



Kinder Goat Breeders Association NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005

What's The Big Deal About CAE By Jan Herleikson

Back in the summer 1988 when I was one of the first to get involved with Kinders, I asked that question of Pat Showalter. I had been raising goats for over eight years. I'd heard of CAE but never paid that much attention. I'd also never had any problem with it. Pat was stressing how it was important, and it was her hope the Kinder would be one breed free of this nasty disease. So, I had my herd tested. As I expected, my herd was clean and I would be able to start my Kinder breeding program.

I arranged to get a Pygmy buck, which was already proven to throw beautiful first generation kids, from another individual in the newly formed Kinder Association. When I asked this breeder if her buck had been tested for CAE, she acted insulted and informed me that her goats had never had a problem. I didn't think twice. What little I did know about CAE, was the prevailing wisdom that it is passed only through the dam's milk. After a nine hour round trip drive and a tidy sum of money, I was in the Kinder breeding business.

My dream and business goal was to have 75 milking ladies. I'd already worked out a contract with another goat dairy that had established a booming business and marketing strategy. They would take all the milk my girls could produce. We built the new barn and bought the equipment to run a grade A dairy.

It was in the fall of 1989 when my first batch of Kinder kids were about 4-6 months old, I saw the first sign of trouble. One of my favorite little doelings became ill. I went out to the barn to find her acting like she was drunk. By nightfall she was lying down with her head tossed back over her shoulder, crying piteously, and her eyes in continual rapid eye movement. I called the vet immediately.

"CAE," he pronounced. But that couldn't be! All my girls had been tested. The vet suggested we might have gotten a bad test result. We retested the mother and, sure enough, she was positive. We had to put the doeling down. But I didn't want to put the mother down. She was one of my best milkers. Pasteurize the milk was the advice I was given.

(Continued on page 3)

THE TATTOO LETTER FOR 2005 IS 'V'

FOLLOWUP ON DWARF GOAT RESEARCH PROJECT – KINDERS

Please take the time to participate in the Kinder research project. If there are any questions about the forms and questionnaires sent in the last Newsletter, let us know (KGBAssn@aol.com). We had hoped to have the first group of replies ready to send to Switzerland by mid-April, but response is very slow so far. I know that measuring goats and filling out forms can be a bit of a pain – but you have heard the expression ‘no pain - no gain’? That is true here too! Grab a helper, some measuring tools, the forms, and the goats and just DO IT! You’ll be glad that you participated when it is all over. This research could be very important to the Kinder down the line a ways.

On a sad note – I just recently heard that our contact, Marianne Brunner has become the Research Director due to the loss of their former Director, Dr. Salvatore, in the December 26, 2004 tsunami in Asia. Dr. Salvatore was vacationing there when it hit. Our sincere sympathy and prayers go out to all those who were so terribly affected.

NEEDED! KINDER PHOTOS FOR 2006 CALENDAR

With all those cute Kinder kids coming, and the daily antics of the adults being more visible with the coming of spring and better weather, time to dust off those cameras and capture some of those special moments to share. I’m looking for feature photos and for photos from which to sketch for the 2006 Kinder Moments Calendar. Photos need to be clear and free of as much clutter as possible. Those to be used as monthly features need to be able to be enlarged to 8”X10” and still retain clarity. If you are willing to share and would like your photos to be considered, e-mail them to: kinderzed@aol.com, or mail clear prints to Pat Showalter, 17317 Fales Road, Snohomish, WA 98296-5043.

NOTE FROM THE REGISTRAR

Kinder breeders who are planning to show your Kinders through the spring and summer, please plan ahead and get your registration paperwork in well ahead of your shows so that the Registrar can get things done without the usual ‘crunch’ at the last minute. She has come through every year with some heroic last minute efforts, but it is nicer for all if those could be avoided. Thanks!

ATTENTION MISSOURI STATE FAIR ENTRANTS!

All those who plan to enter Kinder in the Missouri State Fair Class 5. This class should read:
Does, born August 29, 3003 – October 30, 2004

CAST OF CHARACTERS

PRESIDENT: Pat Showalter
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What's The Big Deal About CAE (Continued from pg. 1)

