



# Goat Newsletter

Cooperative Extension Program  
Langston University

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

*Spring 2006*

## From the Director's Desk



*Dr. Tilahun Sahlu*

To begin, I should mention an oversight on my part. With so many things to attend to, sometimes even quite important developments get temporarily overlooked. Langston University has a new President, Dr. **JoAnn Haysbert**. Though we are very appreciative of the strong support of the past President, Dr. **Ernest Holloway**, over the many years, we look forward to working with Dr. **Haysbert** to make our program even stronger and to become a greater contributor to Langston University in the next 20 years and beyond.

It seems like it was only a week or so ago when I prepared the last "From the Director's Desk" section. But,

one of the things that obviously has changed since the previous newsletter is spring kidding. However, we actually did have a group of meat goats kidding in January. There were different breeding times for the meat goat herd so we would have different physiological states of animals for one of our new projects. This particular one, entitled "Characterization of the Energy Requirement for Activity by Grazing Ruminants" and supported by the 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grant program of the USDA, will compare a number of variables in young weaned kids, nursing does, and yearling kids grazing summer pastures at different stocking rates. Measures of interest include forage intake, digestibility, energy expenditure or heat production, grazing time, and distance traveled. In this and another complementary project, we hope to develop simple means of predicting the amount of energy an animal uses in the activity of grazing. This would allow one to know more accurately

how much energy is needed to maintain body weight and to produce, as well as when it is time to change grazing conditions or provide a supplement. This and other research will hopefully lead to improvements in the web-based goat nutrient requirement calculation system available on our website ([www2.luresext.edu](http://www2.luresext.edu)), which I hope you have visited or will soon. While on the subject, I should also mention that in addition to enhancements in both the Technical and Producer versions of the system that Drs. **Gipson, Goetsch, and Hart** are always looking for, we have underway an ambitious project entitled "International Collaboration in Goat Research and Production Web-Based Decision Support Aids," which is supported by the International Science and Education Competitive Grant Program (ISECGP) of the USDA. In this project, the use of the calculators internationally will increase by translation into Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, and French

and be adapted for use in regions where these languages are spoken. In this regard, Drs. **Goetsch** and **Gipson** traveled to China and Mexico in October and December, respectively, of 2005, and plan to make trips to Jordan and France in May of 2006.

On the international scene, Drs. **Tilahun Sahlu**, **Art Goetsch**, **Terry Gipson**, and **Roger Merkel** traveled to Ethiopia to initiate the collaborative project on meat goat production entitled "Ethiopian Sheep and Goat Improvement Project". This project is funded by USAID and is lead by Prairie View A&M University in Texas with Langston University being a principal collaborator. This is a five-year project and will assist the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture in improving small ruminant production through selection within indigenous breeds, crossbreeding where appropriate, and producer education.

Spring is also the time when we finalize preparations for our annual Goat Field Day, which will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Langston University Goat Farm with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. This year's theme will be *Organic Goat Production*. This year, our featured speakers will be Rev. Dr. Lisa Waltz, who will speak on organic meat goat production, and Ms. Nancy Coonridge, who will speak on

organic dairy goat production.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Waltz, is a Naturopathic Doctor, Certified Traditional Naturopath, Certified Nutritional Consultant, ordained minister, and holds a Doctorate of Divinity. Dr. Waltz is also the author of "The Herbal Encyclopedia - a Practical Guide to the Many Uses of Herbs" and owns and operates The Natural Wellness Center. She has been raising meat and dairy goats the natural way, free of chemical intervention, for over 15 years. The herd consists of paint, solid, and traditional Boers, colorful Nubians, and percentages of the two breeds. Performance bred American Quarter Horses are raised alongside the goats at her small all-natural ranch known as Waltz's Ark, located near Delta, Colorado.

Nancy Coonridge has been making her living from her goats "in the Wilds of New Mexico" since 1982. Her Alpine, Nubian and LaMancha does graze the dry high desert range daily. Nancy's Grade A Dairy, *Coonridge Organic Goat Cheese* has been certified organic by the New Mexico Organic Commodities Commission since 1998. Before moving to New Mexico Nancy produced milk for an evaporated milk co-op, and two goat cheese co-ops. She managed a Grade A Dairy in California for a short

time. She also edited the "Goat Products" newsletter for two years.

We also plan that a representative from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture to speak on rules and regulations for organic certification and production.

