



Goat Newsletter

Cooperative Extension Program
Langston University

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

Spring 2010

From the Director's Desk



Winter still has Oklahoma in its grip. We have had a difficult winter with snow and cold weather and as I write this column more of each is predicted this week. Our goats will be happy when spring arrives. As I look out my window and gaze upon the wintry scene, I think about spring and all its activities that will soon be here. But first, I must attend to winter-time activities and two important winter-time activities for the institute are research findings and grant writing. Research is the life blood of the institute and disseminating our research findings is essential to the increase of the knowledge base. One avenue for disseminating findings is through abstracts at the national meetings of the American Society of Animal

Science and the American Dairy Science Association, which will be held in July in Denver. It is important to receive feedback from fellow scientists and to learn about new research discoveries that we might apply to goats. I always encourage our scientists to submit abstracts, present their findings, interact with fellow scientists, and learn new ideas at these professional meetings. Relatedly, the 10th International Conference on Goats will be held later this year in Recife, Brazil. The central theme of the 10th Conference will be "Technological development and associative attempts to a sustainable small livestock production". This theme is perfect for us as Langston University is a leader in this field. Our Ethiopia Sheep and Goat Productivity Improvement Program has been very successful and is a case study in sustainable development within the small ruminant sector. In addition, our Web-based Training and Certification Program for Meat Goat Producers continues to grow by leaps and bounds. It is our goal to meet the needs of goat producers whatever the

level; from hands-on to high technology. The Institute will be well represented at both meetings.

In order to disseminate research findings, we must first be successful in obtaining grants. This is the time of the year that we are very busy writing grant proposals for one of our major grant-funding sources, the USDA Capacity Building Grants program. This year, I encouraged my scientists to write two grants each for submission and I am so pleased that each and every one of them succeeded in that task. We submitted 12 research, 2 extension, and 2 teaching grant proposals for review. Now we must wait to see if we will be successful.

There is no more important venue for disseminating research findings than through our annual Goat Field Day, which will be held on April 24, 2010. This year's theme will be *Bridging the Future and the Past*. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Frank Pinkerton. I know that I do not need to introduce Dr. Pinkerton to you. He is well known throughout the United States as the Goat Man and that he



Goat Newsletter is published quarterly by the Cooperative Extension Service of the E (Kika) de la Garza American Institute for Goat Research, Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma.

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is. Dr. Pinkerton and I share a long history here at Langston University. He was one of the founding faculty members of the institute and when I came to the university as a young scientist, he became my mentor and friend. We have shared many laughs and memories over the years and I look forward to having him back on campus to help us celebrate the silver anniversary of the Goat Field Day. We have much to be thankful to him for and I know that he will impart his wit and wisdom that only The Goat Man can do for the field day. So please don't miss this year's field day. I know that you won't regret it. You can read more about the Goat Field Day activities in the following pages of this newsletter. I hope to see you at the 2010 Goat Field Day.

We are also busy making plans for the 2010 Buck Performance Test, which will start on June 5th. The test is open to purebred and crossbred bucks born between January 1 and April 30, 2010. You can find out more information on the buck test by going to our web site at <http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/extension/2010bucktest.htm>. There you can also find an application form or you can call Dr. **Terry Gipson**, buck test supervisor, at 405-466-6126.

I, like all of you, think about the situation in Haiti and the devastation that country has undergone this winter. Haiti is a country with more goats than any other livestock species. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Agency,

Haiti had 2 million goats. The livestock species in second place is cattle at 1.5 million head. Haiti is a country that is reliant upon goats. I hope that you remember our fellow Haitian goat producers in their time of need.

On a related international note, we were recently informed that the Institute was awarded a grant for a project entitled "Enhanced Safety and Product Quality from On-Farm Thermization/Pasteurization of Goat Milk in the Middle East" by the United States - Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) Fund as a Facilitating Grant in the MARD (Multinational Agricultural Research and Development) program. Dr. **Arthur Goetsch** traveled to Israel, Palestine, and Jordan last year to develop this new proposal. Institutions taking part in this project are Al-Quds University in Palestine, The Volcani Center of the Agricultural Research Organization of Israel, and Jordan University of Science and Technology. Project objectives are to develop specifications of an inexpensive milk thermization/pasteurization equipment system suitable for use on small goat farms in the Middle East, conduct preliminary evaluations of the prototype for possible refinement, and determine procedures for an associated MERC grant proposal to be developed. Participants of the Institute are Drs. **Tilahun Sahlu**, **Arthur Goetsch**, and **Steve Zeng**.



Bridging the Future and the Past

Goat Field Day 2010

Our annual Goat Field Day will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Langston University Goat Farm with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. This year's theme will be **Bridging the Future and the Past**.

