

# BOER GOAT NEWS

Michigan Boer Goat Association  
www.michiganboergoat.org

## Wanted-volunteers to work with a baby:

By Karen Ibarra

I have to always keep in mind that we raise a breed of animal that has only been in this country 18 years and that the Boer Goat industry is in its infancy. This industry is growing faster than any infant I have ever heard of, but still, it is an infant, and we are making baby steps in this state like: MBGA Scholarship for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row and this year is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we will be awarding two \$500 scholarships.

The second year of the Youth Wether Show series with 30 children participating this year Marketing co-op formed and incorporated this spring

These are baby steps, but it is growth and we need your help in order to continue to grow. You can do that by volunteering to help on a committee or serve on our Board of Directors. We have Board 3 seats that need to be filled.

## Coat Color Genetics in Boer Goats

By Frank Welling

“There seems to be a lot of interest in color among breeders of Boer goats these days. Our small operation is no exception: while we enjoy raising the traditional color, we also like the solid reds, blacks, chocolates, and paints. The genetics behind most colors found in fullblood Boers is fairly simple and easy to comprehend. However, cross-breeding introduces a lot of gene variables that can result in a wide range of physical appearances. This article relies on information gleaned from articles by Christine Kocourek of Floppy Ear Farm, and Dr. D.P. Sponenberg of Virginia Tech.

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Voting will take place at the Roast on October 1. You may receive a call from one of our Board members inviting you to be on the ballot, if so, please say "yes". You may have a specific activity that interests you and your family, please volunteer to help with it.

Our association, just like an infant, needs a community to grow. As a member of the Boer Goat community, we need you to help The Michigan Boer Goat Association turn our baby steps into strides forward in producing, promoting and marketing the Boer Goat in Michigan.

Regards,

*Karen*

Experts agree that the most dominant color in Boers is red, and that the most dominant color pattern is the traditional (red head, white body). The next most dominant color pattern in Boers seems to be solid red. Black is the least dominant color in Boer goats. In many other animals, including horses, rabbits and sheep, black is dominant over most other colors. Red can appear in several shades, ranging from a deep mahogany red to a golden tan color. While the inheritance of the various red shades is currently not well understood, it is probable that the basic red color is being influenced by sets of

## Let's Promote the Goat!

By Karen Ibarra

[www.adgaconvention.com](http://www.adgaconvention.com)

We have the unique opportunity to help promote the entire goat industry in Michigan this fall with the American Dairy Goat Association National Convention in Grand Rapids. We are hosting a hospitality table on Friday, October 21. We need 4 people to cover the table from 8 am to 5 pm, I'm thinking of 2 shifts? We also need folks to prepare the snacks to be served at the table, sufficient to serve 300 people. As a host, those volunteers will be able to attend the workshops for free. Check out the website; it will be a fantastic



opportunity for us to network with goat raisers through-out the country and to attend some of the latest educational opportunities available. We will be finalizing plans at the Roast.

## 2011 MBGA Wether Series

By Mike Moore

The 2011 Wether Series was a great success. The series consisted of eight sanctioned shows across the state. We had thirty one participants in the series this year. We had some great sponsors for the series. I would like to say thank you to each of them. Price Trailer Sales, Davidson Livestock, Ryan Klingaman, Anitophia Acres, Sugar Creek Farms, Full Circle Ranch, T&J Precious Boers, Esham Family Farms, ESS Boer Goats, Triple M Livestock, and Christmas Acres.

We will be awarding prizes at the

Annual Goat Roast on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am at Rebelwoods Farm Fremont, Michigan. Please refer to website for the agenda. We have some great awards to give away to the youth. The awards include truck boxes, show box, and clothing apparel. This will be exciting for all the sponsors and the youth. Hope to see everyone there.

As I write this, I would like to thank all the members of MBGA for letting me serve their organization and be the show chair. A special thank you

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*"These are baby steps, but it is growth and we need your help in order to continue to grow. You can do that by volunteering to help on a committee or serve on our Board of Directors."*



## 2011 Fall Goat Roast & Annual Meeting

By Lisa Stack

Mark your calendars October 1<sup>st</sup> and the MBGA, Inc. Annual Members Meeting and Fall Goat Roast is once again right around the corner. I am very happy to say that this year the meeting will be located in Fremont, MI at Rebelwoods Farm. Our farm has been undergoing some pretty extensive and much needed, remodeling to get ready for this event. Getting ready has truly been a family project, and we sincerely hope that you will be able to make it out to our farm for the day to enjoy some great food, and good friends.

