

***Snowden Family Farm***



**BUYER'S**

**HANDBOOK**



**Congratulations on your new Boer goats!  
We appreciate your business.  
If you have questions, please contact us.**



# **Snowden Family Farm**

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2007 BOER GOAT EDITION

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## **BASIC FEED & NUTRITION**

*(for meat goats)*

### **WATER:**

- The most important nutrient a goat can have. Clean, fresh water must be readily accessible at ALL times.

### **ROUGHAGE:**

- As ruminants, goats require large quantities of quality roughage, whether in the form of hay, pasture, or browse.

- Familiarize yourself with toxic plants in your area. A good source is *Toxic Plants of Texas*, compiled by the scientists at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab in College Station, Texas, which can be ordered at <http://texnat.tamu.edu/cmplants/toxic/order.html>.

This resource is also available as an online database at <http://texnat.tamu.edu/cmplants/toxic/index.htm>.

- We feed quality coastal Bermuda hay, free choice, supplemented by a concentrate.

### **CONCENTRATES:**

Your goat has been fed a ration formulated by animal nutrition specialists. While there are many feeds on the market available for use, the ration we have experienced success with is Sure-Fed's N-Timidator. This feed has been formulated specifically for goats' needs by a nutritionist who raises goats, and contains high quality bypass proteins (to assure freshness, it is dated to be used within 30 days). Because it contains Monensin, which helps to inhibit coccidia, it is imperative that this feed not be consumed by animals that produce milk or eggs for human consumption, or by any simple-stomached animals, such as horses, donkeys, cats, and dogs. Currently we feed Sheep & Goat Pellets, a ration formulated by Producer's Cooperative Association of Bryan, TX for sheep and goats, because we can obtain it at a much lower cost. Any feed formulated for sheep may be deficient in such nutrients as copper since the two species' requirements differ in this and other nutrient areas.

### **MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION:**

- Loose minerals are recommended by many. Use a mineral formulated for goats from a reputable manufacturer. Currently, we are using 16:8 Sweetlix Meat Maker™ Goat Supplement for our Boer goats (contains copper & proper calcium/phosphorous ratio), and have also used Purina Goat Minerals.

- Loose salt is also recommended free choice. Your goats have been accustomed to sulfur salt, which is reputed to also aid in the repulsion of ticks.

### **BAKING SODA (sodium bicarbonate):**

- Many breeders recommend offering baking soda free choice for goats to maintain the correct pH in their rumen. The goats will consume this voluntarily. In goats that are being asked for top performance, such as show, breeding and lactating goats, the increased concentrates (grain ration high in energy and low in protein) can produce an imbalance in the rumen organisms leading to indigestion & ruminal acidosis. Reduced roughage consumption (weather, bossy goat, change in hay, etc.) as well as ingestion of certain weeds can also create this imbalance. Acute, mild

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acidosis results in loose feces, diarrhea, reduced appetite, etc. At the first sign of “clumped”, too moist, fecal pellets, or “dog-stool” consistency feces from our goats, we drench with a warm water & baking soda mixture, remove access to grain (but offer good quality hay) until normal feces return, and the causative factor(s) is corrected. A dose of oral probiotics (e.g. Probios) is also a good idea to aid the rumen in repopulating the “good” organisms. Remember, in a ruminant, you feed the rumen organisms properly, and they help feed your animal!

*Note: severe acidosis is life threatening - if your goat does not quickly respond to treatment, seek veterinary care.*

## Show Wethers & Urinary Calculi (stones)

**⇒WATER, SALT & CALCIUM are IMPERATIVE!⇐**

*Due to the tremendous demand placed on these goats to grow rapidly on a highly concentrated ration, coupled with low roughage to keep them ‘tight’ & thus competitive in the show ring, urinary calculi is a common sequelae. Realize that this way of raising goats is in opposition to the way they are created, and, therefore, several points need to be understood if they are to survive this challenge!*

### ***The Problem:***

*Grains (concentrates) are high in phosphorous. The necessary balance in a goat ration of calcium to phosphorous (Ca:P) is 2 – 2.5 : 1. Notice that more than twice as much calcium is needed than phosphorous. When goats are fed high concentrates and little to no hay, browse or other forms of calcium, the resulting imbalance can lead to the formation of stones in the urinary tract, followed by blockage. This blockage or inability to urinate can cause rupture of the bladder within 24-48 hours and death 3-5 days later.*

### ***Prevention:***

**WATER:** becomes even more important as it aids in flushing the urinary tract of the particles that lead to calculi development. Keep it available at all times and change at least daily to encourage consumption.

**SALT free choice:** is *essential* in increasing water consumption and therefore keeping the urinary tract flushed of calculi beginning to form. LOOSE SALT should be available at all times, and kept stirred or changed as needed to keep it loose (especially important in Texas humidity). They cannot consume enough salt to provide this benefit with a salt brick.

**MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION:** using a **high calcium/low phosphorous** loose mineral can help keep the Ca:P ratio in the desired **2:1 – 2.5:1** proportion. The Sweetlix mineral supplement label on a following page has this desired ratio. If a mineral supplement designed for goats in the proper Ca:P ratio is not available, a cattle mineral with high calcium, low phosphorous, low

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side of copper (low for cattle) and lower magnesium can be offered. This is usually a summer pasture –type supplement.

**ALFALFA:** is another excellent way to increase the **calcium** in the diet. It can be offered in the form of good quality alfalfa hay or convenient bagged pellets available at feed dealers.

**FEED:** learn to read feed tags! The calcium & phosphorous are listed. When an ingredient amount is listed as a range, most feed manufacturers formulate their rations based on the average. If in doubt, call and talk with the nutritionist at the feed company. Most list their contact information on the tag or make it available on the internet, with a little research. Notice that the SureFed N-Timidator has the desirable Ca:P ratio of 2.5:1.

**AMMONIUM CHLORIDE:** is a urine acidifier that helps dissolve “stones” that develop in the urinary tract. It is usually included in any ration formulated with a show goat in mind. Make sure your ration includes this ingredient.

**ROUGHAGE:** Normally, phosphorus is recycled through saliva and excreted via feces in ruminants. High grain, low roughage diets decrease the formation of saliva and therefore increase the amount of phosphorus excreted in the urine.