The Goat Field Day will also have practical afternoon sessions as well. There will be two youth programs in the morning and two in the afternoon. For the younger youth, there will be a craft project and games to play during the morning and afternoon. Older youth and interested adults will be able to participate in a full-day clipping, fitting, and showing workshop.

For complete details of this year's field day, see page 3.

Concerning other extension activities, you will find a tentative schedule on page 7 of the newsletter. This year's activities include the annual Goat Field Day, meat buck performance test, cheesemaking workshops, and sustainable internal parasite control workshops.

*Reserve your place today for the individual workshops.*

**Make plans today  
to attend the  
Goat Field Day**



# 2006 Goat Field Day: Organic Goat Production

Our annual Goat Field Day will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Langston University Goat Farm with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. This year's theme will be Organic Goat Production.



This year, our featured speakers will be Rev. Dr. Lisa Waltz, who will speak on organic meat goat production, and Ms. Nancy Coonridge, who will speak on organic dairy goat production.

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We also plan that a representative from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (ODA) to speak on rules and regulations for organic certification and production.

In the afternoon session, participants will break into small-group workshops. There will be a total of thirteen workshops; however, participants will only have time enough to attend three.

The afternoon workshops include:

1. Natural Medicine for Organic Goat Production,
2. Regulations and More Regulations,
3. Organic Cheesemaking Overview,
4. Basic Goat Husbandry - hoof trimming, farm management calendar, disbudding, etc.,
5. Basic Herd Health - herd health program including vaccinations and other approved drugs,
6. Nutrition for Production,
7. Legal Aspects of Goat Production,
8. Livestock Guardian Dogs,
9. Goat Budgets,
10. Predator Control,
11. Introduction to Artificial Insemination,
12. Benefits of Government Programs - overview of USDA Natural Resource

Conservation Service's work and its cost-sharing program and of the Farm Service Agency's work with loans for farming activities,

13. General Youth Activities - fun activities for younger youth, and
14. Fitting and Showing for Youth and Adults - full day workshop.



*Ms. Sheila Stevenson, Langston Extension Specialist, feeds and talks about goat kids for the youth program.*

Ms. Sheila Stevenson will host a full day of activities for youth ages 5-12. 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 education (i.e., goat petting area, goat bingo), pony and horseback riding, fishing, PYOP (pot your own plant), and many other activities. 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.

Other 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 to have hands-on practice of clipping and fitting a goat and then show it before a judge in the show ring.

Registration for the Goat Field Day is FREE

but there is a \$7.00 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.

This year we will have a goat cheese making workshop on Friday, April 28, the day before the Goat Field Day. This will be a hands-on workshop and there will be a registration fee of \$25.00 and only the first 15 registrants will be admitted. You must pre-register by calling Dr. Zeng at 405-466-6103.

*For information regarding the 2006 Goat Field Day, contact Dr. Terry Gipson at (405)466-6126 or at [tgipson@luresext.edu](mailto:tgipson@luresext.edu) or <http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/library/fd2006.html>.*



*Certified goat judge and fitter, Ms. Kay Garrett, instructs a young participant on show-ring etiquette during last year's Goat Field Day.*



# GOAT FIELD DAY

**Saturday, April 29, 2006 - 8:00 a.m.**  
**Langston University Goat Farm**

**Registration for the Goat Field Day is FREE**

**For more information call (405) 466-6126  
or register on-line at  
<http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/library/fd2006.html>**

**Bring your own lunch or you can Pre-Register for Lunch  
(BBQ goat, beans, potato salad,  
refreshments, and goat ice cream; only \$7)**

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRE-REGISTRATION (one form per person):**

- 1.- Write your name, address, and telephone number below. Indicate if you will be registering for lunch.**
- 2.- Select afternoon workshops from each time period to attend from the schedule on the back of this form.**
- 3.- Within time period, indicate your first, second, and third afternoon workshop preference.**
- 4.- Write a check payable to "RESEARCH SALES" for the amount, if registering for lunch.**
- 5.- Mail this form and the check as soon as possible.**

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### **PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TELEPHONE:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

Registration for Goat Field Day is FREE; however, there is a fee for lunch. You may bring your own lunch.

