



The Bleat



EVENTS

February 18: SVMGA Meat Goat Consignment Sale - Halifax County at the Halifax Ag Center. 8:30 AM - 11 AM.

February 23: SVMGA Meeting - Halifax County, VA at the Halifax County Ag Center. 7 PM.

March 22: SVMGA Meeting - Halifax County, VA at the Halifax County Ag Center. 7 PM

April 14: SVMGA Farm Tour - details to follow.

April 26: SVMGA Meeting - Halifax County, VA at the Halifax County Ag Center. 7 PM

May 24: SVMGA Meeting - Halifax County, VA at the Halifax County Ag Center. 7 PM

June 28: SVMGA Meeting - Halifax County, VA at the Halifax County Ag Center. 7 PM.

July 26: SVMGA Meeting - Halifax County, VA at the Halifax County Ag Center. 7 PM.

August 23: SVMGA Meeting - Halifax County, VA at the Halifax County Ag Center. 7 PM.

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Wade at 7:04 PM. He welcomed all members and visitors.

A motion was made to dispense the reading of the minutes that were posted in the January newsletter. The motion was seconded and a vote was held. The vote carried.

Committee Reports:

Audit: David Hudson report that he, Ned Strange and Gail Kingman completed the audit for 2011. All the hard work that Gail does as treasurer is greatly appreciated.

Marketing: We will have a meat goat sale on February 18, 2012. Taking a count of the members present, we had about 45 goats for the sale. There was a question regarding advertising and if we should do it again for this sale. We spent \$180 in advertising for the last sale. Leah plans on doing a write up for the local paper. A motion was made by Fred Blackburn to have the marketing committee place an ad in the Roxboro, NC newspaper advertising our sale with a budget of \$75. The motion was seconded by David Hudson. After discussion a vote was held and the motion carried. There is one buyer interested at this time for our sale. Other buyers are being contacted. The sale is posted on Craigslist and Leah Brown has gotten a few calls from the Craigslist ad. There are flyers available to pass out for this sale. Please get them and place them in feed stores, etc. We will need vol-

unteers for the sale. If you are able to help, please contact Debbie Duffer. Our next sales are May and August at this time.

Programs: Donna Strange announced that Dr Sajac had to cancel for our February meeting due to her heavy teaching schedule. Donna is going to look to have Dr. Sajac come on a Saturday and see if she will teach a FAMACHA class for the membership.

OLD BUSINESS

The jack stand for the Spin Doctor has been purchased for the trailer. Fontaine Talley has used it.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg is looking for a better way to mark the goat panels so it is easier to take down and then put up. He has appointed Dave Snyder, Jason Geesaman and Leah Brown to look into it.

Bobby Conner with the Heritage Festival is looking for animals for the fair. Please let Leah know if you can help out.

Membership dues will be collected tonight.

Nominating Committee:

Bonnie Brown announced the recommendations for the 2012 panel which are:

President – Denise Hudson
 1st Vice President – Greg Wade
 2nd Vice President – Fontaine Talley
 Treasurer – Gail Kingman
 Secretary – Leslie Keck
 Member At-Large – Dave Snyder

After the presentation, Greg Wade asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Fred Blackburn made a motion to accept this slate of officers as presented to the membership which was seconded by Margaret Westervelt. After discussion, a vote was held. The vote carried and the slate of officers will be as presented by the Nomination Committee.

Bill Crews suggested we renew the Programs Committee budget for the year of \$300 for speakers. A vote has held after discussion and the vote carried.

The Treasurer's Report was read. [It posted on page 2 of this newsletter.]

Denise Hudson gave a presentation on her adventures of the farmers market and selling meat from her farm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully,
Leslie Keck
Secretary



DUES

Don't forget your membership renewal dues.

Only \$10!

Contact Gail Kingman.

