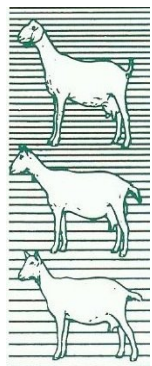


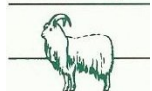
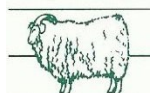
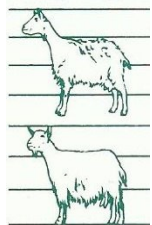
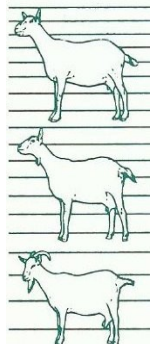
BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



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January 2012
Monthly Journal
Volume 105

Page no 1 – 28

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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

Teilos goats & Shane Jones, Publicity Co-ordinator. See "Herd Diary" page 14

Photo by Lecky Thyne.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I would like to begin these notes by wishing all of our members a very Happy New Year.

2012 promises to be a really good year for the British Goat Society. Membership is rising steadily, the finances are stable at last and we should be in receipt of a substantial legacy during the course of the next few months.

Looking back over the previous year it is reassuring to note the signs of a recovery in the Society's fortunes. There is a marked increase in the number of kid registrations and in transfer of ownerships, demonstrating that stock is moving around the UK.

It has all been a long time in coming and, during the dark days of 2001 onwards, many thought we would never again be in such a position.

However, we must guard against complacency and strive to ensure a healthy and stable future for this long standing Society. There is still a great deal of work to be done, but with the support of the membership I feel confident that the British Goat Society will remain the driving force behind British goat keeping for many, many years to come.

Writing these notes on a cold dark and damp day in early January, it is heartening to think that within a matter of weeks the new crop of kids will be arriving – bringing with them the promise of the future.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and a successful kidding season.

Richard Wood
Chairman



BUCKINGHAM PALACE,
LONDON SW1A 1AA

13th December 2011

Dear Mr Wood,

Princess Alexandra has asked me to write and thank you very much for your letter of 14th October kindly inviting her to the special National Goat Show on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July 2012.

Her Royal Highness is grateful for the invitation but is sadly not able to accept. Next year is proving to be particularly busy with many more invitations than dates available and the Princess is simply not able to be with you for this occasion.

Princess Alexandra does, however, send you and all the members of the British Goat Society her best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,
D.A. Duke

Mrs Diane A. Duke
Private Secretary

Richard Wood Esq
Chairman
British Goat Society

A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS SPONSORED BY DEFRA AND ORGANISED BY ADAS

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Are We Really Fulfilling Their Needs?

ADAS invites you to the first **Defra-funded** meetings for goat keepers designed to provide practical and technical advice to increase the health and welfare of the goat herd in England.

Goats are susceptible to a number of health and welfare problems – the more important of which will be covered at these evening events:

The Goats Welfare needs in 2012 (David Harwood BVetMed, MRCVS and Honorary veterinary surgeon to the British Goat Society,)

Kid Rearing – Importance of Attention to Detail (Sue Smith/ Dreda Randall – independent specialist goat producers)

Goat Health (David Harwood BVetMed, MRCVS,)

Enterotoxaemia

Internal and external parasites

Lameness

Discussion panel

In addition, the panel will further discuss any husbandry practices that can impact on goat welfare such as ear tagging and disbudding.

Evening workshops (7 pm to 9.30 pm) will be held throughout January and February 2012; and are free to all commercial, and small scale goat keepers. Places are however limited and must be pre-booked.

