from El Presidente!

**Nominations** -- Jan Privratsky ([pjbullygoat@centurytel.net](mailto:pjbullygoat@centurytel.net)) is taking nominations for the two board positions that will be open next year. If you are interested in serving on the board, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact her as soon as possible. We need to have nominations lined up soon for our fall election. The only requirement for office is that you be a member of NAPgA, and be willing to serve. We hold quarterly meetings online, and each person serves a three-year term.

**Wind River Closure** -- Clay Zimmerman of Utah notified us that part of the Wind River mountains in Wyoming has been closed to packgoats. I spoke with Meredith at the Pinedale District office, she said the closure was recommended by the state wildlife people. There has been an unexplained die-off of bighorn sheep in the area. At this point they are not blaming packgoats, but wanted to close the area as a precaution. I sent Meredith a copy of all the bighorn/packgoat research that I had, and we will keep in touch with her on this. The closure is a large area in the northern Winds, in an area south of Green River Lake, all of it on the west side of the Divide. You can still hike on the east side of the Divide, but can’t cross over. It includes the northern part of the Bridger Wilderness Area. There are lots of lakes and trails in this area. If you are interested, I have a copy of a map of the closed area and can send it to you. Email me with your snail mail address at [jhuffaker@rmi.net](mailto:jhuffaker@rmi.net) if you want a map of the closure.

**ADGA Recordation** -- The American Dairy Goat Association has started a new wether registration program. Check out the details at their website at [www.adga.org](http://www.adga.org). It doesn’t matter the breeds or pedigree of your wether, you can receive an official tattoo sequence from ADGA which you can use to record your wether goats with them. This makes it easier to show and transport across state lines, because the tattoo serves as official Scrapie ID. So you don’t need those nasty ear tags. There are fees involved and you must be a member of ADGA to participate, but if you are a breeder selling packgoat kids I think you should consider registering your wethers.

All of you have a great summer and fall, get out there and enjoy the backcountry with your packgoats!

Carpe Diem!

Jan Huffaker

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The Rendy!

**Goatstock 2007**

Goatstock 2007 was a huge success! The location was beautiful and offered lots of room for camping, the people were wonderful, the goats behaved themselves (most of the time), and the rain cooled things down and kept the bugs away.

A few people showed up early, but the real crowds started arriving on Wednesday. Thursday was set aside for our Forest Service work project. We built a section of trail linking the road to the Colorado Trail a short ways from our meadow. Trail building is hard work! Everyone pitched in and we got quite a bit done before the afternoon show-timers began.

Friday was a busy day. We had workshops on Leave No Trace (<http://www.lnt.org>), camping and highlining goats, foot trimming, tattooing and the ADGA wether registration program (<http://www.adga.org>), burdizzo castration, geocaching, and an impromptu lunchtime workshop on the alpha roll. Jim Conley even brought a portable digital scale, but my goat George was too big to stand on it! So I still don’t know exactly what he weighs... Friday evening was the group potluck and silent auction. We had a great dinner and people were donating auction items all day. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated and bought things.

Saturday most people went hiking on the Colorado Trail and caught some of the fantastic views.

But the adventure didn’t stop there. I had to leave very early on Sunday morning, as I had a 10+ hour drive home and wanted to get home before dark. So I was so proud that I got up at the crack of dawn and was packed up and leaving the area by 7:30 am. We had a heavy rain
the night before, but the road was fine, I had no trouble getting my pickup and stock trailer down. Until just two miles from the highway... came around a bend and there was a pile of rocks in the middle of the road, including a huge boulder, about 5-6 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 2-3 feet tall. Smack in the middle, no way around it (I measured just to be sure). So much for my early start.

I moved off all the little rocks, messed around for a couple of hours trying various things. Got a chain hooked to it, but there was no way my pickup could budge it. But I had to try, had nothing but time on my hands. I couldn’t turn around, had the trailer on and the road was too narrow. The road to the left of the boulder consisted of a several hundred foot drop-off to the creek below, there was no way I was trying that side! The road to the right of the boulder was straight up the mountainside, with a small drainage ditch running along the side of the hill. After messing around, I decided the best bet was to eat some breakfast and wait for the others. If I had been alone, I would have hiked the remaining two miles down to the highway, but I knew there were other goatpackers coming behind me. Pretty soon down came Alexis and Rico in their Subaru station wagon (two goats laying calmly down inside). Alexis and goats stayed with me while Rico got turned around and went back up to warn the others. Pretty soon the cavalry came to the rescue: Zea and Ritchie Beaver, Rodney York, Perry Burkhart, Steve Garchutt, joined me and Alexis and Rico. (I hope I didn’t forget anyone).

