A Message from the Chairperson!

Hello Members,

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting will be held shortly on Saturday 7th September at Queanbeyan, NSW. It will be held on Election day so don’t forget to vote in person or by post before you come. There is a proposed change to the Constitution which requires member voting to be effected. If you are unable to attend to vote on the day please complete your proxy form nominating someone who will be attending to vote on your behalf. Contact a Board member or a State Branch representative to find out who will be attending and then contact them to see that they will represent your view.

Proxies MUST be lodged with the Company Secretary by close of business (5.00PM) Tuesday 2nd September which is not far away!

As you are aware three nominations were received for the Board and three nominations accepted. The two new Board representatives are Lyn Wickenden (Carrington View) and Thomas Youden (Valley Boers) and I will continue on the Board for another two year term. The current Board welcomes the two new members and we look forward to a productive time ahead.

With September comes Spring and a new batch of kids on the ground for a lot of us. The rain has been good in most parts of Australia which has helped the green feed get started. A bit of warmth and it will be jumping away like the new kids on the ground!

This Newsletter is packed once again with information which we hope you will find entertaining and educational. We have continued the topic of Supplementary feeding in this issue to include Mineral supplements. Many members may not be aware of mineral deficiencies in their soils or the need to supply minerals which goats in a rangeland environment would normally obtain through browse. Once we move animals to a more intensive grazing system we need to supplement their diet with trace minerals and vitamins not present or limited in their daily feed intake.

Our thanks to the State Branches for their input in keeping members informed of what’s happening in their State. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM and encourage new breeders to attend to meet others.

Vicki Mitchell,
Chairperson.
Please contact any of the following Portfolio representatives with photos, articles, events to be published in the Newsletters. Your input is appreciated!

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**Editors Note:** Any text to web sites which is blue and underlined is a hyperlink. When clicked within this PDF file it will automatically go to that website.

**SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING: MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS**

**INTRODUCTION...**

**Minerals the key to goat nutrition**

**From the April 2007 edition of Agriculture Today.**

Minerals are an essential component of goat nutrition, with deficiencies the primary source of loss of productivity for goats confined to improved or native pastures - particularly in dry seasons.

That’s the view of Ronald Leng, Emeritus Professor at The University of New England, an expert in ruminant nutrition who has received international recognition for his research.

“Goats evolved in Europe and Asia in forest country and, being ruminants, depend on a mix of pasture grasses, herbaceous plants, shrubs and tree foliages for their nutrition,” Professor Leng said.

“Their metabolism can cope with a broad range of feed that at times contain numerous secondary plant compounds that are toxic to other ruminants.

“In open country they are rarely deficient in minerals or protein because of the generally higher protein content of shrubs and trees that lasts well into the dry season.”
“However, goats under intensive grazing may be subjected to both mineral and protein deficiencies depending on soil mineral content, pasture maturity and weather conditions - in particular prolonged drought.”

Selenium, cobalt, copper, zinc and iodine deficiencies have been well documented in all ruminants in different parts of Australia.

“Trace element deficiencies are usually seen as poor growth rates of young stock, reduced reproductive efficiency and decreased milk production in does.

“These problems can easily be corrected with mineral supplements.”

Understanding the digestive process is mandatory for efficient feeding of ruminants, according to Professor Leng.

“Microbes in the rumen must have available to them all the minerals, and a source of ammonia - mainly from protein in plants or urea in supplements,” he said.

“There’s a myth that urea is dangerous for goats, but the biggest danger is not using it in dry seasons because goats need it to digest their food.

“Supplementation with mineral urea mixes is the essential first step to using drought feed efficiently.

“However, they are not required where there is no feed available but are essential when animals are consuming dried-off pasture.”

Professor Leng highlighted another area of concern with goats in a grazing situation.

“The greatest problem with goats is that they are very sensitive to internal parasites, particularly round worms,” he said.

“They have a great ability to detoxify the drenches in the liver, so they need a much larger dose to keep them clear of round worms.

“Run in conjunction with sheep, they will suffer far more from the parasites than sheep, so keeping them separate is not a bad idea.

“In open country this isn’t a problem because the worms aren’t as concentrated, and also the goats have greater access to tannins which seem to control the parasites.

“There’s a lot of research coming out of New Zealand at the moment which demonstrates that goats on a high tannin diet don’t have parasites, but that’s yet to be proven.

“However, it is leading to the use of pastures containing sainfoin, chicory, sulla or birdsfoot trefoil for goats and sheep production.”

- Annette Cross


The following article has been taken from Goat Notes [http://acga.org.au/goatnotes/](http://acga.org.au/goatnotes/)

Although an old publication Goat Notes still has a lot of useful information and is 80% available online from the above URL. Hard copy can be obtained from Barb O’Shea at ABRI (02) 6773 5177.

This particular article relates to Victoria however it can be applicable to other States. Ask farmers or other breeders in your area if there is any known soil deficiency e.g. selenium or if they have had problems with iodine deficiency in young stock. Their experience could save you loss.

**C2 Trace element requirements of goats**

Christopher Halpin, Scientific Officer, Department of Agriculture, "Attwood" Veterinary Research Laboratory, Westmeadows. Vic. 3047.
Animal tissues and feeds contain mineral elements in varied proportions. At present healthy livestock are believed to require approximately 22 essential minerals and these are classified as macrominerals or trace elements on the basis of the quantities required.

The macrominerals - required gram amounts - are important for structural purposes (calcium, phosphorus and sulphur), in the maintenance of osmotic balance (sodium, potassium and chlorine), nerve transmission and enzyme activities (magnesium). The trace elements - required in microgram amounts - act primarily as catalysts in enzyme systems (manganese, copper, zinc, molybdenum, selenium), hormones (iodine) and vitamins (cobalt).

Many producers are very conscious of the mineral requirements of their livestock. In the true perspective trace element deficiency is a minor cause of lost productivity in grazing livestock in Victoria when compared to protein and energy deficits, parasitism and inadequate shelter. However, in some districts specific deficiencies of iodine, selenium, cobalt and copper produce disorders and deaths in young stock and losses to individual producers have been significant.

