

# BOER GOAT NEWS



Michigan Boer Goat Association  
www.michiganboergoat.org

## 2011 A testimony to: Cooperation to Promote the Goat in Michigan

By Karen Ibarra

Never before have we had such opportunity to advance goat agriculture in this state. Just take a look at what this year has in store:

- The meat cooperative has been formed, incorporated and is finalizing memberships now with the goal of *product launch* in early **May**.
- The Show committee has *doubled* the number of Wether series shows from 4 to 8. These Shows that directly benefit our youth run from **May 7 to July 30**.
- The ADGA National Convention, **October 15-22**, is in Grand Rapids. We have been asked by the Michigan Dairy Goat Society to help them host this national event.
- The Breed Sale **November 12** @MSU. The Michigan Sheep Breeders Association has

## Show Committee Report

By Mike Moore

We have been working very hard so far to provide an awesome wether series for the 2011 show season. We have revised and updated the rules; we have added five shows to the series this year for a total of eight shows and added awards to recognize top 3 individuals in the series and showmanship. We have created this series with the understanding that most kids are involved in other activities other than just showing goats. That is why we calculate points from the top 4 shows so that kids don't feel the pressure that they have to

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again asked us to partner with them on this event.

These opportunities are the result of our members' hard work and of working together cooperatively with other associations in our state. The successes of these events are dependent on the continued hard work and cooperation of our members and with the other groups who interface with and depend on the MBGA. I will be asking for your help. I will be seeking your advice and guidance to steer our association in the direction to benefit all of us. What a year of Opportunity!

be at every show to compete in the series. We have also added a Pee Wee showmanship division to inspire the youngest members to get involved in the goat industry which will help insure the future goat industry in Michigan.

We have mailed out a thank you letters to all existing members and 2010 members to thank them for their support from last year and also to ask for support again this year. We have greatly increased the awards for the 2011 season but we

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## MBGA Scholarship Program

By Terri Fryman & Tina Esham

The 2011 recipients of the MBGA Scholarships are Crista Crawford who is a freshman at Michigan State University majoring in their Veterinary Program and Jason Fryman who is a junior at Adrian College majoring in International Business Marketing/Finance Program. They were awarded their scholarships at our 2010 Christmas meeting in Lansing at Aldaco's Restaurant. Each year MBGA awards \$500 scholarships to members, who are attending school, complete and submit the application. Then those applications are reviewed by the scholarship committee and recipients are



*Crista Crawford, Tanny Spicer & Jason Fryman*

chosen. This is a great opportunity for our youth in the association to share their talents with us. The scholarship applications are on the website and the deadline for the scholarship applications are December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Congratulations to Crista & Jason and we are excited to see them in the future as part of our association and the goat industry!

## 2010 Fall Goat Roast

By Tina Esham

In October every year we have our Fall Goat Roast and Annual Meeting at a member's farm. In 2010 Terri Fryman hosted the event in Dowagiac, MI. It was an absolute beautiful day for us to gather with knowledge and information.

Our web nanny spent the day with us to make any changes to the member's information on the website that needed to be made. We started out with an extensive spread of food that tempted our taste buds. Then we got down to business with our meeting working on the bylaws, voting on

positions and getting exciting information from the marketing committee and show committees. Mike Moore presented awards from the 2010 Wether series. And last but not least with Terri's hard work we had a fun drawing of exciting gifts that were kindly donated by members and businesses. After the meeting concluded there was networking and chatter about goats among us for quite a while after the meeting concluded. And of course everyone looked at Terri's beautiful goats and barn.

**Please see *2010 Fall Goat Roast* on page 7**

*"We started out with an extensive spread of food that tempted our taste buds."*



*A great meal with great people!*

## 2010 Bred Doe Sale

By Buzzy Esham

This year is the “????” Sale for the MBGA. There has been talk to change the name of the sale so hopefully soon we will know if it is going to continue on as the Bred Doe sale or be called something else. We have attended all of the sales in the past and bought/sold goats at all but one. This year could be one worth attending for buying and selling. With the price of meat goats at an all-time high, goat numbers being down, the wether series taking off and just overall enjoyable animals.

The 2010 sale was a success for our association. There was an equipment sale that consisted of handling equipment and feeders before the Michigan Sheep Breeders Sale started. Then the Bred Doe Sale started. It was run as a Cowboy style auction. There were many entries from different farms and every animal sold. The top selling animal sold for around \$800 and the crowd was there to buy.

## Importance of Volunteering

By Tina Esham

MBGA is a nonprofit corporation that was founded on the premise to advance the Boer Goat in Michigan thru a network of people willing to volunteer their time. Members become members for many different reasons. Most of us start out with the association as a way to better ourselves as an entity in the Boer Goat industry and then as we become a part of the association we see how the Boer Goat can affect many people thru many different ways. The different committees in the association are put together to advance the association in different aspects of the industry. In order to keep growing and bettering the association and the Boer Goat we need volunteers to be a part of the association.



