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2012 IMGP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

By Katie Medema

“Try it, you’ll like it!” How many times have we heard this phrase while growing up? Granted a lot of the time it’s in relation to food, yet I think it can apply to a lot of things, especially 4-H. We are given a lot of options. Whether it is aerospace, livestock, wood-working, or anything in between, a 4-H’er can find something, they can delve into, hone their skills, and have pride in what they’ve accomplished.

Selection of projects depends on a lot of things. Perhaps it is something you’ve always wanted to try, or you have

friends that do it, or perhaps you have a good background in a specific area. In my instance I had huge family support in livestock, because my Mom had shown cattle all through her 4-H years and my Dad was a livestock producer; so it was a “no-brainer” to delve into showing animals. Early on I exhibited steers and heifers and kept my heifers for a cow herd, and then branched into showing goats. It didn’t take long for me to realize that goats were my favorite. Raising goats was logistically a plus simply because they were less labor intensive, and al-



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ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED

You are invited to the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Meat Goat Producers on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 3 PM at Bonanza, 1121 Hickox Drive, Lincoln, Illinois.

go to the IMGP Scholarship Fund!!!

- Attend the meeting and receive a \$5 discount on 2013 membership dues!!

Agenda:

IMGP Annual Business Meeting

Year in Review

Awards

Election of Directors

Meal & Raffle

Guest Speakers

- Meal (paid to restaurant)
- Bring canned food items that will be donated to a local food pantry!
- IMGP Fun Raffle
- Bring your new or gently used items for our raffle. Feed~Supplies~Books~Knick-knacks, does not have to be goat related.
- Tickets will be 6 for \$5.00. All proceeds

2012 SCHOLARSHIP CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

lowed me the opportunity to remain true to my needs at school and extra-curricular activities. It has been both rewarding and challenging at the same time; teaching me life skills in finance, work ethic, record keeping and responsibility that will be invaluable to me the rest of my life.

Exhibiting at fairs and expos has afforded my family and me a chance to travel and work together, meeting new friends everywhere we go. We tried to exhibit at most of the local and regional shows and at the State Fair as much as possible. I won some purple ribbons and then I was in a few classes where I was so far down I couldn't even see who was in first. It is all in how the animal looks on a particular day and who is judging. Competition in any species is fierce. Somebody once said that while most are dreaming of success, winners wake-up and work hard to achieve it. I am not sure this is totally correct as I think every "goat roper" does the best they can, there's just a lot of factors that involve getting in that 'winner's circle.' My family and I have had just as much fun at a fair where we did poorly as where we won. It's all in what you want out of it. Showing and caring for my livestock is fun, Richard Crowe said that "there's nothing like sitting back and talking to your cows (or goats)." Now I'm not sure what the circumstances were when he said this, he may have been poking fun, but to me it means something, I call it the real "old fashioned animal husbandry."

Through my 4-H years with the help of my brother, Kaleb, and my Mom, we've put together a nice herd of does hoping to make it a business or sideline in the future. Kidding is my favorite time of year, but also the most stressful. We reap the rewards when we see how the small kids grow and develop. Using different bucks and bloodlines, allows me the opportunity to improve my herd in areas that will enhance performance and quality. Of course it's not all a "bed of roses," and just like everyone else I've had to change my course or ask for help more than once. I've been so fortunate to have great friends in the industry that have been instrumental in my pursuit to success...Jay Hofer, Nan Walker, Kelly and Sally Mahan... THANK YOU...and my appreciation to so many others.

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NEWSLETTER REMINDER

The Classified Ads and Calendar of Events page is free of charge. Please contact us if you know of an event that is goat related. Include a brief description of the event, the date, location and contact information (no photos)

The IMGP newsletter is a "community project" and we try to compile helpful and timely news for the Illinois meat goat community. Your submissions are welcome and appreciated!

Newsletter Deadlines:

March 15, June 15
September 15, December 15

NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER

We reserve the right to edit your submission. We reserve the right to refuse any inappropriate submissions. Only those of a constructive and informative nature will be published. Please ask permission before reproducing IMGP newsletter content. Authors retain all copyrights, and privileges. The author's views do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the IMGP.

