

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



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No: 210646*



February/March 2011

Monthly Journal

Volume 104

Page no 29–60

£2.00

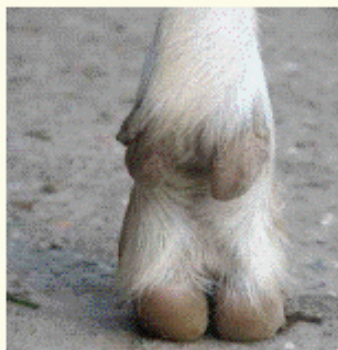
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BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY

Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR

Tel/Fax 01434 240 866

Email: secretary@allgoats.com

Website: www.allgoats.com

Copy Date

Copy date is the first day of the month preceding publication

All copy and advertisements to reach the editor in good time

Your classified ads, photographs and news are most welcome

Classified Advertising Rates

Up to thirty words just £10.00. Thereafter 25p per word. For boxed adverts please add an extra £5.00. For boxed and displayed add £10.00 to the above rates.

Prices include vat at the current rate and includes free entry on the BGS website.

Adverts must be sent to the BGS Secretary by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

For information on other adverts please contact the Secretary at the BGS Office.

CAE Testing

To obtain the cheapest rates, you should find out from your vet how much it will be to test blood samples locally or alternatively instruct your vet to send blood samples to: SAC Veterinary

Services, Veterinary Centre, Drummonhill, Stratherick Road,

Inverness IV2 4JZ

Front Cover Picture

Tydeman Ellie, owned & bred by Anita Tydeman

Certificate of Merit winner at Edenbridge & Oxted Show 2010 (photo Ian Churchill).

The BGS Monthly Journal (ISSN 2044-7426) is published by the British Goat Society and is available to most classes of members, otherwise it is available for an annual subscription of £20.00 or £2.00 per single copy. There are usually 11 issues per year.

Editor: Jane Wilson, Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham Northumberland NE48 1RR

Tel/Fax: 01434 240 866

Email: secretary@allgoats.com

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President

Mrs. Maureen Ross
Balmedie Farm, Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire AB23 8YT Tel: 01358 743 398

Chairman

Mr Richard Wood
2 Dunsley Gardens, Dinnington, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 7LL
Tel: 01661 823 733 Email: rmwood@tiscali.co.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**Vice Chair & Milk Recording Secretary:** Mrs Agnes Aitken

Hillberry, Dunnottar, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, Scotland AB39 3XB
Tel: 01569 766 775 Email: agnes.aitken@virgin.net

Vice Chair & Herd Book Coordinator: Margaret Hardman

17 Greenfield Road, Sheffield, Yorkshire S8 7RQ
Tel: 01142 740 192

Vice Chair & Hon. Solicitor: Mr Nick Parr

118 Frog Grove Lane, Woodstreet, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3HB
Tel: 01483 825 836 Email: Nick_Parr@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary:

Jane Wilson
Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR
Tel/Fax: 01434 240 866 Email: secretary@allgoats.com

Overseas Representative: Mrs Christine Ball

Orchard Cottage, Belfcote Lane, Gnosall, Staffs ST20 0EB
Tel: 01785 824 897 Email: christineball@goatgenetics.com

Web Manager: Mr Peter Cox

Hawkdene, Hadleigh Road, Elmsett, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 6ND
Tel: 01473 658 407 Email: hawdene@btinternet.com

Publications & Public Relations Officer: Ros Earthy

The Old Post Office, Hayton, Aspatria, Cumbria CA7 2PD
Tel: 01697 323 755 Email: biblinros@yahoo.co.uk

Publicity Coordinator: Shane Jones

4 Bank Square, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3BB
Tel: 01982 552 062 Email: shane.jones@powys.gov.uk

Show Coordinator: Mr Colin Newton

Page Bank Lodge, Whitworth Lane, Page Bank, Spennymoor, Co. Durham DL16 7RD
Tel: 01388 819 665 Email: pagebank-lodge@tiscali.co.uk

Commercial Liaison Officer: Mr Richard Pemble

14 Wyecliffe Gardens, Merstham, Surrey RH1 3HN
Tel: 01737 646 280 Email: richardpemble@hotmail.com

Representative for Northern Ireland: Terry Hanna

35 Mullaghdrin Road, Dromara, Dromore, Co. Down BT25 2AG
Tel: 0289753 2685 Email: terry.hanna@dsl.pipex.com

NON COMMITTEE OFFICER AND COORDINATOR**Year Book Coordinator:** Mr Michael Ackroyd

118 Frog Grove Lane, Woodstreet, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3HB
Tel: 01483 825 836 Email: michael_ad@live.com

Government & Scientific Liaison Officer: Mrs Ruth Goodwin

Southside Cottage, Brook Hill, Albury, Nr. Guildford, Surrey GU5 9DJ
Tel: 01483 202 159 Email: ruthgoodwin@onetel.com

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

This joint February/March Journal is published a little earlier than usual in order to ensure that the papers for the Annual General Meeting are distributed in plenty of time. I am delighted that the Year Book will be with you shortly.

I hope that members enjoy the Year Book which contains a wide variety of interesting articles. I would like to publically thank Michael Ackroyd for once again producing a first class publication.

The Herd Book will be posted out with the April Monthly Journal and will be the first one published following the acquisition of the Grassroots system.

I was very saddened to learn that Mrs Dorothy Wright of Bradford had died some time ago. Mrs Wright was a BGS licensed judge for several years and bred the small but highly successful "Biscay" herd of dairy goats. In addition to producing a full champion in Biscay Oyster Q*6, Biscay goats went on to help establish several other herds. Ch Byzantine Draconis Q*2 was a daughter of Biscay Bittasweet Q*1. The Biscay goats were originally bred up from unregistered stock and became consistent prize winners, demonstrating that with good stockmanship and knowledge of pedigree breeding great things can be achieved. I hope that a fitting obituary will be included in a future Monthly Journal.

A great deal of business was dealt with at the recent meeting of the BGS Committee. We now have a new BGS licensed judge in Mr Geoffrey Ringland and we wish him well in future judging appointments. The Committee also agreed to launch a brand new range of items to sell from clothing to badges, T-towels and calendars. Several items will be launched at the forthcoming AGM and details of everything for sale will appear in the Monthly Journal and on the web site.

