

THE DAIRY GOAT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Victorian Branch Inc.

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016



JAZZY KASSIDY

**JAZZY HAS WON MANY SUPREME EXHIBITS
THIS SHOW SEASON**

DGSA VICTORIAN BRANCH Inc.

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Stud Adverts (about one-sixth page) \$20 per year

The DGSA Victorian Branch does not accept responsibility for inaccuracies or false statements. All responsibility for Copy rest with the Advertiser

Newsletter Subscriptions: Non Victorian Members \$10

Payment (cheques & money orders) to be made payable to "The DGSA Victorian Branch" and forwarded to the Treasurer.

Newsletter Copy: All articles, photos etc to be forwarded to the Editor. Contributions on disc or email would be appreciated as are paper productions

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the DGSA . While every effort is made to ensure the Newsletter's accuracy, the DGSA accepts no responsibility should same be proven false.

COMMITTEE BITES

Snippets from Committee Meeting held in December

Discussion on La Mancha Breed Standards this will be presented as a motion to Federal Council in 2016

Bendigo All Breed Goat Fair to be held in Bendigo in April. Branch will sponsor this event for \$200 and will promote this in the newsletter and facebook pages.

HICO Herd Recording Scheme new costs \$65 Herd Registration \$1.50 for each test and \$3.90 for Q* tests. Contact

Rhonda Patton

New Committee member Heather Goethals

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Welcome to our new members we hope you enjoy learning lots and breeding lots of goats.

Peter & Sarah Watts Alexandra Prefix KORIELLA

Lauren & Steven Daws Euroa

Cathryn Kelly Somerville

Jean Black Portland Prefix: MT VAN DYKE

Mindia Dairy Goats Jessica Thiveos Kilmore

Prefix: MINDIA



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well it seems that I am the new Editor of the Victorian Branch Newsletter. For those of you who don't know me I have been breeding and showing goats for over 35 years. I breed Anglo Nubians and British Alpines under the Anama and Tallulah Stud names and have just bought my first Miniature goat. I am hoping to start breeding some smaller Nubian type miniatures. I also judge Dairy Goat and Miniature Goat Shows around the country. I also enjoy showing and breeding and I make lots of Soap -Goat Milk and other varieties.

I hope that the newsletter will keep you informed about the goings on in Victoria and that you find the articles interesting. The Newsletter is only as good as your contributions so I will be on the look out for interesting stories to publish. If there is something you would like some information on let me know and I will try and find it. We have quite a few new members and perhaps they could let me know what they would like to see in the Newsletter. Bryony LePoidevin

A BIT OF HISTORY ARTHUR HEWITT

I was talking to Anne Mc Cormack from our local Funeral Home and she happened to mention that her father judged Dairy Goats and as a little girl she used to go to shows with him. She said her father always wore a sports coat a hat and sometimes a dust coat. He was a n Agriculturalist and never owned goats but helped set up the DGSA Vic Branch. Anyway here is a little bit of information on Arthur Hewitt. This was sent to me from his daughter Valerie I have cut the article down to give the basic information of his involvement in the Victorian Branch D.G.S.A.

A.C.T. HEWITT, M.Agr.Sc. 27.2.1906-29.5.2000

Arthur Hewitt had a distinguished career as an Agricultural Scientist in the Victorian Department of Agriculture and contributed much to the advancement of agriculture in Australia through his



many livestock notes, texts, lectures to farmers, demonstrations of carcass appraisal and book “Feeding Farm Animals”. This was used as a University textbook for a number of years. For over three decades he wrote for the Journal of Agriculture on a wide variety of agricultural subjects. His lectures, many at Dookie College, were well attended. He had the knack of speaking in layman’s terms, relating well to his audience. He judged goats, cattle, and carcass competitions at numerous Shows.

Early in his career Mr Hewitt pursued research in breeding and genetics after being granted his Masters Degree for a thesis on dairy husbandry. However he soon decided that what farmers really needed was to maximise their production and he directed his interest to pasture management. He had had valuable experience early in his career as Dairy Herd Manager at the Werribee Research Farm where he warmed to the opportunity of conducting research on the Friesian and Red Poll studs. His involvement with extension services to farmers such as the Better Farming Train in the 1930s, field trials and field days brought him into contact with many farmers, criss crossing Victoria in his A model Ford well into the ‘60’s. He made

many friends in the farming community and his advice was sought after, even after his retirement.

Within the Department of Agriculture he was admired as a scientist of great independence of mind who built up its dairy, sheep and beef husbandry extension and research services. In fact people came to him with all manner of questions about a wide variety of rural matters and he would search for and always find some relevant information and advice. He was sent by the Federal Government to India to inspect cattle facilities and advise on the viability of establishing a project there to develop suitable breeding cattle.

