

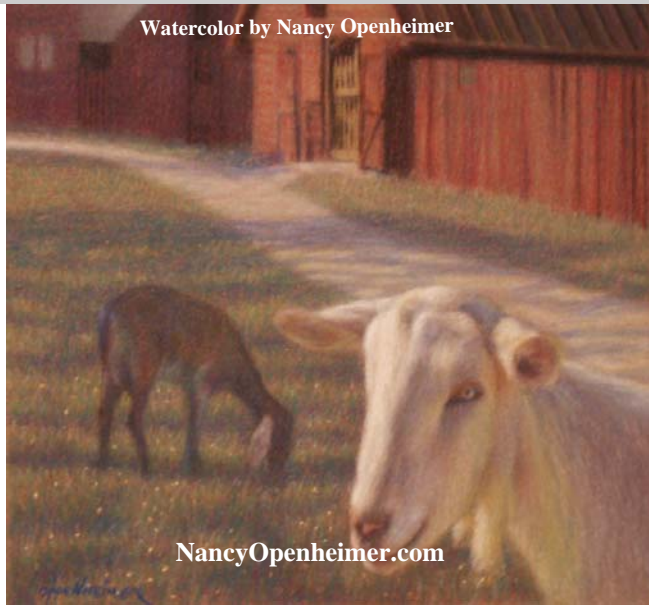
# SOUTHERN FARM NEWS

A Quarterly Publication of Southern Goat Producers Association

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 1st Quarter 2009

[southerngoatproducers.org](http://southerngoatproducers.org)

Watercolor by Nancy Openheimer



[NancyOpenheimer.com](http://NancyOpenheimer.com)

Record keeping is “smart farming” and can give you what you need for making future decisions...Start 2009 off with good intentions. Even though it can make you ill to think that you have to go inside and get down to the nitty gritty of executing a written plan...well, what can I say other than it is probably one of the best ways to create a written history of your farm and its animals, but better than that it enables you to be able to look at a glance and see any developing patterns.

Because of our hectic schedules here on our farm (there are four of us) that seem to send each of us in different directions, we had not thoroughly studied our farm birthing records anytime recently, other than to enter information about the eighty-six babies born in 2008. But as we had to refer to past records (too many animals to leave that to memory) to decide which buck to breed with which does, we looked at each animal's individual medical records. We began to see a definite pattern of why certain problems hap-

pened as they did and when they did. We learned that there were a few animals that we should have already culled or became aware of the reasons why two had died in the last several years.

It became evident that does that had medical issues at their birth, usually had only one kid at freshening or two kids with one of those having a similar health issue at birth. Either low birth weight or weak legs which revealed that selenium was not administered at birth or during the fourth month of gestation as most producers administer. Even though we do regular “hands-on” mini-physicals with our animals and practice stringent de-worming techniques here at Windy Hill Farm, we had missed the overall picture of one particular animal that was wormy during certain cycles within her life. There again, after looking at her records, we saw a pattern of why that doe did or did not respond to medications.

In order to keep accurate and complete financial farm records, including invoices, payroll and animal medical records, there are a lot of specific expensive software programs on the market. You don't have to sell the farm to find the funds to purchase specialty software programs. You probably already have something on your present computer...Microsoft with Excel and or Quickbooks or Quicken...that can be adapted to your individual needs – that is what we did and they work just fine. I feel like we saved hundreds of dollars by using programs (Quickbooks and Excel) that we already had and have saved thousands by having valuable history (farm) records that we can analyze.

Good Luck...and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Judy**

**NEWS FLASH  
SEE PG 10**

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**WE HOPE YOU ENJOY  
THIS ISSUE**

**Southern Goat Producer Association  
meetings are held on the 3rd  
Wednesday of each month!  
Check our website for program  
details and directions**

**SOUTHERN GOAT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Membership Application**  
*southerngoatproducers.org*

Southern Goat Producers' membership dues are payable in January, and run from January 1 to December 31 of the same year. Dues will be pro-rated by one-half the membership fee if the member joins on or after July 1 of the present year. Renewal payments must be received by January 15th of the membership year to be included on written materials.

*Please fill out only one form per membership. PLEASE PRINT*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership  or Renewal Membership

NAME (S): \_\_\_\_\_

FARM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (S): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Website address will only be included on the SGPA website if membership Level 3 is chosen.)