1st February 2012
Launceston

8th February 2012
Worcester

15th February 2012
Sheffield

2nd February 2012
Shepton Mallet

9th February 2012
Peterborough

16th February 2012
Durham

If you are interested in attending please contact Georgie Fomes on 01354 697200 or email georgie.fomes@adas.co.uk

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr Naumes, USA;
Mrs R Corsair, Lincolnshire;
Ms A Pollard, Devon;
Mr McClelland, USA;
Mrs McDonald, Kent;
Mrs R Boswell, Devon;
Miss Newton, North Yorkshire;

Mrs A McDonald, Kent;
Mr O'Neill, Cambridgeshire;
Mrs Casselman, USA;
Mr Cusach, West Yorkshire;
Ms D Richardson & Mr R Cook,
Cornwall;
Mrs Hargreaves, Lancashire;

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

Thank you to members who sent Christmas cards & best wishes for 2012 to the office.

The calendars have all been sold. Thanks to Shane Jones for a successful new venture.

Only the Breeders' Cup and the Stud Goat Cup have been allocated so far. The recognised show list will be republished again as soon as the complete list of cups and awards is available. Further recognised shows will be published as usual, as soon as they are known.

Please check you have paid your subscription for 2012 which became due on 1st January. Reminders will go out at the end of next month after which your membership will be "on hold" until payment has been received.

Winner of the caption competition from the November Journal is Mrs Gray of Newark with "mmm, love the hat, it would reeeally go with my ears!".

The winner was selected by Ros Earthy, Publications & Public Relations Officer.

Thank you to the members that sent captions in and to Gareth El Tawab for the original photograph

Please send in your articles, photographs and experiences with your goats.

Best Wishes
Jane



JUDGES LICENCE

The BGS has received an application for a Judges Licence from Mr. M Cox, 8 Orston Lane, Whatton-in-the-Vale, Nottinghamshire NG13 9ET

Any representation from a Member of the Society appertaining to the suitability of the candidate to hold a licence, should be forwarded to the Secretary, in writing, by Friday 17th February 2012. Post to The Secretary, BGS, Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR

The proposers for this licence are Mrs M E Hyde, Mrs H Matthews, Mr C J Nye, Mr D Will & Mr R F Wiffen.

The Committee would wish to discuss this application at their meeting on 28th April 2012

NEW DVD

As you will know the BGS produces a DVD which is a re-mastering of a video produced many years ago. It is a piece of our history.

We are now considering producing a DVD which offers a very basic introduction to goatkeeping and the work of the BGS.

This DVD will be aimed at those considering getting goats, and at absolute beginners. It will therefore fit in just 'below' those produced by Hilary Matthews. Planning is at a very early stage but we expect it to feature a short introduction; a visit to different herds where the features of different breeds are explained; and a section on basic management. Running time might be about 30 minutes.

We have had several ideas as to how the DVD could be produced, but the obvious first step is to see if there is anyone in the society with the interest and expertise required to take on the technical side of the production.

If you are interested, or can suggest the name of anyone who might be, do get in touch to discuss the project in more detail.

Ros Earthy (Public Relations and Publications Officer) Email: biblinros@yahoo.co.uk
Or phone: 016973 23755

