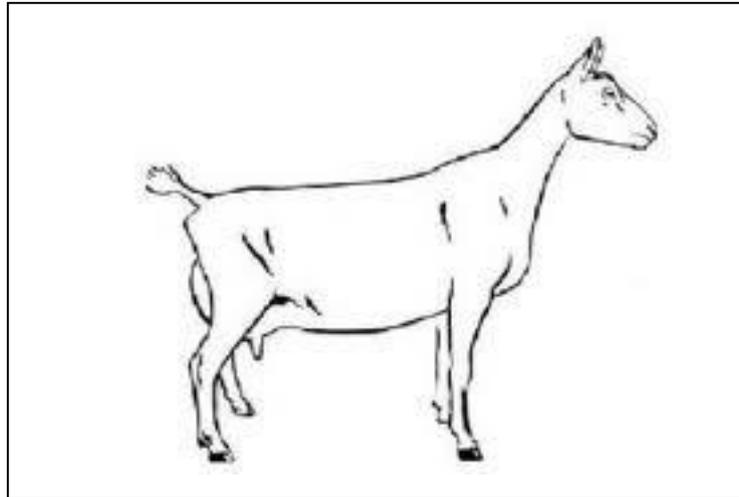


# NZ Dairy Goat Farming

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Winter 2019

From the Editors



Hi All,

We hope winter is treating you kindly and you have stayed warm and dry. We are seeing signs of spring with bulbs up and some new grass growth, however there is usually a last flurry of cold weather before we really feel winter is over!



At our place no kids are born yet, but our first doe is due in a week or so. This year our kidding will be really spread out over several months as it was difficult to read our does cycles for some reason. However, we will at least be able to show one or two goats in the early shows this season so look forward to catching up with folks.

While we wait for spring we hope everyone has enough hay and feed and preparations for kidding goes well.

