



The East Coast Pygmy Goat Club

HOOVES-LETTER

Winter 2009/10

Volume 1: Issue 4

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Note from the Editor

With the holidays over we can now focus on spring. Before we know it babies new babies will be on the ground and the show season will be well underway.

In a side note, we would like to send our sincere condolences to Fran Bishop and her family for the loss of her husband, Kevin, in November. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Enjoy the Newsletter!

From the ECPGC President...

Happy New Year to all of you! 2009 is now behind us and 2010 is now our future. I am convinced that 2010 is going to prove to be bigger and better for the members of the East Coast Pygmy Goat Club. As president I am extremely pleased to see that our membership is growing rapidly. I am honored to see so many wonderful, compassionate and knowledgeable pygmy goat enthusiasts joining our club. I thank all of you for your willingness to lend a hand when needed, share your knowledge with those in need and most importantly having fun and promoting the Pygmy Goats that we are all so proud of. Thank you all for your involvement and dedication to making this club the number one club on the East Coast!

Our "DREAM" for the ECPGC was to have a club that would not only be a club hosting shows but a club that would educate, promote the pygmy goats, focus on the youth and offering educational seminars for the inexperienced as well as the experienced pygmy goat breeders. In 2009 I am confident that we followed through with our promise. I would like to thank Debbie McGhee for her educational breed seminar at the 1st Annual Cynthia Malmrose Show and Tammy Riggins for coordinating our youth show which was a huge hit and we had a HUGE turnout. There were children of all ages from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey that attended!!! ECPGC expresses a huge "thank you" to all the folks that brought items for the silent auction tables. Your generous donations were certainly appreciated and raised the bar for our club! I know that as the years pass we are going to become bigger, better, stronger and will be the most respected educational club on the East Coast.

ECPGC is planning to sanction two Pygmy Goat Shows in 2010. At the moment, the executive board has been working very diligently trying to locate a facility to hold our Summer 2010 show. There are several facilities that we are researching that show a lot of promise. Our 2nd Annual "Cynthia Malmrose" show will be held in September 2010 at the Hemmer/Muller residence, Chestertown, MD. We are honored to say that two wonderful judges coming from the west coast will be judging our show- Tammi Josephson (Pygmy Goats by TJ) and David Wortham (Daworth Pygmy Goats). Tammi and David have also been so kind to do a training Seminar on Saturday night. The future of ECPGC is shining and our club would not be what it is now if it wasn't for you, the members. This is your club and we need your input. I am wishing you the best of luck and a wonderful kidding season in 2010.

Michael O'Kelly
ECPGC President

Bronze Wether Raffle Winner!

Congratulations to **Cole Davis**
of **Milford, DE**-
winner of **Simple Necessities**
Inder
in the November raffle!



Don't miss out! Membership dues are due
February 1, 2010!

Membership forms are available on the
club website:

<http://ecpgc.yolasite.com/>



Upcoming Show: The 2nd Annual Cynthia Malmrose
Memorial Show

September 18, 2010 at Knee Deep Farm in Chestertown, Maryland

Judges: David Wortham and Tammi Josephson

Showmanship and Unregistered classes to be included.

For more information contact:
Stefany Hemmer
stefany@joplinrotts.com or 410-703-8257

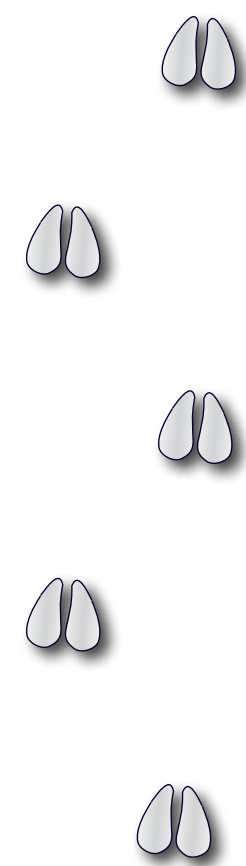


Photo submitted by Gail Brinkley. Thanks Gail!

Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning

By Maxine Kinne

Reprinted with permission

The stork brings active, healthy kids most of the time, thank goodness. There are some basic things we can do to help them into the world and start them off right.

Be prepared! Kidding shouldn't come as a surprise. A healthy start begins in clean, dry, freshly-bedded privacy with supervision to make sure everything goes OK. If it doesn't, it is very important to intervene before a situation becomes critical. When a healthy doe gives birth easily, and in a good environment, most neonatal problems are due to chilling, starvation and bacterial infections.

