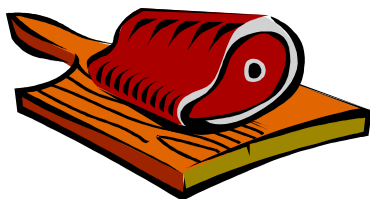


Traces



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We live in interesting times! There is just so much going on in the industry. The pioneers who have struggled for years to help our industry gain a degree of acceptance should take a bow. It certainly hasn't been easy but those who have survived drought, fluctuating prices and dodgy deals, may finally reap some rewards for all the blood sweat & tears. Boer Goat breeders are facing a time of decisions with elections and AGMs in all states over the next few weeks. We have delayed Traces till close of voting for the Qld Branch BGBAA. I hope all members made the effort to vote and will chase up their successful candidates to lobby for whatever changes they feel need to be made to keep our industry moving forward. The AGM for the Qld BGBAA will be held in Toowoomba again this year on Saturday 24th September. The federal AGM will be held on the 4th & 5th November in Adelaide. These locations will make it a bit difficult for most Qld members to attend either, but agenda items can be submitted in writing, or by getting committee members or directors to present your case.



Prices should slowly be pushed up by the shortage of supply in Queensland. Although it seems most processors up north have adjusted to the short supply by reducing the number of kill days. Dinmore (Ipswich) and Western Exporters (Charleville) were paying about \$2.50/kg for carcasses over 12kg HSCW last time I checked. Kerridale was paying 95c/kg on the hoof. If you are selling, ring and discuss prices first, as some negotiating can be done for a good line of wethers. As always, drought affected stock are hard to sell with freight costs often absorbing the price of lightweight animals. Recent rains have slowed sales however they came too late for a number of breeders who sold all their stock earlier when faced with another winter without feed. As some of these sold breeding stock as well as wethers, this may impact on next year's supply of animals. For those that were able to hang on, things are getting better all the time. A new plant is being built for Auspac to produce pre-packaged goat meals. My most recent report said that land has been donated by the local council and a government grant has been obtained for the construction. When running at full capacity, it will help to fill the void left by the closure of Cherbourg. Auspac is already operating on a limited scale, contact David Burfitt for more information. The new plant at Oberon in NSW is now up and running and killing Monday to Wednesday. PBM was paying \$2.40/kg for 10-16kg carcasses (up to 20kg for high boerX, young stock). Qld still has a way to go before we see the \$3.50/kg prices being paid in some southern markets. Other southern markets are having trouble with supply with Broken Hill Exporters

Developments are underway in conjunction with markets for crossbred does (see export) to address the impact of freight costs on market prices for wethers....more on this later.

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Good news for Queensland's meat goat breeders! Chevredor has landed a **long term** contract to supply mixed shipments of crossbred and fullblood Boers to Malaysia. The goats are to be assembled in Chevredor's AQIS registered export quarantine centre and will fly out of Brisbane on a very regular basis. The first two shipments totalling 660 breeders have been successfully completed with the next order for 620 being assembled now and to be followed by another of 400 as soon as possible. Eighteen breeders from around Queensland, including Biloela, Bundaberg, Kingaroy, Esk, Kogan, Miles, Jackson, Dalby, Texas and Goondiwindi have supplied animals for the initial orders, some working together to assemble animals in convenient locations to reduce freight costs. Animals can be selected, tested and shipped within 10 days with payment in full before departure. Colour is not important, just sound breeding does. We need producers willing to breed for this market as a sideline to their wether operation. If you have any for sale, either now or within the next couple of months send us an email or give us a ring. At \$50/head average (+GST where applicable) for 1st Cross does, delivered to the quarantine centre, this equates to over \$4/kg HSCW. We are very excited about the implications of this contract for **all** Queensland breeders and hope that this ongoing, high volume market will set a base price for commercial does and bring an end the horror prices that have sometimes been paid for good breeding stock in the past. The Philippines also has a strong presence in the Qld market at the moment chasing very large numbers of both breeder meat goats (1st Cross also at \$50/head and up to \$150 for high crosses), full blood Boers, Kalaharis, Saanens and Anglo-Nubians. Chevredor is handling some of these orders and needs more suppliers.

Are you looking to grow your business?

Export could be the answer?

Everyday, Australian businesses of all sizes are successfully taking up the export challenge for the first time. Maybe your business should be thinking about export?

Getting into Export is an introductory workshop involving a small group of participants. It is designed specifically for key decision makers in small and medium sized enterprises who are considering making export part of their business and would like to learn more about what is required to become a successful exporter.

Experienced export advisers from the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) will present the workshop, helping you decide whether export is something that could help grow your business and secure its future.