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting held just before the commencement of the AGM to discuss proposals to alter two BGS Rules. Following the EGM, members will be entitled to submit amendments and this will be followed by a full postal ballot.

I was very saddened to read a short dismissive judges report for Latheron Show in the far north of Scotland. I know that this has caused a great deal of unnecessary upset for both the organisers and the exhibitors. The judge in question is no longer a member of the British Goat Society.

A tremendous amount of work goes into organising a show and all shows pay the recognition fee. In this time of lower entries at shows we all need to do whatever we can to encourage goat keeping – including showing stock. The fact that this show is the most northerly BGS recognised show should also be taken into account.

Richard Wood
Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members who are:

Mrs Farmer, Bedfordshire;
Mrs Clough, West Yorkshire;
Mrs Sinden, East Sussex; Mr DoHerty,
Co. Derry; Mrs Kamphuis, Hereford-
shire; Mrs Sullivan, Lincolnshire;
Mr Desmond, C. Cork; Ms Cleary, Co.
Wexford; Mrs Park, Lincolnshire; Mr &
Mrs Gunner, Lincolnshire; Miss Darcy,
Cheshire, Ms K Stucker, USA;
Mr M Hulme, USA; Mrs E J French,
Wiltshire;
Mrs Natalie Brown, Ceredigion;

Mrs M Adams, Gloucestershire;
Mrs Jill Blakey, Northumberland;
Miss E Bull, Wiltshire; Mr J Barton,
Chester; Miss L M Nicholas & Mr J
Southcott, Shropshire; Mrs C J Brown
MBE, Leicestershire; Miss E Collins &
Miss J Peachey, Hampshire;
Mr R Davis, Kent; Mrs J Ritchie, Co.
Antrim; Mr M D Gilmore, Co Down;
Mr L Maguire & Mr P Nolan, Co Gal-
way; Mrs C Scott-Howell, Powys

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

Just a quiet reminder that subscriptions were due on 1st January. Please check you have paid. Please call the office if in doubt. Reminders will be sent out shortly.

All shows published in January appear again in this issue of the Journal & you will find details in date order this time!! For those who show – when completing your show entries could you please ensure that your details and your goats are printed clearly and the correct details appear in the catalogue when published.

This will help enormously with show results this year.

For those whose goats are already kidding and those about to start, I trust all will go well for you. Registration application forms are available from the office or to download from the BGS website. Please remember new prices apply this year for registrations and for transfers, new prices for bulk transfers (11 and over) carried out at one time. If you are planning to show or sell youngstock, please send your registration applications in in good time. You can also register and birth notify online through the BGS website link to Grassroots. Please remember the BGS Forum, it has been a great source of information for members and will continue to run having the approval of the Committee after a 3 month trial. Follow the “Forum” link on the BGS website for your invitation to join.

For the Forum & Grassroots go to: www.allgoats.org.uk

Best Wishes

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Re: Latheron Show

Latheron is just south of Wick in Caithness. Wick is some 104 miles north of Inverness on the east coast. A ferry to Orkney is close by. The nearest recognised goat shows are the Black Isle/Dingwall shows, (back to back) close to Inverness, at these shows there are no male classes.

Latheron show officials actively encourage goat classes at their show. With this in mind, and because of the distance that goatkeepers in the very far north of Scotland and Orkney have to travel to shows, it was decided at a Highland Goat Club committee meeting, (when the undersigned were Chairman and Secretary), that it would be extremely beneficial to both goats and goatkeepers if a recognised show could be arranged for Latheron. We knew this show would be a small one.

The recognition form was sent to the BGS with the appropriate fees, for a Female/Male show with milking competition. The show took place in July 2010.

The remarks that the judge made i.e. "Please think hard before giving recognition to shows of this standard", were uncalled for and down right rude. Mr Lockwood was rather hoisted by his own petard because he did in fact award a B.C.C.

Surely we should all be encouraging shows, no matter how large or small, especially as the fees go into the coffers of the BGS and particularly when it introduces goats to the public at large.

Gordon Webster and Lilian Scobie.

.....

Dear Editor,

I felt I needed to put pen to paper regarding comments made in the Journal about the Show Result booklet. After reading the comments, I did a survey on both the Journal and the Show Result booklet. The feedback was great and not one person was disappointed, on the contrary there was nothing but praise and admiration for the way they are presented to the members.

Jane has done a wonderful job in the short time she has been secretary for the BGS. Like all new job's, there are bound to be teething problems which have been overcome. So I say to you Jane, WELL DONE and keep up the good work.

Yours Most Sincerely

Pauline Kell. (The Kaprikel Herd).

BGS PUBLICITY—2012 CALENDAR

BGS publicity is planning on producing a BGS calendar for 2012!!

(I know it seems along away off, but it will soon come round!!)

The calendar is to be self funding, so therefore we're looking for herds/societies for sponsorship. A sponsor would provide a photo/logo & herd details for a month on the calendar, the fee would be £40.00.

There are only 12 months so only room for 12 herds/societies to take part, so it will be on a first come first served bases.

If you are interested in sponsoring a month in the calendar, please get in touch with my-self or with Jane in the BGS office, for your interest to be noted. Thank you.

Shane LI Jones (BGS Publicity Officer)

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MAUREEN ROSS, BGS PRESIDENT—A PROFILE

I have been involved with goats and cattle breeding all my life – the Balmedie prefix was registered in the late 40's but the herd dates back to the 30's when my mother bought Cornish Rayaïdor and Sauchie Clara. These two goats were the foundation of the Balmedie herd. Over the years, only two females entered the herd. The breeding policy was to breed heavy long lactation milkers with good conformation. When my mother died in 1985 I continued breeding and showing until 2004 when sadly, I had to part with the herd.

Among the highlights were being reserve to Mostyn Daphne at the Royal in Newcastle, gaining full championships with a brother and sister at the same show, winning the Window Harrison and with a different goat, the winter milking competition.

When in Young Farmers, I took part in many stock-judging competitions and later was privileged to become a BGS judge. I judged in New Zealand, at the Royal Norfolk, Royal Welsh the Royal and Great Yorkshire, twice, among others.

