CAPRINZ PGP programme will develop innovative tools to enable all New Zealand goat farmers to measure and improve their performance, while ensuring any economic gains don't come at the expense of the rural environment.

"Because many dairy goat farm systems use off-paddock animal housing facilities there's the opportunity to decrease the environmental impact of pastoral farming through conversions from other farming systems," says Mr Hemara. "Our programme aims to increase dairy goat numbers in the long term by 50 per cent to over 100,000."

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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NZ Dairy Goat Farming is produced four times annually

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