**CASTRATION:** Early castration is reputed to predispose wethers to urinary blockage by limiting the size of the urethra. We allow them to grow, then band them between 1-2 months of age to help reduce this tendency. (*NOTE: We no longer surgically castrate our wethers, a method which we prefer for this reason, because many buyers did not appreciate the presence of the empty scrotum!*)

## ***The Symptoms:***

- ▶ restlessness
- ▶ anxiety
- ▶ urine dribbling, may be bloody
- ▶ distention and rupture of the urethra
- ▶ loss of appetite
- ▶ humped-up appearance
- ▶ edema under their belly
- ▶ kick at their belly
- ▶ straining to urinate.
- ▶ increased vocalization
- ▶ tail twitching.

## ***Treatment:***

### **How to You Treat It?**

Treatment of urinary calculi depends upon the location of the obstruction and could be as simple as snipping off the urethral process to allow calculi at the end of the penis to dislodge.

Tranquilizers and antispasmodics may help to naturally dislodge some calculi. In more advanced cases, surgical intervention may be necessary to save valuable animals or pets. Veterinary advice should be sought in this case.

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## SAMPLE FEED TAGS



9090

**N-TIMIDATOR GOAT**

**MEDICATED**

(For Ruminants Only)

**FOR ALL CLASSES OF GOATS**

For the prevention of Coccidiosis in goats caused by *Eimeria Crandallis*, *E. Christenseni* and *E. Ninakohyakimovae*.

**ACTIVE DRUG INGREDIENTS**

Monensin ..... 20g/ton (10 mg/lb)

**GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Crude Protein ..... (Min) 15.50%

(This includes not more than 1.0% equivalent crude protein from non-protein nitrogen)

Crude Fat ..... (Min) 2.50%

Crude Fiber ..... (Max) 17.00%

Calcium ..... (Min) 0.75%

Calcium ..... (Max) 1.00%

Phosphorus ..... (Min) 0.30%

Salt ..... (Min) 1.00%

Salt ..... (Max) 1.40%

Potassium ..... (Min) 1.00%

Copper ..... (Min) 15 PPM

Copper ..... (Max) 25 PPM

Selenium ..... (Min) 0.30 PPM

Vitamin A ..... (Min) 10,000 IU/LB

**INGREDIENTS**

Dehydrated Alfalfa Meal, Roughage Products (20%), Grain Products, Plant Protein Products, Cane Molasses, Processed Grain By-Products, Animal Protein Products, Calcium Carbonate, Salt, Ammonium Chloride, Artificial Flavor, Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin D3 Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Sulfur, Zinc Sulfate, Manganese Sulfate, Copper Sulfate, Ethylenediamine Dihydriodide, Ferrous Sulfate, Cobalt Sulfate and Sodium Selenite.

**CAUTION: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS ADDED COPPER.**

**DO NOT FEED TO SHEEP.**

**FEEDING DIRECTIONS**

Feed to goats at a rate of 2.5 to 5 lb. daily. Supply plenty of fresh clean drinking water and unlimited access to salt to goats. If additional roughage is required feed only good quality grass or alfalfa. **CAUTION:** Do not allow horses or other equines access to feeds containing Monensin. Ingestion of Monensin by horses has been fatal. Consumption by unapproved species may result in toxic reaction. Do not feed to lactating goats.



88/999

**SHEEP AND GOAT PELLETT**

**FOR GROWING, BREEDING AND LACTATING SHEEP AND GOATS  
 (FOR RUMINANTS ONLY)**

**GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Crude Protein* (Min)	15.00 %		
* (Includes not more than 0.9% equivalent protein from non-protein nitrogen.)			
Crude Fat (Min)	4.00 %	Salt (Min)	0.40 %
Crude Fiber (Max)	12.00 %	Salt (Max)	0.60 %
Calcium (Min)	0.80 %	Copper (Min)	11.8 PPM
Calcium (Max)	1.60 %	Copper (Max)	13.4 PPM
Phosphorus (Min)	0.65 %	Selenium (Min)	0.2 PPM
		Vitamin A (Min)	15,000.00 IU/LB

**INGREDIENTS**

Processed Grain Byproducts, Grain Products, Forage Products, Roughage Products (12%), Plant Protein Products, Molasses Products, Ground Limestone, Ammonium Chloride, Salt, Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Zinc Sulfate, Manganese Sulfate, Manganous Oxide, Zinc Oxide, Calcium Carbonate, Sodium Selenite, Sodium Molybdate, Ethylenediamine Dihydriodide and Cobalt carbonate.

**FEEDING DIRECTIONS**

Feed 1 to 5 pounds per head per day of SHEEP AND GOAT PELLETT, based upon forage conditions, size of animal and desired rate of growth. Always provide adequate amounts of fresh, clean water. When feeding 3 pounds or more per head per day, divide the fed amount into two evenly spaced meals. Adding grain products to sheep and goat diets can often result in the development of urinary calculi. Consult your nutritionist before making such modifications.

**CAUTION:** Observe feeding directions on the label.

Manufactured by  
**PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**  
 Bryan, Texas 77806


Net Weight 50 lbs. (22.68) or Bulk

600 100 8/11/2005

12/1/2005

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# Sweetlix

LIVESTOCK SUPPLEMENT SYSTEM

## 16:8 Meat Maker™

**A Free Choice Mineral and Vitamin Supplement for Meat Goats on Pasture**

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**Goat Supplement**

*Guaranteed Analysis*

Calcium (Min) .....	14.00%
Calcium (Max) .....	16.80%
Phosphorus (Min) .....	8.00%
Salt (Min) .....	10.00%
Salt (Max) .....	12.00%
Magnesium (Min) .....	1.50%
Potassium (Min) .....	1.50%
Sulfur (Min) .....	1.50%
Iron (Min) .....	1.25%
Manganese (Min) .....	1.25%
Zinc (Min) .....	1.25%
Cobalt (Min) .....	240 ppm
Copper (Min) .....	1,750 ppm
Copper (Max) .....	1,810 ppm
Iodine (Min) .....	450 ppm
Selenium (Min) .....	50 ppm
Vitamin A (Min) .....	300,000 IU/lb.
Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> (Min) .....	50,000 IU/lb.
Vitamin E (Min) .....	400 IU/lb.

**Ingredients**

Monocalcium Phosphate, Dicalcium Phosphate, Calcium Carbonate, Salt, Cane Molasses, Soybean Hulls, Magnesium Oxide, Potassium Chloride, Copper Sulfate, Yeast Culture, Calcium Iodate, Cobalt Sulfate, Ferrous Sulfate, Manganous Oxide, Manganese Sulfate, Sodium Molybdate, Synthetic Red Iron Oxide, Sodium Selenite, Zinc Oxide, Zinc Sulfate, Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Mineral Oil and Caramel Flavoring.

**CAUTION: Follow feeding directions. Contains added copper. DO NOT FEED TO SHEEP.**

Daily consumption of selenium should not exceed 0.7 mg per head.