Cheers

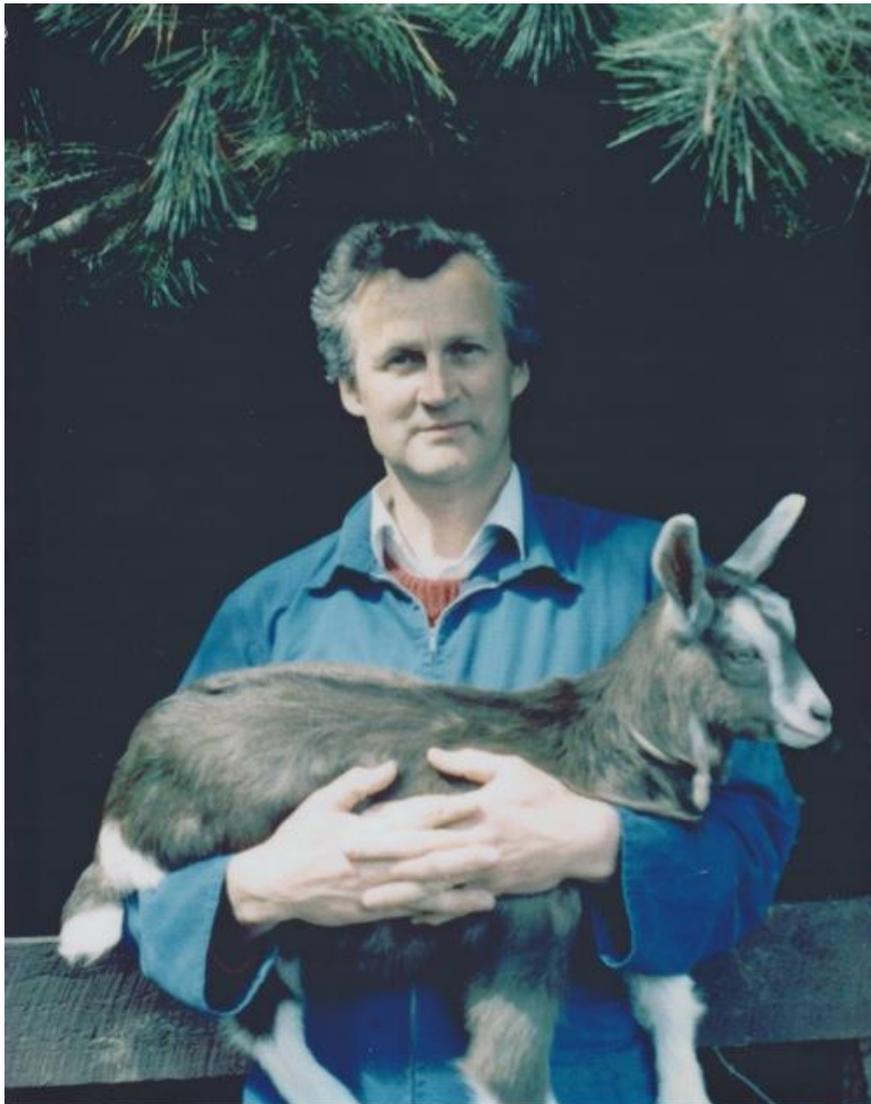
Kim and Janine

# Tribute to Dr. Max Merrall (6/11/1937-4/8/2019)

By Susan Artner

Max grew up in Wellington in a loving household. His parents had arrived in New Zealand from England some years before his birth. His first experience with livestock seems to have been the back-yard chickens. One day his parents took him to a livestock show and lost him. When they found him, he was in the cattle section with his arms around a young calf.

The high school he attended was excellent fostering many students who had distinguished academic careers. He was active in sports, especially running and was exceptionally fit.



Max did his first tertiary study at Victoria and then was one of six from New Zealand selected to go to the University of Queensland, Brisbane to study veterinary science, graduating in 1959. Before he completed his studies, he met 18-year old Penny and two years later they married and have enjoyed a long and loving relationship.

Back in New Zealand, he practiced in Waiuku for three years and then eight years in Tuakau. He joined the staff at Massey University Veterinary Department in 1970. By 1975 he had become especially interested in goats and devoted quite a lot of time and energy to improving the general knowledge of goat health. He completed a PhD in Metabolic Profiles of Grazing in Dairy Cattle and in due course became head examiner for the Australian College in Goat Medicine.

He rapidly became the go-to vet for information about goat health issues. He wrote the first New Zealand book on goat diseases intended for the layman, 'A-Z of Goat Diseases-Recognition and Treatment' which is out of print now but is a valuable tool for goat keepers.

When I became editor of the Dairy Goat News in June 1984, I asked Max to initiate a vet column which he tackled with his usual enthusiasm and continued with this task for 16 years until 2000. He attended many NZDGBA Annual General Meetings often giving presentations about goat health. He

also participated in many dairy goat club functions. In recognition of the longevity and value of his contributions, he was honoured by the NZDGBA with the position of patron in 2002.

He is remembered with great love by all his extended family and the larger community including the Vet Faculty, the Anglican Church community and the Square Dancing enthusiasts.

Those in the dairy goat fraternity who remember our Max with fondness, may wish to make a contribution in his honour to either the SPCA or the Heart Foundation.

He was farewelled in a lovely service the 8th of August 2019 at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Palmerston North.

## Recipe of the Season

### Spanish Goat Meat

- 2 lbs. goat meat
- 1/2 c. chopped onions
- 2 cloves garlic
- 4 med. potatoes
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 tbsp. salt
- 1 c. lemon juice
- 1/2 c. vinegar
- 1 tsp. oregano leaves
- 3 cilantro leaves
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 1 pkg. Sazon Goya (seasonings)
- 2 c. water
- 2 leaves laurel



Take lemon juice and vinegar and wash goat meat. Let meat stand with that for 24 hours. Put all ingredients into large pot. Cover and put on slow heat. Cook until tender.

## AI & DNA - Best Practice

By Donna Morton

DNA is a requirement for registration on the Nigerian Dwarf register and while not required for other registers at this time, it is best practise to do so. By proving progeny are sired by an AI sire, you are raising their value. You are also proving your skill as an AI technician beyond any doubt.

With some very exciting matings being achieved this year, it is worthwhile to discuss the best way to record and validate these successes. For very little outlay, it is possible to get a DNA profile and parentage verify (PV) at the same time if the parents already have a profile.

There are two different types of DNA testing readily available in NZ that I know have been used with the goats, G1 and G3. Both were used with cattle although all cattle are now G3. We have used both for our dairy herd. They are different and cannot be interchanged. A G1 profile cannot be used to parentage verify a G3 sample. So, you need to decide what technology you would prefer to use and stick with it to avoid having to double test goats. NZDGBA does not have a preference or requirement on which testing to use.