We decided the best thing to do was to fill in the little ditch on the mountain side, that would make the road a couple of feet wider, just enough to squeeze by. So everyone got busy filling in the ditch with rocks, logs, and dirt. Luckily Ritchie was carrying a shovel. With all hands on deck it didn’t take very long. Alexis and Rico got through easily with their little Subaru, it took some guidance from the guys to squeeze my pickup and trailer through. The only damage was a dented hubcap.

I’m very glad that the two big 5th wheel campers of Race’s went down Saturday night. There is no way they could have squeezed through that spot!

My heartfelt thanks to the road crew who pitched in with a huge sense of humor and made it possible for us to go home!

We had at least 41 people present and 35 goats, but I may have missed a couple here or there, especially on Friday when we had the most attendance. We had 15 people who worked on the trail project on Thursday. Zea had told the Forest Service there would be between 10-20, so we were right on there. They were pleased, they said the last horse group to volunteer, only three people showed up to work.

NAPgA grossed $1630 in fees, sales of merchandise, and the silent auction. About $500 of this came from the silent auction. I was very impressed with the donations, total strangers were walking up at the last minute and offering items to donate. My heartfelt thanks to all of you who donated items, and to all who purchased them! Carolyn Eddy has that list of donors. Mike Anderegg and his wife Maggie Love and son Lee went home with the packgoat kid donated by Carolyn.

Expenses -- we spent $250 for porta-potties, $110 for the permit, and $381 for patches. Everything else was donated. Mike Anderegg of Cortez took care of the hay and didn’t bill NAPgA for any of it. My thanks to Mike for taking care of this. He also hauled in the potties, and Rodney York hauled them back using Zea Beaver’s trailer hitch. Real teamwork here. So after expenses NAPgA netted $889 profit. I haven’t submitted a final accounting to the Forest Service yet. The patches were nice, but cost more than I was quoted and we only sold a little over half of them. We’ll have to rethink that item next year. The calendars were popular. We also gained at least four new memberships.

Zea Beaver is the person who found us the site, and who worked with getting things together locally. She also worked with the Forest Service setting up the work project. My thanks to Zea for all her help! Zea is also part owner and editor of the Valley Voice, a local newspaper. So she had the exclusive scoop, and wrote an excellent article in her paper about Goatstock 2007. She sent me a copy of the paper. She told me that she would like to send a copy to other rendy attendees, so if you attended the rendy and would like a copy (there’s some good pictures too) please e-mail her at zbeaver@fone.net and make arrangements with her. As a side note, on Friday during a break I spoke with a photographer from the Cortez Journal, another local paper. He drove up to take pictures of us doing the trail work project. I told him he was a day late! I didn’t know he was coming, I told him our schedule was posted on our website but someone else gave him the wrong day. He was welcome to take pictures during our workshops, but I think he went home mad. Anyone from Cortez, did we make it into the paper?

Carpe Diem!
Jan Huffaker

huffaker@rmi.net
Silent Auction Contributors

2007 Rendy -- Auction Contributors

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the folks listed below who made the Silent Auction the success that it was. As always, the involvement of the members positively impacts the success of the organization as a whole.

Caprine Supply
Owyhee Packgoat Supply
Northwest Packgoat Supply
Larry Robinson
Carolyn Eddy
Alice Beberness
Charles Snider
Rachel Suomela
Jan Privratsky
Jan Huffaker
Sequoia Wood Alpines
Alternative Livestock Supply
Sunny

Carolyn Eddy’s Rendy Notes

The legendary road-blocking rock was gone when we went out Monday morning. You could tell where it had been, though.

I was glad we waited an extra day to leave because Sunday afternoon was the nicest it was all weekend. Of course!

Alice and I found ourselves eventually up on the road from Gateway to Moab in the middle of the worst lightning storm I’ve ever been in. But, the scenery was worth it. Thanks, John Koller for the great travel tip.

We had at least two goats on the truck at all times, but came home with completely different ones than we had left with. A total of 7 goats got moved with us at one time or another.

One little girl, who came home with me, was on the truck for almost 2 weeks straight, needless to say, she is a trooper. Thunder, lightning, dogs, motels parking lots, nothing fazes her now.

We had a great time and got lots of ideas for our next few projects.

BTW, Clay says he wants to hold the Rendy at his forest next year.

“Sweet Goat Mama”
Carolyn Eddy
www.goattracksmagazine.com

This article is reprinted from the summer 2007 Sheep and Goat Health Report, which is a newsletter put out by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture. They encourage reprinting of their articles.

