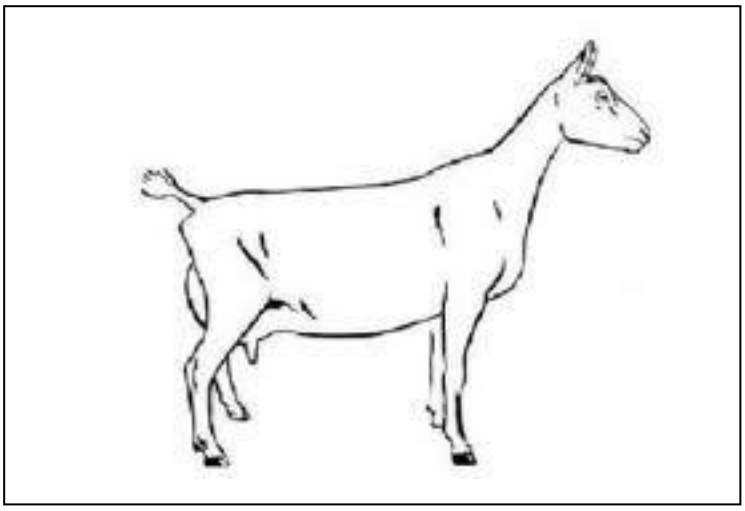
NZ Dairy Goat Farming

Editors: Janine Tasker / Kim Carter (janineandkim@gmail.com) Summer 2017
www.premierdairygoats.co.nz

From the Editors



Hi All,

Where has summer gone? We don't know what your summer has been like so far but we seemed to have skipped from spring straight into autumn. The leaves on our poplars are yellowing and starting to fall and it has been cold, windy and rainy.

Just in case you missed the email, the new Premier website is up and running. We transferred all the old website information and have updated the web site pages. We have secured the domain name "premier dairy goats" and the documents are all there and easy to download as well as forms and banking information. Your feedback is welcome. As well as this newsletter, the website is also a place to post your classifieds, show information and results, as well as photos. Please forward website related communications to the email address premierdairygoats@gmail.com.
You can continue to use the email address above for newsletter communication.

Hope the show season is going well for everyone and you are getting ready for mating season!

Cheers,

Kim and Janine

Recipe of the Season

Fettuccine With Summer Vegetables and Goat Cheese

Read more at: http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchens/fettuccine-with-summer-vegetables-and-goat-cheese-recipe.html?oc=linkback

Ingredients

Kosher salt
1 large yellow tomato, seeded and diced
1 small yellow courgette, finely diced
1/2 cup chopped fresh chives (about 1 small bunch)
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
4 ounces soft goat cheese, crumbled
12 ounces dried egg fettuccine
4 ounces wax beans (about 2 cups), trimmed and halved lengthwise
1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

Directions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Toss the tomato, squash, chives, lemon zest and 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large bowl. Season with salt. Sprinkle in half of the goat cheese.
Add the pasta to the boiling water and cook as the label directs, adding the wax beans to the pot during the last 3 minutes of cooking.

Reserve 1/4 cup of the cooking water, then drain the pasta and beans and add to the bowl with the vegetables. Drizzle with the reserved cooking water and the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil and toss until the goat cheese begins to melt. Add the parmesan and toss.

Divide among bowls and top with the remaining goat cheese.

Per serving: Calories 557; Fat 21 g (Saturated 8 g); Cholesterol 23 mg; Sodium 227 mg; Carbohydrate 72 g; Fiber 6 g; Protein 21 g

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Urinary Calculi in Goats

Suzanne W. Gasparotto, Onion Creek Ranch, Texas 1/7/17, Published on "Meat Goat Mania", wwwtennesseemeatgoats.com

Urinary Calculi, commonly called "Water Belly," is a urinary-tract blockage in goats. Urinary Calculi prevents both urination and breeding in males. Female goats can but seldom do contract Urinary Calculi because of the straightness and shortness of their urethra. The twists and turns of the longer male urethra make passing solid particles difficult at best and impossible at worst. Urinary Calculi can and too often does kill goats quickly and painfully.