His work was his hobby, and when he retired in 1971 he maintained his involvement in the numerous societies in which he was actively involved for a number of years, in particular the breed societies of the Holstein Freisian, Red Poll and Angus cattle respectively and was an instigator of the formation of the Victorian branch of the Goat Breeders Society of Australia. He was a Foundation member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science of which he was an Honorary Life Member, and a past president of the Victorian Branch.

quiet achiever who did not seek accolades but got things done.

ARTHUR HEWITT CONTINUED

His philanthropy was illustrated by his interest in goats, which began with approaches from parents of children with cows milk allergy. Also with his involvement with the Victorian Public Service Association, which resulted in many benefits and changes in conditions for its members. He was a quiet achiever who did not seek accolades but got things done.

At the time of his death, Arthur was an honorary life member of thirteen organisations, including cattle and goat societies and the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria. He considered he had the record for attending continuously the most number of Royal Melbourne Shows - 71, the last seven flying over from Tasmania, catching up with old acquaintances.

Over the years he was a director of the Victorian Wheat growers Corporation Ltd. and the Public Service Association Credit Society Ltd. He was president of various organisations including the Registered Dairy Cattle Association of Australia, Australian Institute of Agricultural Science (Victorian branch), Australian Society of Dairy Technology, Holstein Friesian Association of Australia (Victorian branch), Dairy Goat Breeders Society of Australia, and the Langi Kal Kal Training Centre Advisory Committee.. He was chairman of Kinglake National Park Committee of Management for twenty years, on which committee he succeeded his father. Among other offices he held at various times he was honorary secretary of the Victorian commercial Pig Producers' Council and inspector of the Angora Mohair Association.

How lucky we were to have such a knowledgeable man involved in our Victorian Branch.



Meredith goat's cheese maker's million-dollar push to find Q fever vaccine

October 23, 2015 11:18am

Mandy SquiresGeelong Advertiser

Thanks to Geelong Advertiser for this article

THE owner of Meredith Dairy is spending more than \$1 million to fund the development of a vaccine to fight a Q fever outbreak on his property.

The vaccine is being created by Geelong scientists and if it's successful in combating the disease in the Meredith Dairy goat herd, it could be used to protect livestock across the country.

Meredith Dairy owner Sandy Cameron asked the Barwon Health Rickettsial Reference Laboratory to make a home-grown vaccine when he learned he could not import an existing product from Europe.

A zoonotic disease, Q fever is transmitted from animals to humans and commonly causes fever, chills, headaches and muscle pain. In rare cases it can lead to long-term liver and heart problems.

The bacteria that causes the disease can remain in the environment for a long time, is airborne and can be spread through dust on windy days.

Q fever cannot be contracted through the consumption of Meredith Dairy products.

Eighteen human cases of Q fever between 2012 and 2014 have been linked to Meredith Dairy, with all but one involving workers on the property.

All Meredith Dairy employees are now routinely vaccinated against Q fever, which appears to have stopped the spread of the disease in humans as there have been no new cases identified since July last year. The human outbreak was officially declared over in September 2014.

However, the disease has not been eradicated in the Meredith Dairy goat herd.

Rickettsial lab operations manager Dr John Stenos said the Geelong vaccine was about to be tested at Melbourne University.

"They will be bringing in some of the goats so we will be able to test it there to see how well it works and to iron out any issues there may be with its usage," Dr Stenos said.

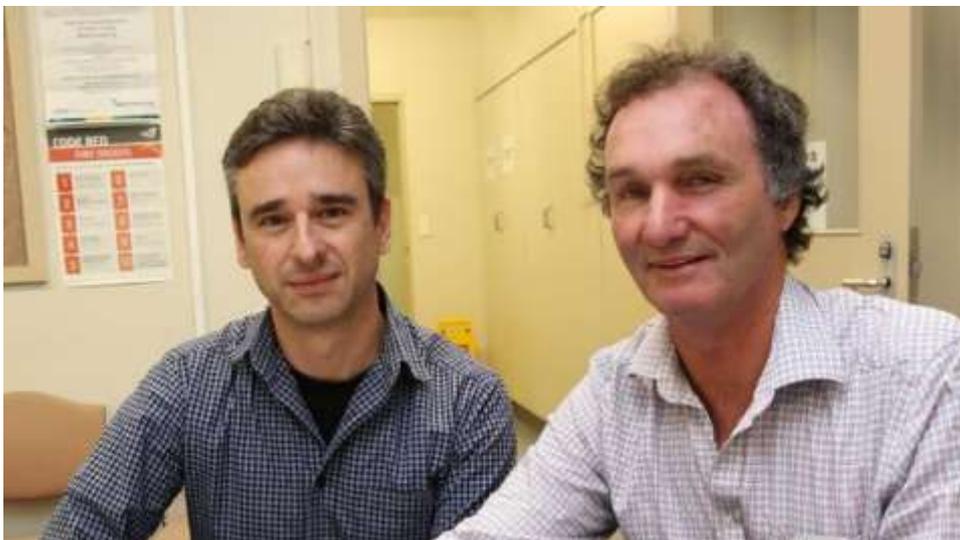
If successful, the vaccine would then have to be licensed, he said. "But once we do get the tick of approval we'll be able to crank it out."

