



Goat Newsletter

Cooperative Extension Program
Langston University

The Newsletter of the E (Kika) de la Garza American Institute for Goat Research

Spring 2009

From the Director's Desk



Winter is starting to ease out and spring to ease in here in central Oklahoma. The daffodils are starting to bloom and for me that is always a reminder that we have important events looming. The first event is the submission of abstracts for the national meetings of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and the American Dairy Science Association, which will be held in July in Montreal. I am happy to report that we will have a good presence at these national meetings as we have more than 10 abstracts accepted.

The second event is our annual Goat Field Day (April 25, 2009) for which we are busy planning. This year's theme will be ***Breeding for the Future in the Dairy and Meat***

Goat Industries.

Our featured speakers will be Ms. **Lisa Shepard** who will speak on Performance Programs - Your "Genetic Toolbox", and Dr. **Richard Browning, Jr.**, who will speak on Breed Evaluation for Commercial Meat Goat Herds: A Research Update.

Ms. **Shepard** currently works for the American Dairy Goat Association under contract as the Performance Programs Coordinator. This involves efforts with the DHI Production Testing, Linear Appraisal, Sire Development, DNA Typing, Artificial Insemination, and Type programs.

Dr. **Browning** is a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Tennessee State University in Nashville, where he initiated meat goat breed evaluation focusing on fitness and performance traits among Boer, Kiko, and Spanish does.

This year's sub-theme will be ***Globalization/Internationalization of Goat Production***. Collaborators on the International Collaboration in Goat Research and Production Web-Based Decision Support Aids project will be at the 2009

Goat Field Day to discuss goat production in their respective countries. The Web-based Goat Nutrient Requirement Calculators are currently being translated into Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, and French language versions and installed on servers in China, Mexico, Jordan, and Rwanda.

Just like last year, we have something exciting planned for the youth. With the help of the Oklahoma Goat Producers Association (OGPA), we will be holding three youth contests again. Youth will be able to enter a poster, speech, and/or PowerPoint contest. We will have two age divisions per contest and the OGPA will be awarding cash prizes to the winners. A new youth activity for this year is a ½-day GPS scavenger hunt on campus. Youth will learn the basics of GPS and will use a GPS unit to find "hidden" objects.

We are also busy making plans for the 2009 Buck Performance Test, which will start on June 6th. The test is open to purebred and crossbred bucks born between January 1 and April 30, 2009. The starting date is one month later than in previous years. A canvass-



Goat Newsletter is published quarterly by the Cooperative Extension Service of the E (Kika) de la Garza American Institute for Goat Research, Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma.

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ing of interested producers revealed that delaying the start one month would be beneficial and we have done so.

Recently, Langston University was awarded a research project entitled *Boer Goat Selection for Residual Feed Intake (RFI)*. The 2009 and the 2010 Oklahoma Meat Buck Performance Tests will be central to this project. Bucks on the performance test will be classified as 1) HIGH RFI - HIGH ADG; 2) HIGH RFI - LOW ADG; 3) LOW RFI - HIGH ADG; and 4) LOW RFI - LOW ADG. Langston University would like to purchase 20 to 24 Boer bucks (4 to 5 per classification) per year for use in the project. These purchased bucks will be bred to Boer females and their progeny will be performance tested. Moreover, we hope to utilize bucks on the performance test to evaluate measures that may be related to RFI and serve as predictors at an early age.

If you would like more information on the Buck Performance Test, please contact Drs. **Hart** or **Gipson**, or you can go to our web site at <http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/extension/2009bucktest.htm>.

We welcomed two Visiting Scholars recently. Ms. **Yoko Tsukahara** from Kyoto University in Japan underwent an intensive one-month training program. Ms. **Tsukahara** was trained by Langston scientists in many of the research activities of the Institute including energy expenditure and calorimetry; animal monitoring equipment and GPS in goats; estrus synchronization and the

reproductive technologies of trans-cervical and laparoscopic insemination; internal parasites, anthelmintic resistance, and larval hatching; goat milk safety, cheese and goat milk soap making; goat hide tanning and the making of leather; goat nutrition and other applications. Of special interest to Ms. **Tsukahara** was training on our on-line production system simulation program, goat nutrient calculator and web-based producer certification program.

Dr. **Ahmed Helal** from the Desert Research Center in Cairo, Egypt is conducting a six-month sabbatical at Langston University. Dr. **Helal** is a collaborator on a project entitled *The Grazing Activity Energy Cost of Goats*, which is funded by the United States - Egypt Joint Science and Technology Fund Program. The objectives of the project are to 1) determine the magnitude of the grazing activity energy cost of goats under different common production settings in an arid region of Egypt and in the south-central U.S., and 2) develop simple means of predicting the grazing activity energy cost of goats based on factors relatively easily estimable by farmers. As this project progresses, I will keep you informed.