PAID ADVERTISING

Paid advertising is available from business card size to full page ads in the newsletter.

Business Card Size Ad (Calendar year 2011)\$15
Quarter Page Ad (One Edition)..... \$ 8
Half Page Ad (One Edition)..... \$16
Full Page Ad (One Edition)\$32

Ads must be submitted in JPG, GIF, TIF, PNG, or Microsoft Publisher format.

There will be an additional charge for designing ads. Contact: Nanette Walker at (309) 525-0033 or mckenzie0810@yahoo.com for assistance.

Checks can be made payable to IMGP and sent to Joe Schmidt at 3131 E. 18th Rd, Ottawa, IL 61350 ●

(Continued from page 2)

Showing goats and 4-H has made me the person I am today. The confidence and life skills I have gained will hopefully set me apart from the mainstream, giving me a jumpstart in my career. The renowned motivational expert, Napoleon Hill said, "Persistence, patience, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success."

I'm a freshman in the School of Nursing at Bradley University in Peoria, IL. Once earning my bachelor's degree in nursing and becoming a registered nurse I'd like to concentrate my efforts in pediatric oncology. As a farm girl I am aware of the agricultural world and recognize the hard work, integrity, and compassion for others that farmers hold so dear. Upholding those standards and spreading the good word about the values of agriculture in everyone's life will always be important to me. Someone once said if you are a good nurse, "they may not remember your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel." That's the kind of nurse I want to be.

With my brother Kaleb attending the University of Iowa, College of Business Honors program and my acceptance to Bradley it's placed an incredible burden on us to retain our goat herd and pursue our careers as well. Thank you so much for awarding the IMGP scholarship to me and making it just a little easier for all of us. We totally want to stay in the goat business and know that it won't be an easy task. To say we have taken money management and multi-tasking to a new level is an understatement, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

Thank you again for the scholarship and allowing me to share my story.

Katie Medema

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 12, 2013
IMGP Annual Meeting
Bonanza Restaurant
Lincoln, IL
3 PM
2013 Annual Meeting

April 6, 2013
Perfect Storm Wether and Boer Goat Sale
3 1/2 miles west of Chebanse, IL
Located at Exit 302 on I-57
Viewing starts at 8am, Two seminars this year featuring Evie Gates of Platinum Boers from Vinita, OK presenting a wether seminar at 11am. Mark Wellman from Biozyme, will be giving a seminar on Sure-Champ, and Vitaferm at 10am.
Sale time is 1PM central time.
Watch www.boergoats.com for catalog

April 13, 2013
Tri State Spring Production and Wether Sale
Greensburg, Indiana
Wethers sell at 10AM | Breeding Stock at 1PM

April 20, 2013
Purple Ribbon Showcase
Logan County Fairgrounds
1408 Short 11th St
Lincoln, IL
Purple Ribbon Showcase
FMI contact - Kerianne Short - 217/737-7373



Deric and Michael Wetherell at 2012 NAILE Show, KY

PERFECT STORM

MARKET WETHER & BOER GOAT SALE

SCHEDULE

Saturday April 6, 2013
 Viewing at 8:00 a.m.
 Seminars start at 10:00 a.m.
 FFA food stand opens at 11:00 a.m.
 Sale starts at 1:00 p.m.
 Catalog at www.boergoats.com

CONTACT

Rodney & Lori Meyer:
 Cell 815-791-5088 Home 815-697-3334
www.hillsideboergoats.com

DIRECTIONS

5611 W 8000 S Rd, Chebanse, IL 60922
 3 1/2 miles west of Chebanse, IL
 Located at Exit 302 on I-57



JACKPOT SHOW

Wethers purchased at Perfect Storm are eligible for over \$500 at the Perfect Storm Jackpot Wether Show



2012

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CAPRINE ARTHRITIS ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (CAEV)

Source: Aphis, Veterinary Services, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, May 2008

The complete publication can be accessed at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergingissues/downloads/prcaevinfosheet.pdf

PART I

What is caprine arthritis encephalitis? Caprine arthritis encephalitis is a viral disease of goats that is caused by the caprine arthritis encephalitis virus (CAEV). CAEV is a lentivirus, and one of several lentiviruses in the family Retroviridae. Other retroviruses are human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS in humans; maedi-visna virus of sheep; bovine leukosis virus of cows; avian leukosis virus of chickens; and simian immunodeficiency virus of monkeys.