*2010 Angel Boers Doe Entry*

In my opinion (everyone has one) every member of MBGA should contribute to the sale. It is a part of our association and hopefully will generate interest in our goats. The sale is a marketing tool that every member should take advantage of. Kind of like the Cass Co Goat Expo, the wether series shows and Michigan Livestock Expo.

**Please see *2010 Bred Doe Sale* on page 6**

We need to bring our experiences and ideas together to continue this journey. I ask myself all the time why do people not volunteer?? I feel like the reason is that people are scared of not being able to succeed at a task. But there are all kinds of tasks that make an organization successful from going to meetings and sharing ideas and voting on issues to writing an article in the newsletter to being a board member or a chair on a committee or volunteering a few hours to an event. The fear is in the unknown and how we face the unknown is by asking questions. So the next time you are at meeting and something strikes you as interesting don't be afraid to ask questions that's what we are there for! If you don't ask the question you will not get the answer. Please remember that we are all at different levels with our journeys and alone that

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## Common Diseases

By Merk Veterinary Manual

Goat kids harbor several species of coccidia, but not all have clinical coccidiosis. Signs are diarrhea or pasty feces, loss of condition, general frailness, and failure to grow. In peracute cases, the goat may die with no signs. Rotating all the kids through 1 or 2 pens is dangerous; adult goats shed coccidia and infect the newborn. As infection pressure builds up in the pens, morbidity in kids born later is increased. To help prevent coccidiosis in artificially reared dairy goats, the kids should be put in small, age-matched groups in outside portable pens that are moved to clean ground periodically. Eradication is not feasible, but infection can be controlled through good management practices. Coccidiostats added to the water or feed are adjuncts to a management control program and not substitutes. Chronic coccidiosis is one of the main causes of poor growth in kids and is responsible for the uneconomical practice of delaying breeding for a year until the goat has reached adequate size (70 lb [32 kg] for dairy breeds). In Angora

goats kept extensively, the problem is seen at weaning, when the kids are kept in smaller lots and fed supplement on the ground. In pastured and free-ranging goats, helminthiasis can assume great clinical significance. GI nematodiasis, liver fluke infestation, and lungworm infections all may be seen. Age-related resistance to parasitism in goats is weak relative to other ruminants. Although this is most common in yearlings during their first season at pasture, clinical disease may be seen in adults as well. Poor growth, weight loss, diarrhea, a scruffy hair coat, signs of anemia, and intermandibular edema (bottle jaw) may be seen with GI parasitism or liver fluke disease. Persistent coughing in late summer and autumn is the usual presentation of lungworms; secondary bacterial pneumonia with fever is a common sequela. Parasitism is insidious on hobby farms where the problem may not exist for several years and then suddenly explodes as goat numbers continue to increase and pastures become overstocked. Tapeworm proglottids are often noted in goat feces by owners. Although tapeworms are not generally

considered to be of clinical importance, their discovery can be used to review the subject of helminthiasis with owners and develop an overall parasite control program.

*Clostridium perfringens* type D can be fatal, and it is not always associated with the classic "change in quality and quantity of feed." In problem herds, vaccination every 4-6 mo may be necessary. Vaccination prevents the acute death syndrome, but occasionally even vaccinated goats may develop acute enteritis. Affected goats develop severe diarrhea and profound depression; milk yield drops abruptly. Death may result in 24 hr. Treatment involves fluid therapy, correction of acidosis, and antibiotics. Vaccination for contagious ecthyma (soremouth, Contagious Ecthyma: Introduction) is not indicated unless the disease exists in the herd. The main problems with infected kids are difficulty in nursing, spreading lesions to the does' udders or the assistants' hands, and attendance at goat shows being disallowed. Live virus vaccine is used by scarifying the skin (eg, inside the thighs or under the tail) and painting on the vaccine.

Both natural lesions and those resulting from vaccination may last as long as 4 wk, but after the scabs have dropped off, the goats can go to shows. Culling is vital to the overall productivity of the herd. Wasting disease is seen quite frequently; it is not a single disease, but a syndrome. Generally, if a goat is well fed, kept in a stress-free environment, and has good teeth and a low parasite load, it should thrive and produce. If it does not, and begins "wasting," it should be culled immediately. The major causes of wasting disease, in addition to poor nutrition, parasitism, and dental problems, are paratuberculosis, internal visceral abscesses due to *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* (ovis) or *Arcanobacterium (Corynebacterium) pyogenes*, locomotor problems (particularly arthritis due to retrovirus infection [CAE virus]), and any chronic hidden infections (eg, metritis, peritonitis, or pneumonia). Tumors are rarely seen. None of these diseases is treatable, and many are contagious; this is the basis for the strict culling policy.