#### **Lunch Pre-Registration (Deadline April 14, 2006)**

Adults (\$7.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Children (12 and under)  
(\$3.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
**Research Sales**

Please mail this form and check  
to:

**Agric. Res. and Ext. Prog.**  
**Langston University**  
**P.O. Box 730**  
**Langston, OK 73050**  
**ATTN: FIELD DAY**

# 2006 Goat Field Day Registration

<b>Morning</b>	<b>9:00 - 11:45 a.m.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult General Session	
<b>Youth</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>If interested, please select one youth session:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Workshop #1: General Youth Activities - Ms. Stevenson (All Day)* *(Please complete Youth Registration also) <b>- OR -</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Workshop #2: Fitting and Showing - Ms. Garrett (All Day)	
<b>Afternoon Sessions</b>	<b>1:00 - 2:00 p.m.</b>	Please Select a Workshop for this session and Enter the Workshop number here: _____	<b>Afternoon Workshop Choices:</b>  1. Natural Medicine for Organic Goat Production, 2. Regulations and More Regulations, 3. Organic Cheesemaking Overview, 4. Basic Goat Husbandry - hoof trimming, farm management calendar, disbudding, etc., 5. Basic Herd Health - herd health program including vaccinations and other approved drugs, 6. Nutrition for Production, 7. Legal Aspects of Goat Production, 8. Livestock Guardian Dogs, 9. Goat Budgets, 10. Predator Control, 11. Introduction to Artificial Insemination, 12. Benefits of Government Programs, 13. General Youth Activities, and 14. Fitting and Showing for Youth and Adults
	<b>2:15 - 3:15 p.m.</b>	Please Select a Workshop for this session and Enter the Workshop number here: _____	
	<b>3:30 - 4:30 p.m.</b>	Please Select a Workshop for this session and Enter the Workshop number here: _____	

*The Cooperative Extension Program at Langston University, provides educational programs to individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability or status as a veteran. Issued in furtherance of Extension work, Act of September 29, 1977, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

**In compliance with the ADA Act, participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Dr. Terry Gipson (405) 466-6126, at least five business days prior to the Goat Field Day.**



**Cooperative Extension Program**  
Langston University, P.O. Box 1260, Langston, OK 73050



Phone: (405) 466-3836

Fax: (405) 466-3138

Dear Goat Field Day Participants:

This letter is to invite you to bring your children (ages 5-12) to enjoy a day full of Fun, Food, & Excitement during the Goat Field Day, Saturday, April 29, 2006. The Cooperative Extension Program will be hosting a "4-H Fun Tent". Highlights of the day will include: Goat Education (goat petting area, goat bingo, etc.), fishing, face painting, horseback riding, PYOP (pot your own plant) and many other activities.

Please find on the reverse of this letter a participant registration form (feel free to make as many copies as necessary). Fill out one per child and return them with your Goat Field Day registration form so that we may make adequate preparation for the participating youth. Other forms may be needed during your on-site check in. We are excited to have this opportunity to make a positive investment in the lives of our youth.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sheila Stevenson, @ (405) 306-3983 or Dr. Terry Gipson @ (405) 466-6126.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila".

Sheila Stevenson  
Extension Specialist II



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Langston University, P.O. Box 1260, Langston, OK 73050

Goat Field Day-4-H Fun Tent

Registration Form

Name: Age: Sex: (F) (M) DOB:

Address: City/Town: Race:

Phone: Pager/cell:

Please Note any Health Problems that the Youth has:

Emergency & Pickup Information

Person responsible for picking up the youth: Cell Phone:

Emergency Contact Name: Relationship to participant:

Waiver, Release and Indemnity Agreement

In consideration of permitting to participate in the Cooperative Extension Program Goat Field Day - 4-H Fun Tent the undersigned hereby releases and forever discharges the Cooperative Extension Program at Langston University from all claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of action, or suit of any kind of nature whatsoever, and particularly on account of all wrongful death, injuries or damages caused by negligence, known and unknown, both to person and property by the program participant, which have resulted or may in the future develop from an accident which occurred while participating in this program.

The undersigned acknowledges reading the above and is fully aware of the legal consequences of signing this agreement.

Dated this day of 2006.