**Iodine**

Iodine is converted into the essential thyroid hormones with the thyroid gland. A severe deficiency of iodine causes this gland to swell producing a "goitre". Recently it has become recognised that low or marginal iodine nutrition of goats is a significant problem in the southern and mountain districts of Victoria. Iodine deficiency is endemic to the high rainfall districts of Victoria, and similar deficiencies occur along the Great Dividing Range throughout Eastern Australia. Goats seem to have a higher requirement for iodine than other livestock.

Iodine deficiency is only a problem in newborn kids. Adult goats appear able to tolerate seasonal deficits in iodine supply by using reserves stored in the thyroid gland. This reserve is not available to the developing foetus. Thyroid hormones are essential for growth and development of the foetus, particularly the brain, lungs, heart and hair follicles, and contribute especially to survival of the newborn kid. Iodine deficiency makes newborn kids very susceptible to cold, wet weather and mortalities may be very high.

Recent research at the Attwood Veterinary Research Laboratory has demonstrated that iodine nutrition of sheep and cattle has a marked seasonal cycle in Victoria. Intake of iodine from pasture is lowest in late winter when the requirements of pregnant animals are at a peak. Thus it has become a standard recommendation that pregnant does grazing in high rainfall areas receive a drench of supplementary iodine once or, in some cases twice, during the last two months of their pregnancy. Treatment of affected kids with iodine or thyroxine tablets is rarely useful and it is far more effective to ensure adequate iodine nutrition of the foetus.

**Drenches**: The drench is made up by dissolving 28 gm of potassium iodide in one litre of water. Each doe should receive 10 ml. Iodine is highly volatile and it is important to mix the drench just before use. Iodised salt licks and feed supplements containing iodine are not recommended in most situations because some goats always avoid licks and it is impossible to accurately gauge intake with these systems. Drenching is cheap and accurate and can even be combined with some worm drenches, although it is wise to check this with the manufacturer.

**Injections**: Iodised oil injections have been used to prevent iodine deficiency in New Zealand quite successfully. The product is not registered for use in Australia. Iodine deficiency may also be induced by goitrogens - substances within the feed which inhibit the utilization of dietary iodine. Goitrogens have been detected in some legumes and forage crops, but are considered unlikely to be a significant cause of goitre.
Selenium deficiency has been associated with a range of disorders in grazing animals. In its most serious form it causes white muscle disease, a myopathy which affects kids, lambs, calves and foals in some higher rainfall areas of Victoria.

Selenium deficiency has also been associated with illthrift and poor wool growth in sheep and reduced resistance to disease in a number of species. In New Zealand, selenium supplementation has resulted in significant improvements in lambing performance in low selenium areas. Similar responses have not been observed in a number of trials in Victoria.

Other factors are significant in the induction of white muscle disease: stress, mustering, increased levels of unsaturated fatty acids in spring pastures and poor vitamin E nutrition have been directly involved. Both selenium and vitamin E have roles in the prevention of muscle damage by oxidants produced during metabolism. White muscle disease occurring in weaner lambs grazing cereal stubbles, or dry autumn pastures, is responsive to vitamin E but not selenium supplements.

Low selenium areas of Victoria include the acid oils on and about the Great Dividing Range, particularly the Central Highlands, and the high rainfall areas of the west and south-east coastal fringe. It must be emphasized that selenium nutrition is subject to marked variation between years, between seasons, and even between soil types within farms and paddocks: specific regional information is available from your State Department of Agriculture Offices.

Selenium deficiency can be prevented by a range of treatments.

**Drenches and Injections:** Kids affected with white muscle disease are treated with intramuscular injections or oral drenches of selenium. Selenium injections can be administered with pulpy kidney-tetanus vaccines and mixed preparations have been registered commercially for use in sheep, but not as yet in goats. Selenium can also be combined with some worm drenches. It is wise to check compatibility with the drench manufacturers and these mixtures should always be used immediately. It is important that an assessment of selenium nutrition be made before animals are treated because selenium compounds are toxic. Selenium in excess is a poison and is therefore obtained only on veterinary prescription.

**Bullets:** Selenium bullets are administered to individual animals, lodge in the rumen and should provide the small requirements of selenium for the life of the animal. However, some batches of commercial bullets were shown to provide adequate selenium for only a few months.

**Topdressing:** A mixture of selenium and superphosphate from Pivot Fertilizers, Selecote, has now been registered for use in Victoria and similar products may be available from your fertilizer supplier. This has proved a useful alternative method of supplementing grazing livestock in low selenium areas. Selenium in the fertilizer is encapsulated within water-soluble prills, which readily break down upon application to pasture. Selenium prills penetrate the pasture canopy and must be absorbed back through the root system to increase herbage selenium concentrations. With the registered fertilizer mixtures there is very little possibility of animals receiving a toxic dose. The continual supply of organic selenium for 6 months, combined with reserve capacity of body tissues ensures adequate selenium nutrition for 12 months with the fertilizer; selenium drenches and vaccines are only effective for around 3 months.

Selenium deficiency mostly affects young animals in spring. It is therefore recommended that the fertilizer application be timed so as to optimise the selenium nutrition of these animals; an autumn application will benefit the developing foetus and ensure protection during spring.
Cobalt

Ruminant animals are unique in their ability to supply their own requirements of essential vitamin B12. In a classic example of symbiosis, microorganisms within the goat rumen utilize dietary cobalt to synthesize vitamin B12 which is then available to the host animal. Vitamin B12 is an essential coenzyme in the major pathway through which propionate and several amino acids are metabolized. Propionate, derived from rumen fermentation of plant celluloses, is the main precursor of glucose in the ruminant. The clinical signs of cobalt deficiency in ruminants are in fact, due to reduced tissue vitamin B12 concentrations and a breakdown of this glucose pathway.

Cobalt deficiency in ruminants causes unthriftiness, "weepy" eyes, severe wasting and eventually death if sufficiently severe and prolonged. Mild cobalt deficiency is easily confused with unthriftiness caused by underfeeding, heavy worm burdens or selenium-responsive illthrift. Cobalt deficiency can only be accurately diagnosed in livestock by tests for vitamin B12 in blood or tissues.