**Mineral Program**

Sweetlix® 16:8 Meat Maker™ is a 2:1 calcium to phosphorus mineral scientifically formulated to be fed to goats on pasture free choice. Sweetlix 16:8 Meat Maker helps goats attain maximum performance by providing a complete vitamin and trace mineral supplement, which includes copper and selenium, designed especially for the needs of growing meat goats. All ingredients are selected for high biological availability and stability to deliver optimal nutrition to your goats.

**Feeding and Management**


Sweetlix 16:8 Meat Maker should be fed free choice continuously as the sole FREE CHOICE source of salt and minerals at the rate of 0.3 to 0.5 oz. per head per day. When consumed at this rate, Sweetlix 16:8 Meat Maker will provide 0.4 to 0.7 mg selenium.

Provide at least 1 mineral feeder per 10 head of goats for access purposes. Locate mineral feeders near a clean, fresh source of water. Mineral consumption levels will vary depending up the mineral status of the goats.

For additional information, please contact your SWEETLIX representative.


08/04

NET WEIGHT: 25 LBS. (11.4 KG)



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987



FFP29D-

Manufactured by Sweetlix, PO Box 8500, Mankato, MN 56002  
 Contact us at: 1-877-SWEETLIX • www.sweetlix.com

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## **BASIC HOUSING & EQUIPMENT**

Fulfilling basic housing and equipment requirements is a major concern for the upcoming goat owner. Below are a few tips compiled from various sources to help you along.

### **SHELTER:**

- Goats require at least 10-15 square feet of space per goat in an open housing situation.
- In confinement housing, each goat requires a minimum of 20 square feet of space, in addition to 30 square feet of pen space.
- In Texas, 3-sided shelters are usually adequate. In Central Texas, shelters should face East, as it shields the goats from most of the winds and rain. If you use a 3-sided shelter, more space should be given than is required for each goat, as sun and rain can come in to the front 1/3 to 1/2 of the shed, depending on the height. An 'eyebrow', or slight overhang on the front of the shed, will reduce this drastically

### **FENCING:**

- When determining whether to keep goats in a pen or pasture, there are several factors to consider (besides the room you have available!). Goats are naturally browsers – given a choice, they tend to reach *up*, and feed off of overhanging leaves. God has designed them this way. Since they are more susceptible to internal parasites, browsing prevents them from consuming any significant quantity of them, as parasites dwell on the ground. When man brings them into confinement, and forces them to graze, then they begin consuming large quantities of parasites, and parasite burden becomes a major problem. Therefore, there are 2 major options:
  - PEN: A pen small enough that no grass grows prevents goats from consuming any great number of gastrointestinal nematodes (a.k.a. stomach worms), since they are mainly ingested when eating grass. A small pen situation does greatly increase the problems with coccidia, however, in young goats.
  - PASTURE: Good pasture mostly relieves any coccidia problem, but gastrointestinal nematodes become a concern. Pasture rotation (as explained in Basic Parasite Control) can be used to manage this. Pasture with plenty of browse is the ideal condition for goats since it is their natural habitat, and when properly managed usually results in decreased feed and hay bills and healthier, more productive goats.
- For pens and working areas, 4x4 panel is a good choice. 4x4 panel is similar to cattle panel as it is rigid and made out of an extremely heavy-gauge wire; the openings are smaller, however, measuring 4"x4". It usually comes in 20' long panels, and can be 4' or 5' tall. 4' is adequate for most situations.
- For large pens and pastures, most people prefer high-tensile net wire with 12" spacing between the vertical wires (NOT field fence). When using net wire for perimeter fences, the horizontal spacing should gradually get smaller at the bottom to prevent the escape of kids off of the premises. Net wire with larger horizontal spacing is less expensive, and may be used for internal fences. High-tensile wire is ideal, as it is much more durable and will remain tight longer than regular wire.

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- Many people recommend a strand of barbed wire at the top of the fence to minimize goats hanging their heads over the fence, and one at the bottom to prevent predators digging in. It must be noted that barbed wire can easily harm goats, and frequently inflicts painful scratches to the owners.
- Completely barbed wire fences are not suitable for goats, as goats *will* rub against the fence and attempt to stand on it, cutting themselves in the process. It is also much easier for them to escape from a barbed wire fence, no matter how many strands it is, than from a panel or net wire enclosure.
- Some people use a strand of electric wire on the outside near the bottom, on the inside at about chest height (a goat's chest), and at the top. This prevents predators from digging in, goats from sticking their heads through the fence and breaking it down, and goats from standing on the fence and hanging their heads over, respectively. Electric wire can be useful, but should not be used in pen situations. The risk of death to small children or trapped goats should be considered before using electric fencing.
- Buck pens should be built stronger than doe pens, as the bucks may try to escape because of boredom or does in estrus (heat). More wooden posts, reinforced panels, and 5' tall fences are necessary in many cases.
- **NEVER** use cattle or hog panel, or any panel with openings larger than 4"x4". In addition, never use field fence or hog fence, or any net wire fence with openings larger than 4"x4", unless the vertical spacing is 12".  
Openings larger than 4"x4" allow the goats to slip their heads through the fence. Once through, however, they cannot pull their horns back out, and are prone to predators, mean boss goats, and starvation, dehydration, and overheating. *In our travels across the state, we have seen goats hung in field fence, dead.*  
Small openings (4"x4" or less) prevent the goats from slipping their heads through (although when goats are kept in a pen situation, for a few weeks the kids will slip their heads through and get stuck). Net wire with vertical spacing of 12" allows the goats to pull their heads back in after they slip them through. If the horizontal spacings are small enough at the bottom, the kids will not escape, either. This is the type of fencing we prefer for most situations now.
- **REMEMBER:** If you are building new fence, remember to plan for feeding (goats should not be routinely fed in their pens, as they will scrounge after the meal and pick up an overload of parasites; neither should they be fed near their drinking water, where moisture and a concentration of fecal material result in a location where coccidia thrive), weaning, pasture rotation (see Basic Parasite Control), separation of bucks and does, as well as a few individual pens for separating sick goats or expectant does, or quarantining newcomers.

**EQUIPMENT:**

- **FEEDING:**
  - *Troughs* – a must when you have more than 2 or 3 goats. 6" PVC pipes cut in half lengthwise and then cut into 4' or 5' sections work well as they are easy to move and clean. These troughs can then be inserted into stands to keep them up off the ground, or hung on a fence.
  - *Pans* – individual metal hog pans or plastic pans that hang on the fence work well for a few goats, and are handy to have in the event that you must separate a goat or two. Two slits can be cut in the 'hanger' of the plastic pans that hang on the fence to adapt them to hang on 4x4 panels.