Since having no goats my husband Malcolm and I concentrate on our Balmedie pedigree beef Shorthorns.

On the family side, we are blessed with three daughters, two sons-in-law and one grand-daughter.

Maureen Ross

MALPAS MELBA PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY

Applications are now invited for the Malpas Melba Perpetual Challenge Trophy. If you believe your goat qualifies for this could you please contact the British Goat Society Secretary no later than 31 March 2011. To qualify we would advise that the total aggregate yield must exceed 10,000 kilos. If you have a goat that qualifies and you wish to apply for the award please submit the relevant lactation certificate(s) to the Secretary before the closing date. The Trophy details are below:

The "Malpas Melba" Perpetual Challenge Trophy to be awarded each year to the goat which has qualified for a "star" and which has the highest aggregate officially recorded milk yield, such yield to commence when the goat is first recorded and to terminate at the end of the recording year in which the award is made. The yield of any part lactation up to the latter date shall be included, and the goat's decease prior to, or failure to be in milk at the final qualifying date, shall not disqualify.

The trophy to be held for one year by the person in whose ownership the goat is registered on the final qualifying date.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am in full agreement with David Will on the subject of Scrapie Monitoring and the restrictions placed on males. I was in the scheme up until just over a year ago but found it too restrictive, of absolutely no benefit to myself or my goats, and just another yearly expense I could do without, so decided to let it go.

I also agree that we do need to keep our high health status but there is a two way split in the UK herd. On one side we have the pedigree herds who do their best to keep 'clean', whilst on the other we have the commercial sector coupled with goatkeepers who haven't even heard of the BGS and are, to be honest, not interested. There will always be the risk of Scrapie but unless every goat owner in the UK is made aware of the risk (if indeed there is one) it's really all just a waste of time. I'd be more concerned about things like Johhnes and TB both of which are a threat.

With regard to registrations, I was quite astounded to realise that a very high number of kids/goats I have sold over the years have not been used to produce registered stock. The majority of people outside of the BGS are just not bothered if the goat is registered. They only want an animal that is hardy and will milk reasonably well. There are also fewer BGS members around these days and therefore a much limited market in which to sell kids whose pedigrees will be continued unless your particular goats are flavour of the month. Also added is the fact that only a handful of buyers WILL

pay high prices for pedigree goats, most will not.

We are in a deep recession. Many have lost their jobs, we have had two severe winters, the cost of cereal is high, hay is at a premium, vet fees continue to rise, and the fuel to run the car has sky rocketed. Keeping goats is fast becoming a luxury that many cannot now afford, and I have to list myself as one of them. So, after thirty odd years of being associated with them, it's time to call it a day. My husband had a triple heart bypass last year but is not in the best of health and I am having to do a lot of the work now myself.

The increasing costs coupled with all these stupid regulations, the lack of shows in this area (we have lost so many since FMD), and the fact I don't drive, have taken the fun out of goatkeeping for me and I have to say that I cannot justify keeping them anymore. Even if restrictions on males, with regard to Scrapie, are lifted, something else is going to raise its ugly head to make life for the British goatkeeper even more difficult than it already is. I'd rather get out now before it does and I know I'm not alone.

Kind regards,

Sandra Jones

LETTERS

Dear Editor

Fortunately for the goats of Scrapie Monitored and Non-monitored herds, some of us out here are more clued up and so are our own personal vets on what signs manifest themselves in scrapie carrying goats, therefore this slur on both vets and owners is totally uncalled for.

Perhaps the writer of the e-mail dated 29th November should consider his words more carefully before committing them to print in future

As to the clean/unclean alienation factor, I have been at shows with Scrapie Monitored goats in fairly close proximity to my own stock, with the regulation distance between us, with no animosity between either their owners or myself.

Anyone who considers taking a goat be it male or female to show, will consider all the attributes of their animals and would not pay out for entry fees plus travel costs, to take an inferior goat for public display.

Obviously from his missive, the writer does not see eye to eye with Mr Jones, but surely we all have a right to express an opinion be it controversial or not. Nick Parr is right, the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme does have its place and plays a very valuable part in goat management.

It is sad to say but the small herd goat-keeping owners are reducing and I fear will continue doing so as more and more legislation is introduced from Brussels.

The days of the backyard goats, goats in their prime is behind us and only a distant legend now.

The way forward is going to be large commercial units who breed all year round and sell their surplus stock to the meat rearing and pet trade. These animals are unlikely to be registered with the British Goat Society, so more and more anonymous goats will become the norm.

Fortunately, the Commercial herds are clued up and keep their own records so making BGS Registration unnecessary as far as they are concerned. I agree the increase in fees will possibly reduce registrations still further and more affiliated Clubs and Societies with low membership, will not be able to afford these increases. So, I fear the BGS may be about to kill off its own "Golden Goose"

A number of Clubs and Societies have ceased to function over recent years because of falling membership and this, combined with elderly goatkeepers giving up goatkeeping, has contributed to the decline in numbers with very few younger keepers coming into goat keeping, the outlook is bleak to say the least.

It is not only local clubs that have been affected, the major breed Societies have been on the slippery slide for a number of years and with so much mixing of, and introduction to pure breed Goat Societies, the true breeders are not going to support these mixed blood line breeds with registration of stock. It makes a mockery of the pure breed goats and the

LETTERS *CONT'D*

Societies that have had this forced upon them, know to their cost the damage this can and has done to their pure bred stock.

Unfortunately it is too late for some breeds, lets hope no more are affected otherwise we will have no pure breeds left to show the public the delights of owning a goat or two.

Signed a concerned goat owner
(Name & address Supplied.)

THE WELSH ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURAL LINK

In the January journal there was a list of Government Agricultural Web site's, but the link for the Welsh Assembly Government, (The body in Wales responsible for Welsh agricultural) wasn't included, please see following web site link,

[www.wales.gov.uk/
environmentandcountryside](http://www.wales.gov.uk/environmentandcountryside)

Dear Editor

Please explain why it is so expensive to register a male kid (£20.00) as opposed to a female kid (£8.00)? What extra work is involved? As all the kids from the same dam have to be registered together on one form. Surely, if the BGS wants more funds it would have been better to have left things as they were.

