

# Georgia Goat News

Newsletter of the Georgia Dairy Goat Breeders Association

Promoting Dairy Goats since 1976

March/April 2019

We had a great meeting here at the Latimer's in January. It is always great to see old friends and catch up on what everyone is up to. It is also nice to see that many of our club members are taking advantage of the different performance programs that the ADGA offers. I can't wait to start milk testing again here at the farm. Things are still quite here since kids aren't due until March but, I'm getting excited with every kid post on Facebook.

With kidding in full swing, I have a few words about colostrum. Don't forget to save some of your colostrum for emergencies. You can freeze it in soda bottles and it is good for several years. If you need colostrum, *Land O' Lakes* makes a replacer or you can get colostrum from another herd, but please make sure that the donor does have tested free of CAE. Cow colostrum will work, but be warned that some kids will have a life-threatening reaction whereby their red blood cells are destroyed. Also, I always feed colostrum from my older does to each kid born, even if I am letting the animals nurse. That way, there isn't any guessing if the kid got colostrum or not. The colostrum from older animals is better because it is full of antibodies vs. that from first-fresheners. Do not heat/thaw colostrum in your microwave, you can easily end up with pudding. Colostrum will not filter through milk filters, so I suggest using gauze. This is also a good way to tell if there isn't any more colostrum in the milk by how well it filters. If it takes more than a few minutes for your milk to filter, then you have a problem: colostrum, mastitis or very high somatic cell counts. Lastly, colostrum is your kid's main source of antibodies that will protect them for the first few weeks of life. Colostrum antibodies can easily pass through a kid's stomach for the first 12 hours, but for the next 12 hours, the amount that is absorbed is less and less, with none after that. So, the sooner you get the colostrum in, the better off your kids will be. Colostrum

is also a source of energy for the kid's body that is just getting used to functioning in the outside world. An easy way to tell if kids have nursed is to put your hand under their stomach. If the kid is full, you will feel a tight, full tummy but, if it is empty, your hand can feel backbone.

Chilled kids will lose their sucking reflex, so you need to get their body temperature back up asap. The best remedy is to get them in a heated room or put them in your lap. I also like to give them a couple of ounces of warm, strong coffee — yes, it does work! The caffeine jumpstarts their little bodies in no time. Tube feeding is also recommended for getting some colostrum and/or coffee into cold kids that aren't swallowing. Tube feeding can be a little tricky but you can do it. I like to place the tube along the outside of the animal to get an idea of how far it has to go to get to the stomach. You can mark the tube with a sharpie by the kids mouth. Carefully feed the tube into the kids mouth. If the tube is in the lungs, the kid's mouth will be nowhere near your mark on the tube and you can feel them exhale out of the tube - It should feel like you are never going to hit bottom. Slowly introduce the colostrum a few cc's at a time. If the kid starts choking, stop immediately and re-position the tube.

Good Luck! *Mandy*

*Join us at the Club's March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting @ 1 p.m. at Decimal Place Farm - Mary Rigdon will give a presentation on cheese-making - non-members will be asked to pay a \$10 fee.*

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Raising Healthy Kids -----	3	May 11-12 <sup>th</sup> – Carrollton Dairy Goat Show – Carrollton, GA - Judges: Daniel Young [GA], Jean Lucas [VA], Paula Reisdorff [GA] & Will Pearson [GA]
So You Want to Keep Your Buck -----	5	May 17-18 <sup>th</sup> – Monroe DG Club Show – Monroe, GA - Judges: Cameron Jodlowski [IA] & Richard Grossman [FL]
Copper Deficiency & Toxicity -----	8	Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> – Gwinnett Co. Fair DG Show
C/D/T Vaccinations -----	10	Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> – GA National Fair DG Show
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**\* Gestation Date Calculator \***

**Next Meeting: Mary Rigdon's Farm – Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m.**