President, President, Who’s Got the President?
Well, NAPgA still does, but it has changed hands.
According to our By-Laws, the NAPgA Board Offices are not voted on individually, but the chairs needing to be filled are done so from within, by board member vote after each election.
Initially, Charlie Jennings agreed to take on the Presidency position, but after some serious soul-searching, realized that he could not adequately carry out those tasks, and keep his business going at the same time.
At this time, the only board member that was able, and had the time, to take it on is Larry Robinson, so the board voted to make the change at our last meeting.
There may be a future change, as one of the board members has indicated that she might be willing to assume the leadership position, and since she has a lot more experience than I, it would undoubtedly be a good change.
So for now, it’s ‘President Larry’, and ‘Treasurer Larry’, and ‘Webmaster Larry’… ;-)

For some folks, dues are still due! Access to the website ‘members only' sections ends with the end of February, so if you try and log in, and can't, better check the ‘ol checkbook!

2009 Dues are Due!
It is time to consider renewal of your NAPgA membership. One of the most expensive things that we do is mailing of reminder letters. You can help us conserve NAPgA’s scarce resources by sending us your dues today. Paypal <napga@hisurfer.net> is a good way to get it to us, or there is an application form at www.napga.org

Hello?
My main thrust after inserting myself into NAPgA was to promote the re-write of our web site. The final choice for a website was an interactive site where members can change their own information, by updating eMail addresses, snail mail addresses, phone numbers and the like.
However I continue to get eMails asking me to change various parts of the database. But you can make these kinds of changes yourself! That's the beauty of our site.
Simply log on to the website, make whatever change you desire, then click on ‘Submit’ at the bottom of the page. Voila! It is done.
If you can’t remember your log-on information, pls email me at napga@hisurfer.net and I will send you the pertinent information.

The 2009 Rendezvous -- June 25-28!
The logistics for the 2009 Rendezvous are well on their way to being completed!
Charlie Goggin, in spite of a very full personal schedule, has made the necessary arrangements to have this event in the northern California mountains. As time goes on, there will be more information forthcoming, and I will keep the website updated as we complete further event details.
Below are pictures representative of the site for the Rendy:

Evergreen Packgoat Club – A Great day at the Puyallup Sportsman Show
by Rachel Suomela
The Evergreen Packgoat Club has hosted an informational packgoat booth at the Puyallup sportsman show for many years now. This was my third year helping out and although it was cold it was a beautiful day. We had 8 or 9 goats and that many folks helping out.
Over the three years I have helped here, it has changed from… Packgoats? What are packgoats??
To… Packgoats! Wow! My brother’s sister’s friend does that. I’ve heard of those.
Many people were very interested. We handed out many NAPgA brochures and answered many questions. The most common question was, of course, how much can they carry? I think I answered that 200
times. Informing people of the benefits of packgoats, how to be responsible stockowners and good practices like leave no trace are a priority of our group and mine. Special thanks to all those who helped out! Thanks for another great year at the Puyallup sportsman show. The Evergreen Packgoat club will be hosting a booth at the new Cabela’s in Lacey, WA at the end of

Larger view of the intended Rendy area

Our intended clean-up hike. Wahoo!

Everyone has to do a little Google Earth, and so do we! And so this is a Google Earth overview of the Rendy area.

The Rupert Family Christmas Card... to NAPgA & its Members

Merry Christmas

Molly (14) Josey (15)
Cassy (12) Rufus (8)
Kenai (1)
March 2009

When I got to this point in assembling the newsletter, I thought, “Hey, I don’t have anything from the President!” Then I am reminded of what the great philosopher Pogo said, “We have found the enemy… and they is us!” The point being, that since the most recent NAPgA BOD meeting, I am the President, so if I want something from that direction, I guess it needs to be me!

So what is happening in NAPgA? And since this is an organization that is primarily about ‘hiking’, not too much, during these months where the upper 2/3rds of the country is desperately trying to hold on to the hope that there truly is a summer out there, and that it is coming… sometime. However, the signs, at least for me, are not good. It snowed all day here. That is not a real positive portent for great hiking weather. However, the temperatures were such as to prevent a real large snow buildup, so maybe things are not looking so bad after all.