What diseases are caused by CAEV? The multisystem diseases caused by CAEV infection are: arthritis, pneumonia, mastitis, weight loss (all of which are more common in does and bucks), and encephalitis (more common in kids).

What are some clinical signs that a herd may be affected by CAEV? A high percentage of CAEV-infected goats will not become symptomatic. For those goats that do become symptomatic, the clinical signs of CAEV infection vary, depending on the type of disease that is present. Arthritis is common in sexually mature goats. Goats will become lame either suddenly or more slowly, and the lameness will become progressively worse. The knee joints or carpal joints will become distended. Goats will lose body condition and develop a rough hair coat, which may be due in part to decreased competitiveness at the feed bunk. Labored breathing due to pneumonia may be present in both mature goats and kids. The mastitis is referred to as “indurative mastitis” due to the deposition of vast quantities of connective tissue in the udder as part of the immune response. During and after the kidding period, the udder will be firm and swollen, hence the term “hard udder.” Milk production will be low or completely absent. In a recent study of CAEV infection in a Pässeierer Gebirgsziege goat herd in Germany, weight loss was one of the most common signs.

Are the clinical signs different in kids versus mature goats? Yes. Encephalomyelitis, inflammation of the tissues in the brain and brain stem, is common in kids 2 to 4 months old. Initially,

affected kids will be lame, the gait will be wobbly and misdirected, and correct placement of the hind limbs and feet will become difficult. As the disease progresses, paralysis of both limbs on one side of the body, or paralysis of all four limbs will occur. Standing will become impossible, so the goats may lie on their sides and paddle in the bedding. Other signs are depression, walking in circles, head twitch, head tilt, exaggerated upward tilt of the head, exaggerated sideward tilt of the head, and muscle tremors.

Can goats rid themselves of CAEV infection? No. CAEV infections are persistent; they are life-long infections. After a goat becomes infected, it will always be infected, although the extent to which goats shed CAEV virus may not be constant during the infection.

Is CAEV infection widespread? There is substantial evidence that CAEV infection is widespread in the United States and in some foreign countries. Evidence of CAEV infection has been found wherever it has been sought, although the prevalence of the infection varies substantially among countries. CAEV was described first in the United States around 1980. Shortly thereafter, evidence of CAEV was found in other developed countries in Europe. Recently, there have been reports of CAEV infection in developing countries. CAEV was reported for the first time in Japan during 2004, and it was reported for the first time in Jordan during 2005.

Economically speaking, why should goat producers be concerned about CAEV? CAEV certainly adversely affects the health of goats. The quality of life in animals with signs of disease is decreased due to pain and disability. The extent to which it may adversely affect productivity is not as clear. Swiss goat producers reported that 5 to 10 percent of their goat population is culled annually due to arthritis, and the decrease in milk production in infected does was estimated to be 10 to 15 percent. Milk production, protein, fat, lactose and somatic cell counts were compared for seropositive and seronegative goats of similar ages in Norway. There were 1,799 goats from 66 herds included in this study. The values for infected and non-infected goats were similar. The one difference was that the somatic cell counts of 2-year-old infected goats were higher than the counts of 1-year-old infected goats. CAEV infection did not increase intra-mammary bacterial infections in Murcia-Granada goat herds in Spain, when herds with low prevalence of CAEV infection were studied. Loss of genetic merit was the greatest loss in a herd of Pässeierer Gebirgsziege goats in Germany during 1997–1999. 