Now people will just put the males down at birth unless they have kids booked. The male kids take longer to mature, hence really nice breeding males won't even be given the benefit of time. The gene pool for well bred males is low now, so this will only make the situation much worse.

The membership fee has gone up by £3.00 per member. Grain prices have gone through the roof and so has hay. Most of the BGS members are over 60 and are reliant on low pensions, so will probably be forced to give up their goats due to the expense.

Liz Tomlin (Northcourt AN's)

GOAT VETERINARY SOCIETY

The Spring meeting of the Goat
Veterinary Society will be held at
Doncaster Racecourse on
Thursday 5th May

For details of the full programme and contacts for the event please
see the GVS website!
www.goatvetsoc.co.uk

RECOGNISED SHOWS FOR 2011

Show Name	Type	Show Date	Judge 2011	Entries Close	Secretary Name	Phone
Norwich & District Spring		7th/8th May	Mrs M Edgington	24th April	Mrs DR Parker	01263710245
Balmoral		11th/13th May	Mr N Parr	18th March	Colin McDonald	02890665225
Ayr County		14th/15th May	TBC	14th April	Mrs L Murdoch	01290421541
Ayrshire Goat Club Spring		15th May	TBC	14th April	Mrs L Murdoch	01290421541
Devon County	AW	19th/21 st May	Mrs S Prior		Mrs O Allen	01392353705
Royal Welsh Small-holders	m&f	21/22nd May	Mr C Newton	Mar/Apr	Mr Barrie Jones	01982554408
Scott Goat Fed Spring	m&f	28th May	Mrs M Hardman	TBC	Gordon Smith	01382370259
Tregaron Goat	AW	29th May	Mrs G Wharmby	14th May	Mrs N Ackroyd	01974251612
Northumberland County		30th May	Mr A Morrey	30th April	Mrs G Shotton	01434604216
Surrey County		30th May	Mr T Garry	22nd April	Mrs S Ashworth	01483890810
Suffolk		1st/2nd June	Mr R Pemble	1st April	Ms. E Payne	01473707115
Royal Bath & West	AW	1st/4th June	Mrs M Franklin	8th April	Mr. Alan Lyons	01749822209
East Anglian Summer		2nd June	TBC	3rd May	Mrs. E. Abbott	01206230860
Rutland		5th June	Miss P Newton	15th May	Mrs. J. Morley	01572787567
Royal Cornwall Agric		9th June	Mr G Godfrey	7th April	Mr. A Reynolds	01326563229
South of England		9th-11th June	Mr C Peck	1st April	Mrs. E. J. Cuff	01444892700
Kernow Dairy	AW	10th June	Mr T Baker		Mr A Reynolds	01326563229
Grampian Goat (M&F)	AAW	11th June	Mr C Nye	21st May	Mrs. A. Aitkin	01569766775
Honley	AW	11th June	TBC		Mr. C. Hagain	07802303232
East Of England Show		17th/19th June	Mr C Newton	16th May	Mrs. K Buttriss	01733234451
Three Counties Show		17th/19th June	Mr T Baker	12th April	Mrs. F Parker	01684584900
Malvern Dairy Goat		17th/19th June	Mr A Morrey	12th April	Mrs. F Parker	01684584900
Devon & Somerset M& Ystck	AW	19th June	Mrs G Wharmby	20th May-	Mr. R Calcraft	01395233985
Kent Male & Youngstock		19th June	Mr C Peck	3rd June	Mrs. P. Softley	01622859439
Cheshire County	m&f	21/22 June	Mrs M Edgington	9th May	Mr. N. Evans	01565650200
Cheshire Dairy Goat Society	m&f	22nd June	Mr R Wood	9th May	Mrs. D. Rudkin	01614303805
Lincolnshire Show		22nd-23rd June	Mr T Baker TBC	27th April	Ms A Chamberlin	01522522900
Royal Highland Show		23rd-26th June	Mr A Morrey	21st April	Mrs. K Stephenson	01313356200

ELIZABETH ASTLE-BATES 1928-2010

I cannot believe that Elizabeth is no longer with us: it only seems like yesterday that I spoke to her on the telephone and arranged for her to pay us a visit at our previous place of residence. Since that time and especially since moving into the Carmarthen area ourselves, we became firm friends. How I shall miss our 'goaty' chats.

Elizabeth was certainly an all-rounder. She was a more than competent horse woman, able to ride almost before she could walk. Horses were part of her life from a very early age but she was perhaps better known in the Suffolk area for her prowess on the point-to-point circuit. No one can be successful in that sport without taking a few tumbles and as I understand it, she certainly had her share but the numerous trophies acquired are a tribute to her outstanding ability.

Her roots were in dairy farming and her one ambition was to breed her own Jersey herd but life took a different turn for her. After running a riding school in Clacton she eventually met Brian Astle-Bates, who turned out to be the love of her life. (I can visualise a somewhat rye smile on Brian's face when he reads this!) Fifty eight years later they were still together, which must say something.

Some time after marrying, they set up home in Northants and the Nenevalley herd was born. Foundation stock came from Pam Carter and Betty Rochford, well known breeders of Anglo Nubians. These were always the breed of goat closest to Elizabeth's heart. In fact, she and Brian were founder members of the Anglo-Nubian Society. Success in the show ring inevitably followed and the Nenevalley input was much sort after in many goat keepers' breeding programmes.

When I first met Elizabeth she was living just outside Carmarthen and had very reluctantly sold on her much loved herd of Anglo Nubians as the day to day handling of such large animals, especially the males, had become too much for her. She couldn't, however, visualise life without goats and had bought two female Pygmy goats from Margaret Thompson. It wasn't long before she thought about once again starting up her own herd of Pygmy goats, a far easier prospect than the previous demands of Anglo Nubians. Where to go for quality foundation stock? She wanted disbudded animals, so where better, I advised, than Ken and Jenny Bailey? Hence the Nenevalley herd was reborn but this time in the shape of pygmy goats. History repeated itself, albeit on a smaller scale – no pun intended – and the Nenevalley herd once again did well in the show ring. Another male joined the group, of Marshview origin.

Elizabeth allowed breeders in our area to use her males as well as selling her stock to people who came from all over the country. Nenevalley Cerys, owned by Viv McNeil, has been successfully shown in the south east. Briarmount Chas and Maesgwyn Heledd, both partly products of Elizabeth's breeding, have also gained success in the ring. Her lasting legacy has been to help transform the general standard of the Pygmy goat in West Wales and beyond.