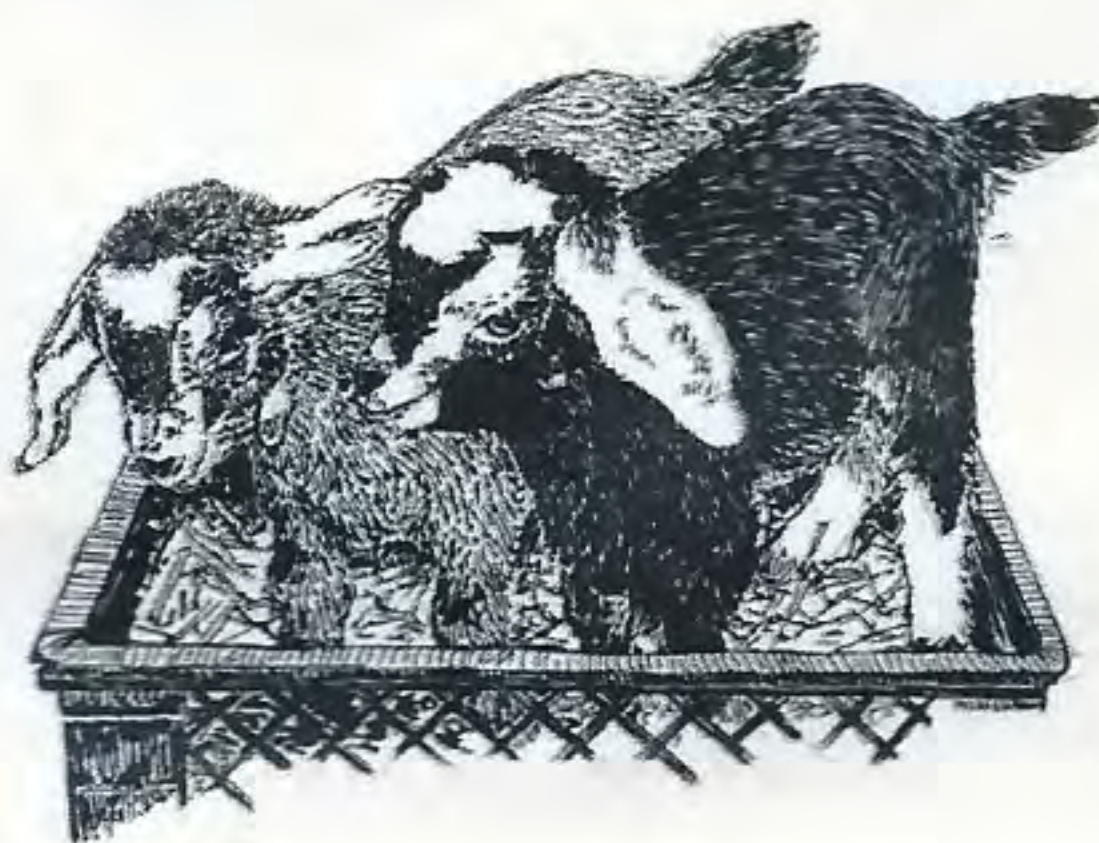
That was only the beginning. That nightmarish scenario would play over and over again for the next four years. Losing the kids was heartbreaking, but when I started to watch some of my older does appear to succumb to totally debilitating arthritis, seemingly overnight, I was beginning to feel like Job! I destroyed kids, sold and lost does. I spent a fortune on the vet and testing and retesting. I pasteurized milk, hovered over laboring does so that I could make sure the kids were taken from them immediately. I had Pat shipping frozen colostrum and still, STILL, I COULDN'T STOP IT! And to top it off, I had to deal with the common chant of every goat breeder and animal health expert around saying "CAE can only be passed through the dam's milk. You must be managing your herd incorrectly."

Well, I knew I was doing everything humanly possible and I strongly suspected that CAE could and was spread by more than just the dam's milk. The only person who supported my theory was Pat. That didn't change the fact that my herd, my dreams, and my local reputation as a breeder had all been destroyed. It didn't change the fact that I was angry, frustrated, and heartbroken as well as in the hole financially. I was able to trace the source to the Pygmy buck I'd bought. Not that anyone believed that. So, I sold every goat I had left and took an eleven year break from goats all together.

In time, my theories about CAE, were proven correct. CAE is transmitted through all body fluids not just milk. A goat can have CAE and never show any signs of it, but they can transmit it to others.

Now, I have a small, closed herd. My dairying dreams are past. I just want to have enough milk to drink, make cheese and raise puppies. When I say "closed", I mean that I do not allow another goat anywhere near my animals unless they have been tested just prior to contact. Many of my neighbors who have goats think I'm a little obsessive about this and they are correct.

One last note: Shortly after my herd began showing signs, I was diagnosed with debilitating arthritis and other symptoms. I was tested for Lyme disease and as many other illnesses as my doctors could think of. After years of no goat milk, my symptoms began to go away. Coincidence? Perhaps. But Pat and I have often discussed how it might be interesting to have my blood tested for CAE. Anyone want to make a guess on what the test will show?