Adult Activity (morning session): This year our featured speaker will be Dr. Frank Pinkerton (AKA **The Goat Man**). Dr. Pinkerton became The Goat Man at Prairie View A&M University in 1978. Here is the history, in his own words, of The Goat Man becoming the The Goat Man.

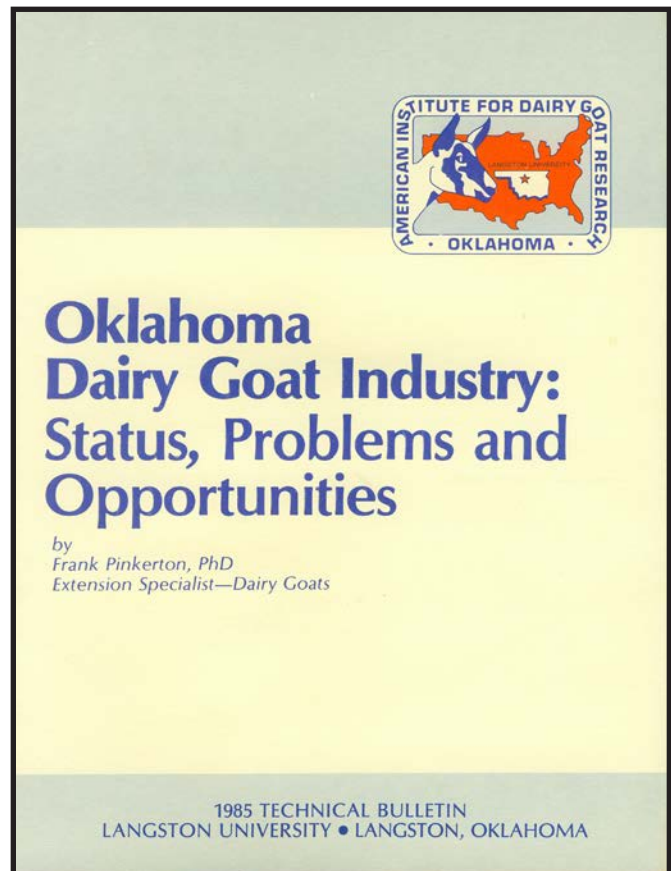
"... Frank was reassigned to develop the International Dairy Goat Research Center. He recalls that the interview for the new job was very short. The Dean asked him if he knew anything about dairy goats; yes, he said, they were those funny little cows with two tits. Close enough, said the Dean, and so it was that The Goat Man came to be. In '83, as the result of a bureaucratic political shuffle, he relocated to Langston University in OK, to do extension work in dairy, Angora, and meat goats. He retired in '93 to raise meat goats in east TX and do consultant work in goat management and marketing in TX, NY, VA, NC, and LA."

"During his 40 year career, Frank managed to publish 10 articles on Ruminant Nutrition and Milk Technology early on, then write 17 Extension Fact Sheets/Technical Bulletins on dairy, Angora, and meat goats, and prepare 41 articles on meat goat production, marketing, and meats for popular periodicals. He also did 13 international consultancies on livestock and goat nutrition and 16 domestic consultancies on goat management and marketing, not to mention conducting 5 large-scale goat-grazing demonstrations for vegetative control in public forests and grasslands in OK, AR, AL, NC and TN."

"Since March of 2005 it has been my [Frank's] pleasure to write a monthly question-and-answer column for The Goat Rancher and also to share occasional articles on various facets of the industry. As a retired Extension Specialist, these exchanges and offerings have allowed me to stay in touch with producers and to keep more or less abreast of events and developments affecting management and marketing of meat goats."

Adult Activity (afternoon session): Participants will be able to break into other small-group workshops. There will be a total of twelve afternoon workshops; however, participants will only have time enough to attend three. Afternoon workshops include:

- Frankly Speaking – noted Goat Rancher columnist will expound upon questions that are often asked including basic goat nutrition, feedstuffs, forage-only feeding programs, production economics, target marketing, on-farm testing, and many more with Dr. Frank Pinkerton.
- Basic Goat Husbandry - hoof trimming, body condition scoring, FAMACHA scoring, farm management calendar, etc. with Mr. Jerry Hayes (1:30 only).



Editor's note: This 14-page Technical Bulletin was one of the first publications of Dr. Pinkerton at Langston University and dates from the year of the first Goat Field Day. It will be reprinted in its entirety in the proceedings of the 2010 Goat Field Day.