Urinary Calculi is almost always the result of improper feeding. A calcium to phosphorus ratio of 2-1/2 to 1 in feed and minerals is essential. Although the condition is called Urinary Calculi, the real culprit is phosphorus -- too much phosphorus in relation to the amount of calcium in the diet. Alfalfa hay is not the problem. Feeding too much grain and/or feeding grain concentrates with an improper calcium-to-phosphorus ratio is almost always the cause of Urinary Calculi. Overfeeding and improper feeding of grain concentrates cause solid particles to develop in the urine. These solid particles block the flow of urine out of the goat's body, causing pain, discomfort, and death if not resolved. People who have personally experienced urinary-tract stones understand the seriousness and pain associated with this condition.

Besides grain concentrates, there are other factors affecting the calcium-to-phosphorus ratio in the goat's diet. If the minerals being fed have the proper calcium-to-phosphorus ratio and the goats are not being fed a diet heavy in grain concentrates, then you should have both water and hay tested for mineral content. Many types of hay (Bermuda is one example) are high in phosphorus. Hay fertilized with chicken litter will be very high in phosphorus levels. Adding calcium carbonate (ground limestone) to goat minerals can help bring the calcium-to-phosphorus ratio back to the 2-1/2 to 1 range. Enlist the help of a goat nutritionist to find the right amount of calcium carbonate to get these ratios in balance.

Show goats are prone to developing Urinary Calculi because their owners feed too much grain. Wethers (castrated males) are especially susceptible to Urinary Calculi. Castration stops testosterone production and the growth of the urethra. Solid particles cannot pass through a urethra that has not been given the opportunity to grow to its normal diameter. The chance of contracting Urinary Calculi in male show goats can be reduced by not wethering (castrating) them until they are five to six months of age, thereby giving the urethra time to grow. Castration of a goat of this age should be done under sedation by a veterinarian. The addition of quality grass hay to the goat's diet is critical to help avoid Urinary Calculi. This is a big problem because show-goat raisers take goats off long fiber and push them grain concentrates, creating an environment for development of Urinary Calculi.

Urinary Calculi requires immediate medical attention. This condition will not correct itself and if left untreated, the goat will die. Symptoms of Urinary Calculi include tail twitching in males, restlessness, anxiety, and a "hunched-up" body posture as the

goat strains to urinate. You can mis-diagnose the problem as constipation or bloat because of goat's behavior and body stance. You should closely examine any male exhibiting these symptoms. Watch for signs of difficulty with urination.

Do not force a goat with Urinary Calculi to drink lots of water. If fluids can't leave the body because the exit is blocked, the only alternative is for the bladder to burst. A burst bladder cannot be fixed and is fatal. In many cases within 24 to 48 hours after the onset of Urinary Calculi, the untreated goat's bladder can burst and the flow of urine into the sub-cutaneous tissues on the underside of the body ("Water Belly") will precede a quick and painful death.

To examine the penis by extending it out of the urethral shaft, sit the goat on its rump for easier handling and manually work the penis out of the shaft for visual examination. This can be impossible to do in goats wethered very young because the penile shaft may still be adhered to the urethral process -- one more drawback of wethering at a very young age. (A sign of sexual maturity in a buckling is his ability to extend his penis out of the shaft.) Before a male can be catheterized to relieve a build-up of urine, the pizzle must be cut off. An experienced producer can do this, but most folks should have this procedure performed by a qualified veterinarian. The pizzle is the "curley-qued" appendage on the end of the penis. The pizzle of a goat with Urinary Calculi is usually black and crusty in appearance. Removal of the pizzle does not affect breeding ability. If this treatment is unsuccessful, the need for surgery under sedation is likely. If you wait too long, surgery won't save the goat. Surgery is no guarantee that the goat can be saved.

Ammonium chloride can be used to treat Urinary Calculi. These dosing instructions have been provided to me by a producer who has been successful in using Ammonium chloride to treat Urinary Calculi. Mix the following in 20 cc water and orally drench: One (1) teaspoon Ammonium chloride per 75 lbs bodyweight every 12 hours for 2 days, then 1/2 tsp per 75 lbs bodyweight every 12 hours for the next 3 days, then 1/2 tsp once a day for 3 days, then 1/4 tsp daily as a preventative. Dosages are based upon 75 lb liveweights. Ammonium chloride burns the throat, so stomach tube it into the goat. You can ammonium chloride with juice to avoid burning if you must orally drench.