### Options for testing:

Massey University offer G1 DNA testing. Two types of samples can be used.

1. Hair samples with the bulb still attached, generally taken from the tail. You need a good four or five good plucks of several hairs to get a good sample. Store in paper, not plastic. An envelope works well with the goat name written on the front. If you are not sending within a week, pop your sample into the freezer until you are ready. The sample does not need to be chilled when you do decide to send after being frozen. **Cost \$35.00 inc GST per sample**
2. Used or new AI straw. Wonderful if you cannot get a hair sample from the AI buck you are using, and there is no need to sacrifice a straw to get the profile. Storing the straw is important. Once the straw has been used, put into an envelope and store in the freezer. When you are ready to send, it is not necessary to send a chiller pad with the straw, it will defrost and still be in very good condition on arrival. **Cost \$45.00 inc GST per sample**

(As a side note, I sent in a straw recently that had not been stored correctly. Massey managed to get a profile from it. A couple of the markers were slightly weaker, so if possible store your straw correctly, but if you haven't, send it in anyway because it may still work).

More information is here: [www.massey.ac.nz/animalgenetics](http://www.massey.ac.nz/animalgenetics)

Genemark (LIC) offer G3 DNA testing. Two types of samples can be used.

1. Genemark Allflex tissue punches through the ear. You need an applicator gun to use the punches. More information is here: <https://www.lic.co.nz/products-and-services/animal-health-and-dna-testing/dna-parentage-testing/> Samples need to be frozen if not being submitted for processing immediately. A chiller pack is not required during postage. Prices vary depending on – individual samples/whole herd, MINDA user/not. **Approx cost \$42.22 inc GST per sample, plus the cost of tissue punch, around \$6 and one off cost of applicator gun.**
2. Unused AI straw, sent to Genemark in nitrogen through AI shipping process. **Approx cost \$42.22 inc GST per sample**



You may not be in a position to DNA test right now. But you can preserve the samples for years at no cost. This will enable verification at a later date. For example, if verification was needed to finalise a sale.

Best practise would be to:

- Take samples from every live buck you use and freeze
- If you AI, freeze the used straw
- Profile & PV a buck if you collect straws from him
- If you have a death and that goat has progeny, take some hair and freeze

- Parentage verify bucks if the parents are still available for testing
- Parentage verify important brood does in case of kid swap
- DNA progeny if more than one buck has been near doe
- DNA if you AI – prove the technology
- Save a sample of every goat that you think you may need one from at some time

As an interesting side note, when it became a requirement to DNA all cattle for registration, a surprising percentage of cattle were found to be by different sires and out of different dams.

A 2011 study of 97 farms showed that about two in every 10 calves were incorrectly matched with their sires and/or dams. DNA testing can correct these errors before they cost you money.  
[https://www.nzherald.co.nz/farming/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=195&objectid=12248578](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/farming/news/article.cfm?c_id=195&objectid=12248578)

## Microchips and Readers

This is an email received by member Shirley Johnstone from a business called Swiss Plus ID. If you have previously used microchips, you may be aware that the major direct supplier no longer has products available in NZ.

*Please also note that Janine and I have sourced alternative chips from overseas and are waiting for a sample chip to arrive. If this chip works with our reader, we will provide an update in the next newsletter as the chips are \$3.00 each which is a significant saving.*



We have a website you can visit at <https://www.swissplused.co.nz/> and find out about all our products including readers. Our most popular reader is the V8BT hand held reader for \$328 + GST. It is a really good unit – Auckland City Animal Control Officers use this as it is robust and repairable (you can probably imagine how they get a pretty hard life with animal control!).

The microchips are actually listed as 13mm on the website but are in fact just on 12.5mm long, but with the same diameter as a 12mm glass microchip. We used the 13mm measurement to distinguish them more easily from the 12mm bioglass one. The price is 10% more than the equivalent 12mm Bioglass product ie \$110 + GST per pack of 20 x microchips. The price is not shown on the website.