.....  
*Please select type of membership—Make checks Payable to Southern Goat Producers Association or (SGPA)*

**Level 1 \$20.00 Farm / Individual Membership (Includes 1 voting privilege.)**

**Level 2 \$10 Youth/Junior Membership (up to 18 years old) non voting membership - Includes a point system of rewards per level of interest and participation - see website for JUNIOR Details: [southerngoatproducers.org](http://southerngoatproducers.org)**

**Level 3 \$35.00 Farm / Individual or Family Membership (Includes 1 voting privilege for individual—2 voting privileges for Farm / Family) The information listed above will be in the SGPA Directory. At this level your website address will only be included in printed material.**

**Level 4 \$45 Farm / Individual or Family Membership (Includes 2 voting privileges) The information listed above will be in the SGPA Directory, and linked to the SGPA website. If you do not have a website, a color informational/ biographical one page webpage can be created for a small nominal fee. (contact Website or Newsletter Editor for details)**

**Level 5 \$75 Affiliate / Corporate Member (non-voting member) Information listed above will be in: 1] the SGPA Directory, 2] on printed materials, and 3] linked to the SGPA website. The \$75 fee will be waived with the purchase of a 1 year—1/2 page or larger advertisement in our Southern Farm News quarterly publication. Click advertising rates at [www.southerngoatproducers.org](http://www.southerngoatproducers.org)**

**Are you a member of any of the following associations?**

**American Boer Goat Association (ABGA, member # \_\_\_\_\_)**

**International Boer Goat Association (IBGA)**

**United States Boer Goat Association (USBGA)**

**American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA)**

By becoming an affiliate with the ABGA, SGPA will receive \$1 from the ABGA for each SGPA member that is also an ABGA Member. Thus the reason for the request for your membership number above.

*Please check all that apply:*

Show-ring enthusiast \_\_\_\_\_

Slaughter goats \_\_\_\_\_

Dairy goats \_\_\_\_\_

Breeding stock producer \_\_\_\_\_

Fiber Goats \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Commercial Producer \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Related Products \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM (We require a new form every year) AND RETURN TO:**  
**SOUTHERN GOAT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 237 , Pendleton, SC 29670**  
**OR If you have questions call: Scott Nickles, Membership Director—864 642 5537**

VISIT THIS SITE FOR HELPFUL  
ARTICLES AND IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
GOAT INDUSTRY:  
[www.southernngoatproducers.org](http://www.southernngoatproducers.org)



Toll Free: 1-800-841-8502  
Fax: 1-800-288-4376

**FLINT RIVER MILLS, INC.**  
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[www.frmfeeds.com](http://www.frmfeeds.com)

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District Manager

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CELL: 229-254-6454

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Nubians**

**Lois Ryan**  
Westminster, SC  
cell: 828-545-9888  
[lryan@carapacecorp.com](mailto:lryan@carapacecorp.com)

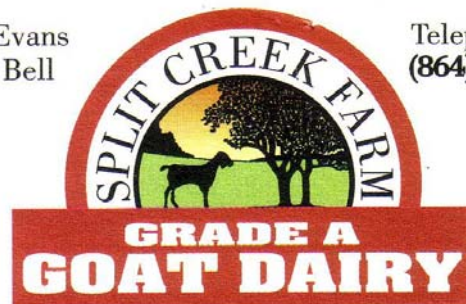
*The White Goat Studio*  
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Anderson, SC 29625  
864-314-2491  
[mendolar@bellsouth.net](mailto:mendolar@bellsouth.net)



Evin J. Evans  
Patricia Bell

Telephone/Fax:  
**(864) 287-3921**



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email: [info@splitcreek.com](mailto:info@splitcreek.com)

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**Judy Langley**



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OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON OUR SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS ~ SUPPORT THEM—SHOP WITH THEM

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS:**

**Southern Goat Producers Association WEB-SITE:**

[www.southerngoatproducers.org](http://www.southerngoatproducers.org)

Members list

Goat Links and Schedule of Events

**Mark Stevenson**, Clemson University Processing at 864 656 5167 or email: [jms@clemson.edu](mailto:jms@clemson.edu).

**Jeff Campbell**— SGPA member and owner of Eastanollee Livestock Auction  
864 449 4275 or [www.agriauctionservices.com](http://www.agriauctionservices.com)

**Judy Langley**, Editor, Southern Farm News,  
864 430 2265 or  
[judylangley@bellsouth.net](mailto:judylangley@bellsouth.net)

**Scott Nickles**, SGPA Membership Director  
864 642 5537

# Hochstetler's Country Store

1470 S. Walnut Street  
Seneca, SC 29678  
(Corner of Wells Hwy. & Friendship Road)  
Phone: 864 882 3040

**Grade A Raw Milk**

**Amish Country Cheeses**

*Bulk FOODS*

**FRESH SPICES**

Pepperidge Farm Breads

AMISH COUNTRY BUTTER

Country Hams

*Ring Bologna*

USDA NATURAL CHEVON

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& MORE!!!