Get Kids Breathing

Some fetal membranes are very tough, and the kid arrives like a gift inside a balloon. Break the membrane so the kid can start breathing as soon as it is born. Rub its face with a towel for stimulation, and stick a piece of straw up its nostril to make it sneeze. You can pinch an ear or the tail to get a few good yells out of the newborn. A little sneezing and hollering helps inflate the lungs. If a kid has trouble clearing its airways, pick it up by the hind legs and hold it upside down for a few minutes. A dark red or purple color of the gums is a sign that the kid is has been oxygen deprived. This symptom resolves with time.

Protecting Against Germs

As an extra hygiene precaution, I place a clean towel behind the doe for each kid's arrival. No kid is allowed off of the towel until its navel is dipped in 7% iodine. This helps prevent serious bacterial infections in early life. Iodine should be applied to the entire cord up to and including the belly wall. Use a small container for the iodine, like a plastic film canister or a baby food jar. Lower the kid's umbilical cord into the iodine, hold the jar against its tummy, and turn the kid upside-down to coat the umbilicus. I like to repeat this procedure when the kids are about one hour old.

Chilling

Cold-weather delivery, dystocia, and hypoglycemia can all contribute to reduced body temperature in newborns. Chilled kids won't eat, nor will the mother want them to. Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) can develop because the kid won't eat. These conditions are usually avoided if the kid eats soon after birth. Chilled kids are lethargic and depressed. Feel the temperature inside the kid's mouth with your finger. If it feels cool, artificial heat must be used to raise its temperature to 102° F.



You are only 98.6 degrees, and it's impossible to warm a kid sufficiently inside your coat. Place the kid in a cardboard box and wrap a heating pad (medium heat setting) around it. If you can't get the pad around the whole kid, lay the kid on top of it. Cover the kid with towels to retain the heat. Thirty to sixty minutes of supplemental heat should do the trick. When the kid's temperature approaches normal, it should become more active and alert and display interest in finding something to eat. Electrical cords are very hazardous - don't leave the mother goat alone in the same area with the heating pad, or she may bite into it and electrocute herself.

Hypoglycemia and Starvation

Kids are born with very limited energy reserves in the form of brown fat. They must eat soon after birth - the sooner the better. Without food in the tummy, body temperature goes down and the kid becomes hypoglycemic. Without your help, the kid's condition will advance to depression, lethargy, coma and death. The best way to prevent this is to make sure the kid eats as soon after birth as possible.

A keratin plug in the streak canal of each teat is nature's way of protecting the udder against bacterial invasion. Remove the keratin plugs by milking one or two streams of colostrum out of each teat to be sure milk is readily available.

Colostrum is the thick, yellow "first milk" present in the udder when the doe gives birth. It is rich in maternal antibodies that protect kids against disease during the first few weeks of life. Kids absorb colostrum antibodies through the intestinal lining. The body's ability to assimilate these antibodies begins to decline within two hours of birth. By the time a kid is 24 hours old, the gut can no longer absorb the large molecule antibodies.

After Day One

Because goats are relatively independent at birth, kids need to be socialized within the first four days to be tame and friendly. You will need to have their trust before you do all the rotten things to them listed below. The down side of friendly kids is that kids constantly swarm you and become proficient at untying shoelaces, or at least slobbering all over them, at very early ages. Handle them gently and often in those first few critical days.

Vaccinations need to be given at appropriate intervals, depending on your style of herd health management. Clostridium perfringens Types C & D and tetanus toxoid are the most essential of these. Some manufacturers combine these two, and that type of combination is called CD/T. Kids may need additional vaccines if the dam was not given prenatal shots three to four weeks before delivery. Talk with your veterinarian about giving injections of selenium if you are in an area of the country deficient in this trace mineral. Additional vaccines can be given for specific problems within a herd.

Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning by Maxine Kinne (cont'd)

Timing Basic Vaccinations	
Pregnant Does (30 days before due) 1 dose CD/T	All Adult Goats (annual) 1 dose CD/T
Kids from Immunized Does 1 dose CD/T @ 4 weeks 1 dose CD/T @ 8 weeks 1 dose CD/T @ 12 weeks	Kids from Non-Immunized Does 1 dose Tetanus Antitoxin @ birth 1 dose CD/T @ birth 1 dose Tetanus Antitoxin @ disbudding 1 dose CD/T @ 4 weeks 1 dose CD/T @ 8 weeks

Disbudding is much easier on kids from 7 to 14 days old than on older kids. The success rate, defined by regrowth of scurs, is very good when they are disbudded at this age by someone who is proficient at it.