Why Poisonous Plants Sometimes Lethal, Sometimes Not

Sheep and goats love green plants, but not all plants love sheep and goats. But when is this relationship an OK one, and when does it turn deadly?

Research shows that numerous factors influence the action of poisons and the severity of a sheep’s or goat’s reaction to them. These factors include the amount eaten and over what period of time, the chemical nature of the poison, the part of plant and condition of the plant, the amount of fill in the rumen prior to ingestion of the substance, species of animal poisoned and the general health of the ruminant prior to eating the poisonous plant. Another key influencer is the size, age, and sex of the animal.

“We must remember that the dose makes the poison,” Sweetlix nutritionist Jackie Nix states. “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.”

“Every substance on earth is capable of poisoning animals at a critical dosage, even water. Some poisonous plants must be ingested over a long period of time to cause damage, while others cause damage immediately.”

Nix points out that the chemical nature of the poison is extremely important when considering poisonous plants. She notes that common poisonous compounds found in plants include glycosides, alkaloids, oxalates, oils, minerals, resins and nitrates. While some of these poisons affect the nervous system, others affect the blood, intestinal tract or the heart.

“Knowledge of the specific poison and its mode of action will aid in trying to treat specific poisoning cases,” Nix interjects. “For example, nitrates sometimes found in Johnson grass 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.”

Not every part of a poisonous plant is poisonous, and not all poisonous plants are poisonous every day of the year. For example, Nix notes that black cherry leaves are only poisonous when they are in a wilted state. The same leaves are perfectly safe when fresh and green or when brown and dried. On the other hand, she says that all parts of some plants, such as Jimsonweed, contain poisonous compounds.

(I wanted to include a picture of Carolyn here, but she must have been cleverly ducking the pictures ’cause I couldn’t find one. So I included this of Alice and Susan Waldrip instead.)
In a pasture filled with animals one question begs to be asked. If all animals consume the same species of poisonous plant, why do some sheep or goats get extremely ill while others don’t exhibit the same degree of illness?

Nix attributes this difference to animals having a full stomach or an empty one when ingesting the poisonous plant.

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

Plants and Species

Poisons do not affect all species equally. Research and practical experiences confirm that some species are more susceptible to certain poisonous compounds than others.

“This susceptibility or non-susceptibility may be due to different grazing preferences and habits or also different physiological factors.” Nix relates. She adds that 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,” Nix continues. “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 standpoint. However, since bucks are dominant to does and often get the lion’s share of the feed, bucks can be more susceptible in some situation. 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, sheep and goats do not innately know which plants are poisonous and which are not. Nix contends that sheep and goats learn this knowledge 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,” she elaborates. “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.”

Symptoms

Nix stresses that 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,” she continues.

Some symptoms of plant poisoning among sheep and goats include frothing at the mouth, vomiting, staggering, trembling, crying for help, rapid or labored breathing, convulsions and sudden death.

Nix advises producers who observe any of the symptoms and suspect poisoning to remove the goat or sheep from the area and to look around the area and try to figure out what poisoned the animal. Another first step is to call a veterinarian as soon as possible.

She also urges producers to remove the poison from the animals by placing two tablespoons of salt on the back of the animal’s tongue to induce vomiting. Another method is to administer charcoal tablets and rehydration fluids along with some mineral oil. She says the charcoal will bind some of the toxins, the fluids will prevent dehydration, and the oil will coat the gastrointestinal tract and prevent foaming.

Be Proactive

To protect animals from poisoning, the Agricultural Research Service information suggests producers follow eight steps.

1. Learn to identify the poisonous plants that grow on your range. 2. Learn the conditions under which these plants can be dangerous to your livestock. 3. Develop a grazing plan to improve your range and prevent poisoning of your livestock by plants. Graze your ranges at the proper time. Do not overgraze them. 4. Do not allow animals that have been under stress or that are overly hungry to graze in area infested with poisonous plants. 5. Provide adequate water for your livestock. 6. Be especially careful when grazing newly introduced livestock on your range. 7. Provide adequate salt and other supplements as needed. 8. Control poisonous plants where feasible.

Nix adds that providing a nutritionally balanced diet for sheep and goats will prevent them from seeking our harmful plants in search of nutrients. “Good mineral nutrition will help produce healthy goats and sheep that will be less likely to consume poisonous plants and also more likely to survive accidental poisoning than unthrifty goats and sheep.” Nix summarizes.

Dr. Joseph DiTomaso of Cornell University has compiled a list of plants reported to be poisonous among animals in the United States. To check out this list, visit [http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/poisonous.pdf](http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/poisonous.pdf).