Parent or Legal Guardian's Name (Please Print)

Sheila Stevenson, Coordinator
Cooperative Extension Representative's Name (Please Print)

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature

Cooperative Extension Representative's Signature



# Research Spotlight

*Abstracted by A. Goetsch*

## **Pasture Access and Energy.**

Small ruminants are sometimes allowed to graze freely only for portions of daylight hours because of potential theft or predation, and how such management influences intake and energy use is unclear. Therefore, six Boer x Spanish wethers (46 lb initial body weight and 7.5 months of age) were used to determine effects of different lengths of access to pasture with moderate to high mass of forage of high nutritive value on energy expenditure (EE), recovered energy (RE), metabolizable energy (ME) intake, and grazing activities. Wethers grazed a 1.8 acre pasture of a mixture of cool season forages in the fall/winter period for 4 (12.00 to 16.00 h), 8 (08.00 to 16.00 h) or 24 h; 4 and 8 h wethers were confined as a group in an enclosed facility at other times. Forage dry matter mass was 1985, 2016, 1634, and 1000 kg/ha at the beginning of period 1 and end of periods 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Hand-plucked forage samples averaged 22% crude protein and 39% neutral detergent fiber. EE was greatest for 24 h of pasture access (4.96, 5.13 and 6.19 MJ/day), although RE was similar among treatments (0.88, 2.16, and 1.57 MJ/day for 4, 8, and 12 h, respectively). Intake of ME was greater for 8 and 24 h vs 4 h (5.84, 7.30, and 7.76 MJ/day for 4, 8, and 24 h, respectively). As length of pasture access increased, number of steps (2.51, 4.57, and 6.41 x 1000), time spent ruminating (4.42, 6.33, and 7.28 h), and time eating (3.77, 6.35, and 7.24 h) increased and idle time (15.81, 11.32, and 9.48 h) decreased, whereas time lying was greater for 4 and 8 vs 24 h (8.39, 8.25, and 6.66 h for 4, 8, and 24 h, respectively). In conclusion, with moderate to high mass of forage of high nutritive value, limited pasture access of a minimal length could yield performance by growing meat goats at least comparable to that with continuous access.

*T. Berhan, R. Puchala, T. Sahlu, R.C. Merkel, and A.L. Goetsch. Effects of length of pasture access on energy use by growing meat goats. Journal of Applied Animal Research 28:1-7. 2005.*

## **Milk Production.**

A 2-year study investigated effects of different levels of concentrate supplementation on milk production, composition, and lactation curves in pastured dairy goats. In both years 44 Alpine goats (97 lb body weight) were randomly allocated to four groups. Animals were supplemented with 0.66 (treatments A and B), 0.33 (treatment C), or 0 lb of concentrate (treatment D) per lb of milk over 3.3 lb/day. Mixed vegetative forages were rotationally grazed by the goats (treatments B, C, and D) except that treatment A was confined and fed alfalfa hay. Milk yield was lowest among treatments for D. The increased level of concentrate supplementation in treatment A led to 22% greater milk yield compared with treatment D. Milk production increased by 3.7 and 2.0 lb for each additional lb of concentrate fed per day during years 1 and 2, respectively. Average peak yield, time of peak yield, persistency and milk fat concentration were lowest among treatments for D. Concentration of milk protein was greater for treatments A and B during the first year, and was higher for treatment C than for other treatments during the second year. Average milk lactose concentration was higher for treatments B and C than for other treatments. However, milk urea concentration in treatment A was higher than for other treatments. In conclusion, supplementation increased milk yield, peak yield, time of peak yield, and persistency, with relatively smaller effects on milk composition. Dairy goats grazing fresh forages without concentrate supplementation can produce high enough levels of milk (e.g. 8.4 lb/day) to be economic and response to concentrate supplementation depends on forage quality.

*B. R. Min, S. P. Hart, T. Sahlu, and L. D. Satter. The effect of diets on milk production, composition, and on lactation curves in pastured dairy goats. Journal of Dairy Science 88:2604-2615. 2004.*

# 2006 Goat Activities

## Buck Performance Test

Are your Boer and(or)

Boercross bucks fast growing? Are they efficient in converting feed into meat? You can answer these questions by enrolling your buck(s) in the tenth annual meat buck

performance test conducted by the Goat Extension Program in collaboration with the Oklahoma Meat Goat Association. The buck test will start on May 13, 2006 and is

open to bucks born between December 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006. Complete details of the 2006 buck performance test are available on our web site at [www2.luresext.edu/extension/](http://www2.luresext.edu/extension/)

*For information regarding the 2006 buck performance test, contact Dr. Steve Hart at (405)466-6138 or [shart@luresext.edu](mailto:shart@luresext.edu).*

## Controlling Internal Parasite Workshops

Are internal parasites a major problem for you? Want to know more about controlling internal parasites in your goat herd? We will be conducting six workshops on controlling internal parasites this summer.