In Victoria, cobalt deficiency has been identified in sheep along the coastal fringe of western Victoria and southeast Gippsland, and isolated areas further inland. It commonly occurs also in coastal areas in other States. The disease has not been recognized in goats, but more recent studies indicate that specific areas of the southern mountain districts particularly, provide only marginal dietary cobalt for goats. In low cobalt areas, lambs are most sensitive to deficiency followed by ewes, calves and cows in that order. Severe signs are seen only rarely in cattle in Victoria. Cobalt deficiency can be cured and prevented by providing supplementary cobalt or vitamin B12:

Injections: Vitamin B12 must be given by injections, vitamin B12 drenches are not recommended. A 1-2 mg dose should last 2-3 months and is the preferred method of treatment.

Drenches: Cobalt sulphate must be given as a drench, and can be combined with some anthelmintics and other trace elements, copper and selenium. It must be administered weekly to be effective. A suitable drench recipe dissolves 15 g cobalt sulphate in 1 litre of water: Give goats 2 ml. Large doses of cobalt are poisonous.

Bullets: Cobalt bullets are administered to individual animals, lodge in the rumen and continuously release the trace quantities of cobalt required. Recent evidence indicates that bullets are effective for only 14 weeks in sheep.

Topdressing: Cobaltised superphosphate is a suitable method of treating grazing goats. It is not definitely known if autumn applications always provide sufficient cobalt for the following spring’s kids and close monitoring is advised. Pastures can also be sprayed with dilute solutions of cobalt sulphate (140 g/ha) as an interim treatment.

Licks: Cobalt salt licks should contain up to 100g/t cobalt sulphate and should be provided in the ratio of 1 block per 50 goats. Some animals, usually those most in need, fail to lick the blocks and do not get their requirement.

Copper

Copper is essential for optimal pasture growth, as well as animal health, and is unique for its interactions with other essential element. Excesses of both molybdenum and sulphur can induce copper deficiency in animals receiving an otherwise adequate dietary copper concentration.

Copper deficiency is most remembered for its association with "steely" wool in sheep - the wool harsh-handling, unevenly crimped and is weaker than normal. Deficiency may cause a variety of
other symptoms in sheep and cattle - anaemia, illthrift, scouring, bone abnormalities, and reproductive disorders - some of which have been detected in goats receiving inadequate dietary copper.

Copper toxicity is also a significant animal health problem, particularly in sheep. Toxicity can be induced in 3 ways:

- Overdosing with copper supplements.
- Prolonged grazing on clover-dominant pastures.
- Prolonged grazing on heliotrope (contains a liver toxic alkaloid).

Extreme caution should be used with copper supplementation, and any producer who suspects that stock are suffering from copper deficiency should seek specialist advice from a veterinary practitioner or the Department of Agriculture.

Copper is more available to livestock from dry pastures and hay. Hence, copper deficiency in Victorian livestock has a definite seasonal cycle. Problems are worse in the winter-spring period and are often resolved over summer-autumn even with no supplementary copper.

Historically, copper deficiency has often occurred in conjunction with cobalt deficiency. - "Coast Disease" - and many affected areas have received copper fertilizer applications. In contrast to cobalt however, copper fertilizers appear to provide adequate pasture copper for many years (at least 15 years according to one source) and problems of copper deficiency in livestock in more recent times are usually introduced or secondary to excessive intakes of molybdenum, sulphur and possibly other elements such as iron. Molybdenum toxicity (molybdenosis, molybdenum-induced copper deficiency) may be due to naturally occurring molybdenum pastures (e.g. peat swamps), can be a result of application of molybdenum fertilizers to pasture and has been associated with the application of lime fertilizers to pasture to treat soil pH.

In districts that have shown any signs of copper deficiency in goats, cattle or sheep, advice should be sought from the Department of Agriculture on need for copper fertilizer or copper treatment of livestock, especially if contemplating the use molybdenum to boost pasture production.

**Topdressing:** The most practicable means of control of copper deficiency in goats is by topdressing pastures with fertilizers that are fortified with copper oxide. Copper is normally applied at from 0.5 to 2 Kg per hectare every one to seven years respectively on part or all of the farm.

**Injections:** An organic copper injection (Cujec) which lasts for some months is available for sheep, but its safety in goats is uncertain. Problems associated with injectible copper compounds have included abscesses at the site of injection due to poor technique, and toxicity. Injectable copper therapy is suitable for both primary and conditioned (i.e. molybdenum induced) forms of copper deficiency, and a single treatment provides adequate copper for 2-3 months.

**Drenching:** Oral drenching with an aqueous solution containing copper sulphate is useful in primary copper deficiency only. Copper sulphate may be mixed with levamisole-based and oxendbendazole anthelmintic drenches, and should be used within 24 hours. Copper is not compatible with many other drenches. With primary copper deficiency, a single oral treatment is adequate for 1-4 weeks. However for copper deficiency due to excess molybdenum, weekly treatments may be required, making form of treatment generally impractical. Copper-containing salt licks may be used where individual animal treatment is impractical. Treatment over the period from mid-winter to spring is usually sufficient for all but the most severely deficient animals. Treatment should be aimed at providing adequate copper nutrition for at least six weeks prior to kidding.
New treatments such as copper oxide needles and glass bullets have been developed and are being tested prior to commercial release.


FROM THE BREEDERS……………..

When feeding out minerals some Breeders have used the following options:


If using blocks try putting out several different blocks and see which ones the goats use over twelve months. Rather than being a waste of money you may find that goats will “self medicate” and utilise the blocks when they need them at different times during the year.


TNN Mineral Plus Supplement Extra with Vitamins ADE contains Cobalt, Selenium, Sulphur, Copper, Zinc, Manganese, Iodine, Magnesium, Reducing Sugars, Crude Protein Equivalent, Micro Fine Kelp, Vitamins ADE.