Dr Cameron said the Geelong lab had "just about downed tools on other projects" to work on the Q fever vaccine.

"Essentially it's a case of parties coming together with a lot of goodwill and saying 'let's just make this (vaccine) happen — let's not muck around because this an important thing to do, so we'll just do it'," he said.

There are about 500 human cases of Q fever registered in Australia every year, with almost half the cases found in Queensland. There have been 44 human cases of Q fever recorded in Victoria over the last 12 months and 139 since 2012.

Farmers, abattoirs and shearers are at the highest risk of developing the disease.



BUNYIP AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW

2nd April, 2016 Start 10.00 a.m.

Ground Entry Adults \$8 Family 2 adults 4 children \$16

Class Entry Free

Prize Money None

Bring a Plate for shared lunch

Entries on the day but Rhonda would appreciate it if you email your entries a week or two prior to show

Contact Rhonda 0412698 645



This article appeared in the "Geelong News" and was sent in by Audrey Grills

PLANS FOR A GOAT MILK FACTORY

Shane Fowles

A Geelong company has unveiled a multi-million dollar plan to build a goat farm and milk powder production plant at two sites near Lara.

Nuchev Pty Ltd aims to begin construction in December, and to be operational by July next year.

The company wants to build a goat farm on the Geelong Ballan Rd at Moorabool that would house up to 14,000 female goats.

When in full production the 40ha site, about 13km south-west of Lara would reap more than 32,000 litres of milk a day.

A planning application, lodged by Spiire on behalf of Nuchev, details the farm's economic impact and the dozens of jobs it would create.

"An estimated 30 full time equivalent staff will be present for administration, animal health and feeding activities," a report reads

The milk would be transported to a nearby milk production plant on Forest Road. The processing facility would run around the clocks, creating milk powder products for export and the local market.

"There is an increased demand worldwide for goat's milk and milk products, particularly dried goat milk powder. As a more healthy and digestible alternative to cow's milk," the report reads.

The plant, proposed for a greenfields site within hundreds of metres of homes, would also host a smaller goat farm.

That would be used for breeding and rearing the animals.

Nuchev, based in Belmont, is a newly listed company in Australia.

Its founder and chief executive, Ben Dingle, has significant experiences in the New Zealand dairy industry, and is the driving force in the \$400 million New Zealand Synlait Group.

FOR SALE – Seaweed Meal (kelp) & Salt Licks

The Branch has 20 kg bags of Australian Seaweed meal available for \$108 & the 3 kg Himalayan Salt Licks for \$13

Pick up can be arranged when the Branch Committee meet in Melbourne

Please contact Rhonda 0412 698 645 or topazpark@hotmail.com





LA MANCHA GOATS

Exciting News the first La Mancha genetics have arrived in Australia. Belinda Appleton and Alex Berry have brought these genetics into the country and the first pure and part La Manchas have been born.

Here is some information on these high producing Dairy Goats.

The American LaMancha is a recognised breed of dairy goat. The goat was first bred in Oregon by Mrs

Eula Fay Frey. The LaMancha goat is a member of the *Capra hircus* genus like all domestic goats.

The LaMancha is the only breed of goat developed in the United States. They are a most distinctive goat breed easily distinguished by their very short ear pinnae. They are also known for comparatively high butterfat content in their milk and high milk production.

The breed was developed in the early 1950's and the breed was registered formally in 1958 as La Mancha or American La Mancha. There were about 200 animals accepted for registration as the original stock. American LaMancha is an American Dairy Goat Association term which denotes that the goat is mostly LaMancha but has unknown genetics or varied genetics of other purebred goats.