Ros Earthy

Recognised Shows For 2012

Show Name	Cup	Class'n	Date	Judge 2011	Entries	Secretary Name	Phone
Ayr County		a/c	11/12th May	tbc	tbc	Mrs L. Murdoch	01290421541
Balmoral			11-13th May	tbc		Cglin McDonald	02890665225
Ayrshire Goat Club Spring		a/c	12th May	tbc	tbc	Mrs L. Murdoch	01290421541
Norwich & District Spring Dairy	6	a/w	12-13th May	Mr B Perry	7th May	Miss G Duffield	01603880524
Devon County			17-19th May	Mr N Parr	9th March	Mrs O Allen	01392353705
Royal Welsh Smallholders(m&f)		a/w	19-20th May	Mr C Nye	2nd April	Mr Barrie Jones	01982554408
Scottish Goatkeepers FedSpring (m&f)	6, 7		26th May	Mr G Ringland		Gordon Smith	01382370259
Tregaron Goat		a/w	27th May	Mr R Wood	13th May	Mrs N Ackroyd	01974251612
Royal Bath & West	6	a/w	30th May	Mr C Peck	11th April	Mr. Alan Lyons	01749822209
Rutland		a/w	3rd June	Mr B Perry	14th May	Mrs. J. Morley	01572787567
Northumberland County	6	a/w	4th June	tbc	1st May	Mrs G Shotton	01434604216
Surrey County		a/w	4th June	Mr D Brace	27th April	Ms A Hill	01483890810
South of England		a/w	7-9th June	tbc	1st April	Ms. E. Crookford	01444892700
Suffolk		a/w	7-8th June	tbc	5th April	Ms. E. Payne	01473707115
East Anglian Summer		a/w	8th June	tbc	7th May	Mrs. E. Abbott	01206230560
Honley		a/w	9th June	tbc	1st June	Mr. C. Hagain	07802303232
Malvern Dairy Goat		a/w	15-17 June	Mr G Godfrey	10th April	Mrs. F Parker	01684584900
Three Counties	7	a/w	15-17 June	Mr T Garry	10th April	Mrs. F Parker	01684584900
Kent Male & Youngstock		a/w dip	17th June	tbc	2nd June	Mrs. P. Soffley	01622859439
Cheshire County (m&f)	7	a/w	19-20th June	Mr M Ackroyd (tbc)	9th May	Mr. N. Evans	01565650200
Cheshire Dairy Goat Society (m&f)		a/w	20th June	Mrs M Hardmaan	9th May	Mrs. D. Rudkin	01614303805
Lincolnshire		a/b/w	20-21st June	Mrs S Prior	tbc	Ms A Chamberlin	01522522900
Derbyshire County		m/w	24th June	Mrs H Matthews	15th June	Mrs. J. Smith	01246854898
Royal Norfolk		a/w	27-28th June	Mrs M Franklin	8th May	Mrs. S. De Chair	01603748931
British Saanen Breed		c/w	30th June	Mr. A Morrey	14th June	Mrs. M. Hardman	01142740192
Lanchester Agricultural		a/w	1st July	Miss D Oliver	5th June	Mrs. A. Hiles	01913733595
East Of England	7	a/w	6-8th July	Mr G Smith	28th May	Mrs K Buttriss	01733234451
Ayrshire Goat Club (m&f)		a/w	7-8th July	Mrs G Wharmby	25th June	Ms. Anne Dick	01292541982
South Western Goat (m&f)		a/w	8th July	Mr R Pemble	2nd June	Miss B. Lawton	01934824437

Recognised Shows For 2012

Great Yorkshire	7	10-12th July	tbc	Mrs A Stoddart-West	01423546231
Castlewellan	n/a	14th July	Mr G Websterr	Violet I. Bell	02840630536
Great Eccleston	a/w	14-15th July	tbc	Mrs. S. Robinson	01995679204
Kent Dairy	a/c/w	14th July	Mr C Nye	Mrs. R. Fox	01322614882
Tendring Hundred	a/w	14th July	Mr T Baker	Romany Foster	01206231821
Airedale/Bingley	a/w	21st July	Mr D Will	Mr Chris Hagain	01422206244
Royal Welsh	a	23-26 July	tbc	Mr. Barrie W. Jones	01982554403
Border Union, Kelso	a/c/w	28th July	tbc	Mr. Ronald Wilson	01573224188
Leek & District	a/w	28th July	Mr A Morrey	Mrs. O. Blakeman	01782550028
Bakewell 182nd	a/w	1-2nd Aug	tbc	Mrs Lesley Bain	01629812736
Black Isle	a/c	2nd Aug	Mrs L Scobie	Rod MacKenzie	01463870870
Brecon County	a/w	4th Aug	tbc	Barbara Green	01559371557
Emley Agricultural	a/w	4th Aug	tbc	Mr C Hagain	01422206244
North Wales Goat & Smallholders	a/b/w	8th Aug	tbc	Mrs Sue Hanson	01248853743
Okehampton	a/w	9th Aug	Mr T Hanna	Ms C Woodward	01363866161
Halifax Agricultural	a/w	11th Aug	tbc	Mr C Hagain	01422206244
Norwich & District Male & Youngstock	a/w	12th Aug	Mr D Brace	Miss G Duffield	01263710245
Anglesey County	a/w	14th Aug	Miss P Newton	Mr Aled W Hughes	01407720072
Ashbourne	a/c	18th Aug	Miss D Oliver	Mrs E Pederick	01335348889
Scottish Goatkeepers' FedAutumn (m&f)	a/c	18th Aug	Mr G Dale	Mr G Smith	01382370259
Melplash Agricultural Society	a/w	23rd Aug	tbc	Mrs Lucy Hart	01308423337
Epworth (Dukeries)	a/w	27th Aug	Mr G Dale	Mrs S E Mangles	01777707453
Dorset County	a/w	1-2nd Sept	Mr D Will	S MacKenzie-Green	01305264249
Royal County of Berkshire	a	1st Sept	Mr G Websterr	Miss R Elvin	01635247111
Norwich & District September Dairy	a/w	8-9th Sept	Mr N Parr	Mrs D R Parker	01263710245
Usk	a/w	8th Sept	tbc	Mrs F Jenkins	01291690889
Westmorland County	a/w	13th Sept	tbc	Mrs C Knipe	01539567804
Newbury	a	16th Sept	Mr B Perry	Miss R Elvin	01635247111
Stokesley	a/w	22nd Sept	Mr C Peck	Mrs J B Hugill	01642712541
Autumn Exhibition	a/w	12th Oct	Mrs H Matthews	Mr C Nye	01353699413
Cumberland County		No Show			