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- HAY – If goats are not kept out of their hay, they will quickly scatter and contaminate it, wasting most of it and rendering it unsuitable for consumption.
  - *Square bales* are simple, as a piece of 4x4 panel may be attached directly to a wall or fence at the bottom and attached at the top with wire, chain, or cable at each side in such a way that the top hangs about 2 feet away from the fence or wall. This forms a suitable hay feeder.
  - *Round bales* are more economical, but much more difficult to deal with. A hay feeder that keeps the hay off the ground and at eye level for the goats is ideal, but not practical for many of us. A suitable alternative is to cut 4x4 panels into 40” sections and use chain links (individual links that screw down to close) to connect them together around the bale. If this system is used, you must create 5 or 6 4”x8” horizontal access holes in each panel by cutting out 5 or 6 horizontal 4” wire segments. These holes prevent all but the smallest goats from sticking their heads in, and allow better access to the hay. Remember to go back and remove panels and re-tighten the remaining panels as the hay bale is consumed to ensure continued free access to the hay.
- WATER:
  - *Troughs* – good for more than a 2 or 3 goats. The 4’ long, 2’ deep galvanized steel water troughs work well, and are readily available at most feed stores. This size allows most any goat old enough to drink to access the water, and usually holds enough for one day (water should be changed once a day).
  - *Buckets* – 2 gallon for a small goat, 5 gallon for a larger goat work well for temporary individual confinement. If you use buckets, however, be sure to remove the handle or secure it to a fence or wall so that the goat does not get its head stuck in the handle and choke. If new kids are in the pen (or expected!) an elevated 5 gallon bucket should be used so that the doe will not accidentally deliver them into the water bucket and they will not inadvertently stumble into it – new kids can drown in only a couple of inches of water.

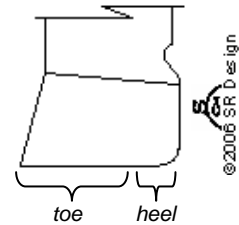
*Note: Premier 1 Supplies specializes in fencing, and has many superb tips and recommendations for goats. In addition, Onion Creek Ranch has an excellent article on fencing at [www.tennesseemeatgoats.com](http://www.tennesseemeatgoats.com).*



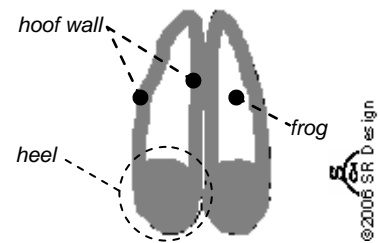
## HOOF TRIMMING

Regular hoof trimming is an essential part of caring for your goat. Long, overgrown hooves lead to breakdown of the pasterns and lameness, which in turn causes the goat to become unable to access forage, feed, or even water. Here are some pointers that we have compiled for you to remember when caring for your goats' hooves:

- Trim hooves every 4-6 weeks.
- The proper shape for a hoof is closely identical to this drawing:  
Note that the shape of the hoof is almost square, with the toe being slightly longer than the heel.
- When you trim, you should remove mostly toe, only giving the softer heel a quick nip to keep it from overgrowing, flopping over towards the toe, and creating a pocket.



- Most of your trimming is going to be removing the hoof wall. Remove hoof wall first, until it is slightly below the frog (the fleshy inside part of the hoof), then trim away the frog until it is slightly below the hoof wall. Make sure that the frog is not taking the goat's weight, as this will cause very sore feet.



*NOTE: Stop as soon as the frog begins to become pinkish, as you will cause bleeding if you continue trimming much farther down. Although you shouldn't become hysterical if you cause slight bleeding, it does open an avenue for infection to the plethora of organisms lurking in the soil.*

- Once you think you have removed enough excess hoof, view the hoof from the side to make sure that the hoof is even, as unevenness will put undue pressure on one digit, causing lameness.
- Finally, set the hoof down on a flat surface, and check to make sure the hoof is square with the ground, not 'rockered', or curved (this is common, since it is natural to take more off the very end of the toe than the middle).

Small 'hoof rot' shears are preferred for hoof trimming goats. We prefer Burgon & Ball hoof rot shears, available at many feed stores, but have also had good success with the orange hoof shears available through Hoegger's or Caprine Supply.

## **BASIC INTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL**

### **GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODES (aka “worms”):**

Most of the current recommendations are similar to cattle vaccination schedules, as taught by Dr. Thomas Craig, Veterinary Parasitologist, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. However, there are new studies and recommendations on the horizon (such as FAMACHA®) so current recommendations may change or be modified over time.

Current thought includes these points:

- The most problematic nematode for goats in Texas is usually *Haemonchus contortus*.
- Goats have a higher metabolism than other species, so double the cattle or sheep dosage. DO NOT double Levamisole/Tramisol as that dosage approaches the toxic levels - some recommend to multiply the cattle/sheep dose by 1.5 for this anthelmintic.
- Administer orally (yes, even the pour-on products). Administer with an oral dosing syringe w/extender, at the back of the throat to ensure delivery into the rumen (slows absorption to help prevent resistance...). While dosing, make sure to keep the nose pointed somewhat downward or straight ahead – never up. It is difficult to swallow when head is held upright.
- Deworm “strategically”, i.e.
  - 1) after the first killing frost (which is Dec 15 - Mar 15 for most of Texas) Dr. Craig notes this as the MOST IMPT time to deworm.
  - 2) in the spring - many producers time this to coincide with parturition (kidding). Nematode numbers tend to rise during the peri-parturient (around kidding) time.
  - 3) before 4th July Dr. Craig notes this as the 2nd MOST IMPT time.
  - Strategic deworming also includes deworming 2 days before turning onto new pasture (defined as a pasture that has been rested, hayed, or has been grazed by alternate species such as horses or cattle).
  - Pasture rotation for goat control of nematodes is longer than cattle, i.e. 3 months in the summer & 6 months in the winter. These times can be shortened if the pastures have been grazed by an alternate species, acting as biological vacuum cleaners to consume the goat parasites (sheep don't count, as they share parasite spp. with goats), or if pastures have been hayed or tilled to expose the parasite larvae to the detrimental rays of the sun.
- Rotate anthelmintics (between classes, not within a class – see classes below) annually or when resistance develops as detected with the modified McMasters method of fecal egg counts

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(if a veterinarian is simply performing a fecal flotation, then it is not effective. The Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab at Texas A&M will perform McMasters fecal egg counts for a fee.). More frequent rotation between anthelmintics only causes resistant strains to develop more rapidly.