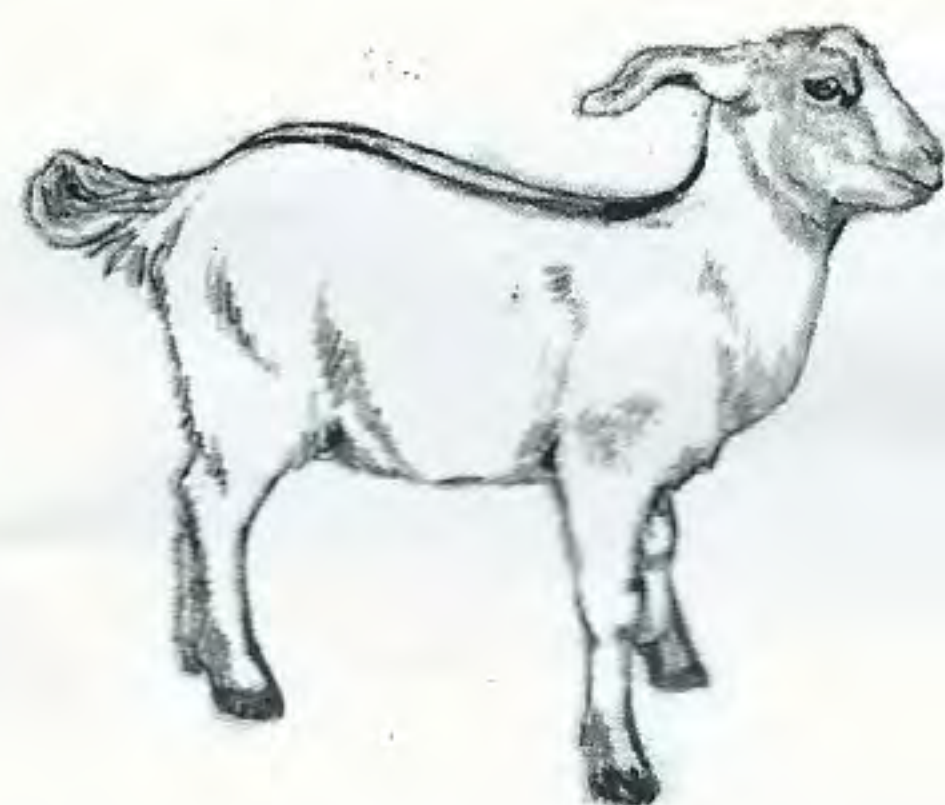
NEW STAR MILKERS

There are five new Star Milklers to be added to the list. They are as follows:

Name/ID	Age	Lact#	Days/Milk	# Milk	%Fat	# Fat	% Protein	# Protein
Just One More Shamrock *M AR (F) 1032089D	1-01	1	272	830	6.7	56	4.6	38
7 Arrows (Dusty) Fawn 3*M AR (F) 3011884D	2-08	2	233	1400	6.2	87	4.4	61
Zederkamm P&O's Orchid 3*M AR (F) 3021837D	2-01	1	280	1050	6.8	71	4.3	44
Zederkamm N&B's Belladonna 4*M AR (F) 3021839D	1-08	1	305	1190	6.2	74	4.5	54
Zederkamm P&T's Trillium	1-01	1	270	900	6.6	59	4.8	43

If you have been considering Official Milk Test, now is the time to do it! The Kinder needs more milk records to help establish their production capabilities, and your stock will be taken more seriously by those more experienced goat people who are interested in productive milk goats if you have those records. In order for your does to be 'official' on a lactation, the testing needs to begin within 45 days of kidding. Contact your local DHIA to get enrolled, and then enroll your herd with the KGBA (\$10 herd fee + \$1 per doe [all Kinder does on your farm that are or have ever been in milk must appear on the enrollment form]). If you don't want to go to the trouble and expense of official testing, consider keeping barn records of daily production. It adds only a few moments to your milking chores, and the record will be valuable to you. The information will be especially helpful when it comes to decisions about your culling and breeding programs. Invest in a good dairy scale so that your weights can be trusted – DHIA requires specific brands of scales, and they are sent to the lab for recalibration annually.

The cost of Milk Test will vary some from area to area, but for a general idea, 10 does on Group Test (like a round-robin where members of the group test each other under the supervision of an authorized (by DHIA) Milk Test Supervisor, cost me an average of about \$25.00 per month. Our group dispersed, so I had to go on Standard Test where a Cow Tester comes to my farm to test my does, and the same 10 does now cost an average of about \$60.00 per month. I find it very helpful to do both official testing and keep barn records so that I can compare the computer estimate to the actual production of each doe. Give it a try – there is so much to learn about our Kinders!



