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APRIL & MAY 2010

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This is the last newsletter you will receive until
September. There will be NO meeting in May.

...Just a reminder...

If the date on your address label was highlighted
last month - that's because I had not gotten the
membership forms from Judy.

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ADVERTISING RATES

FULL PAGE...\$7.00 per MONTH or \$50.00 a YEAR HALF PAGE...\$4.00 per MONTH or \$30.00 a YEAR
 QUARTER PAGE...\$2.00 per MONTH or \$15.00 a YEAR

Any classified ad (not goat related) may be placed at 5 cents per word (\$1.00 minimum). Abbreviations and phone numbers equal one word. If you have something to give away free, that ad will be placed free of charge.

ADVERTISING REGULATIONS

All ads will be printed as received. However, we do reserve the right to refuse or edit any ad or article. All information given will be believed to be true. The editors and the INDIANA DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION, INC. will not be held accountable for misinformation, slander or libel.

REPRINT RIGHTS

All articles, editorials and editorial material may be reprinted if full credit is given to the author and the INDIANA DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION, INC. with the date of the publication.

The newsletter will not be printed during the months of June, July and August. All material must be copy ready when the editor receives it. The editor does not type ads or articles for you. Please mail ads and payments to the editor. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO - INDIANA DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTE

INDIANA DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Individual membership in the Indiana Dairy Goat Association, Inc. is \$10.00 a year and entitles you to one vote and subscription to the newsletter. Membership is from January 1 to December 31. Mail the membership form and the \$10.00 to-Judy Hill 5091 Bockhofer Rd Fountain City, IN 47341 (765)847-2264 PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO - INDIANA DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION, INC.

HERD NAME _____

NAME _____ COUNTY _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE # _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

WHAT BREED DO YOU RAISE? _____

DO YOU OFFER BUCK SERVICE? _____ YES _____ NO FOR WHAT BREED? _____

NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIPS PAID FOR _____ RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

PLEASE INCLUDE ME ON THE 4-H JUDGES LIST. _____ YES

DAIRY _____ PYGMY _____ BOER _____

Hoosier Classic Trophies

Sponsors are needed for the stoneware given as awards at the Hoosier Classic. Available classes with prices are listed below. It would be very nice if we can get full sponsorship so IDGA doesn't have to foot the bill. If you can help (and I know you can!) please indicate your top three choices (in case your 1st choice is already taken) and send along with your check, made out to IDGA, to me at the address below. Thanks!

\$34.00 (stoneware qt. Crocks)

\$20.00 (stoneware luncheon place)

BIS Sr. Doe _____

Jr. Showmanship _____

BIS Jr. Doe _____

\$20 (stoneware pt. Crocks)

\$15.00

BIS Udder _____

Beg. Showmanship _____

\$14.00 each (Stoneware mugs)

Gr. Champion Jr. Doe

BOB Sr. Doe

Lamancha _____
Lamancha _____
Nubian _____

Oberhasli _____
Oberhasli _____
Rec. Grade _____
Rec. Grade _____
Saanen _____

Sable _____
Sable _____
Toggenburg _____
Toggenburg _____

Bonnie Robbins
9076 E County Road 300 S
Greensburg, IN 47240

812-934-3010

borobbins@decaturwb.com

INDIANA DAIRY GOAT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE CONTEST

Any young person who is a resident of Indiana and is interested in becoming our Indiana Youth Rep. is asked to submit the required information by June at the Hoosier Classic. The youth rep and the runner-up will be presented after there speeches have been delivered,. They will co-officiate at the Hoosier Classic and the Indiana State Fair Open Goat Show. The winner will be chosen by the Youth Rep. Committee and any past winner, based on a portfolio or scrapbook given by the candidate and at least a 3-5 minute speech based on the following topic:

"Introduce yourself and tell about your involvement with dairy goats."