- Confine newcomers, and deworm them with 2-3 different *classes* of anthelmintics. Turn them out to pasture with the others 7-14 days after treatment or when NO eggs are passed in the feces (determined by a McMasters fecal egg count). This helps to prevent resistant strains of parasites from being brought onto the farm.
- CLASSES OF ANTHELMINTICS
  - 1) Avermectins (the ‘clear dewormers’) – e.g. Ivermectin, Eprinomectin
  - 2) Benzimidazoles (the ‘white dewormers’) – e.g. Albendazole, Fenbendazole, Oxfendazole
  - 3) Cholinergic Agonists (the ‘yellow dewormers’) – e.g. Levamisole, Morantel
    - some anthelmintics are not recommended in early pregnancy, as they have been associated with abortions, e.g.:
      - Albendazole/Valbazen (also rec. not in last 3 weeks of pregnancy)
      - Levamisole
    - also watch the meat withdrawal times
    - Do not start with the "high power" dewormers such as Moxidectin/Cydectin as you will have nothing left to turn to when resistance develops to it!
- There is work being done with the FAMACHA® system of deworming and genetic selection of naturally parasite-resistant goats.

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**COCCIDIA**

- Coccidia is a problem with goats generally younger than 6 months. In "meat" goat breeds (not used for milk for human consumption) this is usually handled by feeding N-Timidator by Sure-Fed, or another comparable brand, that uses Rumensin/Monensin, which have coccidiostat (suppression of coccidia) properties.
- Raising the goats without crowding is the best control, as in most animals.

The Annual Goat Field Day, held the third Saturday of May at the International Goat Research Center (IGRC), is an excellent place to learn many aspects of goat management. Drs. Tom Craig (TAMU) & Jim Miller (LSU) are often featured speakers on parasitology in goats.

## **BASIC VACCINATIONS**

- CD/T (Clostridium perfringens type C & D - for Enterotoxemia w/ tetanus)
  - Every 6 months (as it does not seem to produce a long lasting immunity in most goats).
  - For kids from vaccinated does, begin at 3 weeks and repeat every 3 weeks for a total of 2-3 vaccines, depending on risk.
  - If an adult has an unknown vaccination status, 2 initial vaccinations 3 weeks apart are generally recommended.
  - A kid from an unvaccinated doe should begin receiving vaccinations shortly after birth, which should be repeated every 3-4 weeks (and tetanus antitoxin before any procedures such as castration or disbudding)
  - Many do not recommend multivalent clostridial vaccines (such as Covexin 8, which is often used by those who use a multivalent vaccine) in goats as some of the other Clostridials can elicit an undesirable reaction and are not a common problem in goats in most areas of the country. Intervet makes a vaccine labeled for goats: Vision CD-T with Spur (2 cc per subcutaneous – under the skin – dose), as does Colorado Serum Company. Expect lumps to develop at clostridial vaccine sites, so use sites not associated with CL (Caseous Lymphadenitis – Corynebacterium lymphadenitis), such as sites that are not near lymph nodes – behind the elbow is a commonly used vaccination site.
  
- RABIES –
  - Dr. Mary Smith, Cornell (author Goat Medicine w/ David Sherman) also recommends rabies vaccination with **Merial's Imrab 3**.
  - Initial vaccination with 2 doses, 1 month apart, then repeat annually.
  - Rabies vaccinations **MUST** be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
  - This will not help in a legal situation, but may reduce risk in the goats and those handling them. There have been multiple cases of rabies in goats in Texas, including youth project goats, over the past few years.
  
- OTHER vaccinations or preventive measures are recommended only when warranted by existing disease, farm location or feed/hay source, situations such as showing etc.
  - BoSe (which is not a vaccine, but a vitamin E/Selenium supplement)
  - "sore mouth"
  - autogenous CL
  - etc.

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## **BASIC JUDGING**

### *for Boer goats*

Visual selection of Boer goats takes much research, experience, and practice, and we do not pretend to cover it all in one article. We do, however, hope to give you a few basics – a sort of skeleton – that you can learn and build on.

Although you may judge differently depending on your goals and whether you are judging breeding or market animals, since all Boer goats are meant to produce the maximum amount of meat with the least amount of input, there are 5 main qualities that you look for in every goat: 1) Structural Correctness, 2) Size/Stature & Body Capacity, 3) Muscling, 4) Style & Balance, and 5) Sexual Characteristics.

In order to judge consistently, you should always use the same set of criteria, apply it in the same order, and begin at the head and work back. As an example, for a breeding doe, you would first look at Structural Correctness, beginning with stature, then looking at the head, moving to the front-end assembly, the back and rump, then the feet, legs, and pasterns, and finally the udder and teats, before moving to Size/Stature & Body Capacity (beginning at the head and working back), then Muscling, Style & Balance, and finally Sexual Characteristics.

#### **STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS:**

Proper conformation is essential to a goat's ability to produce – to obtain food and hold up to conceiving, carrying, birthing, and rearing kids (does) or breeding (bucks). A goat with proper conformation will normally stay in production longer, and thus be more profitable.

- **Head & Breed Characteristics**

- **Head** – look for width – in the muzzle, between the eyes and between the horns (a wide, strong head, indicates a wide, strong goat). A Boer goat should have a Roman nose and pendulous ears.
- **Color** – a Boer goat should have a white body and dark red head and neck, yet all colors are acceptable. The Boer goat's distinctive color helps it to be recognized.
- **Pigmentation** – The bare skin on the nose, around the eyes, inside the ears, and under the tail should be pigmented. For Americans the minimum is 50%, for Purebreds and Fullbloods the minimum is 75%. Pigmentation of the skin prevents skin cancer, especially in the Texas sun.

- **Front End Assembly**

– the neck and shoulder should blend smoothly and tightly into the body.

- **Neck** – should be strong, long, and blend high and tightly into the withers.
- **Point of Shoulder** – should blend smoothly into the chest, not sticking out past it.
- **Elbow** – should blend tightly into the barrel, not 'winging out' when the goat walks.
- **Withers** – Shoulder should blend tightly into the withers. Although the withers should be wide, and shaped like an inverted 'U', the shoulder blade should not 'pop up' above the withers when the goat walks, and you should not be able to insert your fingers under the shoulder blade.

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- **Back** (Includes withers-see *Front-End Assembly*, crops, chine and loin) & **Rump**

– should be broad, strong, and nearly level.