There is one immediate issue that is on our radar, and one that Charlie Jennings is intimately involved in, and that is the current ‘Assessment of Domestic Goat Use’ in the Shoshone National Forest, Fremont County, WY. This is always a loaded issue, since a goat is a goat, right? Whether or not it is a brush clearer, with a herd of animals, or a goat packer, with a few of his friends, all are the same, and pose the same risk to wildlife, right? Goatpackers know that answer to that one, and it naturally is “nonsense.” Since we take a very close interest in our guys, and are alert to the slightest behavioral deviation, the chance of us taking a sick animal out into the woods is slim indeed. However, at least at this point, there is a very strong tendency for land managers to lump us all into the same category, and therefore, our mission, if we decide to accept it, is to educate our respective land managers that there is a land office difference between herders, and individual goatpackers. It is crucial that we make this point, otherwise we will find that we are being excluded from more and more of the National Forest. And without any real good reason. So you, the NAPgA members, are charged with the responsibility for interfacing with your respective LM’s and giving them the requisite pep talk. Go for it!

This tape will self destruct in 5 minutes.

How Do Reindeers Survive In The Extreme Cold?

Most animals don’t eat moss. It’s hard to digest, and it has little nutritional value. But reindeer fill up with lots of moss. Why? The moss contains a special chemical that helps reindeer keep their body fluids warm. When the reindeer make their yearly journey across the icy Arctic region, the chemical keeps them from freezing—much as antifreeze keeps a car from freezing up in winter. Amazing facts, animal facts, interesting facts, trivia: http://www.indianchild.com/amazing_facts2.htm

Good Description of How the NAIS was Formed & Works.

by Carolyn Eddy

This article will catch you up quickly on the history and the bills. http://www.dailykos.com/story/2009/2/25/191947/637/878/701887

And here is fast background on NAIS, which leaves off the even deeper threat of how this fits in with Smart Grid as part of a global takeover of food:

NAIS was designed by NIAA (the National Institute of Animal Agriculture), a corporate consortium consisting of Monsanto, industrial meat producers such as Cargill and Tyson, and surveillance companies such Viatrace, AgInfoLink, and Digital Angel. The NAIS scheme fits agribusiness, biotech, and surveillance companies to a T:

1). they are already computerized, and they engineered a corporate loophole: If an entity owns a vertically integrated, birth-to-death factory system with thousands of animals (as the Cargills and Tysons do), it does not have to tag and track each one but instead a herd is given a single lot number.

2). NAIS will only be burdensome and costly (fees, tags, computer equipment, time) to small farmers which helps push them out of business, thus leaving more market to giant agribusiness.

3). Agribusiness wants to reassure export customers that the US meat industry is finally cleaning up its widespread contamination. NAIS would give that appearance… without incurring the cost of a real cleanup.

4). NAIS will allow total control over Giant Agribusiness’ competition: Owners of even a single chicken would be required to register private information, the Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of their ‘premise’ and if any animal leaves its ‘premise’, the owner will be required to obtain an ID number for it and have the animal microchipped. All information, including 24 hour GPS surveillance would be fed into a vast corporate data bank, allowing for ease of false slaughter to hide true problems or to substitute biotech’s genetically engineered animals.

5). NAIS may allow plundering of farmers through required DNA samples: DNA samples would be invaluable to Monsanto and biotech corporations already genetically engineering animals. Farmers who raise heritage breeds would have no say in how their distinct DNA would be used and to the sole profit of biotech companies.

6). the advantage for the surveillance companies is obvious: Compulsory tagging of 6 million sheep, 7 million horses, 63 million hogs, 97 million cows, 260 million turkeys, 300 million laying hens, 9 billion chickens, and untold numbers of bison, alpaca, quail, and other animals—and new animals being born, means a massive self-perpetuating market.

The health claims for NAIS are a sham though fear of disease is used to advance it. NAIS does not touch the contaminated source of E.coli, salmonella, listeria, mad cow, and common meat-borne diseases - the inherently unhealthy practices (mass crowding, growth stimulants, feeding regimens, rushed assembly lines, poor sanitation, etc.) of industrial-scale meat operations. Upton Sinclair’s “Jungle” all over again. NAIS will do nothing to stop these practices. Moreover, tracking ends at the time of slaughter, yet it’s from slaughter onward that most spoilage occurs. But NAIS does not trace any contamination after slaughter.