Treasurer's Report

Balance October 27, 2011 **\$1,817.93**

Receipts:

Member Dues \$20.00

Disbursements:

October Newsletters \$12.11

Advertising Oct. Sale \$180.26

TOTAL \$192.37

Balance December 31, 2011 **\$1,645.56**

Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2012 **\$1,645.56**

Receipts:

Member Dues \$20.00

Disbursements:

None

Balance January 26, 2012 **\$1,665.56**

SVMGA Executive Board Meeting

February 13, 2012

The SVMGA Executive Board met at 11:00 AM. Present were Denise Hudson, President; Fontaine Talley, 2nd Vice President; Gail Kingman, Treasurer; David Snyder, Member At Large & Leslie Keck, Secretary. The frequency of the Executive Board Meetings was discussed.

Gail passed out the 2010 and 2011 Annual Treasurer Reports. Gail also discussed non-profit status for SVMGA. Gail will research this more and make recommendations for SVMGA.

SVMGA exposure and increasing this was discussed. Different ideas, events and workshop were suggested.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully,
Leslie Keck
Secretary

Polioencephalomalacia (polio, PEM) in Goats

By Dr. Curt Vlietstra
Pipestone Veterinary Clinic

As winter approaches and producers start to increase grain and forage quality decreases, I typically see more cases of polioencephalomalacia in developing ruminants. Whether as a refresher on knowledge you already have or adding to your growing level of wisdom, hopefully you find this information useful.

Polioencephalomalacia, which I'll simply refer to as "polio" for the rest of this article, is the scientific term for damage caused to the brain due to a metabolic disorder. You may be familiar with the term "thiamine deficiency" as well. This is essentially what causes the signs associated with polio because thiamine is responsible for carbohydrate metabolism, which ultimately provides glucose for the brain and other parts of the body. Goats are particularly reliant on one of the thiamine-dependent methods of glucose metabolism. The brain is usually the first noticeable organ to suffer from a shortage of glucose.

Signs of polio vary. Animals can show a slow progression that starts with being off-feed or a mild diarrhea. Because of the brain's reliance on thiamine, the central nervous system is affected and symptoms such as staggering, muscle tremors, apparent blindness and/or other eye abnormalities, and odd-posturing can be seen. In severe cases, animals will be lying on their sides with their heads pulled back and rigid limbs. Seizures, coma and eventually death in 1-2 days follow if treatment is not given. Because these signs can be seen with other diseases such as rabies, listeriosis, over-eating, tetanus, pregnancy toxemia, a host of toxicities, and others, it is difficult to observe an animal and say definitively that it does or does not have polio. Lab diagnosis is possible (speak with your veterinarian), but since



treatment should be initiated immediately, response to treatment often is the best means of diagnosing polio.

Healthy ruminants do not typically need any thiamine added to their diet. This is because the rumen microbes make enough thiamine (also known as Vitamin B1) for the body to function properly. Problems most typically arise when something the animal eats causes the rumen pH to drop. Sudden ration changes, over-feeding concentrates, underfeeding forages or using poor quality forages, moldy feed, stress such as weaning, feed high in molasses (often horse feeds), and certain plants can do this. As the rumen pH drops, the population of microbes in the rumen is altered, essentially leading to a loss in the "good bugs" and an overgrowth of the "bad bugs." The helpful microbes are those that make thiamine. The harmful microbes produce byproducts that degrade thiamine before it can be used by the body. The lack of thiamine leads to a glucose shortage in the brain, eventually causing death of certain brain cells. The speed and severity of the signs depends on how quickly brain cell metabolism stops and cells begin to die.

It has been well-documented that amprolium (Corid®) used to treat coccidiosis can lead to an increase in polio cases if it is not dosed properly.

Amprolium does not necessarily drop the rumen pH, but it can prevent thiamine from being used by the body. Also, oral antibiotics are believed to increase the likelihood of an animal getting polio. It is thought that the mechanism is a direct alteration in the population of bugs in the rumen (the antibiotics don't discriminate between killing good bugs or bad bugs) leading to decreased thiamine production. Finally, high levels of sulfate in the diet cause polio-like symptoms and polio lesions in the brain. Mis-feeding, high-sulfur water sources, and some urinary acidifiers (NOT ammonium chloride) can be the culprits of high-sulfate diets. Testing the feed or water is always a good idea when polio is seen in many animals in a short period of time.