Open Tues - Fri 9:00 - 6:00  
Sat. 9:00—5:00  
Closed Sun & Mon

# VISIT THIS SITE FOR HELPFUL ARTICLES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE GOAT INDUSTRY: [www.southernngoatproducers.org](http://www.southernngoatproducers.org)

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## *Kidding Season by Kathy Daves*

Kidding season is upon us, so let's get ready. Most does will deliver their kids without help, but you will always have one that will need assistance from time to time. Does carry their kids for about 150 days. Please...and let me say PLEASE AGAIN, make sure you keep records of when your does were bred and the date they kid out. It is very important to keep good records. The records that you keep on your does will let you know when the kids are due, knowing is a lot better than guessing.

**Does:** Your does should be in good physical health before breeding. They should not be over weight-that can cause problems to arise. They should be full bodied, muscles filled out, with a strong top line, the teats should be well formed, two teats per side with one orifice per teat. Before breeding your does check the teats for hard lumps, make sure that the does have not

had mastitis in the past. Mastitis can prevent your does from being able to nurse their kids.

**Stage I:** This is the first stage of labor, you will notice that the pin bone, which is the pelvis, will enlarge and look swollen. The vulva will look swollen and appear to be bright pink in color. At this stage the pelvis is starting to relax and contraction of the uterus and dilation of the cervix will take place enlarging the birth canal. It is common that this stage will take a complete day, so if you notice your doe starting Stage I of labor, it may take awhile. The water bag may appear at the end of this stage from the vagina.

**Stage II:** Get ready, start, go, now fun starts, the doe is actually in full labor at this point. You will notice her straining, pushing and pawing the ground more instinctually. You should see her abdominal muscle pushing or straining getting the kid into place

within the birth canal. The bag should at this point begin to be more visible. This stage of labor should not last more than one hour, if you notice she is pushing and no results are following, you may need to examine the doe. If you are not comfortable at this point call the veterinarian for assistance, you can never be too safe with your animals. Okay, we are going back to the point of seeing the front feet and the head resting on the two front feet within the back. As your doe pushes the kid will slowly begin to emerge from the vagina. Most does will bow as they push. Once the kid hits the ground the bag should break, the fluid will pour out and the doe should lick the kid. If the bag does not break or the doe does not begin to break the bag away from the baby face, please jump in and get it off the baby and start cleaning the mouth and nose so that the baby can breathe. The mother at this point will start calling the baby and lick-

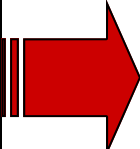
*Continued on page 10*



# SOUTHERN GOAT PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION

SOUTHERN FARM NEWS  
WWW.SOUTHERNGOATPRODUCERS.ORG  
**ADVERTISING RATES**

	1 Issue (1 Qtr.)	2 Issues (2 Qtrs.)	3 Issues (3 Qtrs.)	4 Issues (1 Yr.)
FULL PAGE	\$60	\$108	\$144	\$180
1/2 PAGE	\$30	\$ 54	\$ 72	\$ 90
1/4 PAGE	\$18	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 70
1/8 PAGE Bus. Card size	\$14	\$ 26	\$ 36	\$ 50



**BEST BUY:** 4 Issues of Full or 1/2 Page for 1 year delivers 25% off

**CLASSIFIED AD**—3 lines or 20 words—Minimum Charge \$7 (\$1.00 for each line over 3 lines)

**Conditions:**

1. All advertisements must be computer ready. (There will be an additional charge for artwork setup - \$5.00 minimum) To avoid errors it is best to send advertisements on a CD Rom.
2. The Southern Farm News reserves the right to revise, edit, or reject any and all copy.
3. There will be an extra charge for ad changes or alterations from the original copy.
4. The Southern Farm News will not be responsible for errors in advertisements. However, a reprint will state corrections.
5. Advertisement contracts are payable in advance for the entire period of the advertisement.
6. Color advertisements are available for an additional charge (min. \$50). (direct inquiries to editor)

Detach here and send with your advertisement

**ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT**

This contract is between the Southern Farm News and \_\_\_\_\_ (your name-please print).