Are We Raising a Generation of Environmentally Challenged Goats? by Melissa Reese, 2002

I subscribe to several internet goat chat groups. Recent discussions on one particular group were thought provoking and stimulated my comments below.

I know that there are as many methods of raising goats, as there are goat breeds. Everyone has their own management techniques and personal styles. Everyone's farm set up is different, so some things work better for one person than for another and some methods won't work at all at someone else's place.

Many goats today are being raised in a "controlled" environment (or at least the perception of control). Some breeders prefer to raise goats in feed lot situations where they do not have access to range. These goats receive grain, hay and minerals daily and a few folks have commented that their goats rarely leave the barn, won't drink from the "dirty" pond and do not know how to browse for their own meal.

Many breeders are testing for CL, CAE, etc. and then implement what they call a "closed herd" environment. The definition of "closed herds" often varies even among those advertising this operation. Some operating closed herds, do not add any new goats from outside their farm, period. These folks usually have 2-3 bucks from different lines to prevent too much in-breeding with their management preference. Then, there is the "closed herd" that does purchase new breeding stock from others, but they only purchase this stock from breeders that are also testing their goats and practicing similar "closed herd" methods. The desire to maintain a "closed herd" has resulted in many boycotting goat shows and educational events that would require them to take their goats off the farm.

Then there is the dreaded topic of vaccinations & medications. Some breeders stock a goat medicine chest more equipped than a vet's office and some don't believe in vaccinating/medicating at all. The question becomes are we providing the natural resistance necessary for a healthy animal or predispositioning our herds to potential risks.

Let's take a look at two legged kids in today's society for a moment. Our children are vaccinated for diseases to build resistance and create immunity. Recent world events have created concern over the fact that we no longer vaccinate for small pox. Studies indicate that we use so many anti-bacterial products in our homes and our farms that today's children are more prone to allergies. I did see research on a scientific program recently that documented how children growing up on a farm, did seem to have less allergies than urban children.

The majority of the current generation of our young people lacks knowledge in areas that would allow them to be self-sufficient and survive in a "range" environment. A large percentage of today's youth do not know how to make a garden. They do not know how to tend livestock, even where some of their food actually comes from. Do they know how to make minor repairs around the house and to their vehicles, probably not. A lot of today's youth have come to expect "hand outs" or that someone will take care of them. Many don't want to do any physical work (anyone that puts up hay knows, you can't find youth that want to earn money in this fashion.)

Are we also breeding/raising goats that do not know where their food comes from (naturally)? Do they know to get a drink from the pond or puddle if the water bucket just happens to be empty? Do they know how to forage for their food, if someone doesn't appear with a bucket of grain to put in front of their noses.

I have been told stories of goats being sold to someone that did not have a similar care set up at the new place as their previous home. These goats did not know to go out into the field and graze or seek out their water.

It is very important when you are considering purchasing goats, that you look for breeders who are currently raising these goats in the same way that you will be raising them when you get them home. Habits can be changed, over a period of time.

You can take an animal being raised in a high intensive environment and gradually "wean" them to range, but it doesn't happen over night.

We sold some Kiko does to some friends of ours that had previously raised a different meat breed. This person stated that they grainfed their goats daily and that the goats rarely went looking for their own food. Our Kikos ranged for their daily meal. The friend called us delighted that the Kikos had taught her other goats how to go to the woods and browse for food.

As you evaluate your breeding program, are you promoting the genetics that produce hardy goats with the ability to survive & thrive in all conditions or are you predispositioning future generations to disabilities that will require more inputs from the rancher for their survival. ~ Goats on Welfare.

Are we placing some goat traits/genetics on the endangered species list? What traits may be lost (for an eternity) that will affect future goat production.

What about good maternal instincts? Are the does that are being flushed repeatedly today, good mommas? Unless you allow that high priced doe to kid naturally before you mass-produce her genetics, you have created a large quantity of goats "just for show". What happens when a buyer takes one of these does into a natural breeding program and she has difficulty giving birth, doesn't have any milk to feed her kids or just walks away from them because she doesn't have the natural instinct telling her that those two little things belong to her.