Agribusiness’ self-serving NAIS scheme distracts from their own...
The Humane Society of Utah offered a $3,000 reward for information that led to an arrest and conviction in the case. Humane Society investigator John Paul Fox says they agency will work with the county attorney to determine if the reward should be paid.


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**Learnin' the Hard Way**

**By: Rachel Suomela**

I don’t think of myself as a packgoat veteran yet... in fact I still feel like a newbie even though I have been at it for 6 years now. So when does veteran status officially start? Trail time logged? Years raising goats? Quantity of goats? Or does it ever really come to be? With some of us it is hard to admit and with some it happens too often, but we all should hear the other's stories and gain something when we learn it the hard way. If you have a story or have experience with “Learnin' the Hard Way”, please email me at hasligrove@yahoo.com so I can share (anonymously if you wish) with the group so we all can expand our knowledge. Please also email any questions or comments concerning a “Learnin' the Hard Way” story.

**Learnin' the Hard Way -Why you should NEVER tie a goat using a halter.**

One of my favorite tools is the halter. Finding one that fits well can be a challenge sometimes but the control with a halter is unsurpassed. Where the nose goes the goat goes! Halters can be very handy when needing to get a goat off the trail swiftly, having a younger smaller child leading a larger goat or for the plain old stubborn goat on lead.

The halter is a great simple device but it can become a dangerous trap if not used correctly. The main thing to remember is NEVER TIE A GOAT WITH A HALTER! The halter cannot twist with the animal as it moves around and can hang, tangle or worse. You should always use a neck collar when tying your goat.

“Goats’ necks are so much more fragile than horses, and they are more likely to fall and twist and break their necks. Goats also are tied while resting on highlines, and can’t get their heads down to rest, where horses aren’t normally tied up and left that way.”  — Carolyn Eddy

“Please listen, I have a horrible story from tying a boy in my trailer, thank goodness it was only a five minute drive, but by the time I got there, he was down and frothing at the mouth. Stuck. I don’t need to go into details just don’t do it. Tie with a neck collar. I learned the very hard way.”— Lisa

It is always advised to closely monitor any young goat when tied. They can easily get themselves into a mess until they are more used to being tied. So remember to never tie your goat with the halter and you won’t have to learn the hard way.
Test it out! - By: Rachel Suomela
The results are in! Have you ever tried something and then found a better way? Or has the hunt for the no-waste hay feeder intrigued you? Something else? Email me your test results at hasligrove@yahoo.com so we can share our success and/or “don’t ever try this” stories. Please also email any questions or comments concerning a “Test it out!” story.

Algae Buildup in Water Tanks - Conclusion
In tank #1 I have about 9 goldfish that range from 1.5 inches to 3 inches long.
In tank #2 I have apple cider vinegar (ACV) at about 1/2 gallon ACV to 50 gallons water.

Conclusion
Well my results are a bit false because I had to change the tanks several times because my kids can’t seem to keep their feet out of the tank. I think they like to stand on the edge of it and then they play push the goat into the tank so mommy has to clean it out again.

#1 – If you have a plain tank with just water…you will need to scrub it out from time to time to get rid of the algae build up.

#2 – If you have a tank with gold fish…you will still need to scrub it out to get rid of algae build up although less than the plain tank but you’ll have to remove the fish when this is done and several times a week you have to fish the poop out of the tank.

#3 – If you have a tank with ACV – you are helping prevent urinary calculi, the goats may drink it more due to flavor although my goats didn’t really like it, has a bit of a cost buying the ACV and still need to clean occasionally too.

I think the end results are all the same: You will have to clean the tanks occasionally.