Paratuberculosis in goats differs from that in cattle (Paratuberculosis: Introduction) in that there is no profuse diarrhea, and gross postmortem lesions are less pronounced. Consequently, many cases may go undiagnosed at necropsy. The ileocecal node is the most rewarding tissue for bacteriologic culture and histopathology. Agar gel immunodiffusion is a useful serologic test, but it can be used only on a herd basis for test and cull. Availability is limited, and it will not function as a prepurchase screening test. Use of ELISA for diagnosis of caprine paratuberculosis is increasing. The control program for paratuberculosis in goats is similar to that in cattle. Caprine arthritis and encephalitis (CAE, Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis: Introduction) virus has emerged as an important infectious agent of intensively raised dairy goats. The prevalence of the infection in nondairy goats is comparatively low and less clinically important. CAE infection in goats can manifest in numerous ways: subclinical, persistent infection; a progressive paresis of young goats 2-12

mo old; agalactia with a firm, noninflamed udder at parturition in bred females; and an arthritic condition with pain and swollen joints in adults. A chronic, progressive interstitial pneumonia or a wasting syndrome may also be seen in adults. CAE infection has been considered primarily to be spread from dam to offspring through virus-laden colostrum and milk, and control programs have been aimed at feeding of heat-treated colostrum and pasteurized milk. However, even in herds in which this is practiced, infection may persist. There is increasing epidemiologic evidence that horizontal transmission between adults is important in the spread of the disease. Regular testing and rigorous culling of all seropositive goats must be practiced if disease eradication is the goal.

<http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp?cfile=htm/bc/180904.htm&word=goat>  
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***Show Committee Report from page 1***

can't do it without your help. Maybe you can't give a monetary donation but you have experience working with different aspects of a show, we need your help. Please contact any of the show committee members with how you can make this series a success!

There has been talk about an open show within the committee but we currently do not have

***Volunteering from page 3***

journey is a long road but together that journey is like getting on 94 compared to being on a dirt road!

I look forward to the coming years in the association and I hope that when we all work together and donate a little of our time and talents we can look back and say "Wow that wasn't so bad!" and think of all the things we learned from it and how much the association has grown from it.

*"... we can look back and say  
"Wow that wasn't so bad!"  
and think of all the things we  
learned."*

enough manpower to put a show on. If we get more volunteers to help with that idea it may be a possibility for 2012. A sanctioned show takes a lot of time and money to put on. So if you are interested in helping that cause once again please contact a show committee member. We hope that every member of MBGA can at least come out and see just one of these wether series shows and see the future of Michigan's goat industry perform in the ring with their animals!

Just remember who we are...

The Michigan Boer Goat Association, Inc., is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the production, promotion, and positive marketing of the Boer Goat Breed, through the use of ethical practices, and honest representation

***2010 Bred Doe Sale from page 3***

Mark November 12th on your calendar, sign up some goats to sell, and have a great time with fellow goat producers. Any suggestions/comments please contact: Tina or Terri your Co-Chairs for the Sale Committee.

***2010 Goat Roast from page 2***

Our 2011 Fall Goat Roast and Annual Meeting will be held at Rebelwoods Farm – 6007 W. 96th St – Fremont, MI. Thank you Tim & Lisa Stack for volunteering your farm and time to host this year's annual event. Please mark your calendars' now; so that as many members as possible can come to this event to enjoy a day of knowledge, information and growing our association.



*2010 Wether Series Awards Presentation*

## The Editor's Corner

By Tina Esham

Time is flying so fast spring will be here before we know it. Our kids will be out frolicking in the pastures and show season is soon to follow. My kidding season was stretched out longer than I wanted but I have kids of all ages. We started kidding in December with our aged does. Then in January our two year olds had their kids and February has been the month for our yearlings and of course they didn't wait for the warm spell they had to have them in the bitter cold. Fortunately, we did not lose any one. We struggled with a yearling that came down with Pregnancy Toxemia... definitely a

learning curve for me... and of course she had triplets.

We have lots of color in our barn this year everyone seems to have a splash here and there and lots of tails with tips of color some white tips some black tips, definitely interesting. I had one of my 4H kids tell me it's like waiting for Christmas Morning but to me it's even more exciting than that! Yes it's a lot of work and sleepless nights and sometimes you wonder why you are doing it. But then when you see those kids climbing on their mothers and you take just a minute to observe what

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*"Every day is a new opportunity to look at the puzzle from a different direction."*

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**Getting News & Events  
to you!**

***Editors from page 7***

you have accomplished and it just all seems to melt away! At least they stay in the barn... ok, well sometimes!

I hope that this note finds everyone empowered to try something new, learn from your struggles and know that there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Every day is a new opportunity to look at the puzzle from a different direction. If we weren't challenged we would be bored, that's why we own goats! Please if there are any topics that you would like to see in our newsletter please contact me and I will do my best to get the information here for you!

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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