You can register online for the 2010 Goat Field Day
<http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/library/fd2010.html>

- Basic Herd Health - herd health program including vaccinations, injection sites, and approved drugs with Dr. Lionel Dawson (2:30 only).
- Nutrition for Health and Production - calculation of energy, protein and feed intake requirements with Dr. Steve Hart (1:30 and 2:30 only).
- Internal Parasite Control - sustainable internal parasite control program with Dr. Steve Hart (3:30 only).
- Goat Reproduction – basics of goat reproduction and techniques and equipment for artificial insemination in goats with Dr. Dave Sparks.
- Goat Farm Budgeting - basics of budgeting and financial recordkeeping with Mr. Roger Sahs.
- Cheese-making Overview - basics of making cheeses from goat's milk with Mr. Neville McNaughton.
- Pack Goats - basic goat training as a pack animal and equipment needs with Mr. Dwite Sharp.
- Mortality Composting - basic composting techniques and equipment for disposing of goat mortalities with Dr. Roger Merkel.
- DHI Training - supervisor/tester training for dairy goat producers including scale certification with Ms. Eva Vasquez.
- USDA Government Programs - overview of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's work with goats and its cost-sharing program with Mr. Dwight Guy.

Fun Tent Youth Activity: Ms. Sheila Stevenson will host a full day of activities for youth ages 5-12 in the Fun Tent. 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 activities, pony rides, fishing, pot your own plant, and many others. 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.

Fitting and Showing Youth Activity: For several years, we have offered a fitting and showing workshop for youth and adults. We are restructuring that workshop and will not offer it this year but we will offer it in 2011. This will be just one of the restructuring of the Goat Field Day beginning in 2011.

GPS Scavenger Hunt Youth Activity: Ms. Sheila Stevenson will also organize a ½-day GPS scavenger hunt on campus. Youth will learn the basics of GPS and will use a GPS unit to find "hidden" objects.

Registration for the Goat Field Day is FREE but there is a \$10.00 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.

For information regarding the 2010 Goat Field Day, contact Dr. Terry Gipson at 405-466-6126 or at tgipson@luresext.edu.

Artificial Insemination Workshops

The Goat Extension Program will be conducting two artificial insemination workshops this fall. The schedule will be:



1. Langston University on Saturday, September 11, 2010.
2. Pushmataha County Fairgrounds in Antlers, OK on Saturday, October 9, 2010.

Workshops will present basic anatomy and physiology of goats, estrus detection and synchronization in goats, and semen handling. Participants will have the opportunity to practice with fresh reproductive tracts and with live animals. Registration for each workshop is limited to 20 participants. Registration fee is \$50 per person. Included in the cost of registration are handouts and lunch.

For information regarding the AI workshops, contact Dr. Terry Gipson at 405-466-6126 or tgipson@luresext.edu. Registration forms are available online at: http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/extension/workshops_field_day.htm

Adult reg #1

Adult reg #2

Shelia cover

Waiver and release

Youth reg 1

Youth reg 2

Le Midi by Nicolaes Berchem



Recently, an exhibition of the *Dutch Italianates* came to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. This exhibit featured 39 paintings of Dutch artists from the seventeenth century and are part of the collection of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, which is England's oldest public art gallery. The seventeenth century was a period known as the Dutch Golden Age, when trade, science, and art flourished. These *Dutch Italianate* artists preferred painting landscapes and were particularly influenced by Italy. Throughout that century, young Dutch artists undertook the arduous journey to Italy at great peril to personal safety and finances. Instead of heading to the large cities, these artists headed to the Italian countryside.

One renowned *Dutch Italianate* artist was Nicolaes Berchem (1620 - 1683). Berchem was taught by his father, Pieter Claesz, and began his career in Haarlem at the age of fourteen. Berchem was the teacher of many other another Dutch landscape painters including Karel DuJardin, who was mentioned in a previous newsletter. Berchem painted over 800 works in his lifetime, mostly of the Italian countryside. Ironically, scholars are unsure whether he ever actually visited the country that inspired his paintings.

One particularly striking painting of Berchem's is *Le Midi* (mid- to late 1650's), which depicts two maidens conversing at the public fountains as one maiden milks a goat. The scene is mid-day and one can detect the unhurried pace that this time of day dictates. The posture of the two maidens and the livestock gathered nearby seems to be very relaxed. A slight cooling breeze is blowing as is evident from the apron of one maiden and the sheep just beyond her. The leisure of the two maidens is in stark contrast to two other women who seem to be very busy doing their laundry chores.

If you are aware of other painting, classical or modern, that have goats as a central point, please share them with us. We will pass them on to our readers.

Noteworthy News

► In February, Dr. **Steve Hart** made a presentation at the University of Missouri-Columbia to Extension Animal Specialists as part of their continuing education program. Agents were receiving an increasing number of calls from goat producers and everyone had noticed that goat numbers had increased in the field as well as at county shows. The

presentation covered general goat management, nutrition and health and was based on material in the Meat Goat Production Handbook which the Extension Service had purchased for its animal specialists. He answered many specific questions about goats and helped to identify local sources of goat information.

► In March, Drs. **Art Goetsch** and **Tilahun Sahlu** travel to Jordan and Israel to begin work on the BARD/MARD grant entitled "Enhanced Safety and Product Quality from On-Farm Thermization/Pasteurization of Goat Milk in the Middle East".

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