Selenium – new test it out!
I’d like to somehow perform a test but not sure if I can get any factual results. I live in a Selenium deficient area and need to provide Selenium to my goats. I have free choice minerals with selenium in it and I give a BoSe shot IM twice a year to the adults. I recently saw a product that is selenium and Vitamin E in a gel that is given orally. I’m all for less shots. I asked around and it seems that the downfall of the oral method is that it doesn’t stay in their system for as long and the absorption in the stomach may not be good as the IM BoSe injection. I think I will try it on several of my goats to see if I can see any visible differences in the coats between the two. If anyone has used this oral selenium product I would love to hear his or her results so I can report them to the group.

Selenium and Vitamin E Gel for Goats
All Natural
Guaranteed Analysis: (per 5 ml)
Natural Vitamin E min ……………… 500 IU
Selenium max …………………….. 2.5 ppm
Directions for Use: Give orally on back of tongue. Convenient dial a dose tube. This product is to be used as the sole source of selenium. Excessive amounts of selenium may be toxic.

Ingredients: Natural Organic Selenium from Selenium Yeast, Natural Vitamin E Supplement, FD&C Yellow No.5, Vegetable Oil, Emulsifiers and Inert Ingredients.

Dosage:
Goat …………………………… 5 ml.
Use Caution in regards in windpipe.
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. -- FOR LIVESTOCK USE ONLY.
Not For Human Use.

What You Do Not Know May Hurt You
By, Mary Robinson, Google Queen
I would not have thought that I would be “Goo-goo-googling” all over the computer at this age! Sounds like a baby, doesn’t it? However, I have found that I have become a little wiser from it and do not intend to stop the habit.

My latest issue is a growing one with many of my friends and acquaintances. Most people are growing more and more concerned about what they eat and what they put on their skin. That’s where I jump in and start exploring my own make-up, lotions and soaps, even goat soaps.

The “nastiest” word seems to be Parabens. Yes, and these are chemicals that many feel should not be there anyway. Reports have shown that 60% of what you put on your skin is absorbed. Parabens include these, but many more: methyl, propyl, ethyl, and anything that ends with “ben”.

The FDA will not be conclusive about the evidence, but if we waited for them to disclose it, we would all be dead! Most people want to be on the safe side and avoid things that have been shown in lots of tests and research to be unhealthy.

Paraben chemicals are shown in many reports to be estrogen-mimicking and when absorbed through the skin affect people with allergies and organ system toxicity. I am watching products and reading all the time, seeing many new products identify themselves as Vegan, Natural, Paraben-Free and Organic. This will steer you towards the products without the culprits.

You may find out that there are some foods that naturally have a minute part of a paraben (as in blueberries) to protect it from bacteria. This is a natural thing created by God and is teeny. I have found in my own search that natural things differ greatly than man-made.

If you are using homemade lotions and soaps, please use a recipe that will not only enhance your product health-wise, but keep it up on the market in a great spot with the competition!

What Ever Happened To … Snowball The Killer Goat
By Ben Smith, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Monday, March 02, 2009
Buttinsky finished out his years peacefully at animal sanctuary
The short answer is the cloven-hoofed killer is dead.

Snowball the goat passed away in 2002, more than a decade after fatally head-buttting his allegedly abusive owner off a 5-foot-high porch. Snowball, who was 21 when he died, spent his final years in peace at an animal sanctuary in Locust Grove.

“I know he had a happy life here,” said Judy Ashley, who works at Noah’s Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center.

Noah’s Ark rescued Snowball from execution, but not castration and dehorning, after the Cherokee County goat killed 77-year-old Carl Hulsey in May 1991.

The slaying kicked up a public furor. Hulsey’s widow said she wanted a dehorning, after the Cherokee County goat killed 77-year-old Carl Hulsey in May 1991.

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Noah’s Ark rescued Snowball from execution, but not castration and dehorning, after the Cherokee County goat killed 77-year-old Carl Hulsey in May 1991.

The slaying kicked up a public furor. Hulsey’s widow said she wanted to see Snowball in her freezer. She gave animal control officers permission to euthanize him. But the public clamor to save Snowball was much louder.

Television reporters and Snowball supporters made a county fair out of Cherokee’s animal control office. Private citizens, hoping to get a glimpse of the killer goat, flooded the office.