Are there breeds of goats that are more susceptible than other breeds to CAEV infection? There is some evidence that Bedouin black goats in Israel are resistant to CAEV infection. The results of a survey of infection in 10 herds showed that CAEV antibodies were rare in Bedouin black goats, but antibodies were much more common in Saanen members of the same herds. The Saanen goats had been imported. A similar circumstance exists in sheep: the native Israeli Awassi breed, although susceptible to ovine lentivirus infection, does not develop clinical disease to which the CAEV-infected European breeds of sheep are so susceptible. These findings suggest that CAEV infection may be controllable by expanding resistant breeds, or by introducing the genes that are responsible for disease resistance. Because no vaccines against CAEV have ever been available commercially, an alternative method of control that should

What is the primary route of transmission of CAEV among goats? The major route of transmission of CAEV is consumption of virus-infected colostrum or milk from infected does. This is a natural route of transmission from does to kids, and it is a highly efficient route.

Are there routes of transmission to kids other than colostrum and milk? Not all CAEV infection in kids can be explained by ingestion of CAEV in milk. There are other potential routes of transmission that are not as efficient as colostrum and milk transmission. These potential routes are in utero transmission, birthing transmission, transmission via saliva and respiratory secretions during mothering, and accidental ingestion of colostrum from CAEV-infected does. The evidence to support perinatal routes of transmission is not as strong as the evidence for transmission via milk and colostrum.

Can infected does transmit CAEV to their unborn kids (i.e., is prenatal transmission possible?) There have been a series of attempts to find evidence to support prenatal transmission of CAEV. In a recent study, CAEV-infected cells were found in tissues along the entire length of the reproductive tract of does, including the oviduct, ovary, uterus, associated lymph nodes, and post-partum genital secretions. This strongly supports the possibility of prenatal transmission of CAEV. The current belief is that no more than 5 to 10 percent of kids may be born with CAEV infection.

What routes of transmission are of concern to mature goats? During the day-to-day management of mature goats, there are a number of routes of transmission that may be important. Several of these are related to the commingling that takes place in high-density goat herds such as dairies. Milking machines, contaminated hands and hand towels, leaky udders, contaminated tools (such as needles, tattoo tools and dehorning), estrous mucus, pre-

puce mucus, semen, and saliva and nasal secretions from bucks may be vehicles of transmission, although clear-cut evidence of transmission via these routes has not been established. Of 14 dairy goat herds that were studied in New South Wales, the herd with the greatest number of new infections was a herd with the greatest stocking density, no control measures, deep litter as the sole bedding, contamination of feed and water with feces, frequent introduction of newly purchased animals, and unrestricted use of tattoo, drench, and vaccination tools.

Can CAEV be transmitted in semen? CAEV was isolated from parts of the semen of experimentally infected bucks in 1998. However, it must be emphasized that the infection in these bucks was experimental, not natural. One year later in 1999, it was shown that semen from naturally infected bucks can become contaminated with CAEV. At the present time, there is no evidence that bucks transmit the infection to does via semen, but an appropriate level of caution must be taken by producers when using natural or assisted reproduction with semen from seropositive bucks. As pointed out earlier, transmission between bucks and does may take place by routes other than semen, and those routes of transmission (e.g., close contact) may lead to more new infections than the semen route.

What can be done to minimize the transmission of CAEV to uninfected goats? The underlying basis of most, if not all, CAEV control programs is prevention of vertical transmission first, followed by prevention of horizontal transmission. Prevention of vertical transmission refers to prevention of transmission from doe to kid(s), as an example. Prevention of horizontal transmission refers to prevention of doe-to-doe and kid-to-kid transmission. Preventing kids from nursing infected does and providing the kids with virus-free colostrum and milk prevents vertical transmission. There are a number of biosecurity practices that are recommended to prevent horizontal transmission. First, the producer and veterinarian should design a farm-tailored or herd-specific serological surveillance program. Any seropositive animals should be segregated or culled. Seronegative does should be milked prior to immunodiffusion (AGID) test, and it was available for several decades. Additional tests that are available to detect CAEV antibodies are the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), Western blot, and radioimmunoassay. At least two ELISAs are available commercially from United States companies. Virus isolation is used to detect CAEV virus specifically, rather than CAEV antibodies, and has been available for decades, just as the AGID test has been available. There have been numerous attempts to develop polymerase chain reaction (PCR) applications to detect the virus, but the results have not been consistent. Producers should consult their local private veterinary practitioner for assistance with laboratories that will provide diagnostic services for CAEV.