The speech will be given Saturday night following the dry doe show prior to the auction. The portfolio or scrapbook must include: **Name, Address, Phone Number, Age, A Copy of your Speech, Interests, Hobbies, a histroy of involvement with goats, and two letters of recommendation from people other than family members.** It is suggested that photographs be used and that at least one current photo of the candidate be included. The candidate needs to realize that he or she is selling themselves to the committee through this portfolio or scrapbook.

Any questions should be directed to the committee: Terri Jaenichen 765-552-2062, Evy Ingle 574-699-6233, or any past youth representative winner:

1982 Denise Garber 1983 Lorrie Satoski 1984 Shelly Jessup 1985 Cheryl Holloway
1986 Rita Hilt 1987 Barbie Beals 1988 Tammy Holloway 1989 Theresa Miller
1991 Dede Sigman 1993 Hal Norris 1994 Jill Summerlot 1995 R.J. Massey
1996 Tim Flickenger 1997 Hope Baker 1998 Amber Lashbrook 1999 Dawn Baker
2000 Katey Schenk 2001 Nikki Sieber 2002 Rachael Herrell 2003 Amber Baker
2004 Scott Robbins 2005 Rebekah Herrell 2006 Tyler Hill / Lauren Nowak
2007 Andrew Robbins 2008 Maryann Ingle 2009 Ashston Hudson

The winner and the runner-up are encouraged by the committee to show goats and participate in showmanship at all shows in which they are officiating. The committee only asks they do not show with their banners or any other adornment they have won.

GENERAL RULES

1. Contestants must be 14-21 years of age during the current year.
2. Contestants must be a resident of and reside in Indiana. The only exception being a contestant who lives outside the state for the sole purpose of being a full-time student.
3. Contestants must not be or have been married.
4. A person is not eligible to participate if a past winner. But a runner-up may participate again.
5. The committee will have the opportunity of having an interview with the contestant.
6. The winner must also attend at least 3 other goat shows in Indiana to hand out the awards. The runner-up may do so as well.

COMING EVENETS

- MAY 1&2- TRI-STATE 30TH ANNUAL - VAN WERT,OH
JUDGES: DAVE FUNK & JULIE MATHYS
SHOW CHAIRMAN: ED DICKIE JR.(419)629-2422
- MAY 2 - NO I.D.G.A. MEETING
- MAY 2 - LAWRENCE CO.- Judge: Matt Casselman
SHOW CHAIRMAN:JESSI ALLEN-812-865-0886
- MAY 15 - MICHIANA G.B.A. -22ND ANNUAL SANCTIONED DGA
COLUMBIA CITY - LAMANCHA & ALPINE SPECIALTY
JUDGES: TODD HARP, JOE PILOTTE, KEN KNIESLY
SHOW CHAIRMAN: CAROL KLOIBER (765)473-0186
- MAY 22 -HANCOCK COUNTY OPEN - GREENFIELD,IN
JUDGE: TIM FLICKINGER
SHANA WOLFENBERGER - (317)326-8121
- JUNE 12&13 -HOOSIER CLASSIC RICHMOND,IN FAIRGROUNDS
SHOW CHAIRMAN: ROB SMITH ((812)662-6347
- JULY 10 -NOBLE COUNTY OPEN - KENDALLVILLE,IN
JUDGE: YVONNE BLOSSER
SHOW CHAIRMAN: TOM GETTS (260)347-5887
- AUGUST 1- PORTER COUNTY DG OPEN -VALPARAISE,IN
JUDGE: JULI HUFFMAN
SHOW CHAIRMAN: RANDI POTTS (219)613-7479
- AUGUST 11&15 - INDIANA STATE FAIR DAIRY GOAT & PYGMY GOAT SHOW
- AUGUST 28&29 - SUMMIT CITY CLASSIC-ALLEN CO. FAIRGROUNDS
FORT WAYNE,IN JUDGE: DEENA SANSONE/RUSTY REPP
JUDY QUAGLIANA/MATT CASSELMAN
SHOW CHAIRMAN: BETH WOOD
- OCTOBER 3 - I.D.G.A. MEETING - MORAL TWP. FIRE DEPT.
- NOVEMBER 6 - NAILE
- DECEMBER 5 - I.D.G.A. MEETING - MORAL TWP FIRE DEPT.



