



THE HORN

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHWEST ALL BREED GOAT CLUB

National Dairy Goat Show experience

ADGA Nationals was held in Redmond, OR July 6-13th and several of our members attended. Read about the experience in here.

Udder Spectacular Dairy Goat Show

May 25th was our club sponsored show. As usual it was well attended and went off smoothly.

Herd health- milk fever

Goats are in danger of coming down with milk fever at any point in lactation, not just after kidding..

Fall meeting

This fall we will once again be hosting our members only Fall Members Day. We are planning on putting on an AI clinic. Nov. 9th.



Kim Puzio wins Reserve Grand at Nationals!

Our very own Kim Puzio won Nubian Reserve Grand Champion at the 2019 ADGA National Show with her amazing doe, SGCH MY-ENCHANTED-ACRES KW KHARISMA, who was placed 1st with a 1st place udder in the aged doe class before being chosen for Reserve Champion. Congratulations, Kim! NWABGC members did well and were a presence at the ADGA National Dairy Goat Show held in Redmond, Oregon. Nationals was last held on the west coast in 2015 at the same location. Western breeders took the opportunity to show at Nationals nearby and tuned out in force with one 3,000 entries. More details inside.

Udder Spectacular Dairy Show

Our May show was once again well attended and brought out some of our finest breeders in the area. It takes a lot of work to put on one of these shows and most members were very helpful in making this event happen. Thank you everyone. Competing with an upcoming national show is never easy and we anticipated taking a loss and were financially prepared for it. We were pleased that the loss was far less than anticipated. The full report will be available at our Fall Meeting. Kristine Struve-Hagan has stepped down as



show chair and will be replaced by Denise Hetland for next year. Sam Meilbrecht will take over as entries and computer person. The full results were posted on our Facebook page. Thank you everyone who helped put on this show.



ADGA National Show

The northwest corner of Washington State had a very good showing at the ADGA National Show with NWABGC members doing quite well. As our lead story said, Kim Puzio won Reserve Grand Champion with her Nubian aged doe, Kharisma. It's fun to see



someone who has worked so hard over the years on her breeding program do well. All our members are to be commended on their impressive placings and breeding programs that makes the west coast a leader in breed development.

In youth showmanship we had two youth members do very well. Kaylie Jamieson came in 4th place in Senior Showmanship. Not only did she do well in the showmanship but her goat, King's Kids MC Denali's Song won her Nubian junior kid class. Kaylie ended up



winning Premier Youth Nubian breeder. That is a huge success in such a competitive class. Congratulations. Elyanna Meilbrecht also did very well in her large intermediate II class that had to be divided, coming in 6th place out of a crowd of 33. Her goat, Highland Ranch FS Nrthn Lights, won first place youth, and she had a couple of other second place youth wins as well. Wyatt Rudy and his sister also showed their animals very well although were not part of the final line-up. It was an exciting show and fun to see so many youth from our area participating. They learned a lot and had fun. Although tired!

It was fun to be together in the goat world, socializing, competing, and best of all, just



getting a chance to view some really beautiful animals. All of our members had goats that finished in the top 10 of their breed. The days were filled with endless showing and it seemed we were either watching other people show, or showing ourselves so the time flew by.

After all the stress and strain of traveling to and showing at such a large venue we all enjoyed the final day Wine and Cheese Social Event that gave us a chance to finally relax and enjoy one another all together. Not only did the wine and beer flow so did the mountains of cheese from local producers which everyone enjoyed immensely.



The NWABGC was exhibited all over the venue. While our club was not the host club we were able to

contribute money to Northwest Oregon Dairy Goat Association, the host club, to help with the expense of putting on this show. In return our club was featured in several ways. A large banner with our club logo hung all week

long above the center show ring, and our logo was sported on the side of the beer glasses that were in high demand at the wine

and cheese event. Our members were hard at work volunteering as well. Our club hosted the hospitality area for a full day where our large yellow club banner was on display and members kept snacks and drinks



stocked. We also had our club t-shirts on display in the show ring which showed up well on the live stream that was nationally available.

Several of our member youth showmen were hard at work helping breeders show their animals in the show



ring all week long. Special member volunteers included Judi Hoy who organized the hospitality area for the entire week, Kristine Struve-Hagan and Denise Hetland who helped organize the wine and cheese event (and Joan Schleh and Sam Meilbrecht who helped out), several of us who helped with the check-in day in various ways, and especially huge kudos to Kim Puzio who started off as being volunteer co-ordinator and ended up being co-chair. A lot of work and dedication from all these people went into making this one of the most successful National Shows ever. Our NWABGC members are some of the most hard working people. Thank you everyone!!

Welcome Baby Millson

We would like to congratulate the Millson family on their new baby boy. Kristy Millson, our vice-president, went to



Nationals sporting her 8 month baby bump. She showed her goats where they did very well (her senior yearling got second in her class), as well as having a toddler in tow. Brave lady! Arriving two weeks early on August 4th little baby Logan couldn't wait to see those goats he heard so much about! Congratulations!