As we get closer we have had to make some adjustments to the events of the day. This year, due to the cancelling of the MBGA Fall Auction, we will have space available for anyone who would like to bring their animals to sell. All sales will be from your trailers or temporary pens.

We have also been notified that there has been



an animal donated to the MBGA to be auctioned off for the youth scholarship fund, this auction will also be taking place during the fall roast on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to the auction, we will also be holding the raffle of various items to raise money for the scholarship fund. So far we have had some great donations for the raffle by various companies, and we truly hope that everyone will have a chance to go home with something!

As always a dish to pass and an item to raffle would be greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, need directions, or are planning on bringing animals to sell please email me at [lisa@rebelwoodsfarm.com](mailto:lisa@rebelwoodsfarm.com) or give us a call at 231-924-5718.

## When Should I Deworm My Herd?

By Molly Angel D.V.M.

This is one of the most common questions I get asked and the problem is the answer is different for every herd. Depending on management styles (intensive vs. pasture), pasture availability and rotations, size of herd, fecal egg counts, time of year, etc... there is not a standard protocol that will work for every farm. Whatever style of management you employ on your farm, it is very useful to have objective fecal egg count data that will help you determine which groups you have that may be more infected and also exactly what parasites you are actually trying to control. For this issue's discussion, I am going to talk primarily about the most common intestinal parasites (not including coccidia--that is a separate discussion!) and the most common dewormers used to control them.

the ivermectins Two classes of common dewormers that can be very effective in goats if used at the appropriate dose are the avermectins and benzimidazoles. Avermectins include all of

(brand name Ivomec, EndoMectin...) and doramectin (brand name Dectomax) are used as injectables and oral drenches. Benzimidazoles are the "white liquids" used as an oral drench and would include fenbendazole (brand name Safe-Guard, Panacur) and albendazole (brand name Valbazen).

As livestock producers we must all be aware of the doses required to be effective. There are very few drugs approved by the FDA for use in goats and what we all must know is that the FDA approved and labeled dose for use in goats is not effective to control parasites in goats. FDA approval for any drug requires an extensive amount of testing and dollars! Currently fenbendazole and now albendazole have been approved by the FDA for use in goats. The approved doses for goats are extrapolated from other species and although extremely safe (\*not during certain stages of pregnancy) they are NOT effective. Many research studies are available

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modifier genes.

Chocolate is a more rare color variation. It is thought to occur when the black color is diluted or modified by other genes. It is known that black Boers can have chocolate offspring and that chocolate Boers can have black offspring if mated to the right partner. More research is needed to fully understand the chocolate color.

The paint pattern appears to be influenced by several genes, with the white body band being somewhat dominant over other paint patterns. Moon-spotting is undoubtedly controlled by a

different set of genes and is superimposed over most other color patterns.

Spotting is thought to be somewhat dominant over other color patterns, so it is relatively easy to introduce into a herd. Frosted ears appear as a dominant trait in crossbreds, especially those who have a Nubian ancestor with frosted ears.

The dairy goat breeds exhibit a wide range of colors and color patterns. The Agouti gene alone has several variants, causing patterns that are seen in Toggenbergs and Oberhaslis.

***When Should I Deworm My Herd? from page 3***

utilizing fecal egg count strategies to prove that **in goats these labeled doses are not effective.** Using any drugs at an ineffective dose will not only waste your time and money but in the long run will create resistance issues that will only further detriment your herd and the industry. So the real answer as to when you should deworm your goats should be formulated taking many factors into consideration. I would encourage every herd manager to consult with their local veterinarian or MSU extension specialist to create a deworming strategy for their herd and to review this plan annually. Fecal egg counts are a very important part of this plan and can be run at your local veterinarian or even sent directly to the Michigan State University Diagnostic Laboratory. Below are the extra-label doses of these dewormers that I use. Using these doses is considered an "extra-label" drug use. The FDA regards extra-label use of drugs as an exclusive privilege of the veterinary profession and is only permitted when a veterinary client-patient relationship exists and appropriate medical diagnosis has been made. The listing is intended to serve as a guideline for improving accuracy when dosing goats with an anthelmintic, but these drugs should be used in goats only when appropriate data (fecal egg counts) and veterinary advice has been received. Also, the FDA considers all meat and milk withdrawal times established with approved dosing to be voided with extra-label drug use. Unless specifically noted all extra-label use of drugs carries a 45 day meat withdrawal period.

**Ivermectin and Dectomax injectable: 1ml/50lbs s.q.**

\*the avermectins are not effective at any dose against tape worms.