Thiamine is the only treatment, and it must be prompt. The recommended dose for thiamine is 10 mg/kg of body weight. The 200 mg/ml thiamine that I carry in my truck is quite common, and this dose would equate to 1/2 cc per 20 pounds of body weight, or 2.5cc per 100 pounds. If possible, the first dose should be given IV. Follow-up doses can be given every 6 to 12 hours for a day or two, and may be given IM or SQ. If you can't get thiamine, you can substitute a higher dose of Vitamin B complex (make sure it's not Vitamin B12). The high level Vitamin B complex has 100 mg/ml, so the dose would be 1cc per 20 pounds or 5cc per 100 pounds of body weight. Dexamethasone may help improve signs

by reducing inflammation in the brain, and can be given in the same syringe with thiamine (and the same volume of thiamine if using the 2 mg/ml dexamethasone). If the thiamine is given IV, response can be seen in a few hours. Most of the symptoms can be completely reversed, although blindness can be permanent.

Prevention should be focused on management, not dietary supplements. There is some literature that mentions thiamine before stressful events or in herds where polio is a problem. Dietary supplements are available, but if management does not change, the causes of the pH drop are not addressed, and there will simply be more thiamine for the bad bugs to degrade. Supplements may slow the progression or help some of the sub-clinical animals that have poor appetites and diarrhea, but they aren't meant to cure sick animals or completely prevent this disorder.

The bottom line is that polio is not an infectious disease. Due to the array of causes, it is almost impossible to completely prevent all polio cases. Good management will limit the number of times you have to deal with it, and prompt treatment will greatly increase your odds of success.

From www.sheepandgoats.com

Welcome To Our New Members!

Todd Isom - Keeling, VA
 Terry Kaviani - Rocky Mount, VA
 Michael Kelly - Gretna, VA
 Alvin Newcomb - Saxe, VA
 Tony Powell - Scottsburn, VA
 Robert Richards - Rustburg, VA
 William Slagle - South Boston, VA
 John Thornton - Amelia, VA
 Tim Willis - Randolph, VA

CLASSIFIEDS

Herd Disbursal Sale: Due to issues of personal health, the following are for sale: 24 excellent female goats – most pregnant, due March 2012, five months to five years in age. Some 100 percent boer. Some goat panels. 12+ black round feeders. Six blue half-barrel feeders. One gray metal feeder – five feet long. One metal hay feeder – five feet long. Several extra chargers. Call Sally Evans at 434-476-1047 and leave message.

For Sale: Live Stock Guard Dogs. Great Pyrenees puppies born on Thanksgiving day, all shots and wormed. Three females and 3 males. Rasied with goats. Contact James at 434-221-5684 or jlbarbour@embarqmail.com

Magic Goats For Sale: OK, they're not really magic, but they're so cute they could be. These Nigerian bucklings are \$75 each and will be weaned by mid December. They can also be banded if the buyer wishes. Contact Denise Hudson at 434-753-9327.

Donkey For Sale: Miniature donkey gelding, 9 yrs old, has been with goats for 5 years and an excellent guard. \$275. Call David Troyer, 434-454-6234.

For Sale: Nice kiko bucklings for sale. Call Don Maddox at 434-946-7344.

For Sale: Orchardgrass square-bale hay for sale, \$3.50 per bale. Call 434-542-5462 or 434-401-3589. Discount on large quantity - you pick up.

For Sale: High percentage Boer doelings and bred does. Contact David Troyer, Halifax, VA. 434-454-6234.

Boer Buck for Sale: Two year old registered fullblood buck. Big bodied wide chest. Asking \$300.00 call 434-221-5684 for more information.