As I said at the beginning, I cannot believe that Elizabeth is no longer with us. She was a loyal and genuine friend and I shall truly miss her.

Our thoughts are with Brian and the family at this very sad time.

Pat Mercer

Mrs Elizabeth Astle-Bates. Owner & Breeder of the Nenevalley Goats.

Sadly I am sorry to inform our Membership that on the 1st. December Mrs Elizabeth Astle-Bates passed away. Elizabeth's prefix ,Nenevalley was registered with the British Goat Society in 1968.

For a while Elizabeth did breed British Alpine's but Anglo Nubian's were the goats for which she will be best remembered. Early Nenevalley bloodlines came from Berkham, Pamart and Wayward herds.

During the 1970's, along with her family's support, the Nenevalley goats attended many shows in the Northampton area where they lived at the time. The very first Anglo Nubian Breed Show was held at her home. Elizabeth won Best Pair with Nenevalley Amber and Nenevalley Contessa. The following year SM†Nenevalley Blackthorn took Best Male and Reserve Best in Show. He was probably Elizabeth's most successful show goat.

In those early years Elizabeth was a very active member of the ANBS committee. This she continued until 1983. In the mid 80's the Astle-Bates moved to Gloucester for a short while then to Herefordshire. Here Elizabeth became a member of the Herefordshire Goat Club and her input on this committee was always very constructive.

The Astle-Bates family moved again, this time in the 90's to Carmarthen Dyfed. I was lucky to have visited there on many occasions enjoying Elizabeth's company and hospitality. As time passed Elizabeth began to find her beloved Nenevalley Anglo Nubian's rather too much, so she decided to change her goat keeping to Pygmy's.

For over 40 years Elizabeth served the Anglo Nubian Breed Society loyally, from 1995 -1996 she was a Vice President and President 1997-2000.

I am sure Members will join me in sending our most sincere condolences to her husband Brian and the family.

Maggie Franklin.

Dec. 2010



Part of the Nenevalley Herd – May 2008

EDENBRIDGE & OXTED SHOW 2010 *PHOTOS BY IAN CHURCHILL*


1st Three in Show - Ashdene Mischa, Wrotham Grandbeau & Wrotham Takatie



Hanlibill Bella BA 1st kidder, owned & bred by Rachel Fox

EDENBRIDGE & OXTED SHOW 2010 *PHOTOS BY IAN CHURCHILL*

ANBCC Winner: Hurstpier Pimienta, owned & bred by Ian & Erica Churchill



Golden Guernsey Kid Tydeman Fizz, owned by 17yr old Nicole Covus

RECOGNISED SHOWS FOR 2011

Show Name	Class' Show Date	Judge 2011	Entries Close	Secretary Name	Phone
British Alpine Breed	C 2nd July	Mr G Smith		Mr. C Hagain	01422206244
British Saanen Breed	CW 2nd July	tbc	16th June	Mrs. M. Hardman	01142740192
British Toggenburg Breed	2nd July	Mr G Smith	4th June	Mr S Jones	07794564286
Saanen Breed Show	m&f 2nd July	tbs	1st June	Mrs. S. Wilman	01362684109
Nottinghamshire	m&f 3rd July	TBC	6th June	Mrs. V. Hardy	01623555155
Tendring Hundred Show	m&f 9th July	Mr C Peck	17th June	Romany Foster	01206231821
Stithians Agricultural	11th July	Mr R Wiffin	6th June	Sharon Pollock	01566781742
Great Yorkshire	12th-14th July	Miss D Oliver	10th May	Amanda West	01423546231
Kent County	15th-17th July	Mrs H Matthews	13th May	Mr Roger Moore	01622630975
Great Eccleston	16th/17th July	Mr C Newton	2nd July	Mrs. S. Robinson	01995679204
Castlewellan	16th July	TBC	22nd June	Violet I. Bell	02840630536
Cumberland County	16th July	TBC	16th June	Mrs. D. Rozario	01697747397
Kent Dairy Show	16th July	Mr. S Thomas	27th May	Mrs. R. Fox	01322614882
Norwich & Dist M&Ystock	16th July	Mr D Brace	1st July	Mrs. D. R. Parker	01263710245
Ayrshire Goat Club	m&f 17th July	Mr P Cox	4th July	Ms. Anne Dick	01292541982
Royal Welsh Show	18th-21st July	Mr R Wood	27th April	Mr. B W. Jones	01982554403