\*ivermectins can have efficacy against certain ectoparasites such as mange and sucking lice. They are not effective against biting lice so you must have your lice identified.

**Safe-Guard, Panacur, Valbazen: 5ml/50 lbs oral.**

\*this dose will be effective against tapeworms.

\*do not use during pregnancy (know specifically to cause abortion/defects if used in the first 45 days of gestation with Valbazen).

\*Benzimidazoles have NO efficacy against any external parasites.

\*if you are using the equine paste preparation this dose is 4X the horse dose. If you have a 100lb goat you will be rotating that clicker out to a 400lb horse dose!

A few tips to consider with your program:

\*We have a solid ground freeze in Michigan that they do not have in other states! Use this to your advantage and try to run your parasite load down to a minimum in the winter period.

\*Consider deworming the week after kidding for adults. The "peri-parturient rise" is an actual physiologic phenomena that causes the does at high stress periods to shed more parasites.

\*Don't deworm you herd in mild weather and put them directly back on the same pasture--they will just immediately begin to reinfect themselves and be shedding the same eggs again in 3-4 weeks.

\*New additions? They should be dewormed before they get off the trailer on your farm and be quarantined a minimum of 7 days prior to the introduction to your pastures or herd. Run a fecal sample at this time if you would like to know what else you have purchased!

\*Many drugs can be overdosed and have severe toxicity issues. You can NOT simply double the dose for your goats without knowing the drug! Check with your veterinarian or the manufacturer for any questions regarding toxicity.

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needs to be given to my help Tina Esham and Michelle Klingaman. *THANK YOU*, your help was greatly appreciated.

Have a safe fall  
Show chair

*Mike Moore*

Thank you to all the members who participated in this month's Newsletter!  
I couldn't have done it with out you!  
Please send me emails or drop a note in the snail mail to me anytime!

[Newsletter@boergoat.org](mailto:Newsletter@boergoat.org)

Or

[eshamfamilyfarm@live.com](mailto:eshamfamilyfarm@live.com)

## The Editor's Corner

By Tina Esham

Do you feel the nip in the air? If you don't you haven't been out to do morning or evening chores lately. This is supposed to be a July article so I should be saying "are you surviving the oppressive heat"? But I am a little late for this one... Our summer here, although I don't know where it went, was a blessing. We were extremely busy hence the July newsletter in September but Daniel our sixteen year old brought home three Reserve Grand Championships and Wyatt and Garrett kept on his heels though out the season. We showed in May and June and took July off and ended in August with our County Fair where Daniel brought home the final Reserve Championship. Most people

wouldn't brag about such a thing but you have to understand that we have been showing at these wether series shows since 2007 and this is our first year to make such accomplishments and I am very proud of what we have accomplished. Now in the blink of an eye we have three does that are do in ten to fifteen days and the excitement of babies is in the air. The barn is clean, the windows are put in, and the kidding pens are up. This will be our first time kidding in October and we have learned many things. I had seven does in with the buck in May and only three are bred so we have to work on that, but it's not their fault it's mine. Unfortunately they

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### Goat Roast Location:

Rebelwoods Farm  
6007 w. 96<sup>th</sup> St.  
Fremont, MI 49412

### Goat Roast Schedule:

Social hour beginning at 11:00  
Lunch at 12:00  
following lunch, raffle, demonstrations  
auction, award ceremony, MBGA  
members meeting , etc.



*What do you think dad's saying to them?  
That is the future of the Goat Industry*

*"We also need folks to prepare the snacks to be served at the table, sufficient to serve 300 people."*

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

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aren't as excited about breeding in May then they are in July.

Next weekend we will be traveling up to Fremont MI to attend the Annual Goat Roast and Member meeting. It is a hike for us but we will be there. I hope that you consider going as well because it is a great day filled with fun, great food, awesome hospitality and there isn't a better way to mingle with great goat people! We will be revealing the winners of the 2011 MBGA Wether series and awarding a Truck box donated by Prices trailer Sales and Show box purchased by the donations of the sponsors of the series and many more awesome awards that the show committee has worked hard to have for the kids' accomplishments of the summer. I hope to see you there and you will be hearing from me again soon because the October newsletter will be published in October. Hopefully I can stay on track from there, but with that thought... I can only do it with **your** help. I need articles and pictures from **YOU the members** to make this thing what it needs to be, please when you take a cute picture or write down the experience that you have learned from email them to me so that we can learn from your experiences sometimes we are more apt to listen to fellow producers then even our vets!

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