Jim Blackwood, Cherokee County’s animal control director at the time, said a caller threatened to kill him and his family if the goat died.
Snowball’s many minions maintained his life mattered. They argued Snowball had been scapegoated for a killing that was either accidental or committed in self-defense.

Authorities gave fodder to that argument. The county coroner at the time said Hulsey’s failed effort to beat the farm animal into a watchdog may have gotten Snowball’s goat.

Investigators said Hulsey had been poking Snowball with a stick before he was attacked. Hulsey’s grandson, Bill, said his grandfather only beat Snowball when he was trying to defend himself.

Noah’s Ark officials say that’s not the goat they knew and loved. Ashley said they tried cutting the “ball” out of the goat’s name to remove the stigma of having the moniker of a killer. But “Snow” didn’t stick, she said.

“He was just a gentleman,” Ashley said. “When people came in they always asked if he was here.”

In a eulogy penned after his death, Barbara Toner, a Noah’s Ark staffer at the time, described Snowball as “herd leader and a very docile one.”

“In the heat of the day, he would lead [other goats] under a huge tree,” said Toner, “and you would see him, head and shoulders above the rest quietly standing in the midst.”

“But,” Toner wrote, “another voice called to him, he lay down quietly and moved on to a different kind of goat heaven.”

Anyone who doubts the authenticity of this story, just do a Google search on "Snowball, the killer goat." It yeilds a lot of hits. Ed.

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Dwite Sharp, of Council Grove, KS, refers to this as his all-wether marching band. All he needs now is a leader out front on the trumpet! The picture was actually taken in Buffalo River NP, Arkansas.
light-plane pilot, play the trumpet, am computer-savvy, hard-core hiker/outdoorsman, but I will tell you that giving injections to little baby animals was light-years outside of my expertise level. So the scenario here is, you get two brand new babies, which you desperately desire to socialize properly, and the first thing do is start hurting them. It was not the best of all possible worlds. Shortly after that, I had them staked out (I was not completely comfortable yet with letting them out without restraints), and apparently my staking rope was too small in diameter, as somehow Shadow, my Alpine, got tangled in it and broke his left hind leg. I probably should have had him put down, but in my innocent ignorance, I paid $400 to have the leg put back together with a stainless steel pin down the broken upper part of the leg. That probably would have been OK if the leg had been normal, but somehow it ended up being about 45 degrees off of true. So he ends up shuffling it along like Chester in the Gunsmoke television series.

At that point, since is seemed obvious that Shadow was not going to be a packer, I decided that I would get a couple more goats (late in the Spring of that year), and so I took on two more Alpines. They came with some sort of malady (which they subsequently spread to the two others), so here we go again with the injections. They were about 5-6 months old, and hadn’t had any socialization in all that time, so I knew it was going to be a challenge, but I had NO bloody idea! I now know that EARLY socialization is absolutely crucial (read: essential). I will never again take on an animal that hasn’t been, at the least, socialized by someone.

In any case, after two months or so of trying to get close to these two, it became obvious that I was making exactly NO progress. My wife perceived (correctly, I believe) that the dominant of the two was NEVER going to come around and was heavily influencing the other, but she thought that the other one, the one that we call Little Brother, had potential (she was only barely right on that one). So I gave the one back that we referred to as Doubting Thomas, and we kept Little Brother. He has made tremendous progress (a relative term), and I usually don’t have trouble getting my hands on him... except when I need to... or when someone strange is around... or when we are not at home... or in any circumstance that is not 100% what he is used to. He is been an OK packer, more or less, as he is an inveterate follower. The other goats follow me, and he follows them! However, twice this year (2006) he got startled and went off on a tear, panniers flying in the breeze and he didn’t stop until he hit a tree, which naturally stopped him. The second time, he was limping cause his leg hurt, and I ended up carrying out what he was supposed to be carrying. Sort of misses the point, does it not? But I keep working with him and he continues to mellow somewhat, and since he is the strongest and most capable goat I have we seem to be stuck with each other.