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RECOGNISED SHOWS FOR 2011

Show Name	Class'	Show Date	Judge 2011	Entries Close	Secretary Name	Phone
Airedale	AW	23rd July	TBC	9th July	Mr C Hagain	01422206244
Cleveland County		23rd July	Mr T Baker	1st July	Mrs. Thomson	01642312231
Mid Essex Male & Ys- tock	AW	24th July	Mrs M Hardman	12th July	Mrs Pat Turner	01206230756
Border Union Show		30th July	TBC	27th June	Mr. R Wilson	01573224188
Leek & District		30th July	Mr D Will	30th June	Mrs. Blakeman	01782550028
Bakewell Show 181st		3rd/4th Aug	TBC	15th July	Mrs Lesley Bain	1629812736
Black Isle Show	AW	4th August	Miss P Newton	30th June	Rod MacKenzie	01463870870
Dumfries & Lockerbie		5th/6th Aug	Mr C Newton	11th July	Mrs E Bicket	01461201199
Cambridgeshire M & Ystock	AW	6th August	Mr D Will	23rd July	David Brace	01480469499
Emley Agricultural Show	AW	6th August	Mr R Pemble		Chris Hagain	01422206244
Brecon County Show	AW	6th August	Mr G Godfrey	9th July	Barbara Green	01559371557
Anglesey County Show		9th August	Mrs M Hardman	5th July	Mr A W Hughes	01407720072
North Wales		10th August	TBC	5th July	Mrs Sue Hanson	01248853743
Okehampton		11th August	TBC	14th July	C Woodward	01363866161
Halifax Agricultural	AW	13th August	TBC	1st August	Chris Hagain	
Ashbourne	A&C	20th August	TBC	1st August	Emma Pederick	01335348889
Lawford Day 1		20th August	TBC	1st July	Mrs. E Abbott	01206230560
Lawford Day 2		21st August	TBC	8th August	Mrs. E Abbott	
SGFederation Autumn	m&f	20th August	Mr G Dale	TBC	Gordon Smith	01382370259
Egton Soc		23rd August	Mrs H Mat- thews	9th Aug	Mrs D Jackson	01947604329
Melplash		25th August	TBC	22nd July	Mrs Lucy Hart	01308423337
Moorgreen	A B/ W	29th August	Mrs S Prior	8th August	Mrs V Hardy	01623 55515
Epworth (Dukeries)		29th August	Mr T Baker	12th August	Mrs S Mangles	01777707453
Edenbridge & Oxted		28th/29th Aug	Mrs J Martin	TBC	Mrs J E Shear- man	01437645843
Dorset County		3rd/4th Sept	Mrs H Mathews	3rd August	Mrs MacKenzie- Green	01305264249
Alresford Show		3rd Sept	Mr P Cox	13th August	C Fox Lambert	
Moreton-in-Marsh	AW	3rd Sept	TBC	4th August	T J Gardner	01608651908
Westmorland County		8th Sept	Mrs G Wharmby	15th August	Mrs C Knipe	01539567804
Usk Show	AW	10th Sept	Mr G Smith	20th August	Mrs F Jenkins	01291690889
Frome Agricultural		10th Sept	Mr R Pemble	18th August	Mrs S C Head	01249716350
Royal Berkshire		17th Sept	TBC		Miss R Elvin	01635247111
Stokesley		17th Sept	Mrs S Prior	29th August	Mrs J B Hugill	01642712541
Norwich & DistSeptDairy		17th/18th Sept	Mrs S Prior	30th August	Mrs D R Parker	01263710245
Newbury		18th Sept	TBC	1st August	Miss R Elvin	01635247111

CARE OF THE IN KID GOAT BY RICHARD PEMBLE

In this month's Journal we are considering the care of the goat during its pregnancy, the run up to kidding time and kidding. Two of the BGS Committee have written these articles.

This is a crucial time for getting management right as a straightforward kidding is essential for a good lactation, which is what the small holder is looking for. A complicated kidding can impact on the early days of the goats' lactation in an adverse way and can knock back the potential yield of the goat. This is clearly not in the interests of the smallholder as it is the milk that is needed to contribute to the running of the holding, either to rear animals for meat or to provide milk and other delicious produce for the house.

Signs of Being In-Kid: Goats are normally mated in the autumn and start coming in season in response to decreasing day length. The healthy goat will come in season every 21 days if not mated, and the absence of the heat period 21 days after a successful mating is the first sign of the goat being pregnant. A close eye should be kept on the goat 42 days after a successful mating also, as it is not uncommon for a return heat to be seen at this time. Some goat keepers choose to get their in-kid goats scanned for pregnancy as is common with sheep. Many sheep scanners are happy to do this for a reasonable fee. It is the best way of confirming pregnancy when compared to other methods of pregnancy testing, such as urine tests, blood tests and milk tests. There are several less conventional methods of pregnancy testing that can be used by those who have faith in them, such as holding a nail or washer tied to a piece of string over the hips of the goat. The direction the nail or washer swing in is meant to indicate pregnancy or not. I know of several goat keepers who rely on this method, but there never seems any consistency in the way the washer is meant to swing!

Drying off: If the goat is milking, she will need to be dried off prior to kidding - all goats need a rest between lactations. Some goats are great at doing this themselves - one sniff of a male goat and all thoughts of milk production stop - whilst some goats seem to forget they are in kid and it can be quite a job to get them dry in plenty of time before kidding. There are various ways of drying a goat off, but the one I prefer is to wait until the yield at each milking is 2kg and then miss a milking out. Continue milking once per day until the yield falls to 2kg and then milk every 3rd milking. Again, when the yield drops to 2kg start to milk every 4th milking. Beyond this then the goat will probably have got the message and will naturally dry off. Some books recommend leaving milk in the udder when milking as a method of drying off. This method in my view is least preferable as the milking process opens the end of the teat up and potentially allowing bacteria to enter the udder. If the udder is empty there is less chance of a mastitis infection occurring than if there is milk in the udder. Other sources suggest varying milking times and routines. This may be a suitable method if the small holder's routine will allow this. Feed will need to be adjusted accordingly to aid the drying off process, but the goats should not be starved or have its feed cut drastically as there are growing kids to consider.

CARE OF THE IN KID GOAT

Feeding: The key to feeding any goat, and not least the in kid goat, is to keep them fit, but not fat. For the first few months of pregnancy then the feed will not need to be increased, if at all, until the last 8 weeks or so. As always, good hay should be available all the time. If the feed is increased it should only be by a small amount and care should be taken not to overfeed, which can induce metabolic disorders either prior to or after kidding. It is far better to keep the feed constant through the pregnancy as for the first 8-10 weeks of pregnancy the goat will still be milking and will need to be fed as such. As the goat starts to dry off the kids will be growing at a faster rate and the goat will need the nutrition provided to enable the kids to grow properly. The important thing is not to over-feed the goat. Too much feed will result in a fat goat which has the potential to develop pregnancy toxæmia (known as twin lamb disease in sheep). This is a metabolic disorder and is caused by inadequate nutrition at a time when the kids are rapidly growing. Essentially the goat has been overfed and has too much fat inside its body cavity. When this is combined with the space that the growing kids are taking up there is not enough space for the digestive system to work sufficiently well to provide enough nutrition for the body. Various treatments are available to treat pregnancy toxæmia, but it is far better to avoid the condition, rather than treat it. If you suspect your goat has pregnancy toxæmia, then you should get veterinary attention to the goat as soon as possible. The in-kid goat should always have an appetite and be keen for its food. Keeping the feed at a sensible level that the goats clears up quickly at each feed is the best rule of thumb. Goatlings, young goats in kid for the first time, will require careful feeding in the summer prior to mating to avoid them being overweight at mating time. This care in feeding will need to continue during pregnancy to ensure that the goatling does not become fat and prone to pregnancy toxæmia.