LETTERS

Dear Secretary,

The item by Gordon R. George on the December Journal referring to David Harwood's "first" talk, prompts me to write and say that the Isle of Wight Goat Club had an excellent presentation by David Harwood on 14th October 2011. Now that was a first for us. We were privileged to have David visit us (albeit I think he had a day's holiday on the Isle of Wight too!). We attracted approx 25 members and friends including two who travelled from Hampshire, who were entertained by a highly professional and informative talk, and we all learned something new about keeping goats, and sheep. Our only regret was that no representative of the Veterinary profession (we only have one firm who will treat goats here) came along, although invited at least twice prior to the talk. They admit their knowledge about goats health is minimal, so how do you encourage Vets to learn more about our animals? Our grateful thanks to David Harwood for an excellent talk.

Derek Sprake,
Chairman IW Goat Club

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BGS RULES AND REGULATIONS

The proposal to amend Regulation 10 was passed at the BGS Committee Meeting on 26 November 2011.

The main differences are:

- an increase from not more than 10 letters to not more than 12 letters for a prefix;
and
- an increase from not more than 10 letters to not more than 12 characters (letters and numbers – see below for full details) for a goat's name.

From 1 January 2012 BGS Regulation 10 is as follows:

Names under which Goats may be Registered

10. (1) The name under which a goat may be registered shall consist of two words, one of which shall be the breeder's registered Prefix and the other a name consisting of not more than a total of twelve characters (ie letters and numbers), unless the person making the application has not registered more than six goats in the Herd Book and/or Foundation Book, or is not the breeder of a goat to be entered in the Foundation Book under Regulation 4(2) or Identification Register, when the name may consist of one word of not more than twelve characters (ie letters and numbers). No two goats may be registered with the same name. The name must contain a minimum of two letters and, if numbers are used, a maximum of four numbers.

(2) A Prefix consisting of one word of not more than twelve letters and approved by the Committee must be registered by every person registering a goat unless such person (a) is the registered owner of a prefix or (b) has not registered more than six goats in the Herd Book and/or Foundation Book. To register a Prefix a person must be a Member of the Society, or a member of an Affiliated Society respectively. The right to a Prefix is automatically cancelled if the registered owner ceases to be a Member of the Society or is not a member of an Affiliated Society, but such Prefix may be restored if the owner rejoins the Society or becomes a member of an Affiliated Society, at the discretion of the Committee. The transfer of a Prefix or the substitution of one for another may be approved by the Committee subject to payment of a further fee.