STRETCHING HAY RESERVES

By Anne Getzleman

2012 will long be remembered as the summer of drought in the Midwest. Its effects carried long through the summer with small hay yields, sparse pastures, and inflated grain costs due to a reduced corn crop and into the fall, with a scarcity of hay to even purchase. I know many of us livestock producers were forced to cull our herds heavily in order to make it through to spring pastures.

Small square bales of hay in my area are now bringing \$8.00



with whispers of \$10.00 per bale expected by January 2013. Wondering how I might stretch my precious hay stores it came to me one morning. So one morning while I was enjoying my morning cup of coffee, I watched as the goats emerged from the barn and immediately scoured the fence line searching for any leaves which had fallen from the trees and into their paddock to eat. So I wondered...I next raked up a bunch of leaves and tossed them into their pen and to my amazement they came running and began munching on them loudly as if they were popcorn.

So I wondered where could I get lots of leaves and how do I store them? My small town has a weekly leaf collection. The city folk drag their bags of leaves to the curb the night before pickup. Brian, my fiancé, drove the pickup while I walked ahead and first identified the type of leaf and then buried my arm deep into the bag to see if they were dry enough to store. I knew wet leaves could mold and possibly make my goats sick. My pickup can hold 15 bags of leaves before I must unload and return to town. I also asked my coworkers for their help. I provided them with leaf bags (\$1.88 for 5 at Walmart) which many filled and returned to me.

Now I have a good supply of leaves to stretch my hay stores but what kinds of leaves are safe and what amounts? I first called my county extension but they couldn't help me. So I next

tried several counties surrounding me and they also didn't have the answer for me. I even placed a call to the University of Illinois only to be told they no longer have a goat expert. I called Coni Ross a goat expert in Texas and she was helpful and told me many leaves are edible and provided me with a list of some which were toxic.

The most complete list of toxic plants and leaves came from Cornell University. Check out www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/goatlist.html

Reminder it is important to use them as a supplement only and not their only food source. Big changes in a goat's diet can throw off the flora (bacteria) in their rumen and cause it to shut down. Common sense is the key here. I still feed a good quality of hay, a complete goat balanced pellet, and use the leaves to stretch my hay.

As goat producers we are all trying to hold on until 2013, when the pastures will once again be waist deep, the hayfields will once again provide wagon loads of hay, and an abundance of corn to make our grain choice an economical one. And our kid crop to be born healthy and grow rapidly. As farmers we always look to the next year to be a brighter one. ●

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PRODUCERS SHOULD TEST, SUPPLEMENT WINTER FORAGE SUPPLIES

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WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Cattle producers should know the nutrient contents of their feedstuffs so they can be prepared to help their herds weather the coming winter, a Purdue Extension beef specialist says.

The majority of Indiana producers manage spring-calving herds, so cows are entering the last trimester of pregnancy, and nutrient requirements are increasing. The cold weather that typically comes with the season raises maintenance requirements to another level, Ron Lemenager said.

"If producers haven't analyzed their forages for nutrient profiles, they really need to do that so they can design a supplementation strategy that meets nutrient requirements in a cost-effective manner," he said. "Not meeting animal requirements could very easily cost the producer significantly more in lost calf performance and reproductive efficiency."

The best way to analyze forages is to send samples to certified forage testing labs. Producers can contact their local Purdue Extension educators or visit <http://www.foragetesting.org> to find a list of labs in their areas.