After giving Doubting Thomas back, I still wanted another goat as I was hoping to be able to have at least 3 or so to pack within 3 years or so. So in the late in 2004 I took on two beautiful La Manchas from a local breeder. They were wonderful guys, socialized to a fault, but they had horns. It only took a very short time (about 10 minutes I think) to decide that they didn’t fit well in my group. Not only because of the horns, which were a definite hazard in my non-horned group, but in what came as a total surprise to me, they walked into my pen kicking butt and taking names. I had thought that since the La Manchas were supposed to be the better dispositioned of the goats, they would be more laid back with my original fellas. Fat chance! So I reluctantly moved them on to a young person in Utah. And so here we are well past the season to get more animals, and I have one with a bum leg, Shadow; one that is nuts, Little Brother; and one that is growing very slow, the Alpine/Ober mix (Sassy-Brown). So at this point I decided to accept my fate and made arrangements to get two new La Manchas in the Spring of the following year through one of the local goatfolk who has given so much of her time guiding me, and who is a legitimate Packgoat breeder. I have wanted since the beginning to have at least 4-5 animals, as it is relatively easy to lose one, and considering the time it takes to get them old enough to pack, I didn’t want to have to start all over again. At age 67, I am not sure of how much time I have left in terms of hiking ability (or life itself), so I wanted to get going with this.

My first venture with goats took place in 2004 as I took Sassy & Little Brother (LB) into the Big Horn Crags on what was probably a little too strenuous of a hike for little fellas, since it was around 9 miles to the Crags lakes. Where we camped overnight on the way in, they got into a plant called Corn Lilly/False Hellbore. This is one of many plants listed on the Cornell Universite website that is decidedly unfriendly to living beings, like goats. Whatever this plant has in it, it is horrible. They ate very little of it, because I was very nervous about them eating it anyway. About 6-7 PM they started bringing up their cud, over and over again, and chewing and chewing and chewing, and green slime/foam was constantly dripping out of their mouths. We were 4.5 miles into the woods and there wasn’t a bloody thing I could do (in my ignorance) as I was totally unprepared to help them.

These behaviors continued all night, and I agonized for them all night, since I was stupid enough to bring them out there with no resources to help them, and prayed plenty. Sometime before daylight, Sassy-Brown stopped the incessant chewing, and after daylight returned, so did LB. They started some tentative nibbling on stuff I knew was OK, and believe it or not, hiked the 4.5 miles back out after having done the human equivalent of vomiting all night. I was astounded. I did take them home after that, and my brother (who I was hiking with) and I went on alone. I and my brother had definitely had enough emotional trauma for one week (and so, undoubtedly, had the goats). (Note: I have since noted that when they ate this particular plant, it was after it had “browned up” from Fall freezing. Some plants apparently are not poisonous until after this happens. Shadow got a couple or three mouthfuls of this same plant on the way back into the Crags in 2005 and suffered no ill effects.)

After that episode things calmed down markedly in my world, and I have had no significant trauma since then. That is to say with the exception that Shadow, who I was still trying to pack a little, abruptly stopped carrying on a trip in 2007, and Sassy-Brown bailed on a hike in 2008.

So at this point, the situation is this: out of my first three goats, I have a cripple (Shadow), a psycho (Little Brother), and a midget (Sassy-Brown). The two LaManchas I got in 2005? Wonderful beyond words. If I could clone them I would create 5 more of each of them. I also have two more Alpines that will be 2 years old this coming summer and seem to have good potential. I don’t seem to be having the episodes of trauma that I had my first year, but then boring doesn’t seem to be a bad thing after all. :-)

Larry in Idaho City, Idaho

http://www.boiselarry.com

mailto: robinson@hisurfer.net
NAIS Survival Tool Kit

The NAIS SURVIVAL TOOL KIT is online, and immediately printable in full color. This information is easy to forward, assisting livestock producers worldwide to defend their assets and family farms from invasive government enforcements. Michelle Reid sums it up, “We’re out here branding cattle, worrying about our best horse going blind, when all of a sudden the USDA is working at mach speed filling our saddle bags with heavy NAIS rocks.”

The NAIS SURVIVAL TOOL KIT contains quotes and information from trustworthy journalists, real cattle producers, reliable attorneys, and USDA employees.