3. Loose (Powder). Example: Propharma Weathershield loose lick for goats. Has the advantage of being weather resistant. Contains the following: Macrominerals (calcium, phosphorous, magnesium, sodium/chloride, sulphur); Microminerals (Cobalt, Copper, Iodine, manganese, Selenium, Zinc); Vitamins (A, D, E)

Contact: Dr Geoff Irish, B.Ag.Sc.Ph.D Nutritionalist & Sales manager
Mob: 0428 588 061 Email: sales@propharma.com.au

Some goats will not lick a block or loose powder so if you are concerned about all animals getting the required minerals, a drench may be your option.
Adhere strictly to any with holding periods for these products.
These are only a few examples, ask Breeders in your area what they use.
AROUND THE SHOW CIRCUIT…………………

Report on the North QLD State Show 17 July 2013 Annie Coates, Chairperson, BGBAA Qld

Judge Mr Paul Ormsby from NSW

Due to illness of Dr Fred Homeyer Paul stepped in to judge and I went as ring steward and announcer.

The BGBAA group were wonderful in their hospitality and it was a lovely break from the cold weather of the south. Cairns show has a varied schedule with a strong commercial section as well as stud. The following are the Championship results and photos from this event, full results are available on the National website: [www.australianboergoat.com.au](http://www.australianboergoat.com.au) After the show we were approached by many people about more information and local schools interested in adding goats to their animal section.

A big thanks to those who arranged the show and the Cairns show society.


JUNIOR CHAMPION DOE: Tiffany D&B Hepple
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION DOE: Stardust D&B Hepple
SENIOR CHAMPION DOE: Karen D&B Hepple
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION DOE: Big-Ole Clarabelle M Vico
GRAND CHAMPION DOE: Karen D&B Hepple
SENIOR CHAMPION BUCK: Mugambi 1058 B Hepple
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BUCK: Rocky Ridge Caesar M Vico
GRAND CHAMPION BUCK: Mugambi 1058 B Hepple
SUPREME STANDARD EXHIBIT: Mugambi 1058 B Hepple
CHAMPION RED DOE: M Vico
CHAMPION RED BUCK: M Vico

Betty Hepple with Trophies
CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS EKKA ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW  8-17 August 2013. A link to the Royal Queensland Show with full results can be found on the National site (Show Results): http://www.australianboergoat.com.au/show-results.php

Judge: Paul Ormsby

Our judge was Mr Paul Ormsby and he was mentoring 2 new Level 1 judges from Cairns, Mrs Betty Hepple and Mrs Tarella Vico. These ladies stewarded for the show and had a valuable experience both in meeting other breeders and looking over different animals and seeing how a bigger show runs. Despite the numbers being down on last year everyone had a good time and with $6,000.00 of sponsorship to be divided up everyone took home a lot of product. (Annie Coates)

JUNIOR CHAMPION DOE: Kingston Suzaan, A Botes

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION DOE: Kingston Franzie, A Botes

SENIOR CHAMPION DOE: Kingston Ronel, A Botes

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION DOE: Kingston Paula, A Botes

GRAND CHAMPION DOE: Kingston Ronel, A Botes

JUNIOR CHAMPION BUCK: Kingston Hugo, A Botes

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BUCK: Kingston Willem, A Botes

SENIOR CHAMPION BUCK: Hiccup Lane Varo, A Botes

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BUCK: Kingston Ben, A Botes

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK: Kingston Hugo, A Botes

SUPREME STANDARD EXHIBIT: Kingston Hugo, A Botes

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR: A BOETES
A Botes & Grahame Wright Junior Champion “Kingston Suzaan” and Res/junior Champion “Kingston Franzie” with judge Paul Ormsby and Toni Colburn from Mi-Feed

A Botes with Paul Ormsby with Supreme Standard Boer goat of show Kingston Hugo BOTFJ3005

Senior Standard Bucks 12 to 18 mths 1st Kingston Ben 2nd Kingston Hurr H03 3rd Temba Seneca

Nicole Broad with the Supreme Red goat of show Tanderra Heleeke
JUNIOR CHAMPION RED DOE: Tanderra Heleeka, N Broad

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RED DOE: Moody Magic, A Robson-Mortimer

SENIOR CHAMPION RED DOE: Jerbah 928, A Robson-Mortimer

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RED DOE: Cedar Grove Annaleise, S Collins

GRAND CHAMPION RED DOE: Tanderra Heleeka, N Broad

JUNIOR CHAMPION RED BUCK: Bolstad Crazy Horse, J Bolstad

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RED BUCK: Bolstad Boo, J Bolstad

GRAND CHAMPION RED BUCK: Bolstad Crazy Horse, J Bolstad

SUPREME RED REXHIBIT: Tanderra Heleeka, N Broad

John & Angela Bolstad Junior Champ and Res Junior Champ and grand Champion red buck “Bolstad Crazy Horse”

Alex Robson –Mortimer with Champion Senior Red Doe Jerbah 928

Champion Junior Red Doe Tanderra Heleeke and Res/Champion junior Red Doe Moody Magic with RNA Councillor Mr Will Roberts
Dear Ask A Judge,

I was at a Boer Goat show recently and I heard the Judge make some comments about an animal in the ring such as, “good width between the pin bones”, “wide brisket”, “a long stitch”, “well sprung ribs”. I do not know where these parts are on my goats or what I should be looking for. Can you please help with information?

Conformation Confused

Dear Conformation Confused,

A Judge is always looking for a Boer goat that meets the “ideal” type.

The ideal goat is one that complies with the breed standard and must be functional. The goat must have the physical anatomy to be able to walk, eat and have maximum production. The ideal goat must satisfy the needs of the market by producing high quality and quantities of meat.

The Judges’ comments indicate that the animal meets the breed standard for conformation. The comments about those particular points (see above diagram), the animal is clearly a well –muscled (not fat) meat producing animal with capacity in the rump, barrel and fore-quarter.

These are the traits are breeders should be looking regardless of whether it is a show animal or a commercial animal.

The following excerpts taken from Evaluating meat goats by Kraig Bowers

http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/downloads/cde/meat%20goat%20selection2pdf
**Composition**

Composition of Boer goats can be broken down into muscle, condition, and freshness. We will first look at muscle, which is one of the most important characteristics of Boer goats. Muscle can be evaluated in four main areas; the rack or withers, loin, forearm, and leg.