Castration method and age varies with the herdsman's personal preference. I like to castrate at 10 to 12 weeks old, giving the plumbing a little extra time to grow, which may help to avoid urinary calculi. If you have success neutering at other ages, you have found the right answer for your herd.

Coccidia and worms can be very harmful. Young kids are very susceptible to these and external parasites because their internal and external tissues are tender and succulent. It is a good idea to deworm the doe on the day she gives birth to reduce the number of oocysts in the barn and on the premises. Toward the same objective, it is advisable to treat does in late gestation for coccidia. Length and timing of coccidia treatments in pregnant does depend on which product you use. As the kids grow, monitor coccidia and worms with fecal analysis and treat them as needed. Regularly examine young kids for biting and sucking lice. Louse and tick powder labeled for cats is safe to use on young kids.

Food and Water

When there are too many goats for the amount of feeder space available, kids are the first to suffer. A separate area, called a creep feeder, can be situated in a corner with a feeder inside so the kids don't have to compete with adults for food. Kids often begin to pick at fine hay within a few days of birth and should have the best. A very small amount of grain can also be offered in the creep feeder or individually.



Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning by Maxine Kinne (cont'd)

Like all goats, kids like to jump up on things, and they don't recognize the danger of a water bucket or trough. The first jump into one may well be the last. Use water troughs with vertical walls under 10". If they jump or get pushed in, they can get out. A death like this is a tragic and unnecessary loss.

Weaning

Kids should remain with their mothers until they are a minimum of 10 weeks old. The kid is born without a functional rumen and must be eating enough to sustain itself before weaning time. In these first weeks, the kid also begins to learn how to function within the herd. The stresses of weaning are great, as the kid is removed from her mother and the nutrition her milk has provided up to this point. Keep a close eye on internal parasites, as the kid can be quite prone to them during this stressful time. I never wean kids - they nurse until the mother gets sick and tired of them.

Many kids that seem to do poorly within the first few critical hours can be saved with a little extra attention. For their first three months of life, a good herd health program aimed at prevention paves the way to a darned good chance at a long, healthy life.



IT'S THE WATER

By Dr. Kay Orlando, DVM

During our long, cold, wet winters, water availability for our goats is sometimes taken for granted. When water is constantly falling from the sky in various forms, it may be hard to realize that our barn-bound goats may not be drinking enough. When the weather is hot and dry, we all make an extra effort to make sure that the herd has fresh cool water. But in the winter, diligence is just as important. If the water supply is outside the barn, goats may not venture out for water in the weather is particularly wet and windy. When outside temperatures dip below freezing, water supplies freeze over and become inaccessible.

Certain groups are particularly susceptible to water deprivation. All goats (all ruminants) need a considerable amount of water daily for the large amount of saliva that is produced for rumination. But older animals with marginal kidney function, need even more available water to make sure that their body wastes are eliminated by their kidneys. Lactating does need increased amounts of water to meet the needs of lactation. And male goats (wethers or bucks) need adequate water consumption to insure urinary health. When less water is consumed, the urine becomes more concentrated. Dissolved minerals have a tendency to precipitate out more easily in concentrated urine producing urinary calculi (bladder stones). Just a day or two of decreased water intake can create problems in susceptible groups.

If the water supply is outside the barn, offer a bucket of water on stormy days. Goats are reluctant to venture out when the weather is wet and windy and gladly accept a water source out of the weather.



When the temperature dips below freezing, automatic waterers do not work and water tanks and buckets freeze over. Tanks and bucket heaters are available from farm suppliers. A tank heater will keep the water temperature above freezing. Be sure the electrical cord is installed to prevent any exposure to the goats. Keeping water buckets clear of ice can be accomplished by removing the ice that has formed (a pancake flipper works well) and adding hot water to the bucket. If the barn does not have a source of hot water, use a bucket warmer or old "perk-type" coffee pot to heat water. Carrying hot water from the house is another alternative. During very cold spells, water tubs and buckets may have to be "de-

iced" more than once a day. By attending to the water needs of the goats during our inclement winter weather, complications from decreased water intake and ensuing stress can be eliminated.