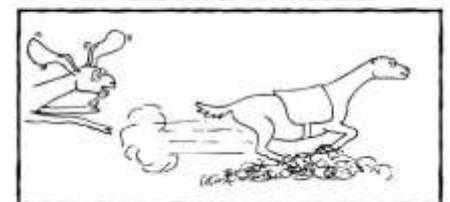
AMERICAN BREED STANDARD Information from American Dairy Goat Association

LAMANCHA

The LaMancha was developed in the USA. It has roots in Spain, but its full genetic history is somewhat obscure. LaManchas vary greatly in size, and often tend to be somewhat shorter and blockier than most other breeds of dairy goats. Taller, more refined animals are seen and are acceptable as well. They are widely respected for their docile, even temperament and steady production of milk of fairly high fat content.

The hair is short, fine and glossy. The LaMancha face is straight or slightly dished, with the ears being the distinctive breed characteristic. There are two types of LaMancha ears. "Gopher" type ears contain no cartilage but only a ring of skin around the auditory canal. "Elf" type ears contain a small amount of cartilage and a small amount of skin that may turn either up or down from the cartilage but should be no longer than two inches. One type of ear has no advantage over the other when evaluating does, however only gopher ears are acceptable on bucks. Any pattern, color, or combination of colors is acceptable.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR EARS?
special racing goats, bred for
short ears for less wind resistance



©www.caprinecapers.com



The Bendigo All Breeds Goat Expo will be held on the 16th April 2016 in the Exhibition Centre at the Bendigo Show Grounds.

We are planning to showcase all the major breeds of goats, with

- industry leaders and breeders on hand to talk to the public about the specific breed
- speakers and demonstrations to educate the beginner and the experienced goat breeder
- showing some of the goats off in 'a show'
- and goats available for purchase by the 'Helmsmen Auction' system.

As well we will have a variety of goat products available, including goat food – meat and cheese. The mohair and cashmere fibres will be on display, including a fashion parade. The fibres will be shown again with the fashion parade at an 'all goat dinner' at night.

There shall be a variety of stalls with products to interest goat breeders and the general public. We will also have fun activities for children, goat songs, stories and poems - plus a photo competition.

We would like you to become involved in the Expo to help make our Dairy Goat section of the Expo a great success. If you have any expertise you are willing to share, or can provide goats for show or sale, or know of businesses with products that would be of interest to goat breeders, or goat stories to read to children, or goat pictures to colour in – or anything else to do with goats – please contact us.

VALE Rex Philip 28-3-1947-9-10-2015

It is with sadness I write to inform members of the passing of Rex Philip. Rex was the other half of the Tallulah British Alpines and was often seen at shows helping with the goats. He was a much loved partner to Bryony and father to Tim, Jacque and Georgina. Father in Law to Melissa and loved Grandpa of six grandchildren. Rex made many friends among the Victorian Dairy Goat Breeders and he will be missed at the shows. He passed away after a short battle with Cancer. Thankyou to all my goat friends who sent flowers, cards and donations to Cancer Victoria. Bryony



D.G.S.A. VICTORIAN BRANCH INC. 36th ANNUAL SHOW

held in affiliation with

DANDENONG SHOW SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SHOW

15th November 2015

Judge : Mr Brett Gleeson (NSW)

CLASS 1 "FALCONLEES SARA TROPHY"

- Best prepared & presented team of 3 goats owned by the exhibitor

Jazzy Stud	J. Westbury
Koriella Stud	P & S. Watts

***CLASS 2** BEST VESSEL 1st lactation

1.	Banfield Park Alexa	J. Westbury
2.	Kaleena Park Wynter	V. Wright
3.	Gheringhaven Wendi	P. & G. Keays

***CLASS 3** BEST VESSEL 2 or more lactation

1.	Peacefield Tara	H. Goethals/J. Robinson
2.	Kaleena Park Rapture	H. Goethals/J. Robinson
=3.	Gheringhaven Xanthe	P. & G. Keays
=3.	Jazzy Cassidy	J. Westbury

OVERALL BEST VESSEL - Peacefield Tara

CLASS 4 SAANEN Doe in milk 1st lactation

1.	Banfield Park Attitudes Fortune	H. Goethals/J. Robinson
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CLASS 5 TOGGENBURG DOE in milk 1st lact'n

1.	Kaleena Park Flame	V. Wright
2.	Kaleena Park Aphrodite	V. Wright
3.	Kaleena Park Wynter	V. Wright

CLASS 6 B/ALPINE DOE in milk 1st lactation

1.	Gheringhaven Wendi	P. & G. Keays
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CLASS 7 ANGLO NUBIAN DOE, in milk 1st lactation

1.	Banfield Park Alexa	J. Westbury
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CLASS 8 AUSTRALIAN MELAAAN DOE in milk 1st lactation No Entries