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT THE SHOW

While we are happy to report on the dairy goat National Show, our club is unique in that we are not strictly a dairy goat club focused on the show world. Our club exists for all goat owners of any breed, from homesteader, to pet, to 4-h family, to show breeder, or for just those who love goats but might not own any at this time. While some breeds are more active than others we all share in our love of our goats and our desire to always learn more together in a community of support and understanding. All are welcomed and encouraged to participate!

FALL MEMBER'S DAY

Our Fall Member's Day is our biggest members only event of the year and is still being planned. This year it will be held on November 9th at the farm of Carissa Gillis, in Conway. There will be a buck collection in the morning conducted by Capra Gia which certain people have already arranged to bring their bucks to. But everyone is welcome to watch and see what is involved in a buck collection. This will be followed by lunch and our club meeting. In the afternoon, Capra Gia will conduct an artificial insemination clinic. If you would like them to inseminate a doe for you please contact Carissa to make arrangements and to find out the individual cost. The price for buck collection is also listed separately. The AI instructional clinic is free for members. Non-members may pay their own way or, for the price of membership, may attend for free. If you would like to help plan and implement this day we could really use you! Just contact anyone on the board or Carissa Gillis. This will be an all day event so save the date and don't miss out!

Volunteer Opportunities

2019 Fall Members Day planning committee-

This was a huge success last year and we have even bigger plans for this year as we are planning to host an AI clinic, but we need more people to help plan the logistics and make it happen.

2020 Executive Board members- We always need fresh people and fresh ideas. Several people on the board have been there for a while and their time is up, so be part of the club's future and be heard! Since our secretary, Sandy Wilcoxon, has moved away we are currently without a secretary so we urgently need someone to fill her role. If you would like to know more about what is involved contact one of the board members listed here.

2019 Calendar

August- no meeting

September- Executive Committee meeting

October- no meeting

November 9- Fall Membership Day- buck collection and AI clinic

December 1st- End of Year Social

Board Members:

President: Joan Schleh- jsschleh@yahoo.com

Vice President- Kristie Millson- kfellows2@gmail.com

Secretary - Sandy Wilcoxon- pigz_do_fly@yahoo.com

Treasurer- Virginia Naef- vnaef@fidalgo.net

Other:

Webmaster- Kristine Struve-Hagan-

at_leisuretime@hotmail.com

Newsletter editor- Joan Schleh- jsschleh@yahoo.com

ADGA show chair- Kristine Struve-Hagan-

at_leisuretime@hotmail.com

Dues are \$12 per year per voting member. Please make dues payable to NWABGC and send to 17198 Dunbar Rd, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273. You can also pay via PayPal on our website.

Club website: northwestallbreedgoatclub.org

Club mailing address: 17198 Dunbar Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Contact Joan Schleh- 360-333-2784

Northwest All Breed Goat Club Mission Statement: The Northwest All Breed Goat Club shall exist to support and promote camaraderie and education among goat owners and enthusiasts in the Northwest through meetings, correspondence, education, shows, and the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

HERD HEALTH

MILK FEVER- NEW PERSPECTIVES

By Joan Schleh

Milk fever is a potentially life threatening disease in goats but can be quickly reversed with proper and quick treatment. But recognizing it can be tricky. We experienced this personally this year when we returned from Nationals and one of our goats became very sick. We missed the signs of milk fever and she ended up dying despite the fact that we were working with a vet and were treating her all day.

Milk fever, also known as hypocalcemia, is a metabolic disorder which causes the blood calcium levels to drop to a dangerous level. Calcium isn't necessary just for strong bones but also for muscle, heart, and brain function. Milk is high in calcium so when a dairy animal goes from pregnant to lactating in a short period of time, producing up to 8 lbs of milk sometimes in just a few days, the nutritional support may not be sufficient causing the body to pull it out of the blood, endangering vital organs.

Unlike cows, milk fever can be present in goats not just right around birthing, but during the whole of lactation. Also, stress can bring it about, whether it's a dog attack, a hard travel trip or some other event. Older, overweight, and high producing goats are also the most susceptible. Transit tetany is a more complicated version of milk fever but is still treated the same way, although prevention is more specific.

Recognizing the signs of milk fever can be tricky as we sometimes think it's something else. Bloat is often a side effect of milk fever due to the overall metabolic imbalance. Or we may think that it is some form of pneumonia since they may be having respiratory distress. Some of the clear signs of milk fever are a lowered temperature, lack of milk, muscle shaking or unsteady gait, and a drunk looking or down goat. Even if it turns out to not be milk fever, treating for milk fever first will not harm the goat and quick action may save her life.