You can read more about the Goat Field Day, the youth contests, and all other field day activities for adult and youth in the following pages of this newsletter. I hope to see you at the 2009 Goat Field Day.



Breeding for the Future in the Dairy and Meat Goat Industries - Goat Field Day 2009

Our annual Goat Field Day will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Langston University Goat Farm with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. This year's theme will be **Breeding for the Future in the Dairy and Meat Goat Industries**.

Adult Activity (morning session): This year our featured speakers will be Ms. Lisa Shepard who will speak on Performance Programs - Your "Genetic Toolbox", and Dr. Richard Browning, Jr., who will speak on Breed Evaluation for Commercial Meat Goat Herds: A Research Update.

Ms. Lisa Shepard currently works for the American Dairy Goat Association under contract as the Performance Programs Coordinator. This involves efforts with the DHI Production Testing, Linear Appraisal, Sire Development, DNA Typing, Artificial Insemination, and Type programs. Prior to this, she was employed in the laboratory genetics field for 30 years with her work evolving into the areas of quality assurance and regulatory affairs. Ms. Shepard is also a representative to the California Dairy Goat Advisory committee, officer in the National Saanen Breeders Association, and on the Board of New Mexico's caprine DHIA. Lisa and her husband raise a small seedstock herd of Saanens in northern New Mexico. They keep it small so that they can enjoy their other interests in traveling and hiking.

Dr. Richard Browning, Jr. is a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Tennessee State University in Nashville. Dr. Browning earned a B.S. from Prairie View A & M University and M.S. and Ph.D. from Texas A & M University. Dr. Browning initiated meat goat breed evaluation research in 2001. The main focus of his research has been to study fitness and performance traits among Boer, Kiko, and Spanish does raising straightbred and crossbred kids raised under commercial, pasture management conditions. The work has also included postweaning performance and carcass merit of the offspring.

Adult Activity (afternoon session): This year's

sub-theme will be **Globalization/Internationalization of Goat Production**. Collaborators on the International Collaboration in Goat Research and Production Web-Based Decision Support Aids project will be at the 2009 Goat Field Day and will discuss goat production in their respective countries. Dr. Jun Luo of the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in Yangling, China is the collaborator for the Chinese language version and will present on dairy goat production in China. Dr. Ignacio Tovar-Luna of the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo in Bermajillo, Mexico is the collaborator for the Spanish language version and will present on dairy goat production in Mexico. Dr. Laith al Rousan of the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Jordan is the collaborator for the Arabic language version and will present on goat production in Jordan, with emphasis on meat goats. Mr. Juvenal Kanani of the National University of Rwanda in Butare, Rwanda is the collaborator for the French language version and will present on meat goat production in Central Africa.

Participants will be able to break into other small-group workshops. There will be a total of fifteen afternoon workshops; however, participants will only have time enough to attend three. Afternoon workshops include:

- Using your Genetic Resources with Ms. Lisa Shepard.
- Using On-farm Performance Recording to Enhance the Meat Goat Herd Enterprise with Dr. Richard Browning, Jr.
- Dairy Goat Production in China - overview of the Chinese dairy goat industry and its production practices with Dr. Jun Luo.
- Dairy Goat Production in Mexico - overview of the Mexican dairy goat industry and its production practices with Dr. Ignacio Tovar-Luna.
- Goat Production in Jordan - overview of the Middle Eastern goat industry and its production practices with Dr. Laith al Rousan.
- Goat Production in Central Africa - overview of the

You can register online for the 2009 Goat Field Day
<http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/library/fd2009.html>

Central African meat goat industry and its production practices with Mr. Juvenal Kanani.

- Basic Goat Husbandry - hoof trimming, injection sites, farm management calendar, disbudding, etc., with Mr. Jerry Hayes.

- Basic Herd Health - herd health program including vaccinations and other approved drugs with Dr. Lionel Dawson.

- Nutrition for Health and Production - calculation of energy, protein and feed intake requirements with Dr. Steve Hart.

- Internal Parasite Control - sustainable internal parasite control program with Dr. Dave Sparks.

- Pack Goats - basic goat training as a pack animal and equipment needs with Mr. Dwite Sharp.

- Managing External Pests - control of external parasites and pests on goats with Dr. Justin Talley.

- Goats from a Professional Buyer's Viewpoint - learn to look at your goats as a buyer sees them with Mr. Mike and Ms. Katie Pershbacher.