A goat should be wide-based when viewed from behind, wide from stifle to stifle, and wide through the upper hip. They should be heavily muscled through their inner and outer leg, and tie deep into their lower leg. Evaluating the rack and loin, these areas should be expressive, wide, and deep. The loin should be long and the length of hind saddle (the distance from the last rib back) should be greater than from the last rib forward. The fourth place to evaluate muscle is the forearm, and greater importance is placed on this region than in lambs. The forearm of the goat should be thick and have a prominent bulge.

**Conformation**

One of the most important traits stressed in Boer goats is the idea of balance. In evaluating the conformation of Boer goats, we need to look at skeletal correctness of the body and of the feet and legs, as well as balance. Boer goats should be wide structured through their front and rear legs, With Boer goats, as with all livestock, an animal is more efficient and valuable when there is equal or greater mass in the rear half than the front half. In evaluating balance, certain characteristics need to be looked at to see if they are in proportion to the rest of the animal. For example, length of body, and length of neck should be in the correct proportion to the width and depth of the animal, in order to be called well balanced.

Balance is not only important from a performance standpoint, but also for an animal’s appearance. Goats that are well balanced are considered more “stylish”.

Vicki Mitchell Level 3 Judge.
INTERNAL PARASITE MANAGEMENT FOR GOATS ON ANNUAL PASTURES

The following Article has kindly been forwarded by Dr Bruce A. McGregor © 2013, Fibre and Animal Scientist, Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria. Although it describes an experiment with Angora goats his findings are equally applicable to Boers.

Introduction

Gastrointestinal nematodes limit the growth, production and welfare of goats but there are few reliable sources of information for recommending management practices across flocks. Gastrointestinal parasitism of goats, grazed intensively on small farms, in higher-rainfall areas of Australia (>600 mm per annum), has been a major source of lost production, deaths in young goats and animal welfare concern and is a likely cause of farmers leaving the industry. The use of browse plants to reduce ingestion of pasture larvae has limitations, including the feasibility and cost of maintaining browse.

This report summarises a grazing experiment conducted to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of gastrointestinal-nematode control measures and the relationship that exists when Merino sheep and Angora goats are grazed together. This complements earlier reports of the effects of rate of stocking and the mixed or separate grazing of goats with sheep on pasture production and composition, live weight, fleece production and other aspects of animal production and welfare.

Methods

The experiment was located at the Animal Research Institute, Werribee, Victoria, Australia (annual rainfall 549 mm). The climate is of the Mediterranean type, with a growing season of ~7 months (April to October) and a relatively dry summer. The pasture composition was primarily annual rye grass (Lolium rigidum) and subterranean clover (Trifolium subterraneum), with volunteer grasses.

The treatments were as follows: three grazing combinations: Merino sheep, Angora goats, sheep and goats at the ratio of 1:1; and three stocking rates: 7.5, 10 and 12.5 animals/ha, obtained by varying the area of each plot. Each of the 9 treatments was replicated twice. The stocking-rate design was based on the recommended stocking rate for sheep on similar annual temperate pastures at Werribee, to be 10 dry sheep equivalents/ha. Saxon Merino sheep were chosen as their body size is smaller than that of other strains of Merino sheep and more similar to the body size of the Angora goats.

Goat and sheep were carefully managed to remove the gastrointestinal parasites they had when purchased and then grazed together to acquire similar populations of parasites. All experimental plots were then grazed equally with goats and sheep before the experiment began. Worm egg counts (WEC) were taken into account when animals were randomly allotted to treatments.

WEC were monitored five times per year on 110 of the 180 animals in the experiment for over 3 years of the experiment. At the end of the experiment in December, goats and sheep were slaughtered to enable the counting of all the parasites in the gut (nematode burdens).

Findings

The experiment has shown that mixed grazing of goats with sheep and increasing the stocking rate of goats significantly affect the level of gastrointestinal parasitism in grazing Angora goats and Merino sheep. Mixed grazing with goats resulted in beneficial effects for sheep but mixed grazing with sheep provided beneficial or harmful effects for goats, depending on the stocking rate.
Effect of animal-species host

The same genera of nematodes were found in both goats and sheep. WEC and nematode burdens of each genus were similar in goats and sheep at the start of the experimental but, thereafter, were consistently greater in goats than in sheep. Sheep had a greater proportion of nematodes as Teladorsagia spp. and goats a greater incidence of Trichostrongylus spp. Both goats and sheep developed resistance to Nematodirus spp. during the course of the experiment.

Stocking rate

Increasing the stocking rate increased WEC of goats and mixed-grazed goats significantly, but with sheep, the increases were not significant. During the experiment, WEC declined at 7 and 10 animals/ha but increased at 12.5/ha. Increasing stocking rate increased the numbers of Trichostrongylus spp. and altered the ratio of Teladorsagia spp. and Trichostrongylus spp. nematodes. This finding for the effect of stocking rate on WEC of goats accords with those of most previous studies with sheep.

Mixed grazing

The WEC of mixed sheep were significantly lower than those of separately grazed sheep. This indicates that goats per se are not gastrointestinal hazards to sheep. During the experiment, the WEC of mixed-grazed sheep declined faster than the WEC of separately grazed sheep but the WEC of separately grazed goats at 12.5/ha and of mixed grazed goats at 10 and 12.5/ha increased.

The resistance that mixed-grazed sheep developed to Nematodirus spp., to Trichostrongylus spp. and, to a lesser extent, to Teladorsagia spp., after their first year was able to withstand the increased larval challenge that they must have been exposed to when grazing with goats because the WEC of mixed goats was always moderate to high. These findings may be explained in part by reference to pasture and live weight data. Mixed-grazed sheep had access to more pasture than did separately grazed sheep and were heavier than separately grazed sheep. While these mixed-grazed sheep had lower concentrations of nematode eggs in their faeces than did separately grazed sheep, this may be partly explained by greater feed intake, as shown by higher mean live weight and faster rates of growth, and, consequently, greater faecal DM output of the mixed sheep.

Grazing sheep with goats had a beneficial effect of the general level of parasitism. This was shown in the significantly reduced nematode burdens of mixed-grazed goats at 7.5/ha, compared with separately grazed goats. However, in mixed-grazed plots at 12.5/ha, sheep out-competed goats, and the pasture was much shorter and less pasture was available for goats than in the separately grazed 12.5/ha goat treatment. It appears that the grazing pressure exerted by the sheep at 12.5/ha had such a deleterious effect on the condition of the goats that their ability to resist gastrointestinal nematodes was reduced. These goats had higher adult nematode burdens and WEC than did those goats that grazed alone at the same stocking rate and this became evident within 18 months of applying the treatments.

