



The Farthest North Goat Association Newsletter

January 2007

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January Meeting Notice

The next meeting will be held Saturday, January 13th at 1:30 p.m in room 252 Duckering Building, UAF.



REMINDERS

For many, you have probably bred your does if you are interested in breeding them this year. The following are just some reminders or considerations that you should be aware of during your goats pregnancy. Please keep in mind that this is not a complete list

- 1) Your goats need mineral salts with selenium. Remember Alaska hays and most forage are deficient in selenium so your goats are not getting this very important developmental trace mineral. Deficiency in selenium can lead to a condition called White Muscle Disease in your kids, which most commonly results in their death. Another important mineral is copper. Copper is important for healthy reproduction processes. So do your goat a favor and give them a mineral supplement DESIGNED for GOATS. Sweetlix 16:8 is a mineral supplement designed for goats and can be found at Alaska Feed. Other goat minerals can be found at goat mail orders companies such as Hoegger's.
- 2) Make sure your goat is in good condition entering her pregnancy. You can generally continue your normal feeding program as long as your doe continues to give milk and maintains a good body condition. As you dry up your doe, you want to cut down on the grain a little. Too much high concentrate type feeds can cause problems such as ketosis. So in general, just make sure your doe maintains optimum body condition.
- 3) You should dry up your doe 2 months before she kids. This will allow her to come into milk at full production. If you continue to milk your doe up to her kidding, the doe will most likely give smaller quantities of milk later on.
- 4) You need to give your doe a clostridium/tetanus shot 3-6 weeks before kidding. We give this booster 4 weeks before the doe kids.
- 5) Make sure your goat has access to fresh, clean, unfrozen water and decent quality hay.
- 6) Have kidding and kid raising supplies on hand when your doe does kid.



Word Contest Results

(Contest descriptions: Come up with a list of adjectives and descriptions describing your thoughts and feelings towards your goats.)

Winner: Mary Nebert

Beautiful

Bashful

Curious

Cautious

Delicate

Deliberate

Gentle

Generous

Loving

Lewd

Mischievous

Maddening

Athletic

Energetic

Sure Footed

Trusting

MY GOOD FRIENDS!



Judge This Class



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

In the November Newsletter this class was presented for you to judge as an aid to help you with evaluation of your goats. As a note, this judging is only my opinion and I am not a goat judge. However, we know how these goats placed as judged by an ADGA Dairy goat judge. Reasons and placings can be found on the next page.

Placing and Reason for Grade doeling class

Note: The class is shown on the previous page.

Junior doe classes are judged based on 1) general appearance (55%), which includes feet and legs, back, stature, front end assembly, and head and breed characteristics; 2) dairy character (30%) which looks for angularity including a long clean neck, prominent and smoothly blending withers, flat widely spaced ribs, and loose pliable skin; 3) body capacity (15%) which looks at size and scale for the age of the doe.

The top placing in this group is between doe (a) and doe (b). Doe (d) is an easy bottom of this class. Doe (c) is an easy third place in this group. Keep in mind this is a class of experimentals; therefore they do not need meet a breed specific characteristics.

Placing

Doe (a): I am going to place this doe at the head of the class based on strength of general appearance where she is level over the topline with a long dairy neck blending well into the neck. She has good feet and legs as viewed from the side. She has good tight elbows and a good front end assembly. She must grant a more ideal curve to the rear leg set as seen in doe (b).

Doe (b): This is a close placing to doe (a). She is relatively level over the top line with good feet and legs. She grants smoothness of blending over the shoulders but does not blend as well through the front end as doe (a). This doeling is approximately 2 months younger than doe (a).

Doe (c): This doeling has good feet and legs. We would like to see more curve to her rear leg set. The length of her chine not in proportion to the length of her loin resulting in the appearance of a "shorter coupled" doe. We would like to see a more level rump and tighter elbows into the chest wall.