- DHI Training - supervisor/tester training for dairy goat producers including scale certification with Ms. Eva Vasquez.

- Tanning Goat Hides - basic tanning and leather treatment of goat skins with Dr. Roger Merkel.

- USDA Government Programs - overview of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's work with goats and its cost-sharing program with Mr. Dwight Guy.

- Fitting and Showing for Youth and Adults - tips and pointers on fitting and show ring etiquette with Ms. Kay Garrett (this is a full day workshop).

Fun Tent Youth Activity: Ms. Sheila Stevenson will host a full day of activities for youth ages 5-12 in the Fun Tent. This will allow the parents and older teens to enjoy the workshops knowing that their little ones are having fun in a safe environment. Last year,

some activities included goat activities, pony rides, fishing, pot your own plant, and many others. This year's Youth Fun Tent activities have not yet been finalized but Sheila assures you that they will be as much fun as last year.

Poster, Speech and PowerPoint Youth Activity: The Oklahoma Goat Producers Association will be sponsoring three contests (Poster, Speech and PowerPoint) during the Goat Field Day. There will be two age divisions for each contest. Junior division is 12 and under and senior division is 13 to 18. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each division and contest. The theme for the poster contest will be "What Goats Mean to the World". Speech and PowerPoint contestants may present their speech on any aspect of the goat industry.

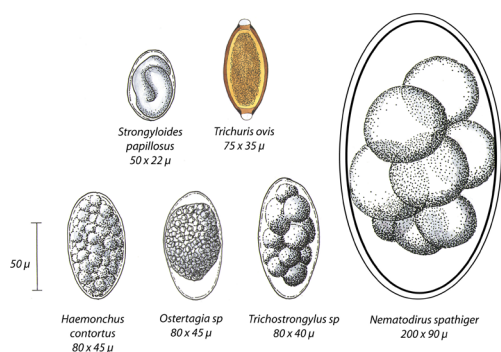
Fitting and Showing Youth Activity: Youth and interested adults will be able to participate in a full-day clipping, fitting, and showing workshop conducted by Ms. Kay Garrett of the Oklahoma Meat Goat Association. Participants will have the opportunity for hands-on practice of clipping, fitting, and showing a goat.

GPS Scavenger Hunt Youth Activity: Ms. Sheila Stevenson will also organize a ½-day GPS scavenger hunt on campus. Youth will learn the basics of GPS and will use a GPS unit to find "hidden" objects.

Registration for the Goat Field Day is FREE but there is a \$10.00 per person charge for the optional barbecued goat lunch. You can bring your own lunch and picnic on the grounds or you can pre-register for a lunch of barbecued goat.

For information regarding the 2009 Goat Field Day, contact Dr. Terry Gipson at 405-466-6126 or at tgipson@luresext.edu.

Internal Parasite Workshop in your County?



At this time of the year, many of you are focused on kidding season, but after you get the kids safely on the ground and the weather warms up, your attention should turn to internal parasites (worms). Langston offers workshops to train producers to better manage parasites. The workshops include topics such as the biology of the parasite and how various types of management practices such as pasture rotation, weather or grazing height can affect the level of parasite infestation. Dewormer characteristics and selection also are discussed. Participants are trained in methods to detect worm infestation in animals including use of the FAMACHA eye

color chart and doing your own fecal egg count. To schedule a workshop in your area, ask your County Extension Educator to contact Dr. Steve Hart (405-466-6138).

Adult reg #1

Adult reg #2

Shelia cover

Waiver and release

Speech , Poster, and
Powerpoint desc

YSpeech Poster Powerpoint reg

Youth reg

Noteworthy News

► In January, Dr. **Steve Hart** traveled to Ontario, Canada for two dairy goat conferences. One conference was held in the south-west region (Elmwood) where dairy goat nutrition and raising replacement doelings were discussed. He also spoke at the Grey Bruce County Farmer Days on dairy goat nutrition and controlling internal parasites.

► In February, Dr. **Arthur Goetsch** traveled to Israel and Jordan for a planning conference for a Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund project.

► In February, Dr. **Steve Hart** traveled to Miami, OK to present on Internal Parasites for the Ottawa County Extension Office.

► In February, Dr. **Steve Hart** traveled to Chamberlain, SD

as part of a South Dakota State University review committee to create a goat handbook for the north-central region.

► In March, Drs. **Tilahun Sahlu** and **Roger Merkel** traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to attend the midpoint conference of the Ethiopia Sheep and Goat Productivity Improvement Program and to work on project activities.

Goat Field Day 2009

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