CLASS 9 AUSTRALIAN BROWN DOE in milk 1st lactation No Entries

CLASS 10 AOV DOE in milk 1st lactation No Entries

CLASS 11 SAANEN DOE in milk 2 or more lact'ns

1.	Peacefield Tara	H. Goethals/J. Robinson
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CLASS 12 TOGGENBURG DOE - 2 or more lact'ns

1.	Kaleena Park Rapture	H. Goethals/J. Robinson
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CLASS 13 B/ALPINE DOE in milk 2 or more lact's

1.	Gheringhaven Xanthe	P. & G. Keays
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CLASS 14 ANGLO NUBIAN DOE 2 or more lact's

1.	Jazzy Cassidy	J. Westbury
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CLASS 15 AUSTRALIAN MELAAAN DOE 2 or more lact's No Entries

CLASS 16 AUSTRALIAN BROWN DOE 2 or more lact's No Entries

CLASS 17 AOV DOE 2 or more lact's No Entries

***CLASS 18** VETERAN DOE in milk, any breed - over 7 yrs No Entries

***CLASS 19** TYPE & PRODUCTION Q* (senior)

1. Peacefield Tara H. Goethals/J. Robinson

2. Gheringhaven Xanthe P. & G. Keays

***CLASS 20** TYPE & PRODUCTION Q* 1st lactation No Entries

OVERALL CHAMPION TYPE & PRODUCTION DOE - Q* - Peacefield Tara

***CLASS 21** TYPE & PRODUCTION Herd Recording No Entries

***CLASS 22** DAM & DAUGHTER both in milk

1. Kaleena Park Rapture & Sunday Patience H. Goethals/J. Robinson

***CLASS 23** TWO DOES IN MILK same sire, not full sisters

1. Kaleena Park Flame &. Kaleena Park Aphrodite (Prog of Abacus Mr Tumnus) V. Wright

CHAMPION SAANEN MILKING DOE

Peacefield Tara

RES. CH. SAANEN MILKING DOE

Banfield Park Attitudes Fortune

CHAMPION TOGGENBURG MILKING DOE

Kaleena Park Rapture

RES. CH. TOGGENBURG MILKING DOE

Kaleena Park Flame

CHAMPION BRITISH ALPINE MILKING DOE

Gheringhaven Wendi

RES. CH. BRITISH ALPINE MILKING DOE

Gheringhaven Xanthe

CHAMPION ANGLO NUBIAN MILKING DOE

Banfield Park Alexa

RES. CH. ANGLO NUBIAN MILKING DOE

Jazzy Cassidy

OVERALL CHAMPION MILKING DOE

Banfield Park Alexa

OVERALL RES. CH. MILKING DOE

Peacefield Tara

CLASS 24 - SAANEN GOATLING

1. Sunday Jade H. Goethals/J. Robinson

2. Sunday Sapphire H. Goethals/J. Robinson

CLASS 25 - TOGGENBURG GOATLING

1. Sunday Delilah H. Goethals/J. Robinson

2. Kaleena Park Indulgence V. Wright

CLASS 26 - BRITISH ALPINE GOATLING

1. Gheringhaven Verryti P. & G. Keays

2. Gheringhaven Velvyt P. & G. Keays

3. Killara Ram Aisha P & S. Watts

CLASS 27 – ANGLO NUBIAN GOATLING

1. Jazzy Maci J. Westbury
2. Jazzy Mailee J. Westbury
3. Killara Ram Aisha P & S. Watts

CLASS 28 – AUSTRALIAN MELAAN GOATLING No Entries

CLASS 29 – AUSTRALIAN BROWN GOATLING No Entries

CHAMPION GOATLING

Sunday Delilah

RES. CH. GOATLING

Sunday Jade

CLASS 30 – AOV GOATLING No Entries

***CLASS 31** TWO GOATLINGS same sire not full sisters

1. Jazzy Maci & Jazzy Mailee (Prog of Glenugie Chioke) J. Westbury
2. Gheringhaven Velvyt & Gheringhaven Verryti (Prog of Arcadia Saltation) P. & G. Keays
- =3. Killara Ram Azeeza & Killara Ram Aisha (Prog of Killara Ram Ghazi) P & S. Watts
- =3. Sunday Sapphire & Sunday Jade (Prog of Glenforslan Skymister) H. Goethals/J. Robinson