For Sale: Young Boer Does For Sale: Born March 2010, (7)off-springs of(2)registered 100% Bucks. Excellent structure in appearance and with long bodies. approx. 60-70lbs. Good for just starting out, asking \$200.00/ea. Discount for two or more. Henderson-Bates farms, Larry Bates, 703 409 8173, Buffalo Junction, Va.

Livestock Guardians For Sale: New litter of Pyrenees X Karackachan pups ready for Thanksgiving. Born and raised in the goat lot. Acclimated to goats, sheep and horses. Contact John D. Smith at Caprine Genetics for more information. E-mail: jstrider01@netscape.com Cell: 804-731-8512.

Nice buckling for sale: \$200 – born early March. Buck 100 percent (EGGS line one generation removed) and doe is 75 percent or more. Discount for members. He is a nice buckling. Would be good for someone starting out. E mail for pictures. magnoliafarm@dishmail.net

Kiko Goats for Sale: AKGA registered, yearling and older, Kiko bucks for sale. A few does available, also. Great Pyrenees X Anatolian guard dogs, ready to go to work today. (Wormed and shots), Caprine Genetics, John D. Smith, 804 731 8512, Petersburg, Va.

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA MEAT GOAT ASSOCIATION

The Southern Virginia Meat Goat Association (SVMGA) was established to improve the economic viability of the meat goat industry in Southside Virginia through the development of cooperative marketing strategies, consumer and producer education and overall herd improvement.

SVMGA OFFICERS

Denise Hudson

President

434-753-9327

HUDSONHERITAGE@AOL.COM

Greg Wade

1st Vice President

434-941-2963

M. Fontaine Talley

2nd Vice President

434-585-2447

Leslie Keck

Secretary and

Newsletter Editor

757-630-1422

LESLIEKECK@YAHOO.COM

Gail Kingman

Treasurer and

Membership Info

434-376-9645

GAILKINGMAN@HOTMAIL.COM

Meetings

Usually the fourth Thursday of each month at the Halifax County Agricultural Marketing Center. But make sure you check the calendar for changes.

LAMB STEW WITH MASHED POTATO CRUST

Ingredients

3 American Lamb shanks
1 cup flour
1/4 cup chile powder
1 Tbsp. kosher salt
1 Tbsp. cracked black pepper
1/4 cup olive oil
1 cup diced onions
1 cup diced celery
1 cup diced carrots
6 cloves garlic
1 cup white wine
4 cups beef broth
2 sprigs thyme
3 sprigs rosemary
2 bay leaves
4 to 5 Yukon Gold Potatoes, peeled and quartered
3 cups heavy cream
4 oz. unsalted butter
6 roasted garlic cloves, pureed
Salt and pepper to taste

Lamb stew

Mix together flour, chile powder, salt and pepper. Roll lamb shanks in this flour mixture.

In a large roasting pan, heat oil; sear shanks. Add onions, celery, carrots and garlic; continue to sear. Add wine, broth, thyme, rosemary and bay leaves. Bring to a boil; reduce to a simmer and cover. Cook for 2-1/4 hours, turning shanks occasionally, until meat is very tender.

Pull meat from the bone; continue to simmer over low heat until stew thickens slightly. Strain the sauce from the bottom of the pan and reduce by half. Add back; cool.

Mashed Potatoes

In a small pot, boil potatoes until fork slides out of potatoes easily. While potatoes are boiling, in a separate pan, heat cream and butter until hot. Do not boil. Drain water from potatoes; place potatoes in mixer with paddle attachment. Add 1 cup cream mixture; mix until blended. Slowly add remaining cream while mixer is on medium speed. Add salt and pepper to taste.


Put lamb stew in oven safe bowl; top with warm mashed potatoes. Bake at 375°F for approximately 15 minutes, until stew bubbles over the side and potatoes are golden brown.

Source: <http://www.superiorfarms.com/pages/recipes.htm>

Southern Virginia Meat Goat Association

P. O. Box 699

Halifax, VA 24558



**Next
Meeting:
Jan. 26th
Annual mtg &
elections**