I hereby agree to advertise in the Southern Farm News for \_\_\_\_\_ (# of) issues based on current advertising rates and schedules. Attached is \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover: (please circle one) 1/8 page (business card size), 1/4 page, 1/2 page, 1 full page advertisement, or Classified Ad. I have attached the required materials and art work for the advertisement. (Business card will be accepted for 1/8 page)

All conditions of the Southern Farm News Advertising Rate Schedule apply to this advertising contract.

SIGNED this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

SOUTHERN FARM NEWS  
Judy Langley, Editor  
southernfarmnews@bellsouth.net  
or  
judylangley@bellsouth.net  
864 430 2265 or Download from  
www.southerngoatproducers.org

\_\_\_\_\_



**Membership Drive .....**

Southern Goat Producers Association needs new members ... and to prove it ... as an extra incentive to you, the SGPA Board of Directors has approved one free business card size advertisement (4 issues) for you for every two new members you get to join.

Make sure the new prospects see the benefits of membership—show them your membership card that shows the advantages members have.

We already have four major events planned for 2009 and your Board of Directors is working on finding new markets for goat products. Our “Web Nanny” updates often which means new search engines will get new prospects coming our way. . .

**SOUTHERN FARM NEWS**

EDITOR Judy Langley

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES: Angie Craft

SUBSCRIPTION— FREE to members and at participating sponsors and advertisers

**CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

Email: southernfarmnews@bellsouth.net

MAIL: SOUTHERN FARM NEWS

329 HAMBY STREET

PELZER, SC 29669

Telephone: 864 430 2265

Include your name, mailing address and daytime phone number

\*\*\*\*\*

Southern Farm News is in no way liable or responsible for advertised products. Responsibility for advertised products and services lies with the advertiser. Southern Farm News will not knowingly publish fraudulent materials and is not liable for any damages arising from the purchase or use of any products.

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NEW & USED TRUCK TIRES  
TRUCK \* TRAILER REPAIRS  
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National Accounts Welcome  
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All goat people can easily relate to the following amusing quote ...

and incidentally, it is from our youngest member

*“It is really a good day when.....*

*Everyone stays where they are supposed to - and nobody gets the scours.”*

*Billy Carson*

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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3 POINT HITCH BOOM POLE  
\$85.00 Call for Details  
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Australian Shepherd Puppies—Mini,  
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Prices vary Call with questions?  
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100% Fullblood SA Boer Buck—  
Proven—GENTLE—good lineage -  
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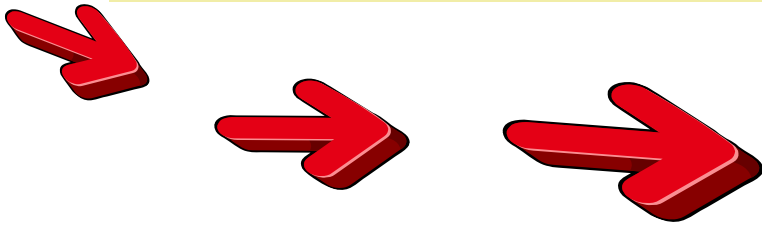
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**HAY FOR SALE**  
Fescue/Bermuda sq. bales and  
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**NEWS FLASH**  
**SOUTHERN GOAT PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION IS OFFICIALLY  
INCORPORATED AND A TAX EXEMPT  
ORGANIZATION**

(Continued from page 9)

ing it. Let nature take its course, do not interfere too much. It is important for the baby and the mother to bond. At this point you will want to make sure that kid is in a warm dry area, if your dam is not birthing in a barn. For the kid to start nursing their body temperature has to be at least 100 degrees, it is very important to make sure the baby is dry and warm to get off to a good start. A cold wet baby will not thrive. The first 24 hours of nursing is very important to your new baby. Colostrum is the first milk a dam makes after delivery. It is very thick and yellow, not like normal milk, Colostrum is the transfer of the mother's immunity to the kid, so you really want to make sure for the first 24 hours your little one nurses as much as possible. This is making the difference between a strong kid and a weak one. After the baby

starts to nurse you will want to weigh the baby and dip the navel in 7% Iodine. At this point I give a shot of Goat Serum 5 cc Sub-Q and three hours later give another shot of 5cc Sub-Q. You can purchase this from Hoegger Supplies or Furney Register @ register.goatsupplies.com.