- **Crops** – should be full, causing the chine to blend smoothly into the withers
- **Chine** (or rack) – should blend into the withers, and be level with the loin
- **Loin** — the loin contains one of the prime cuts of meat, and so should be long and wide, in addition to being straight.
- **Rump** – should be slightly angled, not straight (rare), but definitely not steep. Should be wide, being wide between the hips all the way down to the pins, and wide between the thurls. Width in the rump is an extension of width down the rest of the back. Width between the hips and between the pins and a properly angulated rump is important for ease of kidding.

- **Top line** (Includes neck, withers, crops, chine, loin, & rump)

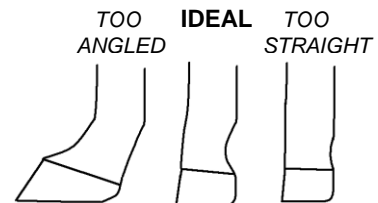
Although each of the individual components of the top line have already been examined individually, the top line should be evaluated as a whole. The top line, when viewed from the side, should be one smooth line. The neck should blend smoothly into the withers. The back should be a nearly level line, and the rump should be slightly angulated.

- **Legs, Pasterns, and Feet**

– bones should be strong and thick, as large, strong bones are sturdier, and hold more muscle

- **Legs** – *front legs* should be straight when viewed from the side, with the knees set straight, not enlarged or bowed over (buck knees), or bent backwards ('hollow' legs). They should also be straight and square when viewed from the front; neither bowed out (bandy legs) or bowed in (knock knees).
  - *rear legs* should be angled at the hocks, with the cannon bone forming part of a line that extends through the pin, hock, cannon bone, and heel. If the hock is not angulated enough, the goat is 'posty', and the joint is not flexible enough. If the hock is too angulated, the goat is 'sickle-hocked' and the goat will walk with its rear legs tucked up underneath the body. When viewed from the rear, the legs should be exactly straight, not turning out or in (cow-hocked).

- **Pasterns** – should be strong, with a good set to the pastern (ideal is shown to the right). Too much angulation puts excessive strain on the pastern and leads to break down and lameness, while pasterns that are too straight do not absorb enough of the impact when walking and so lead to swelling and lameness.



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- **Feet** – should be fairly square (as shown in the picture above), and should point directly forward. When the goat walks, its back feet should step in the footprint of the front foot. Hooves should be black, as black hooves are stronger.

- **Reproductive Organs:**

- **Mammary System**

- **Udder** – should be adequately capacious and shaped like a basketball, with 1/3 in front of the leg, 1/3 under the leg, and 1/3 behind the leg. The udder should be attached up high, with a strong medial suspensory

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ligament (imperative), a high rear udder attachment (2<sup>nd</sup> most important), and a smoothly blending fore udder attachment (least importance). Since the twist should be long in a Boer goat, a long twist should be balanced with a high rear udder attachment. The udder should be of a pliable texture, not thick and beefy, and should be pigmented.

- **Teats** – a Boer goat should have no more than 2 distinct teats on each side. Blind teats, split teats, fish teats, and teats with double orifices are undesirable, as they may cause problems with kids nursing, especially newborns. Many American breeders prefer 1 teat per side, but 2 teats per side often allows more kids access to the udder when a doe has more than 2 kids. This can be beneficial to the weaker kids since does often allow kids to nurse for only a few minutes at a time.  
Teats should be small, uniform, cylindrical in shape, clearly delineated from the udder, situated on the floor of each half of the udder 2/3 of the distance from the medial suspensory ligament to the side, and should be pigmented.  
Bucks should be evaluated for proper teat structure, contrary to popular belief, as they *will* pass on their traits to their offspring.
- **Testicles** – Bucks should have 2 large testicles, with a minimal split at the bottom. The testicles should be firm, fully descended, and should be suspended firmly, not hanging low and pendulous where they are prone to damage.

**SIZE & BODY CAPACITY:**

Size refers to the frame size of the goat – whether it is a large, tall goat, or a short, compact goat. Body capacity obviously refers to the capacity of the goat's body and is important in order for the goat to have plenty of room for a large rumen (the capacious 'fermentation vat' that is essential in the process of converting roughage to usable nutrients) and multiple kids. When viewed from the side, a Boer goat should look rather like a rectangle, with does having a slightly more wedge-like shape, with the wedge pointed towards the head.

- **Size & Stature** – the overall frame size of the goat
- **Chest** – should be wide, deep and strong.
- **Heart Girth** – should be deep, and full at the point of the elbow
- **Barrel** – should be long from shoulder to hips, deep in the chest and flank, with long, well-sprung ribs – a goat with a round, well-sprung barrel is typically more productive than its slab-sided counterpart.

**MUSCLING:**

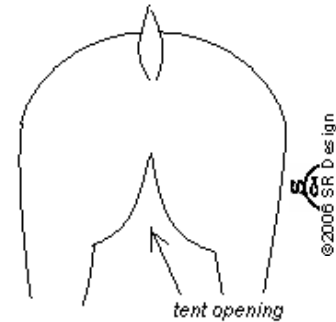
The Boer goat should be very muscular throughout, but there are 4 main areas to look for evidence of muscling.

- **Neck** – the neck should be thick and strong, especially near the junction with the shoulder. The length should be proportional to the body, feminine in a doe, and masculine in a buck.

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- **Shoulders & Forearm** – the shoulder should be thick, becoming increasingly muscular from the withers to the forearm, with the thickest muscling directly above the chest floor. A large forearm is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best indication of overall muscling, and so should be meaty, with the muscling carrying down to the knee.
- **Loin** – The loin is the best indicator of muscling in a goat, and should be wide and long, with a slight ‘butterfly shape’ over the top when you view the goat down the top line. You can feel this butterfly shape on each side as a bulge when you place your fingers at the vertebrae and move away. The thicker and wider this bulge on each side, the better the loin.
- **Hindquarters** – the hindquarters are probably the first thing about muscularity that many people notice, and should be thick and voluminous. The rump should be heavily muscled, the twist should be deep, the stifle should be bulging, and the thigh muscling should be thick and attach down low to the hock. When you look at the rear of the goat, it should look like the opening to a tent – sort of like an inverted ‘V’ with the sides of the V being pushed in from the outside.



**STYLE & BALANCE:**

Style and balance refers to the overall appearance of a goat. A well balanced goat is one that has all of the different ‘parts’ we have talked about put together smoothly and well-proportioned to each other. Typically, a goat whose frame is more structurally correct is more balanced. A stylish goat is ‘flashy’. She/he walks with an alert appearance and a long, firm stride, head carried high in the air, and a fluidness and elegance that is both pleasing, and tends to be indicative of a more productive animal, all other things equal.

**SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

This is the femininity (for does) and masculinity (for bucks) that is often referred to in the show ring. A doe should have a long, smoothly blended neck and front end, with an angular appearance to her chest and forequarters, and a wedge shape (mentioned in body capacity) to her barrel when viewed on profile. Overall, she should look strong, but refined and feminine. A buck, on the other hand, should exude strength and ‘ruggedness’. His neck and head will be thicker and heavier, his bones larger, and his barrel will profile squarer. He should look strong and masculine. These characteristics are placed last for good reason – they can be overemphasized. A doe can be so feminine that she is frail, and a buck so masculine that he is coarse, and care should be taken when looking at these traits to balance them with a strong, correct, and muscular goat.

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**ORDER OF IMPORTANCE:**

- |                  |                                 |  |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Breeding Animals | 1) Structural Correctness       |  |
|                  | 2) Size/Stature & Body Capacity | } <i>nearly equal in importance,<br/>and closely related</i> |
|                  | 3) Muscling                     |  |
|                  | 4) Style & Balance              |  |
|                  | 5) Sexual Characteristics       |  |

- |                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Market Animals | 1) Muscling                     |
|                | 2) Size/Stature & Body Capacity |
|                | 3) Structural Correctness       |
|                | 4) Style & Balance              |

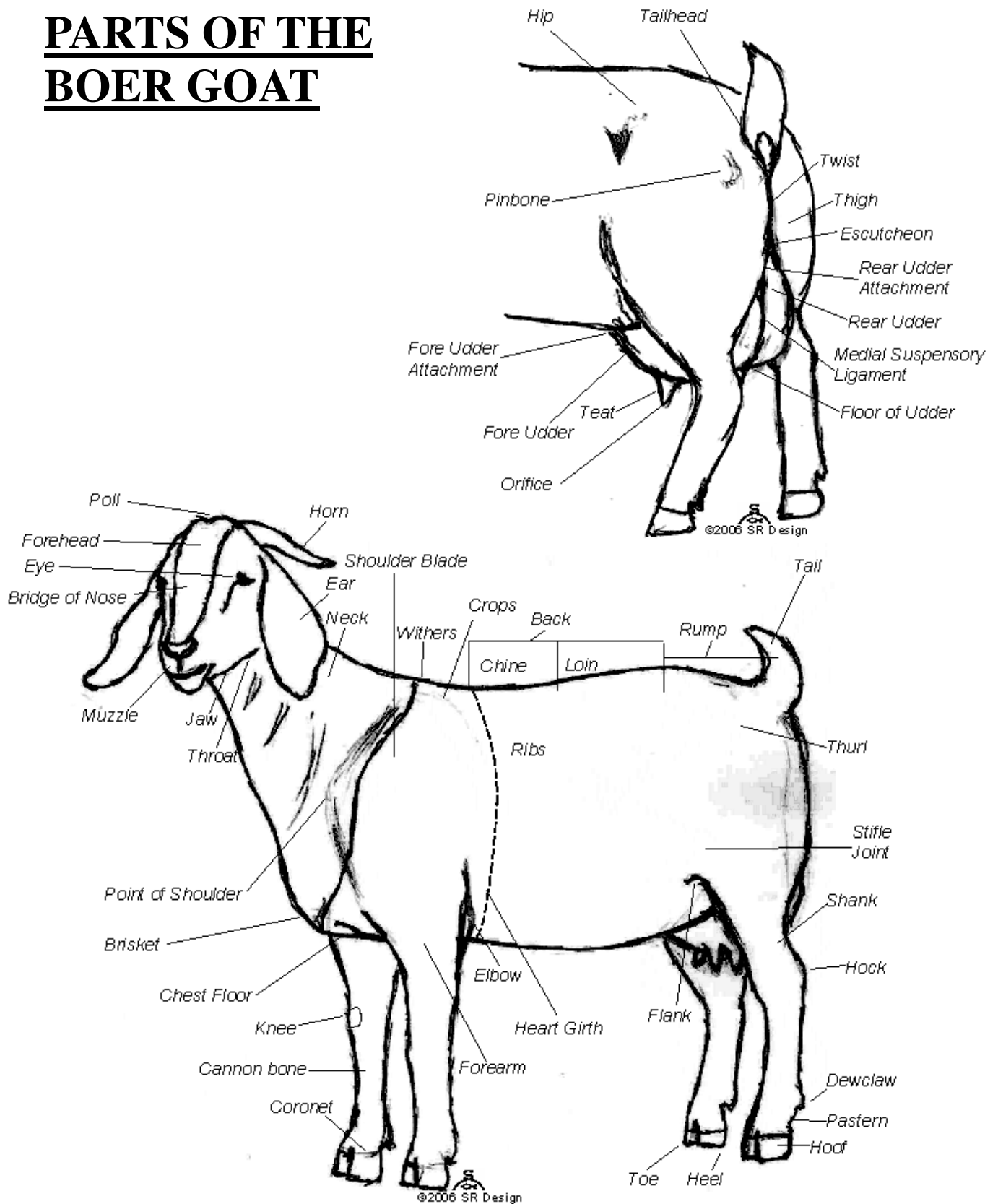
A good breeding animal should produce good market animals. Although certain traits, such as muscling, may be of lesser importance in a breeding animal, that doesn't mean they should be ignored, only that general appearance is more important for productivity. As your entire herd, for instance, is structurally correct and has large body capacities, you can then concentrate more on muscling, and improve profits because of more muscular animals. An ideal breeding animal will produce an ideal market animal.

Remember that an exaggerated fault may change the order of these traits, since, for instance, a goat with excellent general appearance, but very little muscling will place under a very muscular goat with adequate general appearance.

*The information in this publication reflects a compilation of information from publications by Dr. Frank Craddock and Scott Horner, as well as from the ABGA and ADGA breed standards.*

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# PARTS OF THE BOER GOAT



## **BASIC SHOWMANSHIP**

### *for meat goats*

Showmanship is the art of exhibiting your animal to the best of its ability – emphasizing its virtues while minimizing its faults. It is imperative that you maintain a proper attitude about showmanship. Showmanship is not deceit, neither should it be thought of as an attempt to ‘trick the judge’. It is simply giving your goat the best possible chance, but in a thoroughly honest and friendly manner. A major portion of showmanship is comprised of courtesy to the judge. When every exhibitor shows their goat the same way, using the same techniques, and possessing a good attitude, the judge is able to concentrate on evaluating the goats.

As with any art, showmanship is a little skill and a lot of sweat, and is not something that can be learned overnight. Below are a few tips we have compiled to help you get started.