Doe (d): This doe has a very weak back. It is easy to give this doeling the benefit of the doubt and think that curve in her back results from how she is being held. However, this is not the case for this doeling. We would like to see her more level over the rump as well as a more smoothly blended front end. The rest of the group must grant to the more ideal curve to her rear leg set.

We do not have rear or front images, so we judge them as we see them.

Hey, We are Talking to You! LISTEN!

Interpreted by Annette Bray

The bolt! How did that doe let herself out of the stanchion? The bolt is in the feedbox. Oh, so you pulled it out with your mouth. Show me! Wow! You can do it! Solution? Put the bolt in from the back side so she can't get her mouth over the head of the bolt.

Itchy feet! Where do you itch your feet? Oh, so you put your foot into the keyhole at the water-tank. It works just fine to get that itch between the hock and hoof. So that is why I have to keep changing water to get rid of debris. Solution? Let me know if you come up with an answer.

Bloody heads! What did you do to color your face red? Oh, you wanted to rule the herd! So you battled it out. Solution? Only the goats can solve the problem. May the best goat win. "I am the leader of the herd!"

Picky eaters! Why are there holes borrowed thru the hay? Oh, you say I was to eat all the hay. Well, I never save the best until last. I will only eat that poor quality hay if there is no other choice! Solution? Buy all good quality hay.

Water buckets! Why is no goat drinking much water? Oh, you say I must drink out of a beautiful green bucket, a red bucket, a yellow bucket. Humans like colored buckets. We goats don't. Solution? Buy white buckets and keep them clean. Then we'll drink more.

Still not thirsty! Why aren't you drinking much? I bought buckets. Oh, you forgot a necessary supplement. Solution? Buy loose selenium mineralized salt.

Noisy! Why are you making so much noise? Oh, you have so much to do before you get to us. We are hungry! We would like to be milked! We are in love! We just want TLC! Solution? Give lots of TLC as needed.

Golden straw! Why are you looking discontented? Oh, you say your bed needs refreshing. You like chilling out on that golden bed of straw. Solution? Clean the pen, then enjoy their contentment.

Toenails! Why are you walking down on your pasterns? Oh, I am trying to walk correctly, but I don't wear shoes. When your toenails are long, your shoes help you to know. But I can only hope you notice that my feet need a trimming. Then I can stand and walk as I should. Solution? Trim hooves once a month, even in the winter.

Love! Why do you love us? Why do we love you? Because we meet each others needs!!!

Paneer

This cheese is excellent for eating plain, but also makes a great tofu substitute. It does not melt, and can be used successfully in stir-fry or other recipes calling for tofu.

(contributed by Jennifer Ansley)

Heat 1 gallon of milk to 185°F (this recipe can be successfully halved or doubled).

Stir in ¼ cup white vinegar (In the winter months when there are higher levels of milk solids, add slightly more vinegar to precipitate out as much cheese as possible. If the whey is cloudy, add a splash more vinegar until the whey is a clear green color.)

Allow milk to stand for 15 minutes, stirring once.

Drain the curd into a cheesecloth lined colander for 1 minute.

Sprinkle lightly with Kosher salt.

Hang curds for approx 8 hours.

Cut curds into blocks and salt to taste with additional Kosher salt if necessary.

Refrigerate until ready for use.

Pesto Vegetables w/ Paneer

This recipe is adapted from a recipe in [1,000 Vegetarian Recipes](#) by Carol Gelles

1 T olive oil

1 c carrots

1 c onions

2 c colored bell peppers

2 c diced zucchini (1/4 inch pieces)

1 c diced yellow squash

2 c paneer (1 inch cubes)

¼ c pesto

2 T grated Parmesan cheese

Heat olive oil in large skillet. Add the carrots and onions and sauté 1 minute. Add the zucchini, squash, peppers and paneer; cook, stirring until softened, about 3 min. Add the pesto and Parmesan cheese and mix well. Serve over rice or couscous.