Stage III: This is what we call the clean up stage, and this stage sometimes takes as long as two weeks before your does will clean out fully. After birth within a few hours you will see what is called the after birth or the placenta. If within 24 hours your does has not expelled this you will need to take more measurement to get her to pass it. You may need to call a veterinary for assistance. If you have on hand Oxytocin, this will cause the doe to go back into labor and expel the after birth. You will want to

give the doe 2cc IM. If you can not give an IM which is in the muscle, then under the skin will do, it just takes longer for the medication to start working. You will have to obtain this medication from your veterinarian, you can not purchase it any other way. After the after birth has been delivered you may notice some discharge from the doe for about a week. This is normal, as long as it does not have a foul odor or pus. If you notice this then start with a Penicillin or tetracycline right away. This can be given by injections Sub-Q. Read the label and give accordingly to weight.

There is a lot more we can or could cover, but this will get the first time farms started into their kidding season.

Good luck...

**BY Kathy Daves, DVM  
ABGA Judge**



SOUTHERN GOAT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION has recently seen a lot of positive changes and growth beyond their wildest expectations. With a new set of Directors in place, they plan to lead the membership through 2009; they have set up a clear set of goals to accomplish. Their basic philosophy is to work together with the best interest of mem-

bers at heart ... with education, of members and consumers, being their highest priority. They will sponsor several events throughout the year with emphasis on Youth related activities, community involvement, and sustainable farming habits. They have implemented a new and improved Mission Statement, with Visions, and Goals as follows:

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Southern Goat Producers Association is to promote goats as a viable farm animal for meat, dairy, fiber and pet/companionship purposes, and to encourage the improvement of goat breeding, goat husbandry, and marketing practices.

## VISION:

SGPA vision is to see that our producers always have a market for their products, period.

## GOALS:

SGPA goals are to work as a congenial team to:

- 1) create new markets for goat products,
- 2) designate a special team to educate consumers about the benefits of goat products,
- 3) urge our members to become SC Certified Grown,
- 4) educate the public about goat products,
- 5) educate goat owners about goat husbandry,
- 6) sponsor at least three events annually,
- 7) work to get goat meat into mainstream markets,
- 8) get importers to recognize Southern Goat Producers Association as being able to supply part of their demand
- 9) learn sustainable and conservation habits and assist our members in implementing those measures, and
- 10) develop a progressive Youth Program

The Association membership meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month. The January 21, meeting will be exciting...they have plans to reveal "Their Plan of Action" for 2009. This progressive group has many great ideas to get more goat meat into the mainstream food chain rather than just with ethnic groups. Southern Goat Producers Association has a unique group of members that (through the years) has diversified with a variety of animals, products and services. Their vision is to see that they always have a market for their products. They will be all inclusive of and supportive of all products produced by members ... from goat meat to cheese to craft items to fiber to knitted items. A progressive Youth Program is expected to encourage and excite young

people about sustainable farming.

Members get a few perks just for joining, too. The membership card says they are entitled to: educational meetings, world wide exposure for their farm through the [www.southerngoatproducers.org](http://www.southerngoatproducers.org), free or discounted vendor space at SGPA sponsored events, automatic listing in the SGPA Directory (which is also updated monthly on the website), free caprine fecal testing at meetings, discounts at participating merchants, and a whole lot of networking with other goat producers, plus a free subscription to Southern Farm News which includes one free 2 x 3" advertisement, and a classified ad on the SGPA website. SOUNDS GOOD DOESN'T IT? See page 12 for a membership application

18 days.

Lice begin laying eggs when they are about 28 days old and die after reproduction. Therefore, there are several overlapping generations each year. Lice are generally transmitted from one animal to another by contact. Transmission from herd to herd is usually accomplished by transportation of infested animals. Lice cannot survive more than a week apart from their host. Under favorable conditions, eggs clinging to shed hairs may continue to hatch for 2 to 3 weeks. However, lice are most often introduced to herds by bringing infested animals into the herd. Louse populations fluctuate during the year, with populations lowest in the summer and highest during late winter and early spring. Livestock should be checked for lice frequently in the fall, when populations begin to

rise. If animals are rubbing and scratching during this time of year, they should be treated to prevent severe infestations from developing.