Poisonous Plants and the Goat Herd

By Jackie Nix

What Makes a Plant Poisonous?

We all hear about poisonous plants and stories of how folks have lost prized animals that have eaten them. But, to add to the confusion, we also hear stories of people who have pastured goats in fields with dozens of known poisonous plants with no apparent ill affects. How can a plant be poisonous in one instance and harmless in another? The reason is that numerous factors influence the action of poisons and the severity of a goat's reaction to them. Among these are, 1) the amount eaten and over what period of time, 2) the chemical nature of the poison, 3) the source of the poison (part of plant and condition of the plant), 4) the amount of fill in the rumen prior to ingestion of the substance, 5) species of animal poisoned, 6) the general health of the goat prior to eating the poisonous plant and 7) the size, age and sex of the animal.

It is important to remember, "The dose makes the poison". The amount eaten is critical. With some plant-born chemicals, such as the prussic acid produced in wilted black cherry tree leaves, only a few mouthfuls can be deadly. However, with others, like the glycosides in wild mustard seeds, large amounts must be eaten before symptoms of poisoning appear. Remember that every substance on earth is capable of poisoning animals at a critical dosage, even water. Some poisons must be ingested over a long period of time in order to cause damage; others cause damage immediately.

The chemical nature of the poison is also very important when considering poisonous plants. Some common poisonous compounds found in plants include glycosides, alkaloids, oxalates, oils, minerals, resins and nitrates. Some of these poisons affect the nervous system, some the blood, and still others the intestinal tract or the heart. Knowledge of the specific poison and its mode of action will aid in trying to treat specific poisoning cases. For example, nitrates sometimes found in Johnsongrass or Bermudagrass, bind to hemoglobin in red blood cells rendering it incapable of carrying oxygen to the tissues. In acute nitrate poisoning cases, the only way to counteract the symptoms is to reverse this chemical reaction in the blood.

In many instances only certain portions of the plant are poisonous and only in certain conditions. Black cherry leaves are only poisonous when they are in a wilted state. They are perfectly safe when fresh and green or when brown and dried. However, all parts of some plants, such as Jimsonweed, contain poisonous compounds.

In many instances, goats with a full stomach will be less susceptible to poisoning than those with an empty one under similar conditions. The reason is that rumen contents can act to dilute the poisonous compounds and to slow down their absorption.

Poisons do not affect all species equally. Some species are more susceptible to certain poisonous compounds than others. This may be due to different grazing preferences and habits or also different

physiological factors. For example, pigs and sheep are most susceptible to the fruits of the Chinaberry tree while goats, chickens, ducks and cattle are less susceptible.

The sex, size and age of the goat are also important factors. Size is important in that a mouthful of poisonous plant will affect a smaller goat more than a larger goat because the dose of poisonous compound per pound of bodyweight will be larger in the smaller goat. Since bucks are often larger than does, bucks would be less susceptible from a size stand point; however, since bucks are dominant to does and often get the lion's share of the feed, bucks can be more susceptible in some situations. For example, if Rhododendron cuttings from a yard are thrown to a group of goats, the buck may eat the largest share and be most susceptible to poisoning.

Contrary to popular belief, goats are not born knowing which plants are poisonous and which are not. This knowledge is learned through the social interactions of the herd. In the wild, every goat eats the same kind of plants at the same time as the dominant or head goat in the herd. Young kids learn what forages are edible by mimicking older, more dominant goats. If kids are not allowed to interact with older goats, the flock can be susceptible to poisoning. With only a few exceptions, most adult goats will not eat poisonous plants unless forced to do so by unusual or artificial conditions. The first means of controlling plant poisonings then is to prevent the following conditions from occurring.

Starvation. Lack of good forage is the most common cause of plant poisoning. This most commonly occurs in early spring, winter, late fall, during droughts, or any time an area has been overgrazed.