The workshop will assist in addressing questions such as:

- Are you export capable?
- How do you become export ready?
- How do you assess the export potential of your product?
- How do you prepare for export?
- Who can help you?

This workshop will be run in conjunction with the AGM for the Qld Branch of the BGBAA.

Date: Saturday 24 September 2005

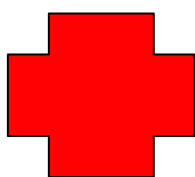
Venue: Toowoomba Showgrounds

Time: 3.00 - 5.00pm

Cost: Free

RSVP: Wednesday 21 September 2005 to:

Anthony Holzwart
Export Advisor - Tradestart
Department of State Development and Innovation
SDC Toowoomba
Tel: 61 7 4698 9850
Mob: 61 427 772840
Fax: 61 7 4638 2139
Email: anthony.holzwart@sd.qld.gov.au



A follow-up on the tick issue - I received a letter from Rosemary Hunwick at Gympie. Rosemary wrote about a home remedy that was passed on to her a couple of years ago. She cautions that she has not tried it on goats but has heard of successes with dogs and cats. Faced with the prospect of losing an animal otherwise, you may consider it worth a try.

The remedy is reproduced below:

We all know the symptoms of scrub tick bites so I'll skip that. If you have lost cats and dogs before you may like to try this home remedy. The thing is to learn what to do so that you can work quickly, calmly and confidently. In a small box keep handy:

1 pair small sharp curved blade pointed end scissors

1 bottle ordinary brown iodine

a few new 10ml plastic syringes (so they will slide without sticking)

Tick Removal A scrub tick is an animal with a brain and a fine sense of survival. It has already injected poison into its victim and there is a correct way to remove it without exciting it to inject more. It is most important not to fiddle with it, spray it with insecticide, douse with kero or burn with a lighted cigarette. The worst of all is the squeeze and pull method, this leaves the head behind and also just about guarantees the pet's death. Locate tick and take it by surprise. Slide blades of scissors with side of it, press down and snip. Its good if you remove a chunk of skin. Dab undiluted iodine on bite site. Look for more than 1 tick.

They can hide just inside the most private of holes. (Remember to kill the tick)

Treatment Have ready about 1 teaspoon (4mls) iodine plus a little water to nearly fill syringe. Shake to mix. Sit by victim and without raising its head (or it will choke) drip liquid into back of mouth slowly. Massaging throat will help it swallow. This may take a while, drop by drop. When the animal has taken the dose, leave it in a quiet, cool, shady place. Wet if necessary. Do not fuss with it or let any other animal near for they may even kill their sick mate. (I know, because I've learnt that the hard way) 1 teaspoon of iodine in a little water is the correct dose for any weight cat or dog. (3kg cat up to 55kg dog) 1 dose is all that is needed. Recovery is said to be rapid, usually about 2 hours. I have heard of dozens of successful cases, no-one has reported failure. **Footnote: since receiving this letter, I have had a phone call from Rosemary reporting on the success of this treatment with both goats and sheep.**

At this time of year, many goat breeders are either watching a healthy crop of kids bounce around the paddocks or wondering what went wrong. The following information on the nutritional causes for losses has been forwarded by Wilma Curry of Morven. A great supporter of the goat industry as well

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as being a large scale commercial goat breeder, Wilma has been collecting information, anecdotes and experience for many years. She is always happy to talk about any “goat-related” problems and has been an enormous help to us, and no doubt many others. Thanks Wilma!

You have to understand that there are no nutrients necessary for reproduction that aren't necessary to maintain the general health and well being of your goats. Having said this though, a non reproducing goat *may* get through a tough time when some of these nutrients are in very short supply but many or all parts of the reproductive process can fail in these tough times resulting in doe deaths, abortions, weak and sickly kids, poor mothering and the resulting increase in predation and does just failing to conceive.

The most important nutritional factors influencing reproduction are:

- Energy
- Protein
- Phosphorus and vitamin D
- Vitamin A
- Selenium and vitamin E
- Salt and trace elements

Energy

Fertility can be impaired in drought seasons by poor pasture, change to lower quality feedstuffs and conditions which produce lower feed intake (like carrying multiple fetuses). All lead to the goat's demand for energy exceeding what it can derive from its feed intake. An increase in energy supply is often followed by improved rates of ovulation and conception. This phenomenon of “flushing” has long been utilized by sheep breeders to increase lamb crop and is equally successful in goats.

Energy supplies also have a marked effect on age of puberty and thus on the age of first kidding. Early breeding for better economics of raising replacements require sufficient size of doelings at first estrus cycles, which means a moderately high level of energy in the doeling rations. Insufficient size at breeding of doelings may be followed by kidding problems five months later. Pregnant doelings need extra energy not only for their pregnancy but also to continue their growth rate sufficiently.