Research starts with the Basics by attorney Judith McGeary, then NAIS Western Horsemanship polling data, documentation of the USDA conspiracy to “sell” NAIS, and the deceptive international political entanglements. It documents cost analysis, flawed thought that was conceived either from a desire to destroy the livestock industry or just plain ignorance of food production, animal health and food safety. Producers are totally mystified why NAIS is promoted by USDA with proposed budgets up to $400,000,000 to “make every livestock producer comply.”

Print the KIT and be well informed. Inform everyone. Inform government employees who have never considered the pain and distress they will inflict on livestock owners if NAIS is fully enforced. Share the KIT with veterinarians and county extension agents. For printing go to http://www.naisSTINKS.com and touch NAIS TOOLKIT. Print PDF and select a 2-sided print text.

A valuable chapter is provided by the Australian Beef Association, chairman Brad Bellinger. It clearly documents the giant $350,000,000 cost of their ID system called NLIS. Five years ago producers were told NLIS would assist Australians in improved export sales, but now, fully operational, NLIS has ABA selling their beef for the second lowest prices of any major export beef country. All globally enforced ID schemes are proving to be profitable only to the governments, and ID equipment providers.

The 14-sheet (front and back) page KIT contains selected articles from http://www.naisSTINKS.com. Mark this site for 85 published articles equipping producers to protect themselves from a run-away government scheme. NAIS is not fully operational and can be truncated. Once a government enforcement program is fully active, the citizenry can never stop funding it. Use the KIT to protect yourself, your family and your grandchildren from NAIS enforcements, fines and Gestapo penalties.

How To Tattoo Goat Kids

Cornell University presents a picture slide show for tattooing kids, and other management information:

http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/meatgoats/tattooing/tattoo.htm

Taken From:

http://goatconnection.com/

4-Legged Landscape Crew Growing In San Jose

SAN JOSE (BCN)

San Jose’s four-footed landscaping fleet is back and growing, and residents can view sheep and goats as they munch away weeds and unwanted vegetation around the city’s water pollution control plant.

This is the third year San Jose has turned to barnyard animals to help maintain public lands without the use of gas-powered mowers, or herbicides that can drain into area waterways.

This year, Dorper sheep and Boer, Kiko and Spanish breeds of goat will tackle the 400 acres surrounding the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, as well as parks and lands across the city.

Last year, animals grazed on just 67 acres of public land, according to San Jose environmental services specialist Matt Weber.

Currently, 600 animals are dining on vegetation by the plant. Weber said that number will soon double to a total of 100 goats and 1,100 sheep.

“More are arriving tomorrow,” he said. “They’re on the road tonight.”

The flock is multiplying in other ways as well. Weber said 80 new lambs or kids have been born since the animals arrived the week of February 16. Another 50 babies are on the way, a development Weber said the city anticipated.

“It’s a natural process,” he said. “It’s what animals do.”

The lambs and kids begin grazing at two weeks old, Weber said, learning the land’s vegetation from their mothers.

The extra staff and veterinarian who will be on hand for the lambing and kidding do not incur extra costs to the city, he said.

Grazing is a sustainable, yet costly approach to landscape maintenance. The animals come from San Francisco-based Living Systems Land Management. The process costs $87 per acre, Weber said. Traditional landscaping costs vary by terrain, but this number is 45 percent more than the costs at the water pollution control plant, he said.

Goats can consume challenging invasive, unpleasant species like thistle and poison oak, to encourage native grass growth. In later months, the herd will consume dry vegetation, which helps decrease fire risks, Weber said.

Several “on-site grazing managers,” or shepherds, are with the animals 24 hours a day.

The city expects the goats and sheep will be dining on these lands, as well as city parks and other properties, for about a year. The past two years, the animals made only short-term visits.

Currently the flock is visible in large numbers from Zanker Road, a spokeswoman said, as drivers head towards the plant and the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Visitors are encouraged, Weber said, and grazing managers are happy to answer questions if they are available.

On March 25, a portion of the flock will relocate to the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens orchard. Weber said this three-acre locale will offer “much more of an up-close encounter.”

While some animals will stay at the plant all year, others will rotate around to Alum Rock Park, the municipal water reservoir in Evergreen and other city properties.

“By far this is the most bizarre, unique and fun project I get to work on,” Weber said.