Deficient rations. Goats may graze poisonous plants if they lack required nutrients or if their diet is unbalanced. Mineral deficient goats may be drawn to plants that they normally would not eat in search of the minerals they are lacking. It is well known that healthy animals are more likely to survive and thrive after contact with a poisonous compound than unthrifty ones.

Waste and trash. Goats should not have access to dumps where they can be exposed to household and farm chemicals and pesticides. Clippings from the yard, garden or houseplants may also be extremely dangerous.

Newly plowed or exposed areas. Plowed fields, eroded ground and new ditches may expose poisonous roots that otherwise would have been unavailable to the goats.

Dry or partially dry water holes. Poisonous roots may become exposed, seeds can germinate in the newly exposed soil, and increased numbers of bacteria or algae in stagnant water can cause poisoning.

Incidental causes and curiosity. Many causes of poisoning cannot be related to a particular situation. Sometimes animals may accidentally eat a poisonous plant while grazing other plants or by eating hay in which the poisonous plants have been mixed.

Symptoms of Poisoning

Symptoms of poisoning are variable and are usually not specific for a particular plant. Unfortunately, the first symptom noticed may often be a dead goat. Some symptoms include: frothing at the mouth, vomiting, staggering, trembling, crying for help, rapid or labored breathing, convulsions and sudden death. If you observe any of these symptoms and suspect poisoning, first try to figure out what poisoned the goat. Then, remove the goat from the suspected source of poison. Call a veterinarian as soon as possible. If possible, remove the poison from the goat. You can place 2 tablespoons of salt on the back of the goat's tongue to induce vomiting. You can also administer charcoal tablets and rehydration fluids

along with some mineral oil. The charcoal will bind some of the toxins, the fluids will prevent dehydration and the oil will coat the gastrointestinal tract and prevent foaming.

Control of Poisonous Plants

Once a poisonous plant is found in a pasture the first question is how to eradicate it. Since the types and species of poisonous plants are many and varied it would not be practical to try to list specific control methods here. Contact your local Cooperative Extension agent or agronomist to help you with specific problems. Some general control methods follow, however:

Destroying

Burning, cutting, digging or chemical use can eradicate poisonous plants. But be aware that certain herbicides temporarily increase the palatability of foliage and thus the poisoning threat. Goats should be removed from the area to be treated until all the target plants are defoliated or removed.

Fencing

Since it is often very difficult and/or expensive to totally eradicate poisonous plants, fencing out the areas where they grow is often a better solution. Be sure to make sure that goats reaching through the fence cannot reach the poisonous plants.

Good Management

Pastures management is too often ignored. Through proper fertilization, liming and grazing management desirable forages will often out compete undesirable poisonous weeds. Most poisonous plants can be found around buildings, fences, streams, ponds, springheads, wooded areas or dumpsites. So take care to safeguard these areas.

In summary, many factors affect the action of poisonous compounds on goats. In general, goats will not normally eat poisonous plants unless artificial conditions are created by humans. Symptoms of poisoning are vague and not specific for particular plants. Often the first sign of trouble will be a dead goat. If poisoning is suspected, remove the goats from the suspected source of poison, and then call a vet. Poisonous weeds may be controlled by use of herbicides, fences and proper pasture management.

Be sure that you provide a nutritionally balanced diet for your goats to prevent them from seeking out harmful plants in search for nutrients. Free choice access to **Sweetlix 16:8 Meat Maker mineral** for goats or the **Sweetlix 20% All Natural Protein block** for goats will provide 100% of the goat's trace mineral needs, including copper and selenium. Good mineral nutrition will help produce healthy goats that will be less likely to consume poisonous plants and also more likely to survive accidental poisoning than unthrifty goats. For more information about these supplement products for goats or a free brochure, call 1-800-325-1486.

Jackie Nix is a nutritionist with Sweetlix (<http://www.sweetlix.com>). You can contact her at jnix@sweetlix.com or 1-800-325-1486 for questions or to learn more about the Sweetlix line of mineral and protein supplement products for goats, cattle, horses, sheep and wildlife.