On the subject of creating "clean" or "closed" herds, I reference the paragraph above on two-legged kids. Being exposed to germs provides an immunity and creates a hardier animal. My concern is two fold here. Number one, we are stripping a goats natural defense mechanisms and number two are we limiting ourselves genetically. I also know of many occasions where goats from these "closed"- disease free herds, once sold and moved to another farm, DIED, or had health conditions that required great effort from the new owner in order to survive. You see the problem with this situation - the "clean" goats at the breeder's farm had not been exposed to certain communicable diseases in order to create some natural immunities. Some may not have been allowed to receive first colostrum from momma. Then when they were sold and moved to another farm, around other goats, they did not have the natural defenses to ward off even a disease not considered life threatening to a goat raised in a natural environment (such as chicken pox in children).

I remember coming home from school in the first grade with chicken pox and my mother "wanting" my younger brother to be exposed so that he would have chicken pox and get it over with before he started school.

I have raised pet breeds, dairy breeds and now Kikos. But I have always considered myself practical and conservative when it comes to spending money. Why would you want to "create work" for yourself if it is unnecessary. Why take any goat that is perfectly capable of feeding itself, raising its kids and thriving under natural conditions and put it in an environment where you have to do all the work; labor intensive and sure hits the pocketbook.

Goats are adorable; they have such individual personalities that we tend to attach ourselves to them more as pets than most other livestock raised for farm use. I also believe that the

downsizing of our farmland and the fact that you can raise goats on just a few acres has lead to some of the current management practices.

I want to stress that I'm not criticizing or judging someone else's methods or preferences (different strokes for different folks makes the world go 'round). My goal with this article is to generate a way of thinking. It's been cold on the Cumberland Plateau. We've had several nights during the first two weeks of this new year (2002) where the temperatures were in the single digits. We also received 6 inches of snow that stayed on the ground for four days. In this same time period, we have had 52 new kids born from full blood & percentage Kiko does that feed over 86 acres under range conditions, only receiving hay and protein blocks. We have seven does who gave us triplets, and only two that produced single kids. All of these kids are on momma. All are uniform in size and thriving, even the sets of triplets. We are not bottling any kids.

Perhaps the cold air, snow and watching all these new kids has caused me to reflect more on the future of an industry that is rapidly progressing. An industry that I love and believe in. I ask everyone reading this to sit on a stump and watch your herd. Evaluate the long-term impact your management practices will have on the future of the goat industry. The genetics that you are breeding for and the resulting kids that you sell will have an impact. Are we endangering the future well being of our beloved goats with today's management practices? Will some of the genes from previous generations of hardier, less dependent goats be lost to future generations? Are we improving the industry or disabling its progress?

Something to ponder, no doubt.

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Poisonous Beauty

Spring is finally here and all our fields and yards are coming alive. Do you know which plants could be harmful or fatal to your goats and other pets? One of my favorite spring flowers is the daffodil, yet it is extremely poisonous! I found this out when a very good friend lost her champion buck to daffodil poisoning.

Here are some links to web sites. The first is excellent because it tells which livestock are affected and how -- since different species are affected differently. If you get a list from your county extension agent, they list the toxic plants in your area, but many that they list are not particularly harmful to goats, or some that don't harm cows, are really bad for goats.

<http://users.ubtanet.com/wrw/>

More info sites:

<http://www.goat911.com/articles/toxicplants.shtml>

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/vex/vetdocs/toxic.htm>

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/vex/toxic/comlist.htm>

<http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/byanim.htm>

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/>

IMPORTANT: *Just because something is on the poisonous plants list doesn't mean it can't be a good food or feed, and just because it is absent from the list doesn't mean it is safe!*



We couldn't come up with a caption. Can you?

Please send ideas to Jan Herleikson at jan@windshadows.net

Kinder Goats on Vashon Island, WA for Sale

Wethers, Does, Buck Service

Contact Laura at 206 463-9026 or email LLYWESTON@MAC.COM

Kinders are the BEST!

Kinder Goat Breeders Association

PO Box 1575

Snohomish, WA 98291-1575

NEW COMMITTEE TO START WORK ON BREED STANDARD REVIEW

Trisha Tank of Bilrite Farms has agreed to chair a committee to study our Breed Standard, take suggestions for change/refinement, and make recommendations to the board. There have been a number of questions coming up over the years (maximum height for bucks, folded ears, ear length, etc.) that could benefit from some discussion by the membership, and there may be more. We need to hear from you if you have questions/concerns about our present Standard. Your thoughts and opinions will be aired in coming Newsletters so that everyone can follow the thinking on potential refinement. Changes may be proposed, but the membership will have the final say on the subject. Send your comments to KGBAssn@aol.com, or to the KGBA, PO Box 1575, Snohomish, WA 98291-1575, and they will be sent on to the committee. Thanks for your participation!

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