CLASS 32 - SAANEN DOE KID

No Entries

CLASS 33 - TOGGENBURG DOE KID

1. Kaleena Park Presence V. Wright
2. Sunday Latte H. Goethals/J. Robinson
3. Kaleena Park Nectar V. Wright

CLASS 34 - BRITISH ALPINE DOE KID

1. Gheringhaven Udelle P. & G. Keays
2. Gheringhaven Ukari P. & G. Keays

CLASS 35 – ANGLO NUBIAN DOE KID

1. Koriella Polly P & S. Watts
2. Jazzy Naylani J. Westbury
3. Koriella Molly P & S. Watts

CLASS 36 – AUSTRALIAN MELAAN DOE KID No Entries

CLASS 37– AUSTRALIAN BROWN DOE KID

No Entries

CHAMPION DOE KID

Koriella Polly

RES. CH. DOE KID

Jazzy Naylani

CLASS 38 – AOV DOE KID No Entries

***CLASS 39**TWO DOE KIDS same sire not full sisters

1. Jazzy Naylani & Jazzy North (Prog of Jazzy Kingston) J. Westbury
2. Gheringhaven Udelle & Gheringhaven Ukari (Prog of Arcadia Saltation) P. & G. Keays

***CLASS 40** DAM & DAUGHTER dam in milk, daughter dry

CLASS 41 - BUCK KID any breed under 12 months - Scr

CLASS 42 - BUCKLING any breed b/w 12 & 24 mths - Scr

CLASS 43 - BUCK any breed over 2 years

1. Jazzy Kingston J. Westbury

CHAMPION BUCK

Jazzy Kingston

***CLASS 44:** Breeders Group - Milker, Goatling, Kid same stud prefix

1. Gheringhaven Stud

P. & G. Keays

CLASS 45: Junior Handler - for Juniors aged approx. 10-16 years & judged on completion of lunch break.

=1. Ameika Westbury

=1. Regan Watts

BEST EXHIBIT

(Sheila Lucas Memorial Trophy)

Dairy Goat Society of Australia - Victorian Branch Inc. - trophy

Banfield Park Alexa

BEST OPPOSITE SEX

Jazzy Kingston

PHOTOS OF BENDIGO SHOW



Q FEVER FACTS

What is Q Fever?

Q Fever is caused by a micro organism that is mainly carried by goats, sheep and cattle.

It can also be carried by kangaroos, wallabies, camels, rodents, cats, dogs and birds

The bacteria can survive many disinfectants and harsh conditions

It can remain in the environment for long periods of time, which means dust, hay and other small particles may carry the bacteria

How is Q Fever Transmitted from Animals to Humans?

It is airborne so can be contracted by breathing in dust from infected premises and properties

Contact with the urine or faeces of infected animals and/or contaminated wool or hides can also transmit the disease

The highest risk of transmission is through contact of the birth products of infected animals

Symptoms of Q fever

Flu like symptoms including fever, headaches, chills and muscle pains.

Only 50 percent of people who contract Q fever develop symptoms

In rare cases, long term heart and liver problems can result

TREATMENT

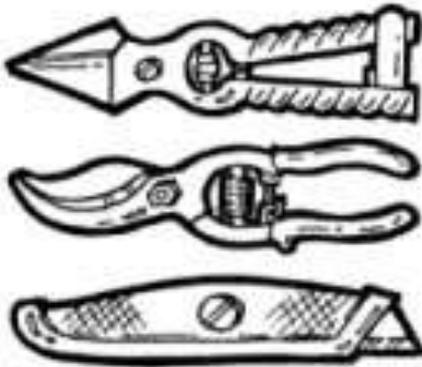
Acute cases usually require antibiotics.



NEW MEMBERS HELP PAGE

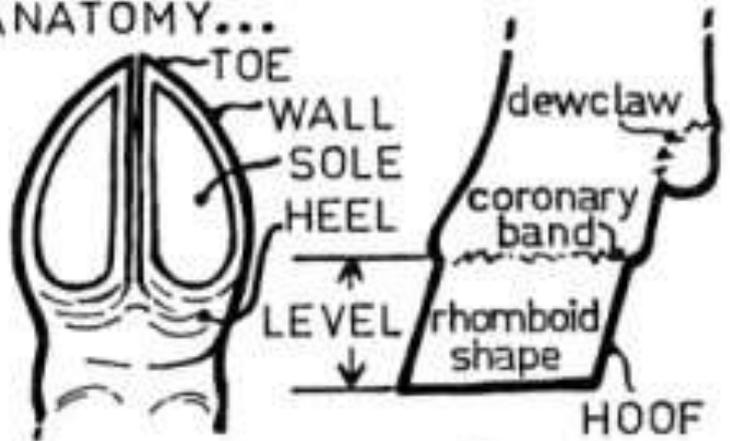
HOOF TRIMMING.....

TOOLS...