Feet: The goat will need her feet trimming regularly through pregnancy. The feet have to carry extra weight as the pregnancy progresses and it is essential that the goat feels comfortable on her feet. If the feet have been regularly trimmed then the goat will be used to this procedure. Ideally the feet should not be trimmed in the last 6 weeks of pregnancy to avoid having the goat having to stand on 3 legs for a period of time and potentially struggle. This could cause unnecessary stress to the goat and the developing kids and in extreme cases, injury.

Vaccination: Vaccination against clostridial diseases is something that has been discussed in previous articles. However, prior to kidding it warrants further coverage. The colostrum, or first milk, that the kid suckles from its mother is jam packed full of nutrition and antibodies. The antibodies in the milk will be those that the female goat has produced in response to challenge by disease causing organisms, either through vaccination or when she has been ill. These antibodies will help to give the kid an immune system in the first few weeks of life. Therefore it is essential that the goat is given a vaccination booster 4 to 6 weeks prior to kidding. This will give time for the goat to produce antibodies in response to the vaccine at then be able to pass them on to its off-

CARE OF THE IN KID GOAT CONT'D

spring through the colostrum.

Worming: The goats should already be part of a worm control programme that has been devised on the basis of faecal egg counts and veterinary advice. When the goats come in off of pasture for the winter, a faecal egg count should be carried out and if necessary a dose of appropriate wormer should be given. Worms, being a parasite, will impair the efficiency of the digestive system and therefore the digestive system should be clear of worms during the goats pregnancy to ensure that the maximum amount of nutrition from the food ends up in the body and not feeding parasites.

Lice control: It is not uncommon for goats to get a few lice in the winter months. They should be regularly checked for lice as part of the normal routine, but this becomes even more essential around kidding time. Lice can also easily be transmitted to the young kids. The goat should be checked and treated if any lice are found. Tell-tale signs are rubbed patches on the shoulders and on the rump above the tail.

Mucking out: It is always a bit of a quandary deciding when to muck out an in kid goat. The goats' bed, if it is deep littered, is its central heating system. In colder weather the bed will help keep the goat warm. However, kidding in a clean pen is preferable to avoid the potential for disease to be spread. This is less of a concern with goats kidding later in the year, but certainly a consideration for those goats which kid in February and early March. Whatever is decided, the goat needs a clean bed with plenty of fresh straw at kidding time.

Exercise: The depths of winter are not the best of times for getting goats outside for exercise. The ground can be wet and poached or frozen. This is when a concrete exercise yard comes in to its own. However, too much time out exercising can do more harm than good. Half an hour or so outside the pen is ideal. Beware of the fun and games that other members of the herd might be having when they are out for exercise. It may be better to allow the pregnant members of the herd to exercise on their own rather than with the rest of the herd.

Summary: Each and every goat and pregnancy is different and there is no substitute for experience when managing in-kid goats. This article gives a summary of considerations that warrant further reading or advice from more experienced goat keepers. As has been said previously, try and visit experienced goat keepers and see how they manage their in-kid goats. The British Goat Society web site www.allgoats.com contains some useful advice and the publication "Goat Feeding" can be purchased from them. There is a video/DVD "Goat Breeding and Kid Rearing" by Hilary Matthews that can be obtained from smallholder suppliers and similar bookshops.

KIDDING BY NICK PARR

The average gestation period for a goat is 150 days from mating. 4 days either way is normal. The vast majority of goats kid within 2 days either way of the 150 day period. 7 days early and the kids can be viable. Kids born 10 or more days early are unlikely to survive. If your goat has not kidded within 155 days of mating it would probably be sensible to seek Veterinary advice as to whether kidding should be induced by artificial means.

The amount of pre warning that kidding is imminent varies enormously. A young goat kidding for the first time will probably be sporting quite a nicely developed little udder a couple of weeks before her due date. Apart from that some goats may not show much physical change until the act of parturition has begun. Others, particularly an older goat who has kidded several times, will often show considerable slackness around the tail and vaginal swelling some weeks before kidding. Some will show a varying amount of clear vaginal discharge before kidding; this can occur some weeks before kidding and is not normally any cause for concern.

The first sign that something is underway is usually a change in the demeanour of the goat. This is most likely to be a faraway look in her eye, or a general restlessness. A sudden change in her eating habit is also a clue. Some about to be mothers will decline a usual meal; others will attack their hay racks in an unusually ravenous way. Most goats will rapidly fill their udders in the hours close to kidding. Although the new udder generally develops a week or more before kidding, if it has suddenly become very full with a shiny appearance this normally means that kidding will be soon. The goat might suddenly look slimmer. As the kids change their position ready for birth everything moves and the goat might somehow appear to be smaller than she was yesterday. The pin bones move and the drop from the hips to the tail will appear much steeper than usual and the tail will be carried high. Closer examination at this stage will show slackness around the tail, the tail bone appears to be raised and loose muscle can be felt under the tail bone. There may or may not be discharge from the vagina during these stages.

As the labour develops the goat will show obvious signs of discomfort. She may keep digging up her bedding, and continuously get up and down, and generally move around and around as the pains intensify. More discharge will appear; this will probably become more opaque in appearance. This stage of labour takes varies from half an hour to the best part of a day or night. When the discharge becomes more like a thick stream of slime kidding should not be far away.

Soon the first small strains will be seen. At first it can be difficult to distinguish general heaving herself around from real contracting strains. I think it best to watch the goats face – a real strain can be seen from her face, she will probably curl her top lip back and utter a small involuntary grunt. The straining will become more frequent and more

KIDDING CONT'D

severe, and usually takes place in a lying down position. The straining can go on for some time – up to an hour or so – before the first signs of a kid are seen. Eventually the first signs of a water bag will be seen coming from the vagina as the goat strains. This looks quite like a rather hard reddish coloured bubble, and to start with it will slip back in and then out again as the goat relaxes and then strains. As it further emerges the temptation is to break it. This temptation must be avoided; the water bag gives valuable assistance to the safe passage of the kid. Eventually, in a normal birth, a little hoof can be seen in the water bag, then another, and then the kid's nose. At this stage the straining will probably be quite violent and the goat will scream out as she pushes. It is now quite in order to give a little assistance, by grasping the kids feet and giving a gentle pull. Great care must be taken to pull *downwards*, and slowly, as the goat strains. Once the head and shoulders come clear the rest of the kid will slide out with a whoosh of fluid, and there will probably be a sudden show of blood as the umbilical cord breaks.