Louse control is difficult since pesticides do not kill louse eggs. There are several registered insecticides available to control adult lice. Louse control can be administered by spray, pour-on, back rubs and dust bags. As always, read and follow label directions when using insecticides. In order for insecticides to be effective, the whole herd must be treated simultaneously and care must be taken to cover the entire animal with insecticide.

Dipping vats have also been used successfully to treat lice in many species of livestock. They are very effective in completely covering the animal, but they are costly to construct and not transportable. Additionally, a great

deal of dip solution is left over after each treatment. This method is most effective in situations in which large numbers of goats need to be treated.

In summary, lice can cause substantial economic losses. Lice can cause a reduction in meat and milk production, and can cause animals severe irritation. If you notice any signs of symptoms of infestation, treat your goats before it becomes a serious problem

JACKIE NIX is a nutritionist with Sweetlix (<http://www.sweetlix.com>). You can contact her at [jnix@sweetlix.com](mailto:jnix@sweetlix.com) or 1-800-325-1486 for questions or to learn more about Sweetlix line of mineral and protein supplements for goats, cattle, horses, sheep and wildlife.



SOUTHERN GOAT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2009

JANUARY	KIDDING & NUTRITION
FEBRUARY	LEARN THE ART OF CHEESEMAKING Monthly Meeting-Goat Husbandry Panel Q&A
MARCH	FAMACHA/FORAGE SEMINAR
APRIL	2ND ANNUAL GOAT FEST AND FARM DAY
MAY	ABGA SANCTIONED BOER GOAT SHOW and ADGA Sanctioned Dairy Goat Show
JUNE	ANNUAL SGPA PICNIC
AUGUST	SUSTAINABLE FARMING ROUNDTABLE MEETING
OCTOBER	FINE DINING EVENT WITH CELEBRITY CHEF AND CHEVON ENTREES

Date and times will be posted on our website:  
[www.southerngoatproducers.org](http://www.southerngoatproducers.org)

**TRADE DAY IN OAKWAY**  
Every Saturday From 8 am to 11 am  
**OAKWAY FARM & GARDEN CENTER**  
**BUY \* SELL \* TRADE \* BARTER**

*Farm related items:*  
*Chickens, Eggs, Rabbits, Goats, Calves, Tack, Garden Vegetables, Dogs, Pigs, Plants, Nuts, Old Farm Equipment, Natural Goat Meat, Horses, Vehicles*

On the Corner Of Hwy 24 & Snow Creek Road	NO FEE TO VENDORS!! Please...NO junk, yard sale or flea market "treasures".. TRADE DAY Begins Nov 2008 and extends through February 2009
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**SOUTHERN STATES SUPPLIER**



**WETHER GOATS FOR SALE**

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864 972 9671

## DEALING WITH LICE ON GOATS *by Jackie Nix*

Lice can be a problem for goat producers, especially during the winter months. Louse infestations can cause intense irritation, restlessness and loss of condition. While lice are found on all species of livestock, goat lice are host specific and only attack goats and their close relatives such as sheep. Due to modern production practices, it is almost impossible to prevent louse infestations, however, with careful management we can keep them under control.

There are two general types of lice, biting and sucking lice. Biting lice are most common but least bothersome. Biting lice live on the skin surface feeding on scales, bits of hair and other debris. They do not feed on blood.

Sucking lice, on the other hand, have piercing mouth parts and

feed on the blood of its hosts. Five species of sucking lice attack goats. The following are of importance:

1. African blue louse—found in semi-tropical climates in the United States, India, and Puerto Rico. They are found on the body, head and neck of goats. Heavy populations have caused death of the host.
2. Foot louse—this louse prefers the feet and legs of goats and sheep. Populations peak in the spring and at the time the lice may affect the belly area as well. Scrotum infestations on bucks are common. Kids seem to have the highest infestations. Egg hatch for this species of louse takes longer than the other species. Therefore, re-treatment should be applied after 3 weeks.
3. Goat sucking louse—

populations are dispersed over the animal's body. It is also found on sheep.

Feeding lice cause irritation for the host as mentioned previously. Louse infested livestock may be seen rubbing and scratching on fences and other objects. Severely infested animals may develop raw areas on the skin due to constant rubbing. Their hair may be thin and matted and scabs may develop. Raw areas may result in open sores, which can become infected. Note that symptoms of louse infestation may resemble mange. It is also not uncommon for goats to suffer from mange and louse infestations at the same time.