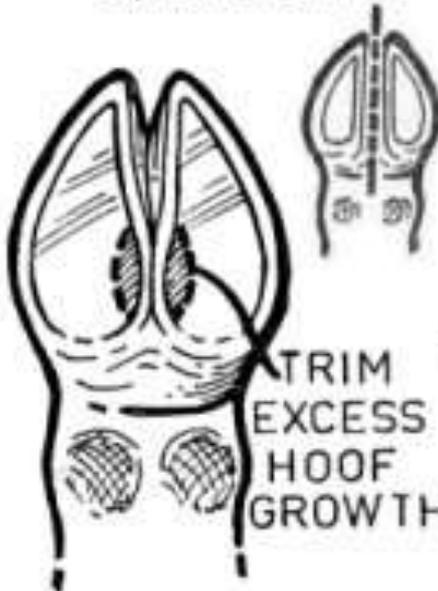
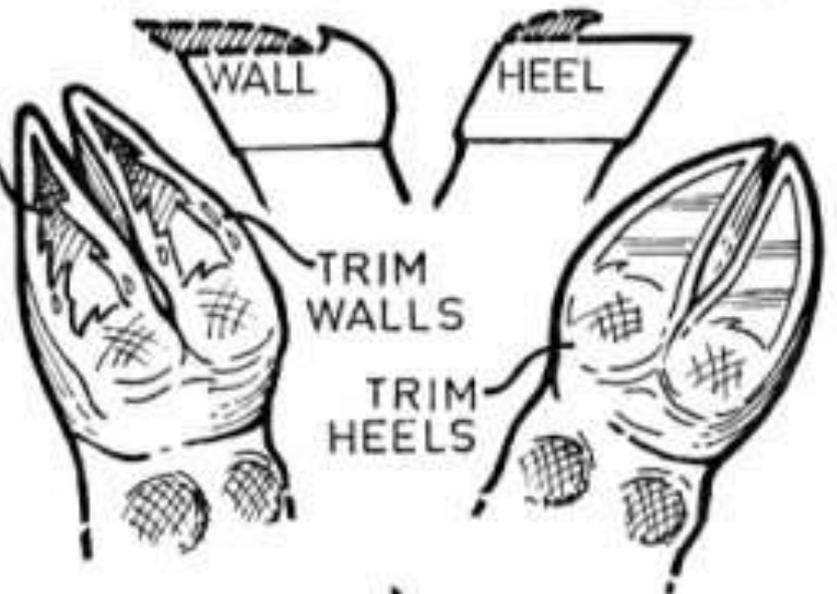
foot rot shears
or
pruning shears
and
utility knife

ANATOMY...



OVERGROWN

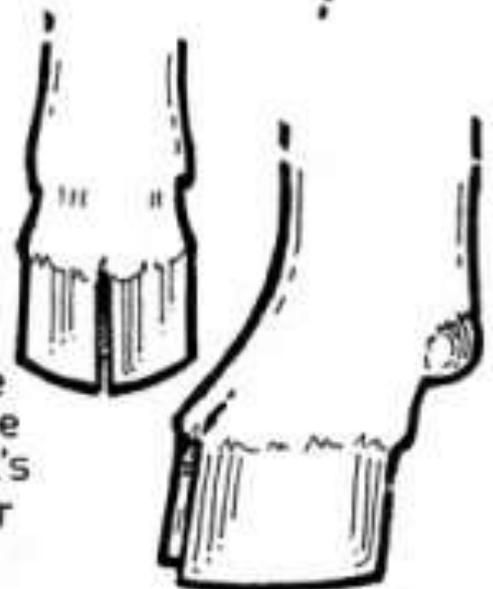
DIG
OUT
DIRT



TRIM
EXCESS
HOOF
GROWTH

* if the hoofs
are trimmed
regularly
the job is
much easier

* if the goat
bleeds use some
iodine and make
sure the animal's
tetanus booster
is up to date



PROPER TRIM

NEW MEMBERS HELP PAGE

HOW TO TRIM THE HOOVES OF SHEEP AND GOATS

Prepared by: Alemu Yami

Edited by: R.C. Merkel

1. WHY TRIM HOOVES?

The hooves of sheep and goats grow and, if not trimmed, can cause problems to the animal. Overgrown hooves make walking difficult and predispose the animal to other foot problems such as foot rot; especially if animals are in damp, muddy environments. Bad hooves make walking painful and competing for feed difficult. This may cause sheep and goats to go off feed and stop exercising. Animals with overgrown hooves are also very susceptible to joint/tendon problems, and arthritis. Permanent damage can result if the foot is left neglected for extended periods of time. Breeding bucks/rams place great stress on their hind legs and feet during mounting. If they are in pain from bad feet, they will refuse to mate thus reducing reproductive rates in a flock. Thus, hoof trimming is an essential part of sheep and goat management.