An experienced goat will normally turn straight to the new kid and start cleaning it. However a first kidder might be rather astonished by what has just happened and stand back in amazement, leaving the newborn lying in a pool of fluid for those crucial moments while it gasps for its first breath. Considerable assistance can be given to the newborn by picking it up by its back feet and holding it up clear from the ground, allowing the slime and mucous to clear from its mouth and nose. Assistance can also be given with the cleaning operation by wiping the kid with clean soft hay or straw or even better a towel.

Kidding is thirsty work, and the Mother will probably be very glad to be offered a drink of fresh warm water.

More often than not there will be a second or third kid. The time between kids in a normal birth will vary from between a very few minutes to an hour or so. Usually after about 15 minutes or so the dam will lie down again and start straining. The second and subsequent kids are usually born more quickly and more easily than the first arrival. It is quite normal for the 2nd or 3rd kid, or both, to be born backwards. In this event the back feet and then the legs appear first and are followed by the tail, the body, the shoulders, and then the head and the front legs last.

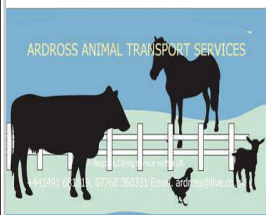
If there is any doubt about whether one is looking at front legs or back legs, remember that in a front leg the pastern and knee will bend in the same direction. On a back leg the pastern and hock will bend in **opposite** directions.

One cannot quite say always, but in the vast majority of cases the afterbirth does not come away until all the kids have been born. The sight of part of the afterbirth can be considered as a pretty clear sign that there are no more kids to come. When there are more kids inside, the kid will usually come away from the goat clean, with nothing left hanging from the vagina of the goat.

Continued on page 54

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KIDDING CONT'D

When we are looking at the birth of a single or last kid, when it comes away there will often be some red fleshy matter left hanging from the mother which is the first part of the afterbirth. The afterbirth generally comes away without any difficulty about an hour or so after the birth. When it does, this means that the kidding is probably safely completed. It is sometimes, but not always, possible to distinguish one afterbirth for each kid. The mother will invariably hurry to eat this up as it is delivered. Opinions vary as to whether or not it is good for the goat to eat it; I do not know the answer. If we are there we will remove it and burn it, if not we do not worry. In fact in many cases the afterbirth is passed and eaten up while the midwife has popped indoors for refreshment or to attend to some other job.

The mother will probably bite off the remains of the umbilical cord quite close to the kid's body. This can be quite unnerving to watch. Although I have heard of the odd kid needing a stitch to its tummy button I have never come across a case of a goat causing injury to a kid while cleaning it. Soon after birth the remains of the cord should be dipped in an iodine solution or sprayed with antiseptic spray to avoid any infection.

Newly born kids are usually up on their feet and looking for food remarkably quickly. When they are an hour or so old they will be ready for their first feed. The dam's teats should be checked for a clear flow of milk, and the kids might need a bit of guidance to find the milk bar. They look for the teat much higher up on Mum than it is now our dairy goats have been bred to produce large amounts of milk.

If the kids are to be hand reared, it is a good plan to give them their first feed from a bottle or shallow dish so they do not find this method of feeding quite so strange a few days later. In this case the milk should be mother's milk as the colostrum produced by the mother at kidding is vital for the kid, and the utensils should be warmed by filling them with hot water – small amounts of colostrum cool very quickly while a kid is encouraged to suck. In any event the dam's udder must be checked very carefully. She may well have made far more milk than her kids need, and if so enough milk should be taken away to make her udder soft and comfortable.

Once the kids have fed and the afterbirth has been cleaned away, the goat should have a feed of nice fresh hay, and then the new family will probably be tired and ready for a good rest after all the excitement of the recent event.

In the vast majority of cases goats will kid without any need for assistance. Occasionally problems do arise and help is needed, particularly when a kid comes in a misplaced position. The most common examples of misplaced kids are fairly easy to rectify. Sometimes a kid, instead of coming front feet first, will come head first with the front legs back underneath the kid's body. When this happens there may not be room for the kid to be born without some manipulation. You will most probably need an assistant to hold the mother, fingernails must be short, and hands and forearms thoroughly

KIDDING cont'd

scrubbed. You will also need some sort of lubricant. There are special obstetric oils on the market. I am not sure if I should admit to this, but over many years here we have found that a good lathering of fairy liquid over the hands and forearms, slightly wetted with clean warm water, works admirably as a lubricant for this purpose. The palm of your hand should be placed over the kids head and it should be pushed back inside the mother until it can be felt to go back into the womb. Then if you slide your hand under the kids head and move underneath it you will soon feel the bony little legs folded back underneath the kid. If you hook your finger behind the first knee with a slight lifting action and then gently pull it out the front leg should flip forward. Do the same again with the other leg and the kid will now be ready to be born normally.


Another fairly common misplacement is where a kid coming backwards comes tail first instead of back feet first. Here again the kid must be pushed back inside the mother and then if you slide your hand underneath the kid you should come to a bony V shape – the kids hock. Cup your hand underneath this and push it up and then backwards, and the back leg should straighten out, and when this has been done to both legs the kid will be ready to be born.

Other misplacements, such as a head bent back over the kids body, or 2 kids trying to come together are more difficult to sort out and are not really a job for the novice. Another problem sometimes encountered is when the dam is in the advanced stages of labour for several hours but makes no further progress. This maybe because there is a misplaced kid that cannot get out and an internal examination and assistance will be required.


I must stress that there is no shame in calling for help at a problematic kidding. Better to call for help too soon than wait until the poor goat is exhausted and the safety of the kids is compromised.


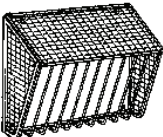
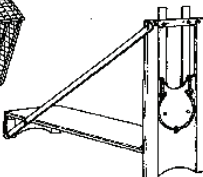


Only last year I had been up all night waiting for a goat to kid. Eventually I called for the vet as soon as the hour was decent enough. The vet drove up to the goat shed door at the exact moment that a very nice female kid made a graceful entry into the world.










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