Effectiveness of drenching strategy

The three-drench program (June, December, February) was not effective in preventing the heavy build-up of larvae on the 10 and 12.5/ha goat treatments. Goats separately and mixed grazed at 12.5/ha were subject to severe internal parasitism in late winter and early spring, to such an extent that they lost 1.6 kg (6%) live weight during a period when their live weight gains would be expected to be greatest. Goats at 10/ha also experienced parasitism but were able to maintain live weight. At this time, goats at 7.5/ha gained 1.8 kg live weight. Deaths occurred at both 10 and 12.5 goats/ha. Additional anthelmintic treatments were necessary and prevented further deaths and reduced WEC.
to moderate levels for the remainder of that year. The seasonal conditions in “good springs” coupled with the relatively high stocking rate combined to provide a serious gastrointestinal-nematode challenge. The implication being that goat producers need to undertake constant surveillance, particularly during winter and spring, or year-round at high stocking rate, to quickly detect and respond to potential high levels of gastrointestinal-nematode challenge.

At the highest stocking rate, the pastures where shorter than at the lower stocking rates. As trichostrongylid larvae are found in the lower stratum of herbage, animals grazing below 12.5 cm in height cannot avoid ingesting them. Results of associate studies (Jallow et al. 1994) showed that the different grazing pattern of goats may cause the ingestion of far more larvae when the pasture was contaminated by sheep faeces, whereas the reverse did not occur.

The WEC of sheep were usually low. Increases in WEC of sheep in late spring were effectively reduced by the two summer drenches. As sheep developed resistance to the nematodes, WEC declined to low levels.

Had this experiment had a breeding flock, with susceptible kids grazing these pastures at moderate and high stocking rate, internal parasitism would likely have been much more severe than in the present work using non-breeding wethers.

**Recommended strategy for goats grazing annual temperate pastures**

Under the management and pasture conditions of the present experiment, to minimise internal parasitism, maintain live weight gain during spring and to prevent deaths, goats should not be grazed above stocking rates of 7.5 goats/ha. Grazing goats with sheep reduced WEC in goats at 7.5 and 10/ha by 12% and 35%, respectively, and reduced nematode burdens at 7.5/ha by 50%, which generally avoided the need to provide additional anthelmintic treatment. Grazing goats with sheep is, therefore, likely to delay the development of anthelmintic resistance in goats grazed at low or moderate stocking rate, reducing the need for additional anthelmintic treatments and reducing nematode burdens and challenge.

The results indicated that goat producers need to monitor the need for additional anthelmintic treatment, especially during winter and early spring and at higher stocking rates.

It is clear from this experiment that mixed grazing at 10 animals/ha, i.e. five goats/ha plus five sheep/ha (about the recommended stocking rate for sheep in this environment) resulted in complementary grazing in terms of increased pasture production, more favourable pasture composition, increased animal production, increased fleece production and improved gastrointestinal-nematode status of sheep and goats. Mixed grazing at higher stocking rates was competitive and resulted in goats having reduced live weight, reduced production, increased internal parasitism and increased mortality.

**Conclusions**

Under the environmental and pastoral conditions examined, Angora wether goats should not be grazed at stocking rates above those recommended for wether sheep. The impact of gastrointestinal nematode infections in goats was reduced at lower stocking rates. Further, mixed grazing of Angora wether goats with wether sheep at or below the recommended stocking rate resulted in reduced gastrointestinal parasitism for both sheep and goats, compared with monospecific grazing conditions. Goats did not represent a gastrointestinal-nematode hazard to sheep.
Acknowledgments

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Rural Credits Development Fund and Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation provided financial support.

References and further reading

This article is a summary of the following report.


BGBAA NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES 2013

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<td>Friday, December 20, 2013</td>
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CLASSIFIED FOR SALE…GOAT HANDLER

Contact: Alison Wright, 0447 676 493 (VIC)
Email: alison.wright@rabobank.com
NEW Lehane handler $2700 Plus GST
REPORT FROM EDUCATION DAY, NAGAMBIE, VICTORIA, August 17, 2013

Judith D’Aloisio BGBAA

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA (MLA) in conjunction with the BOER GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (BGBAA) presented a one day Symposium on Saturday August 17 called “Successful Farming of Meat Goats”. It was targeted at existing meat goat producers and people interested in finding out more about breeding meat goats. Enquiries were overwhelming with over 70 registered for the day’s event. Of these approx 20 were existing breeders (either Stud or Commercial) and the balance were people interested in breeding.

It was a full day workshop from 9.30am to 5.00PM. Felice Driver, Goat Industry Development Officer, MLA spoke first giving an overview of the Industry. Felice’s presentation focussed on rangeland goats as this was the driving force behind the goat meat export industry. She pointed out about 1.78 million goats were slaughtered in 2011-12, and over 90% is sourced from rangeland areas using either opportunistic harvesting or semi-managed operations through depots or behind wire in some fashion. There are about 2.6 million rangeland goats but populations vary widely depending on availability of water and feed in the rangelands. There are approximately 400,000 specialist breeds of goats in intensively managed production systems for meat (200,000 Boer goats), fibre (10-20,000) or dairy (180,000) which all contribute to goat meat production. This information is based on goat producer PIC’s which also shows the majority of rangeland producers are based in Qld and NSW.

Domestic consumption of goat meat is growing due in part to the changing ethnic composition of the Australian population. The US is still the largest importer of goat meat but Felice pointed out that China could topple this in the future. There was a new purpose built goat live-export facility opening at Karumba for shipments by sea into Malaysia and Brunei. This is still focussed on the rangeland goat with the intention of handling and feeding pellets over a four week period in preparation for export.