You don't need to buy 200 at a time – that is our quantity buy price by purchasing 9 and getting one pack free to lower the price. If you need to purchase just 20 – that's no problem either. We have in stock, packs of 20 x microchips – prices are as follows:

Pack of 20 x biopolymer microchips: \$110 + GST (= \$5.50 + GST/microchip)

Purchase 9 x packs of 20 x microchips at \$110 ea – get one pack free (= \$110 x 9/10 = \$4.95/microchip)

If you purchased 200 microchips and a reader, price would be \$110 x 9 = \$990 + \$328 = \$1,318.00 + GST

Will others in Premier Dairy Goats be interested in this product? The reason we have begun to supply the NZDGBA (rather than individual members) is because members often do not have sufficient numbers to purchase a full pack so the Association buys on their behalf and then on-sells to members in small quantities and has their own structure of quantity price points. Would this system work for Premier? It means they can then access the larger quantity buy price and it's a win-win for them and your members. Happy to work with you guys to find the best way to handle.

## NZ dairy goat industry seeks data, eyes expansion

Written by [Rural News Group](#)

The goat industry aims to double the size of the country's milking goat herd to about 100,000.

**New Zealand's dairy goat industry is starting research aimed at generating and amassing scientific data on the benefits of consuming goat milk infant formula produced by sustainable farm systems.**



The research will be a result of the formation last August of Caprine Innovations NZ (CAPRINZ), a five-year \$29.65 million partnership between the Ministry for Primary Industries and Dairy Goat Co-op Ltd.

CAPRINZ, through clinical trials and on farm research, aims to amass research data about goat milk infant formula products for health professionals advising clients or patients on feeding options when exclusive breast-feeding is not feasible.

DGC chief executive David Hemara said they plan to do international consumer research and on farm studies to better understand goat milk's environmental footprint and clinical research.

"Goals include providing information based on sound scientific research into goat milk formula, growing research and farming capability, and increasing export revenue in the NZ dairy goat milk industry to \$400 million per annum by 2023," Hemara said.

"CAPRINZ also aims to create 400 new jobs on farms, double the size of the country's milking goat herd to about 100,000, improve dairy goat farming practice and sustainable production, and boost the industry's capability."

The clinical research work will complement focus groups DGC says it has done world-wide canvassing the views and concerns of parents, caregivers, paediatricians and health practitioners.

Hemara said DGC is "working with an international board of paediatricians who provide insight into the type of research their members and audiences need to validate perceptions about goat milk infant formula".

"At home, the CAPRINZ programme has been a catalyst for extending our science capabilities.

"We have always been strong in research to understand the unique properties of goat milk. Our clinical trials have researched the functional differences of goat milk for infants and young children.

"But until this partnership we had not been able to combine both fields of study. The CAPRINZ partnership has enabled us to expand our capacity for pre-clinical and clinical research which we hope will add data to the body of scientific knowledge and benefit the industry and the economy.

"Our on farm research will develop practical tools to build capability and support the sustainable and environmentally balanced growth of the industry," Hemara said.

Two scientists and a marketing manager have been appointed:

Senior scientist Dr Sophie Gallier completed her PhD at the University of Otago then held post-doctoral and scientist positions in NZ and the Netherlands in dairy science and paediatric nutrition. She has worked as a senior scientist in NZ in maternal and paediatric nutrition, working on brain and cognitive development in early life.

Science leader farm research Dr Sally-Anne Turner has spent 20 years in the bovine industry researching the production of key components in milk and how farm systems can improve production.

Jordyn May, a graduate in food science and marketing, is assistant medical marketing manager appointed to deal with health professionals. He was previously a product development technologist with DGC.

### **CAPRINZ key facts**

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

Forty percent of the funding is from the Government and 60% from DGC.

DGC supports the WHO Marketing Code for Breastmilk Substitutes and affirms breastfeeding as the best source of nutrition for babies and infants.

The programme aims to provide health care professionals world-wide with peer reviewed and published scientific information about goat milk infant formula and to ensure that quality goat milk is produced on sustainable farms.

### **Goals include:**

Growing research and farming capability and increasing export revenue to \$400m per annum by 2023.

Growing the size of the industry to about 100,000 milking goats and creating 400 more jobs on farms.

### *Date Letters*

2019 – X, 2020 – Z, 2021 – A, 2022 – B, 2023 – C, 2024 – D, 2025 – E, 2026 – G,  
2027 – H, 2028 – K,

### *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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**Registrars:** Kim Carter / Janine Tasker

NZ Dairy Goat Farming is printed four times annually

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