Lice spend their entire life cycle on their host. Female lice glue eggs or nits on hair close to the skin. These eggs hatch in 9 to

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## DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH HAY FOR YOUR GOATS FOR WINTER? *By Jackie Nix*

Late summer is a good time to evaluate your feed needs for the coming winter. If you have not already evaluated your winter feed supplies vs your goat requirements and developed a plan of action, now is the time. If requirements exceed supplies, additional feed must be acquired or goat numbers must be reduced.

A quick and dirty way to estimate feed requirements is on the basis of animal units. Assuming that a mature meat doe weighs 125 lbs. This is equal to one-eighth of an animal unit. Therefore, eight adult does equal one animal unit. Yearling goats that are not grain-fed may weigh from 50-80 lbs. and are equal to roughly one-half that figure (14 yearlings would roughly equal one animal unit) and roughly 40 kids are equal to one animal unit. Each animal unit will require approximately 50 pounds of hay per day, assuming average to good quality hay. With low quality feeds, goats will eat more, up to a point, to try to compensate. When referring to average to good quality hay, I mean over 10% crude protein and over 55% TDN (A forage analysis will tell you the quality of your hay.)

For example, a herd of 35 adult does, 1 buck, 10 replacement doelings and 16 kids with a feeding period of 100 days (roughly 3 months) will require the following:

35 does x 1/7 animal unit	= 5.00 animal units
1 buck x 1/7 animal unit	= 0.14 animal units
10 doelings x 1/14 animal unit	= 0.71 animal units
16 kids x 1/40 animal unit	= 0.40 animal units
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> = 6.25 animal units

6.25 animal units x 50 lbs hay per day x 100 days = 31,250 lbs or 15.6 tons or 625 square bales (50 lbs each.)

Next you need to take into account the estimated amount of waste. Each feeding system is unique. A very efficient feeding system may allow as little as 10% waste while inefficient systems may be over 50% wastage. Use of a hay feeder that prevents goats from laying in the hay and keeps the hay reasonable above the ground should result in 10-20% waste (remember that no system can be 100% efficient).

In this estimate let's assume that our feeding system results in 15% waste. Our herd would require 719 square bales ( $[625 \times 0.15] + 625 = 718.75$ ) to sustain them through a 100 day feeding period. This is the amount of hay that you would need to buy in real life.

You may also estimate hay needs by the percentage method. Estimate that your animals will eat roughly 4-5%

of their body weight in hay per day (as fed). This is the most accurate method because it requires knowledge of the average size of your goats. For example, a 200 lb Boer doe will eat roughly 8 lbs. to 10 lbs. per day. A herd of 25 will require 200 to 250 lbs. of hay per day of 10 to 12.5 tons of hay to sustain them through a 100-day feeding period (before waste). Taking waste into account (assuming 15% waste), you would need at least 11.5 to 14.4 tons of hay.

Now that you have estimated your feed requirements, you need to evaluate your feed supply. It is best to do this by multiplying the average weight of your hay bales by the total number of bales. The average square bale weighs about 50 lbs. And the average round bale weighs about 500 lbs. However, it is important to remember that outside bales can sustain substantial losses. If bales appear moldy or otherwise spoiled, you must take losses into account when estimating your feed supply.

Using animal units or percentage to estimate feed requirements is just a quick tool. To be more accurate, you need to consider dry matter content as well as exact nutritional requirements for the size of animal and stage of production. Also, feed supply is more accurately estimated if you conduct forage analysis to determine the exact nutrient content of your hay. See your local feed dealer or Extension agent for more information about hay analysis.

Remember that it is more vital than ever to provide a complete mineral supplement for goats during the winter months. Mineral needs are increased due to pregnancy or lactation at this time and goats are more likely to be deficient in minerals such as phosphorus, selenium and copper. Sweetlix 16.8 Meat Maker mineral for goats provides 100% of the trace mineral requirements for meat goats in a highly palatable loose mineral. The Sweetlix Meat Maker 20% Goat Black or the Sweetlix Meat Maker Roughage Balancer Tub provides supplemental protein in addition to 100% of a goat's trace mineral requirements in a convenient, weather-resistant, 33.3 lb. pressed block. Sweetlix Caprine Magnum-Milk is a 1:1 Ca to P free choice mineral designed specifically for lactating dairy does on a legume based diet. Any of these products should be offered free choice as the sole source of salt and minerals.

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