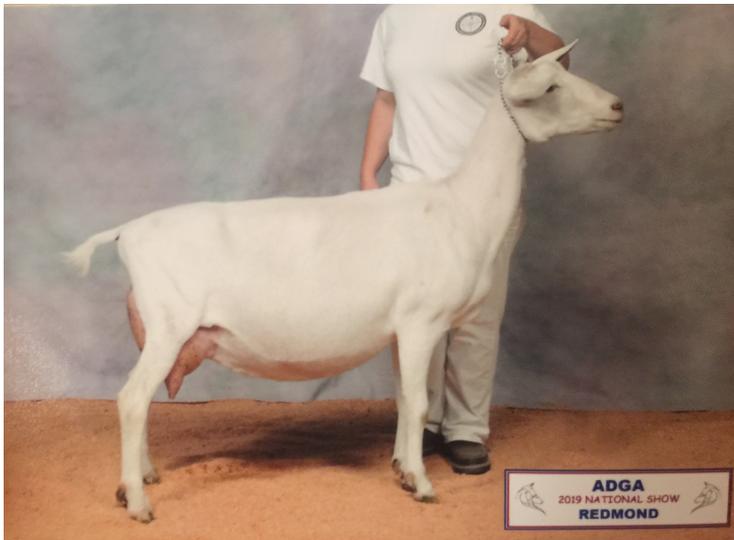
Treating milk fever successfully requires quick action. An animal who came into the milking parlor in the morning looking fine, may be on death's door by the evening milking. Getting a large amount of calcium into the doe as quickly as possible is paramount. Keeping a large bottle of calcium gluconate on hand or even better, CMPK (the magnesium allows for better calcium absorption but you probably can only get it from your vet). If she is just showing some early signs then perhaps some oral calcium will be fine, but for a doe in serious trouble it requires more. When a full size doe of ours was in trouble last year our vet recommended 100 cc cmpk given sub-q in six different locations. She bounced right back rather quickly. For our doe we lost this year (we had mis-diagnosed as bloat), he later estimated that she needed 200 cc intravenously- something that truly only a vet can administer as too much calcium put too quickly into the blood stream can stop the heart. Even an experienced vet may miss the symptoms of milk fever (as was the issue with the doe we lost.) The most sure way of knowing what you are dealing with is to do a blood test, but not all vets are equipped with an on-site blood lab.

Too many times goat owners will dismiss milk fever as a possible issue because the doe had kidded a while ago. While this may be true for cows the new understanding is that goats can go down with milk fever at any point during lactation. Calcium only given sub-q or orally is not a danger to goats, and if not needed, will be expelled from their systems. So it is better to error on the safe side than lose a doe that could have been saved.

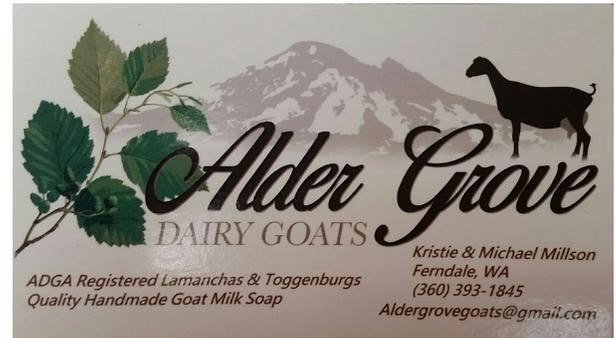
While preventing milk fever can be done with a good rich source of calcium such as a good quality alfalfa given previous to kidding and all during lactation, remember that stress can deplete calcium from the blood stream if the right factors are in play. There have been some studies to show that alfalfa given prior to birthing can actually lower the production of calcium in the blood stream setting up animals for milk fever post birthing. However, newer studies have indicated

that this is only the case for cows and not for goats. Transit tetany, milk fever brought on by the stress of travel, can be prevented by lowering the stress of the animals by frequent rests and exercise, releasing the goats into an area with limited food and water, and not limiting their feed before they travel.

So like for all serious issues, get your vet involved for proper diagnoses and proper dosages. Feed your lactating girls a calcium rich diet. And don't wait to figure out what is wrong with your downer goat. If she is cold give her some calcium, call the vet, and don't wait. If the issue is indeed milk fever, your doe will begin to perk up almost immediately and be back to herself rather soon, provided she was given enough calcium. A vet will be able to tell you how much she will ultimately need, but at least get her started. There is nothing as heart breaking as knowing you could have saved the life of your doe if you had only treated her correctly. Unfortunately, I have learned the hard way. I hope this helps others avoid the same sad outcome as we experienced. RIP GardenHome M'Press.



Advertise your farm here! For free!
Just send Joan your business card or digital image and get yourself seen!



Did you know? We have a club chat group on facebook as well as a facebook page. Go look for us!





The Horn

a publication of the Northwest All Breed
Goat Club

Northwest All Breed Goat Club
Official Publication
17198 Dunbar Rd.
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