Shortages of energy, especially under range conditions, are known to cause not only stunted growth but also abortion in goats. This may occur mostly between 90 and 110 days of gestation when under nutrition is especially critical to normal fetal development. So called stress abortion is triggered by low maternal blood glucose levels which initiates hyperactivity of the fetal adrenal gland resulting in elevated abortifacient estrogen level and the premature expulsion of a live or fresh fetus. After 110 days of gestation the fetal adrenal is slower acting. However, maternal hyperadrenalism can also stem from under nutrition and low blood glucose resulting in dead or autolyzed fetuses. Thus, abortion can be prevented by proper sufficient nutrition because most fertility problems can be considered to a large degree a temporary reaction to a negative energy balance.

Protein

The relationship of protein to reproduction is similar to that of energy and the two nutrients interact to a large extent. Even when energy supplies are adequate, a shortage of protein will impair fertility, cause delayed onset of puberty, lengthen anoestrus of goats and result in weak expression of estrus if it occurs. All these factors will lower kidding percentages meaning that the property is carrying animals that are not producing.

Phosphorus and Vitamin D

A phosphorus deficiency is more likely than a calcium deficiency in grazing goats because of phosphorus deficient forages. Adequate phosphorus supplementation for high producing dairy goats is more critical. A level of 0.4P in the total ration is recommended. The ratio of calcium-to-phosphorus

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should not be much different from 1.2:1.0 Excess of phosphorus has been associated with the occurrence of urinary calculi, particularly in confined bucks; in which case a Ca:P ratio of 1.5:1.0 or greater is recommended. Poor reproduction performance has been related to wide Ca:P ratios and to phosphorus deficiencies; such as low first service conception rates and silent heats. Vitamin D has also been implicated through its effect on phosphorus utilization. Vitamin D supplementation is advised for young, poorly growing kids and goats in confinement and exposed to little sunlight.

Vitamin A

Deficiencies of vitamin A, its carotene precursors or interference in their conversion all are implicated in reproductive problems in goats, although more studies exist on cattle and sheep, and species differences have been noted. Vitamin A is essential for normal spermatogenesis in quantity and quality. It is also essential in combating various respiratory and gastro-intestinal diseases, and parasitism, and is needed for normal visual functions and healthy skin rations, heat stress, phosphorus deficiency and presence of nitrates or nitrites in feed interfere with proper vitamin A levels or inhibit conversion of carotenes to vitamin A in goats. As a result, dead or weak kids may be born; even abortions or retained placenta may occur. New born kids may have low vitamin A liver reserves and suffer high mortality. Eye abnormalities are signs of more serious vitamin A deficiencies. This can occur more during or after a dry summer, while green forages have abundant carotene supplies. Commercial supplementation of vitamin A is relatively inexpensive, as is that of vitamin D or E. All three are usually provided in commercial feeds in proper ratios, e.g. 5:1:0.01 or in a combined ADE injection.

Selenium and Vitamin E

Retained placenta can be a selenium and vitamin E responsive disease when not caused by mechanical or pathogenic factors. The incidence can be markedly reduced with selenium-vitamin E treatment or supplementation, especially in those areas where the soils are selenium deficient. Selenium can be supplemented by feeding or injections. Deficiencies in growing kids and lambs can lead to white muscle disease.

Salt and Trace Elements

Lack of salt will reduce voluntary feed intake and develop various deficiency symptoms besides emaciation, urge to lick and chew dirt, shaggy dull hair coat, poor growth and wobbly gait. Salt is a convenient carrier also for the trace elements needed by goats for normal reproduction such as zinc, manganese, iodine, cobalt, iron, copper and sulfur. Zinc and manganese in particular, affect spermatogenesis, libido and oogenesis when deficient.

* * * * *



We were really pleased when Dr Jue Sue, veterinary parasitologist and goat owner gave us permission to reproduce "Worms damn Worms" in the Traces 5. In the meantime he has forwarded a great deal of information which we have permission to reproduce. I am sure his articles will be of great benefit to all struggling to protect their herds from the ravages of these pesky parasites.

'Woimers ain't Woimers Sol!

Those of you who are not familiar with the Caltex GTX "Oils ain't Oils Sol!" advertisement please disregard the title. The topic of worms and wormers can appear extremely confusing to the uninitiated because not only do we have all these strange and complicated names for the worms in our goats, we also have all these complicated names for wormers to treat the worms.

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The confusion arises from the fact that in most discussions **Brand Names** or **Trade Names** are often interchanged with **Chemical Names** or **Generic Names** and the confusion is compounded when different drug companies have different Trade Names for the same chemical.