The goat must be taken off all grain concentrates and offered only grass hay, fresh green leaves, and water during this treatment regimen. This is not usually a problem since the goat is so sick that it is struggling to live and isn't interested in eating or drinking. I have no experience with using Fruit Fresh from the canning aisle in the grocery store, but it may be worth trying until you get Ammonium Chloride on hand. Immediate veterinary assistance is highly recommended when Urinary Calculi is suspected. Administer Banamine (1 cc per 100 lbs bodyweight daily) for the pain that accompanies Urinary Calculi.

Occasionally Urinary Calculi may be the result of the mineral content of the drinking water. The local county extension agent or water quality district should be able to test the water to determine mineral content. You can easily test the pH of the goats' water supply by purchasing a fish-tank testing kit. The water's pH should be neutral (a pH of 7). I have been told that certain lines of Boers are prone to Urinary Calculi, but I have no proof of that. I suspect that the problem with Boers is that their owners feed them lots of grain concentrate.

The key to avoiding Urinary Calculi is feeding the goat a proper diet. If you are experiencing Urinary Calculi in your goats, then you must change their feed regimen. Carefully read feed labels for proper calcium-to-phosphorus ratios (2-1/2 to 1 calcium-to-phosphorus is best). Some prepared goat feeds contain ammonium chloride in the formulation, but this is no guarantee that Urinary Calculi will be avoided. Most importantly, offer lots of free-choice forage/browse and good-quality small-stemmed grass hay and reduce the amount of grain concentrates being fed. Both the health of your goats and your financial bottom line will improve.

NOTE – You can buy ammonium chloride in New Zealand on line at Trademe (www.trademe.co.nz)

S.A.N.T.S Show 2017

The 2017 S.A.N.T.S show was held on January 21st and 22nd. The judge was James Simpson and although the weather deteriorated on Sunday, a few hardy souls persevered through wind and rain, and a good weekend was enjoyed by those who attended.

Here are a few photos - more were taken on Saturday as the rain prevented people from getting their camera's out on Sunday!

This is the line up for Sable Best in Show – won by Maureen and Dave Puckett's buck Theodosis.

Production cap keeps dairy goat co-op ahead

Written by Sudesh Kissun

Dairy Goat Co-op chief executive Tony Giles.

Dairy Goat Co-operative, Hamilton, the world's largest maker of goat infant formula, is happy to follow a market-led philosophy.

The co-op caps its supplier numbers and milk supply based on current and predicted sales growth; sales dictate milk supply growth.

DGC chief executive Tony Giles told Dairy News that supplier numbers rose by 25 in the last three years; the co-op now has 73 supplying shareholders, mostly in Waikato and some in Taranaki and Northland.

"We continue to operate our market-led philosophy; the 25 new shareholders in the last three years have joined due to current and [predicted] sales growth. We now have a waiting list," Giles says.

DGC developed the world's first goat milk-based nutritional products for infants in 1988. Last year it earned $178 million selling goat infant formula in 25 countries – chiefly Taiwan, Thailand and South Korea, and other sizeable markets including China.

Giles says while Asia remains the major export destination, DGC is also now looking at Europe.

"Opening new markets for goat formula is challenging because it is a new product concept for consumers and health care professionals."

The dairy goat industry in New Zealand is flourishing, with other processors either set up or eyeing processing sites.

Giles believes it's important the industry be demand-led, not production-led. "This is the philosophy we follow. If processors do a good job of developing products, brands and markets, then attracting milk should not be an issue."

To supply DGC, farmers must buy milk supply rights, and production is capped for each supplier.

Tankers collect the milk on alternate days and deliver it to DGC's Hamilton plant for spray drying and processing into finished canned products. The plant has two dryers and facilities for can making, blending and canning.

Food safety and milk quality are paramount, Giles says. DGC has rigorous quality standards and rules on feed and onfarm practices.

"The NZ brand is important, particularly in the Asian region, less so in regions such as Europe. Regardless of that, it is important that no product or brand relies on the NZ 'brand' alone."

The farmer-owned co-op is run by a seven-member board of five farmer-elected directors and two independents.

Dairy Goat Co-operative Numbers

- Milk payout consistent about $18/kgMS

- $178 million turnover in 2015-16

- 45 million litres of milk processed this season

- World's biggest maker of goat infant formula.

Date Letters

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

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 2016 – S

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