ECPGC Account Balance

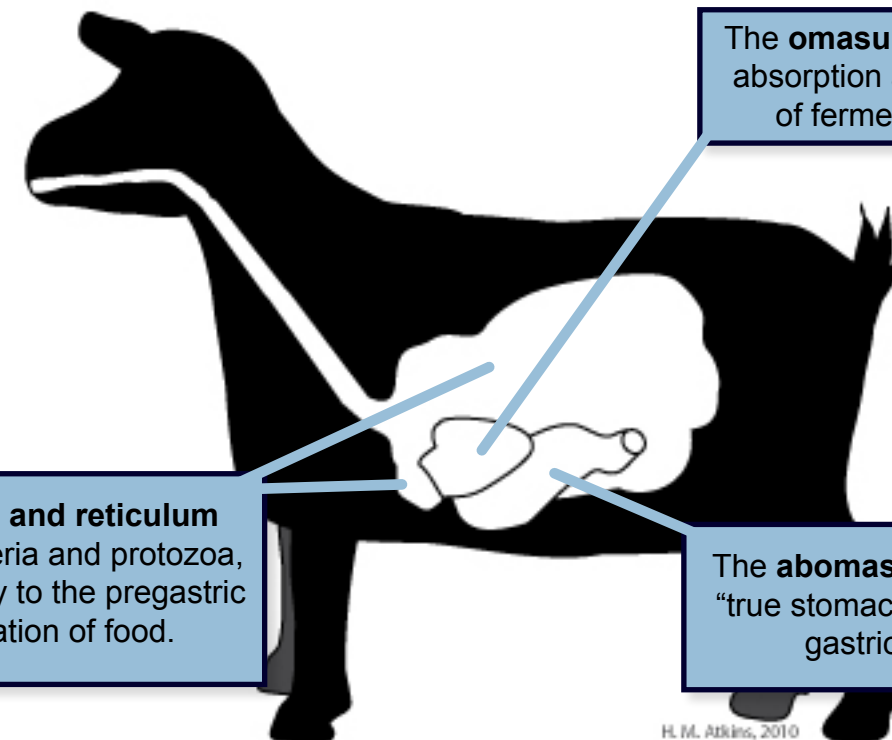
For the period of 12/01/09-12/31/09.

Beginning Balance:	1,449.09
Deposits:	250.00
Checks:	00.00
Final Balance:	1,699.09



Did you know?

A goat's stomach is made of four chambers: the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum.



The **omasum** is important in water absorption and further refinement of fermented food particles.

The **rumen and reticulum** contain bacteria and protozoa, which are key to the pregastric fermentation of food.

The **abomasum** is also known as the "true stomach" because this is where gastric acid is produced.



Pygmy Goat Kid Word Find

Answers in the next newsletter!

E Z I Y E N U T V A U W O N A G Q E Y N O N N A C I A N S J
 W S N J L A C E L B E D S U U T T L A R E N I M S L I R M U
 R Z U A R I I A D T H H D F B M P D E M W S O K F N E U Q D
 U R Y N A R J T H Q A D I E L R K O K W N A O P M H I D R G
 D H L N G A D E Q M A U Q V R P B C J L R C J I T D Y R N E
 D A S K U N R J P H B N I I O U U J D P W B L I I M T I D C
 K P O L L I R O T E T A N U S B J W C W E N W R G H B N E M
 J C W I K R O R K A F K S K D K D H Q O S I T Y Q T Y S M G
 Q I W S K E O N X L R S R W Q G N Y Q Z N S P J U L P V O W
 L N E F G T W E F T D H D I K N L E B B O T Z E X E Z H P W
 Q W J D G E A G U H A S T R B U Z E E L Y R T Z P W O Q B J
 E V M U U V Z W B Y R I D Y E M V D O J X N O Y E C R D E J
 M S V U P R V K B T P J I L L N G C P T I R J B X F W G K W
 U F C V Z I E E I L P C I H L X I Z P F C E Q A X F V Y U N
 D T M U H O S P M F C U G C Y F F M V I V T O L M J I I J W
 I T L O T H Y X X J Z N F D B R N F A P H S B V E L Y J H O
 E Y O Z T C R I A H W S J Y A R R Q R T Y A M Q W G H H X R
 I F R K T L H S P Y Z Y K B N H I V J R I P T O C Q V M M C
 J I B O C P A E W Q E U Q N D L G S M P A V T A H L U S X P
 V M Y G K F X P O H F B V S V D E F X Y L H C J O M S W M G
 J D B S P Z I Q H N V A C C I N A T I O N D V T R G Z L N W
 E Q S F U A C P S H Z F V E O V J F S Q G A G R A I N A P P
 L P K A W O H K Y T O G P R N L J P X H W Y P I C J G J T J
 W E P M Z O M D H C X Z Q R O Z L Y D H T D G C D M V T C Z
 I G S H N T L P T G T X Y Z L P V A X K X T W K M N G P Z E
 F Y N X B U F K Z H U D G C A B W M R L G F U L O O X T U L
 V S F X Y K H A K P G C U Z K F Z X N R M Z P O V I W E W S
 D I Z W R A C J Z C J I I A L X Y L J V P O Z K Y T F R J B
 V F R H T D G V O I X J E N Z R H L J G R E V D K B C S Q W
 U U G S D F A R Z X L A D H A L H X K S H Q I W J Z K J D E

- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|---------|--------------|
| BELLYBAND | ESCUTCHEON | HEIGHT | POLL | VACCINATION |
| BUCK | FUN | HOOF | PYGMY | VETERINARIAN |
| CANNON | GOAT | JUDGE | SHAMPOO | VITAMIN |
| COLLAR | GRAIN | KID | SHOW | WETHER |
| COLOSTRIDIUM | HAIR | KNEE | TEAT | WITHERS |
| CROWN | HAY | MINERAL | TETANUS | |
| DOE | HEALTH | PASTERNA | UDDER | |



For Sale

Have goats for sale?
 Advertise them in the ECPGC Newsletter!
 E-mail goat names, photos, and information to:
 hma5010@psu.edu

Country Farms

Contact Michael O'Kelly, cfpymygoats@aol.com

Desert Suns Rosaleen (Doe)

Sire: PGCH Whirlwind Farms Copyright 2003

Sire: Desert Suns National Treasure

Dam: Desert Suns Frosted Amber

Sire: Desert Suns Maximum Exposure

Dam: Desert Suns Amaretto Rose

Dam: Desert Suns Elegantly Attired+

Whirlwind Farms Decade of Influence (Buck)

Sire: Whirlwind Farms Without Precedent

Sire: GRCH Whirlwind Farms Setting The Precedent

Dam: PGCH Whirlwind Farms Defined By Merlin

Sire: PGCH Whirlwind Farms Royal Copy

Dam: Whirlwind Farms Definitely Awesome

Dam: Whirlwind Farms An Awesome Classic

Dinsmore Farms

Contact Gail Brinkley, 269-695-5320, dinsmore_49107@yahoo.com

Dinsmore Farms Domino (Buck)

Medium grey agouti with white slash left side small white spot on left hind leg.

Sire: Dinsmore Farms Understated

Dam: Dinsmore Farms Clio



More For Sale

Knee Deep Farm

Contact Stefany Hemmer, Stefany@joplinrotts.com

Knee Deep Farms Tasha
Jr. Ch. Doe \$350.00

Sire: LBP Black Night
Dam: RRH Natasha



Desert Suns Casino Royale (Buck)

Flashy caramel buck with a partial bellyband on right side. \$250.0

Sire: Desert Suns National Treasure
Dam: Desert Suns Crystale Royale



Knee Deep Farm Ebony Princess (Doe)

Black doe with beautiful structure. \$350.00

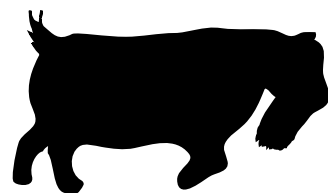
Sire: Lynbil Pygmy's Black Night
Dam: Meadow Valley Trixie



ECPGC! This is YOUR Newsletter!

Do you have something you would like to see in the newsletter?
A photo? A recipe? An announcement?

Suggestions? Comments? Technical Issues?



E-mail:
hma5010@psu.edu

"Thank you" to those who have contributed to this issue of the ECPGC Newsletter!



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ECPGC Mission Statement:

The East Coast Pygmy Goat club is a nonprofit club founded January 2009 by fellow pygmy goat enthusiasts. Our knowledge, dedication and compassion will be the key to our success within this club. Our goal of dedication is to focus on the future of the Pygmy Goat by educating the new members, promoting health, longevity and the welfare of the pygmy goat. As a club we intend to have shows, seminars on management, health, reproduction and other challenges. Join us in our compassionate endeavor. The East Coast Pygmy Goat Club welcomes all. Owning a pygmy goat is not necessary to be a member. We do ask that you share the same interest, dedication and enthusiasm in the welfare of the pygmy goats and the future of the NPGA.

Current Club Officers and Contact Information:

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Hannah Atkins

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Vacant

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ECPGC

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Winter 2009/10



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<http://www.goosemeadow.com>

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1355 Sanden Lane
Minden, NV 89423
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