Lemenager said low-quality forages and short forage supplies, both concerns following drought, will require supplementation. Cold stress adds another dimension to supplement strategies in ruminant diets.

With lower hay inventories, some producers already have started to substitute corn stalks or corn silage. Lemenager said both alternatives have potential challenges this year if they were harvested too wet. He advised farmers to check their stacks and piles for tears in the plastic and bales for deterioration and mold.

"Spoilage and molding problems lower nutrient profiles, which reduces palatability and feed intake. More nutrient variability and lower nutrient profiles in this year's forage supply justify getting an analysis - from both economic and performance perspectives," Lemenager said.

He also cautioned farmers feeding forage alternatives to make sure they're providing essential nutrients to pregnant cows by adding the appropriate nutritional supplement. The amount and type of supplement needed depends on the forage analysis.

"Producers should be aware that if low-quality forages, such as corn stalks, are the primary feedstuffs, then some of the commercially available, self-limiting supplements might not be able to meet the energy or protein needs of the cow during late gestation and early lactation without additional supplementation," Lemenager said.

Lemenager also recommended providing herds with free-choice mineral supplements that fit with the rations they're feeding. For example, when feeding corn byproducts, which are high in phosphorus and low in calcium, producers need to feed a calcium mineral or add limestone to the diet.

"We can justify spending dollars to meet requirements to not only optimize performance, but also capitalize on higher cattle prices that will prevail over the next several years," he said. ●

WIU BUCK TEST CANCELLED

With some level of sadness, I regret to inform you that the 2013 Buck test at WIU has been cancelled. In addition, the university has no current plans to host CPT for meat goats in the near-term. The test facilities at WIU (particularly the measuring/recording system) require significant upgrading and the funds do not exist for this work.

I would like to voice my heartfelt appreciation for the support given me by each and every one of you since the start of testing at WIU in 2007. We have seen good growth in participation up to a record number of consigned animals in 2012. Unfortunately, even that level of embracing by production meat goat breeders is not enough to overcome the economic chasm that constrains testing in 2013 and beyond.

I heartily encourage each and every one of you to actively seek other facilities that may offer genetic testing in 2013 and support them energetically. In addition, I will begin searching for other midwestern universities that may have both facilities and interest in hosting tests for this area of husbandry.

Best Regards,
Paul Miller

FROM VICKI STICH, ABGA DIRECTOR REGION 9

We need every goat producer to respond to this because it's the only chance for us to get help getting drugs approved for use in goats. Below is a message from Tom Vilsack:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Very soon, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be focused on encouraging all farmers and ranchers to respond to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. All of us at USDA can be a part of this important process and I hope that you will help. The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years across our country's farmland and agricultural communities. USDA, those involved in agriculture, and many others use the results of the Census to make important policy and business decisions that impact people across our nation.

While the Census is particularly vital for folks in rural America, it's important to remember that well-informed policy decisions have a positive impact for all of us. Even for families in our biggest cities, a strong rural America means an abundant food supply, cleaner water, extraordinary outdoor recreation, and more. That's why it couldn't be more important to make sure that all of

our nation's farmers and farmland are accurately accounted for. NASS mails the Census of Agriculture in mid December with a return deadline of February 4, 2013. Here are three ways you can help now and through the next few months:

1. Use Census promotional materials. Click here to view the online materials available for the 2012 Census. Your state NASS field office can provide further materials and guidance.
2. Share Census facts with producers. Find FAQ's online to answer questions you may receive about the Census. Remind them that their information is totally confidential. The results of the Census show the strength and diversity of U.S. agriculture. It's farmers' voice, their future and their responsibility.
3. Encourage farmers and ranchers to respond. Remind producers they can easily and securely respond online after they receive their census form at www.agcensus.usda.gov

For questions or help completing their form, direct respondents to NASS at (888) 424-7828.

Sincerely,
Tom Vilsack



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- To promote a quality meat goat industry worldwide.
- To provide information to members with regard to breeding, raising, and marketing quality meat goats.
- To conduct shows and educational meetings for the benefit of members and general public.

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