#### ***PREPARATION:***

- Begin working with your goat at least a month before the show, preferably as soon as you get it. Practice walking your goat and setting it up. Use a choke chain for dogs (NOT on choke); however, you may have to start out with a halter. A goat that has been worked with is much easier to handle at the show, and a judge can tell the difference between a goat accustomed to being handled and one that has just been dragged out of the pasture.
- Breeding goats usually are not clipped before showing, but be sure to check the show’s rules. Most does look better with their hair on, but some people will trim long hairs and smooth up the head, neck, legs, etc.
- Wethers are nearly always clipped. Clipping 7-10 days before the show is considered ideal, as it allows time for the hair to grow a little and the clipper streaks to even out. Usually the entire head and body are clipped with a ¼” blade, leaving hair below the knees, below the hocks, and a square tuft at the end of the tail. The areas where hair is left are often touched up to trim long hairs and make the goat look neater.
- Trim your goat’s hooves about a week before the show. If you trim hooves the day of the show, the goat may be tender on its feet, and lead the judge to think that it is lame.
- Wash your goat the day before the show using regular shampoo. The next morning, and before you walk into the show, you can just use baby wipes to touch up. Be sure to clean under the goat’s tail!
- Brush your goat down before you walk into the ring (it is good to do this on a regular basis anyway). A little light oil in a spray can, such as Show Sheen, before you enter the ring really helps the goat’s coat to look glossy and healthy.
- Know your goat. Many times the goats will want to know your goat’s name, age, birth date, how much it eats, and other such common facts about your goat. Many judges also ask you to point to parts of the goat.
- Groom yourself. Dress nicely – a pressed, long-sleeve shirt and long pants such as pressed jeans are appropriate. Wear leather footwear (no flip-flops or sandals), leave your hat outside the ring, and don’t forget to brush your hair!

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***IN THE RING:***

- Be bright and alert. A smile always helps.
- Always keep the goat between yourself and the judge – you're showing your goat, not you!
- Lead the goat on the left side (the goat will be on your right). The only time you lead your goat on the right side will be when the judge moves to look at the left side of your goat.
- When you switch sides, always move around the goat's head – *NEVER* around its rear end.
- Always keep your goat's head up. Set its legs squarely beneath it, straight down. Place the legs as far apart as possible, but not spraddled. Make sure the hocks are straight in the rear, and are not turning in.
- Wethers should *NOT* be picked up and braced like lambs – not only does it destroy their pasterns, but many judges dislike it. They may be braced, however, when the judge comes to feel them by placing your knee against their chest (training them to push against your knee is necessary in most goats). Bracing helps to tighten their muscles.
- When you turn your goat, make wide, smooth circles. Tight turns 'kink' your goat, and tend to make it look less attractive.
- Be attentive. There are 3 things you need to look at, and another that you need to be aware of: keep an eye on the judge, an eye on the ring man, an eye on your goat, and be aware of the exhibitor and goat in front of you. Follow the judge's or ring man's instructions promptly and quietly.
- Set up your goat quickly and quietly. *ALWAYS* set your goat up, even if the judge is not looking at you. Don't show off, but rather always be standing there with a smile on your face and a calm, properly arranged goat.

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## GOAT RESOURCES

- [American Boer Goat Association](http://www.abga.org) – [www.abga.org](http://www.abga.org)
- [American Meat Goat Association](http://www.meatgoats.com) – [www.meatgoats.com](http://www.meatgoats.com)
- [American Dairy Goat Association](http://www.adga.org) – [www.adga.org](http://www.adga.org)
- [USDA Goat Handbook](http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/AgrEnv/ndd/goat/) - [www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/AgrEnv/ndd/goat/](http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/AgrEnv/ndd/goat/)
- *The Goat Health Handbook*, Thomas Thedford, D.V.M.
- *Dairy Goat Judging*, Considine & Trimmerger
- Extension & 4-H Publications
  - *Texas 4-H Meat Goat Guide*, Dr. Craddock, Ext. Publication #34060
  - *Texas 4-H Clover*, Lepley, Burkham & Howard, TX 4-H # 4H 3-3
  - *[Dairy] Goat Management*, Scott Horner
  - *TAMU Show Goat Video* – covers wethers/market goats. approx. 45 minutes long; purchase it for \$10.00. Make your check out to DISTRICT 7 FUND... Enclose a note saying you want the SHOW GOAT VIDEO along with the GUIDE. Mail to:  
Dr. Frank Craddock  
7887 US HWY. 87 North  
San Angelo, Texas 76901-9714
  
- [Texas 4-H Publications](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications/index.htm) - [texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications/index.htm](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications/index.htm)
- [Texas Ag Extension Publications](http://texaserc.tamu.edu/catalog/) - [texaserc.tamu.edu/catalog/](http://texaserc.tamu.edu/catalog/)
- [Cornell University](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/meatgoats/meatgoat4H.htm) – [www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/meatgoats/meatgoat4H.htm](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/meatgoats/meatgoat4H.htm)
- [Land and Livestock Post](#) – free subscription. Mail or fax name and address to:  
c/o Beverly Moseley, PO Box 3000, Bryan, TX 77805 FAX: 979-776-8923
- [Boergoats.com](http://www.boergoats.com) – [www.boergoats.com](http://www.boergoats.com)
- [Market Goats](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/2178/goat.html) – [www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/2178/goat.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/2178/goat.html)
- [Goat Health](http://www.saanendoah.com/goatss.html) – [www.saanendoah.com/goatss.html](http://www.saanendoah.com/goatss.html)
- [Bowie FFA](http://www.geocities.com/bowieffa/goats.html) - [www.geocities.com/bowieffa/goats.html](http://www.geocities.com/bowieffa/goats.html)
- [Onion Creek Ranch](http://www.tennesseemeatgoats.com) – [www.tennesseemeatgoats.com](http://www.tennesseemeatgoats.com)
- [Bar None Meat Goats](http://www.barnonemeatgoats.com) – [www.barnonemeatgoats.com](http://www.barnonemeatgoats.com)
- Your veterinarian!

### **SUPPLIES:**

- [Premier 1 Supplies](http://www.premier1supplies.com) – [www.premier1supplies.com](http://www.premier1supplies.com) – goat fencing, equipment, etc.
- [Hoegger Supply Company](http://www.thegoatstore.com) – [www.thegoatstore.com](http://www.thegoatstore.com)
- [Caprine Supply](http://www.caprinesupply.com) – [www.caprinesupply.com](http://www.caprinesupply.com)
- [Producers Cooperative Association](#) – PO Box 112, Bryan, TX 77806, PHONE: 979-778-6000