Take the example of **Albendazole** this is the Generic or Chemical name, when produced by Virbac (Australia) the Trade Name is **Alben**, Pfizer Animal Health call their product **Valbazen**, Novartis Animal Health call their product **Rycoben** and Newfarm Limited call theirs **Nemadet Oral**.

Another example is **Ivermectin**, this is the Generic Name but **Ivomec** or **Ivomec RV** is the Trade Name used by Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD Agvet) and **Numectin** is the Trade name used by Newfarm Limited.

So when you are thinking about Anthelmintics be aware of the **Trade Name/Generic Name/Drug Company** implications.

How do Wormers Work?

There are 5 main groups of Anthelmintics each with a different mode of action.

- Group 1** **Benzimidazoles** drugs in this group deprive the parasite of energy by effecting their metabolism and starving the worms to death.
- Group 2** **Levamisole/Morantel** these drugs act on nerve ganglions. Levamisole acts as a nerve stimulant causing rapid sustained contraction of muscles resulting in paralysis. Morantel causes paralysis by depolarizing the neuromuscular system.
- Group 3** **Organophosphates** act on the nervous system by inhibiting acetylcholinesterase resulting in continual stimulation of the nerve ending because the transmitter acetylcholine is not defused.
- Group 4** **Salicylanilide** binds to plasma protein and is only active against blood sucking worms. It inhibits energy production by uncoupling phosphorylation reactions.
- Group 5** **Avermectins** act on the nervous system by blocking gamma aminobutyric acid (GABA) mediated transmission of nerve signals.

Basically the options are **Starve them** or **Paralyze them**.

Broad V Narrow Spectrum Drenches

The majority of anthelmintics are broad spectrum in that they are active against a wide range of worms. The Benzimidazoles (BZ's) are active against all of the gastrointestinal nematodes, except for those that have developed BZ resistance, plus Lungworm and Tapeworm.

Levamisole can be used for Lungworm plus intestinal worms but has no activity against Tapeworms.

Macrocyclic Lactones are effective against all of the nematodes and have activity against some Arthropods but have no activity against tapeworms.

Organophosphates namely Rametin is a low to medium spectrum drench, used primarily against *Haemonchus* (Barbers Pole Worm) and resistant *Trichostrongylus* (Black Scour Worm).

The Salicylanilide Closantel is a narrow spectrum drench that attaches to blood plasma and is therefore only active against those parasites that actively feed on blood e.g. *Haemonchus* and *Fasciola hepatica* (Liver Fluke).

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What are the Practical Ramifications?

Firstly we must understand that we are dealing with two major groups of parasites that are vastly different from each other in almost every aspect of their biology. On the one hand we have the **Nematodes** and on the other there are the Tapeworms (**Cestodes**) and Flukes (**Trematodes**). We must appreciate that some drenches (Levamisole, Ivermectin) have activity against Nematodes but are ineffective against Tapeworms and Flukes, “Woims ain’t Woims Sol”. This makes sense if we consider that Levamisole and the Avermectins act on nervous transmission and paralyse the parasite. The method of nerve transmission in Nematodes differs from that in Cestodes and Trematodes which are unaffected by Levamisole or Ivermectin.

A narrow spectrum drench such as Closantel is very effective in situations where the main parasite is *Haemonchus* and the regular drench strategy involves a broad spectrum anthelmintic. A strategic treatment with Closantel will remove any worms that may be progressing towards resistance to the broad spectrum drench and thus prolong its affectivity.

Combination Drenches

Combination drenches are good news and bad news. The good news is you increase the chance of killing any worms in the system, the bad news is you are exposing the worm population to two groups of anthelmintics instead of one and this may facilitate an increase in the development of resistance to both groups of drench.

Next newsletter will feature: “Why drenches fail”.

Special Events

As far as I can ascertain, the show season in Qld is over as far as goats are concerned. A few studs have achieved major successes in the last couple of months. We haven’t the space to give all the results, but for those of you who are interested, the broad ribbon winners of the recent shows are listed below.



Charters Towers – 2nd August

Karin and Noel of Kwee Wee Boers put their stamp on the Charters Towers show, taking all the champion ribbons. Reserve champion ribbons went to Yaambadale’s Aaron Roberts and Belford Boers’ Brad Belford. Abbergowrie and Columba Colleges finished in the placings.



Brisbane – 20th August

I don’t like to boast *too* much.....but Chevredor collected *all* the champion ribbons for Standard Boers at Brisbane this year. Rolly Dixon of Kane Boers collected three reserve champion ribbons with the remaining reserve champion going to Justin Gilbert from NSW. Peter & Jeanette Firth made a clean sweep of the major ribbons for the Reds. Chevredor also won the Champion Goat Carcass of Show in the Hoof & Hook with a 2nd cross wether Champion light carcass went to Bert Cairns of Armadown, Proston.