2. FREQUENCY OF TRIMMING

How often to trim will depend on the level of hoof growth which in turn is affected by the following specific conditions:

- **Breed** (e.g., Boer goats seem to require much attention to their hooves even in dry and rocky areas);
- **Environment:** Wet climates and farmland conditions greatly increase the need for hoof trimming while animals grazed on rocky, dry soil require trimming less frequently. Animals that have access to hard surfaces will naturally wear down the hoof and require less frequent trimmings. The need for hoof trimming is, therefore, more important in animals intensively managed in pens, walking on grass, or that do not extensively move around on rough surfaces. Some small ruminant owners feed their animals on a roughened concrete surface to help the hooves wear down naturally.
- **Diet:** Hooves of animals that are fed a high energy and protein diet tend to grow more rapidly.

Trimming should generally be done about every two months depending on growth rate. A minimum of 2 to 3 trimmings a year is essential for animals under intensive or semi-intensive management despite their diet or environment. An important point to note is that the job of hoof trimming becomes more difficult the longer hooves are allowed to grow. Care should be taken to avoid trimming feet of ewes/does during late gestation since this may cause injury.

3. HOOF TRIMMING TOOLS

Trimming the hooves of a large number of sheep/goats can be stressful. Under such circumstances, appropriate trimming tools are essential to do the job properly and easily. Any type of tool can be used as long as it gets the job done. A sharp knife can be used for hoof trimming, but requires harder work than using hoof trimmers meant for the job. Using a knife is also more dangerous for both the animal and operator.

Hoof trimming tools come in many shapes and designs. There are manual trimmers like those shown in Figure 3. These are generally not expensive and make the task much easier. Air compressor driven shears are an option if a very large number of sheep/goats are to be trimmed.



4. STEPS IN TRIMMING HOOVES OF GOATS

Step 1. The first step in hoof trimming is to properly restrain the animal. The following procedures are recommended methods of restraint for the purpose of hoof trimming.

- **Goats:** Goats can be trimmed while in a standing position. Hoof trimming is best done in a squeeze chute or by positioning or tying the animal next to a wall or fence and trim the hooves. This method of restraining goats allows the person doing the trimming to stand to the side of the animal and gently push it up against the fence/wall for extra control as needed. The person faces the animal's tail, leans down and picks up the front leg at the pastern so that the knee bends in a natural manner revealing the bottom of the hoof. It is important not to twist the leg way out to the side. This will force the animal off balance causing it to struggle in an attempt to stand more securely. For trimming the back hooves, the hind legs should normally be brought back straight behind the goat.

Step 2. After the animal is properly restrained, observe the color and check the smell of the hoof. A rotten smell is usually indicative of foot rot and appropriate treatment should be given. The next thing to do is to clean any mud, manure, small stones, etc., from between the walls of the hoof.

Step 3. Dry conditions can make hooves difficult to trim. The best time to trim hooves is immediately after rain or heavy dew, because the hoof wall will be much softer and easier to trim. Alternatively, animals can be allowed to stand in a wet area for 2 to 3 hours before trimming. The ends of the dewclaws can be the starting place for trimming (Figure 7). The tips of the dewclaws should be removed. It is important to remove small bits at frequent intervals to avoid bleeding as a result of cutting too short.



Step 4. It is always advisable to begin by removing very small pieces of hoof wall and toe. The toe and outside hoof wall are trimmed down to where fresh sole can be seen (stop when the sole looks pink) and the bottom of the foot is parallel to the line where the hair stops known as the coronary band (Figure 8). This can be checked by letting the foot being trimmed down and checking the balance on the foot. This will help reduce the chances of over-trimming and entering the sensitive structures of the foot. Excessive trimming can lead to excessive bleeding, pain, infections and lameness.



Step 5: The inside wall of the foot should normally be trimmed a little bit lower than the outside.

This allows most of the animal's weight to be on the outside hoof wall where it should be placed naturally. The heel region can also be trimmed when needed. A plane or wood rasp can be used to help even up the surfaces and remove any dead sole. Once the entire trimming operation is completed, the animal should be released for proper balance while the foot is bearing the weight of the animal. Corrective steps may be taken if problems of inappropriate trimming are observed.





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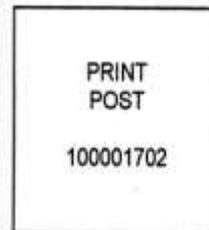
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