I spoke next on getting started in the meat goat industry (in Victoria) with an emphasis on breeding high Boer infused goats to target the clientele of quality butchers, restaurants and farmers markets. The message I tried to emphasis during the day was that instead of competing with the rangeland product we needed to target the niche markets above and that the higher Boer infusion the more meat. I spoke on markets, stocking rates, fencing, breeding, issues such as feet, worms and parasites, supplementary feeding, kidding, infrastructure, record keeping and “meating” market specifications. I concluded with some advice to new breeders: start small, be conservative in stocking rates, supplementary feed as required, aim for a premium product and a niche market, the best animals will be the ones you breed yourself, aim to improve on each generation, keep records, buy from reputable established breeders who offer support, and network with other breeders.

The hour was “information overload” for many and I appreciated the input from established breeders who offered advice to others based on their personal experience.

From 11.00-12.00 we had a farm visit to Nerida Tull’s Parra Boer Goats (less than 5 minutes away) for half the group and the other half had a practical demonstration by Andrea and Jamie Butterfield (APGM) of foot trimming and tagging of wethers in Jamie’s Full Boer Fabrication handler. The emphasis at Nerida’s property was on bio security and completing appropriate documentation and records of drenches etc, a visual of yards, handling equipment, fencing and other infrastructure such as kidding paddocks, shelter. After half an hour the group was reversed.
Lunch was supplied by Taylan Atar (Seven Hills) who offered a goat meat tasting platter, goat “burger”, chorizo sausage and all you can eat salads. The food was excellent and it was the first time, for many, to taste goat meat.

After lunch Johann Schroeder, MLA Project manager (Animal Health and Security) spoke on Parasite control. He referred people to the MLA website as a large source of information which could be retrieved by typing in “goat parasites” as the keyword. He then listed the different types of parasites: Internal (worms, coccidian, liver fluke) and External (lice, fleas, ticks, mites, flies). These were followed through in more depth in his slides showing the predilection site, the effect on the host and environmental contributions. His Points to Ponder revealed Parasites are a hygiene problem, they get worse under intensive conditions where there is no opportunity to rotate to “cleaner” pasture and uninfected animals are in closer contact with infected animals.

Johann discussed the different drenches approved for internal and external parasites and with holding periods. He advised that breeders had no recourse if using unregistered drenches if they were ineffective and that drenching programs should be undertaken in consultation with a vet.

Ben Swain BCS Agribusiness, consultant with MLA spoke next, mainly on Kid Plan. He advised that one of the most cost effective way of permanently increasing carcase weight as well as quality on a long term basis is through the use of genetics. The Boer breed has demonstrated an ability to increase carcase weight and quality, however their use has declined due to the perception and sometimes reality that they are not as hardy as rangeland goats and cannot compete in the rangeland environment. Whilst this may be true, it is likely he said that there are animals existing within the current Boer breed that display above average phenotypic hardiness characteristics that could be actively selected for (along with other commercially important traits) to improve the success of increasing Boer genetics, resulting in an associated increase in carcase weight and quality, within the rangeland goat population.

Ben drew parallels with the beef and lamb industry and use of Lamb Plan in the latter with associated industry gains. He suggested other traits which could be improved through genetic selection were worm resistance, fat and eye muscle depth, reproduction and survival and milk production. KidPlan as a selection tool compares animals on genetic merit and animals within your own environment to other animals. Some time was spent on an explanation of Estimated Breeding values (EBV’s) which are more accurate than raw data as they account for the association between traits (heritability and correlated traits), adjust for birth effects and remove environmental influences. Half the value of a sires’s EBV was passed to the progeny.

He spoke finally of the Buck Evaluation Trial being undertaken at Colin and Rob Ramsay’s property and funded by MLA. The progeny in this trial will be assessed for measured and visual traits and linkage will be made to data already entered into KidPlan of existing progeny.

Paul Hamilton, Director, Semtec Animal Breeding Services then spoke on Artificial Reproduction in Goats for Genetic Improvement. His talk led breeders step by step through undertaking an Artificial insemination and Embryo transplant program including approximate costs and genetic gain.

The final talk was by Berwyn Squire, District Veterinary Office, Department of Primary Industry. Berwyn provided detailed information about the need for Biosecurity on farm as many diseases, weeds etc can be passed from one property to another on boots or car tyres. She spoke of zoonotic diseases which can be passed from animals to humans. She explained the Victorian Government requirements with respect to completion of NVD’s, Vendor declarations and Animal Health statements but that these requirements vary within each State. As a conclusion to the day she ran an amusing PowerPoint display which “tested” breeders knowledge of what had occurred during the day with respect to content.
In conclusion, although long, the day was extremely valuable and feedback was very positive. The goal is to run similar days within other states supported by MLA but “tweaked” in content to adapt to each State.

CAPTION CONTEST……………………

Many thanks to those who contributed!!

The winner is Frances and Greg, Blue Gate Boers, Kyneton Victoria. They receive two months rollover banner advertising for their Stud.

“Not now Kids! I’m really tyred!”

Second place was........Being sick of the kids, Edna thought of a novel way to keep the buck at bay! (Saba Boer Goats, Tasmania)
A NEW BOOK!!! Available Online from: www.booktopia.com.au


new book information from CABI

Goat Meat Production and Quality
Edited by O Mahgoub and I Kadim, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman and E Webb, University of Pretoria, South Africa
978 1 84593 849 9
December 2011 / 378 pages / Hardback / 244x172mm
£85/US$180/E125
Subject Classification: TVHB, TVB, TWD
Territorial Market Rights: World

Description:
Written by some of the world’s leading goat meat scientists, and drawing from the most recent publications in the field, this book aims to comprehensively cover the most important areas of goat meat production. Chapters discuss the role of genetics, breeding, reproduction, and nutrition in producing good quality, profitable goat meat. The mineral, amino acid and fatty acid composition of goat meat is also addressed, along with a discussion of its nutritive value, aimed at highlighting its health benefits over other red meats.

Audience:
Student and researchers in animal science, animal production and meat science. Also suitable for goat meat producers and breeders.