The workshops will be on March 18 at the Bristow Community Center, on April 1

at the Red River Museum in Idabel, on April 8 at Langston University, on April 15 at the NAR&RC Office in Anadarko, on April 22 at the Tahlequah Fairgrounds, and on May 27 at Union School, north of Tulsa.

Participants will learn about parasite life cycles, dewormers, and alternative treatments, and

will experience a hands-on training session on how to conduct fecal egg counts.

The special slide (McMaster counting chamber) for doing fecal egg counts is available for \$15 each and FAMACHA<sup>®</sup> eye charts will be available for \$10 each.

*For information regarding the internal parasite workshops, contact Dr. Steve Hart at (405)466-6138 or [shart@luresext.edu](mailto:shart@luresext.edu).*

## Goat Cheese Making Workshop

Because there is a tremendous interest in goat cheese making, we have planned a training workshop at Langston University on Friday, April 28, 2006 (the day before our annual Goat Field Day). This

is a hands-on workshop, which will be instructed by an experienced commercial goat cheese maker. Principles and basic techniques of cheese making will be demonstrated.

The instructor will also share her practical experience and marketing strategies. There will be a registration fee of \$25.00 and only the first 15 registrants will be admitted.

*For information regarding the soap making workshop, contact Dr. Steve Zeng at (405)466-6103 or [szeng@luresext.edu](mailto:szeng@luresext.edu)*

# Tentative Year 2006 Activities

In 2006, The E (Kika) de la Garza American Institute for Goat Research will sponsor several extension/education activities. Due to the hands-on nature of the Cheesemaking, Sustainable Internal Parasite Control, and Artificial Insemination workshops the number of participants will be limited. Registration forms for individual workshops are available upon request. *Reserve your place today.*

If you are interested in receiving future information regarding these events, please circle the event in the form below and return. ***In compliance with the ADA Act, participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Dr. Terry A. Gipson (405) 466-6126, at least five business days prior to the scheduled event.***

**N.B.** Dates are subject to change and workshops may be cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.

( *Cut along line and mail form* )

## FORM TO REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE EVENTS

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Activity
March 18, 2006	Sustainable Internal Parasite Control for Small Ruminants (Bristow Community Center)
April 1, 2006	Sustainable Internal Parasite Control for Small Ruminants (Red River Museum, Idabel )
April 8, 2006	Sustainable Internal Parasite Control for Small Ruminants (Langston)
April 15, 2006	Sustainable Internal Parasite Control for Small Ruminants ( NAR&RC Office, Anadarko)
April 22, 2006	Sustainable Internal Parasite Control for Small Ruminants (Tahlequah Fairgrounds)
April 28, 2006	Goat Cheese Making Workshop (Langston)
April 29, 2006	GOAT FIELD DAY (Langston)
May 13, 2006	Meat Buck Performance Test (Langston)
May 27, 2006	Sustainable Internal Parasite Control for Small Ruminants (Union School, North of Tulsa)
August 26, 2006	Goat Milk Ice Cream and Yogurt Making Workshop (Langston)
September 9, 20056	Demonstration Clinic: Artificial Insemination for Goats (Langston)
October 7, 2006	Demonstration Clinic: Artificial Insemination for Goats (Tahlequah)
October 28, 2006	Demonstration Clinic: Artificial Insemination for Goats (location to be determined in Eastern Oklahoma)

***Please mail this form to:***

Dr. Terry A. Gipson  
Agricultural Research  
and Extension  
Program  
Langston University  
P.O. Box 730  
Langston, OK 73050

**ATTN: YEAR 2006  
EVENTS**

Most workshop registration forms are available on the Internet at:

[http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/extension/workshops\\_field\\_day.htm](http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/extension/workshops_field_day.htm)

GOAT FIELD DAY registration is also available online at:

<http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/library/fd2006.html>

# Noteworthy News

In January, Dr. **Steve Hart**, several Langston University outreach specialists, and Oklahoma farmers traveled to Louisville, KY to attend The Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference hosted by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Workers Group Conference.

In February, Drs. **Tilahun Sahlu**, **Art Goetsch**, **Terry Gipson**, and **Roger Merkel** traveled to Ethiopia as part of a collaborative project on meat goat production.

In February, Dr. **Terry Gipson** gave presentations on meat goat production at the Minnesota Veterinary

Medical Association annual meeting.

In February, Dr **Steve Zeng** and Mr. **Sean Chen** traveled to Kansas and conducted a DHI tester Qualification training for dairy goat producers.



Goat Newsletter

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