

Georgia Goat News

Newsletter of the Georgia Dairy Goat Breeders Association

Promoting Dairy Goats since 1976

July/August 2019

Raising goats in Georgia can be a challenge at times, to say the least. When July and August come around, the searing heat raises the goat farmer's husbandry bar. Things to watch for are overheating animals, parasites pneumonia, moldy feed and hay. Let's begin with excessive heat which can stress pregnant animals and cause early embryonic death. To avoid these problems, try to breed closer to the Fall and make sure that you provide plenty of water and shade. The next problem is parasites. Usually, parasites don't do well in hot dry weather but, rain can cause their eggs to hatch in droves. If possible, only allow animals to graze on longer grass (short grass allows more parasites to be eaten) and be especially vigilant with frequent *Famancha* scoring especially after rain. Following parasites on my list is *Pneumonia* which can be hard to diagnose. Listen for coughing animals or look for runny noses. If you suspect something, listen to the animal's lungs which will give off a crackling sound when they breathe and there may be an accompanying fever. Any animal acting out of the ordinary should become suspect in your eyes. Changes in behavior, like coming into the milking parlor last when they are usually first, or not finishing their grain should be quickly checked out. Lastly, moldy feed and hay can also cause problems and sometimes death. Only buy enough feed that you can feed in a week, if you don't have an air conditioned space to store it. Beware of discolored, dusty feed or hay. When in doubt, don't feed. A discarded bag or bale is a lot cheaper than a vet bill.

Also, make sure that you take care of yourself and drink plenty of water and try to work outside during the early morning and late evening, avoiding the hottest times of the day. Wear light clothing and avoid overly exerting yourself. Symptoms of heat exhaustion/heatstroke may include: a) Fainting, throbbing headache, dizziness or light-headedness. b) Lack of sweating, despite the heat. c) Red, hot, and dry skin. d) Muscle weakness or cramps.

Heat exhaustion and heatstroke treatment:

- Get out of the heat quickly and into a cool place, or at least shade.
- Lie down and elevate your legs to get blood flowing to your heart.
- Take off any tight or extra clothing.
- Apply cool towels to your skin or take a cool bath.
- Drink fluids, such as water or a sports drink. Do not guzzle them but, take sips.

We had a good crowd of old & new members at the May 26th meeting at Natalie's farm. It is always nice to see old friends and it's particularly nice to see "new" members at meetings. – Mandy

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 Notice: I'd like to draw your attention to the headings of the articles in this & future newsletters – although many of the articles offered were initially published years ago, I have inserted a web link that will direct you to current information relative to the printed article. I hope this will be helpful.

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 Your Newsletter by e-mail! If you will receive the Club's newsletter electronically - it will save the club about \$1.25 per issue. If you can, please indicate that you would, in an e-mail to LLacresjwl@gmail.com - You can change your decision at any time. Thanks

Join us at the Club's July 21st meeting - 2pm at the Latimer's Farm, 1540 McRee's Mill Road, Watkinsville, GA - Mandy will give a talk on medications & items to keep stocked in your First-aid box in the barn.

Inside:	Page	Places to Go:
Scheduled meetings -----	3	July 21 st – 2 p.m. - Club meeting, location Latimer's Farm – Program: First-aid Kit for the Barn.
Individual Farmer Marketing Strategies	3	Sept. 12 th – 10:30 a.m. - Gwinnett Fair DG Show – judge: Rusty Repp
Drug Withdrawal Times Important ----	10	Sept. 22 nd - 2 p.m. - Club meeting, Susan Doss' farm, Madison, GA – Program: TBA
Thiamine Deficiency Can Mimic Tetanus --	10	Oct. 8 th – GA National Fair DG Show – judge: TBA
Mastitis – Sorting Out the Priorities ---	11	Oct. 15-20 th – ADGA Annual Convention – Boise, ID
		** See www.gdgba.org for more show info & Monroe entry form

Next Meeting: the Latimer's Farm – Sunday, July 21st, 2 p.m.