Contents:
1. Overview of the Global Goat Meat Sector
2. Goat Meat Production Systems
3. Carcass Traits of Hardy Tropical Goats
4. Genetics and Breeding of Meat Goats
5. Reproductive Efficiency for Increased Meat Production in Goats
7. Growth, Development and Growth Manipulation in Goats
8. The Role of Objective and Subjective Evaluation in the Production and Marketing of Goats for Meat
9. Tissue Distribution in the Goat Carcass
10. Influences of Diets on Fatty Acid Composition of Edible Tissues of Meat Goat
11. Mineral Composition of Goat Meat
12. Linear Body Measurements and Carcass Characteristics of Goats
14. Effect of Early Nutrition on Carcass and Meat Quality of Young Goats Under Milk Production Systems
15. Effects of Feeding System and Diet on the Body Lipid Composition of Young Goats

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E: orders@cabi.org
WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

The following chart lists the options for advertising in the Newsletter or the website. Prices include GST. A form is available on the website at the following link: http://www.australianboergoat.com.au/forms.php

Any advertising can be forwarded to judithdaloiisio@yahoo.com (03)57973232. Members can login to the website and upload Classifieds in the Members Area. There is no charge for State Branches to advertise. A mail out to members can be done through ABRI, contact Barb O'Shea barb.oshea@abri.une.edu.au Cost is $75 for members, $110 for non-members.

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<th>ADVERTISING TYPES &amp; COSTS</th>
<th>MEMBER OF BGBAA</th>
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ADDITIONAL SNIPPETS.................

SOME UPCOMING SHOWS...

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW 7 September-15 September, 2013 Contact: Cathy Evans Phone: (08) 8339 2575 Email: cathevans@internode.on.net


Berrigan Show (Vic) Sunday 6 October, 2013 Phone: 03 5885 2610 Email: berriganshow@gmail.com.

Shepparton Show (Vic) 12th October Contact: julie.winch@bigpond.com

NSW STATE SHOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH QUEANBEYAN SHOW SOCIETY, November 9-10, 2013 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES have now been posted on the National site. Go to Events/Shows/NSW State Show or click on the following link: http://www.australianboergoat.com.au/event-details.php?eid=63

Visit the National website for details of other shows...
CHINESE ZODIAC - THE GOAT

Occupying the 8th position in the Chinese Zodiac, the Goat (or Sheep) symbolizes such character traits as creativity, intelligence, dependability, and calmness. Comfortable being alone to ponder the workings of their inner minds, Goats enjoy being part of a group, but prefer the sidelines rather than the centre. Their nurturing personality makes Goats excellent care-givers. They’re quiet & reserved because they spend too much time absorbed in their thoughts.

Home and alone is where Goats feel most comfortable. There they express themselves artistically, whether it’s by painting, cooking or participating in whatever artistic endeavours they enjoy. Goats prefer the couch because there they can relax and explore their minds. They don’t need elaborate furnishings; only items reflecting their desire for art. When travelling or seeking entertainment, Goats prefer groups or venues that hold many people. Goats spend money on fashions that give them a first class appearance. Although Goats enjoy spending money on the finer things in life, they are not snobbish.

Perhaps because Goats are basically serene, they tend to have fewer health problems. Their fragile exterior hides the fact they’re typically very healthy. When they’re happy, they’re healthy. When Goats become unhappy, especially as a result of romance, they quickly become sick.

Goats tend to be private, so it can take effort to get to know one. The Goat is the one who will decide when and with whom it will share its personal life. As a result, most Goats have few “close” friends, yet they’ll work hard for those they love.

Goats at work prefer being part of a flock. Power and status aren’t important. Goats will only assume leadership roles when asked directly. They’ll never volunteer. Good career choices for Goats include: florist, interior designer, day care teacher, pediatrician, actor, editor, hair stylist, illustrator, musician, and art history.

ARE YOU A GOAT? Check the Goat dates below…
http://www.artemis.net.nz/hornygoat/zodiac.htm

GOAT DATES

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>1 February 1919 - 19 February 1920</td>
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<td>17 February 1931 - 5 February 1932</td>
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ASSOCIATIONS

Zodiac 8th Ruling hours: 1pm - 3pm
Direction: South-Southwest
Motto: “I Depend”
Season: Summer, July
Element: Fire
Gemstone: Emerald
Color: Yellow, Light Green Roughly
Polarity: Yin
KRAZY KARENS KORNER

SUDOKU
TO COMPLETE THE PUZZLE FILL IN ALL THE SQUARES IN THE GRID SO THAT EACH ROW, EACH COLUMN, AND EACH 3X3 BOX CONTAINS ALL THE LETTERS TO SPELL THE WORD GOAT HERDS IN EACH 3X3 BOX. (GOOD LUCK)

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FIND THE LETTER
MY FIRST IS IN BUCK BUT NOT IN BACK
MY SECOND IS IN FOOD AS WELL AS THE ZOO
MY THIRD IS FOUND IN BOTH BEE AND EAR
BUT MY FOURTH IS NOT THE SUN BUT IN RAIN
MY FIFTH IS IN GRAND AS WELL AS GOAT
MY SIXTH IS IN HOT AS WELL A COLD
MY SEVENTH IS THE START OF THE ALPHABET
BUT MY EIGHTH COSTS A DIME BUT IS FOUND AS WELL IN TIME.
(WHAT AM I)

WORD BUILDER
HOW MANY WORDS OF 3 LETTERS OR MORE CAN YOU MAKE FROM THE FOLLOWING LETTERS. THE MYSTERY WORD IS A NINE LETTER WORD THAT WE ALL LOVE?

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<td>R</td>
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GOOD 30 WORDS
VERY GOOD 40 WORDS
EXCELLENT 50 PLUS WORDS

FIND A WORD
WON
BOER
GOAT
SHOWING
OATS
CHAMPION
EXHIBIT
BITE
EAR
KID
SICK
RAM
NURSE
EAT

WON
JUDGES
BOER
DOE
GOAT
BUCK
SHOWING
SUPREME
OATS
EWE
CHAMPION
RESERVE
EXHIBIT
NANNY
BITE
SUCCESS
EAR
COSTLY
KID
YAHOO
SICK
TIN CANS
RAM
TOES
NURSE
IDLE
EAT
SEEK

Thanks to Karen Hosking, Currabunga Boers for this section!

Disclaimer: The articles contained herein are individual views and ideas, not necessarily those of the BGBAA Board or members. Where any suggestions are made with respect to health issues, it is advised that you consult your veterinarian.