Margaret Hardman

SNOWDROPS@COLESBOURNE PARK

Gloucestershire Goat Society invites goat society members to see the snowdrops in bloom at Colesbourne Park, A435 south of Cheltenham.

Sunday 12th February 2012 at 1.30pm.

Lunch is available at the Colesbourne Inn at 12 midday,
which must be booked in advance.

Further information and booking. Please phone 01454 315 568 or 01453 542 230

VISIT Colesbourne website

<http://cotswold.greatbritishlife.co.uk/article/snowdrops-colesbourne-park-gloucestershire-gardens-cotswold-17356/>

HERD DIARY

Dear, Fellow Members

Hope you all had a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Happy New Year to all & best wishes for a successful 2012 in and out of the show ring.

At the committee meeting in Nov, Jane stated not many items were coming into the office for publication in the BGS journal. So I had the idea to re-start the member's diary that Charlie Peck used to arrange, where a member would produce a monthly diary to be printed in the journal. I used to find it interesting to hear what other members/herds were up to around the country and how people go about managing their herds and life styles. I will kick it off with my herd diary for December 2011. If any member would like to take part please get in contact with myself, if not I will be approaching members to ask for their input.

Thanks
Shane.

Teilo's Herd Diary, December 2011

1st-11th Dec 11, This time of year is really not the most exciting for my herd, as currently all milkers are dry and I'm just praying we don't get the heavy snow and cold weather of last winter. Most of my work is done with the goats at this time of year at weekends, due to the fact I'm out at work through the day and the dark winter nights. I had some nice meadow hay delivered in so had to get that stacked away tidy, I also have ordered some straw to be delivered in the

next week. The weather has turned colder, which always makes the goats eat more hay then if we were having a mild spell. Trimmed the kid's feet and the male, and wormed all goats. I took the show rugs to be repaired, I really don't know how they manage to get ripped and torn like they seem to around the shows. Went to the printers to pick up the rest of the BGS calendars also been busy posting out the calendars to members and to some committee members for resale in their area, oh and the small task of sending Christmas cards, any one would think I have shares in the post office, or liked the person behind the counter!!

On the morning of the 10th Dec, I went to do the goats just as normal on a weekend at about 8am, to find one of my dry milkers Teilo's Anska not wanting her feed, was stood at the back of the pen, feeling sorry for herself and looking cold. The night before she was fine and eating like a horse so to speak, it just goes to show they can fall ill like the flick of a coin. I took her temp, but she didn't have one, so gave her an antibiotic injection, warm drink, rugged her up and tried her with some nice hay and treats, but she didn't want any of it. So left her and hoped she would be showing a bit of improvement by the evening. It had been cold for a few days leading up, so I'm thinking she may have got a chill. The hills around had a dusting of snow and there was a cold wind. By evening she wasn't much brighter, but was starting to pick at some hay, so I felt she was on the right road, but still a worry. Next morn-

ing 11th Dec, up early to check on her and see how she was doing, she still didn't want her hard feed, but she had eaten a bit of hay over night. She wasn't a lot brighter, so took her temp again, but that was fine. I gave her another injection, and gave her a warm drink, of which she drank over a pint, so I felt she had improved since yesterday morning. Also picked her some dried oak leaves which she picked at. By the evening feeding she looked a bit brighter, but still didn't want her hard feed, but was eating hay.

12th-19th Dec , Anska improved over the next few days, and slowly came back to her feed. The straw got delivered, so had to stack that away after work. Mucked goats out, which took a bit longer than the normal, as I usually try to do them every 2 weeks, and bed them up every other day, but I had been busy so I was running well into the third week. Snow arrived on the 16th Dec overnight, but after last years snow, it wasn't a lot really. Posted more calendars out which have been selling well. Phoned the scanning man to see if he could come and scan the goats before Christmas, but he was too busy and he will come in the New Year, I only have 4 in kid, 2 milkers and 2 goatling's, starting towards the end of February. Put the goats out for some exercise while I went to the feed store to stock up on feed to last over Christmas and New Year. Anska was by the end of this period eating like a horse and was looking bright in her self again, so that's a big worry lifted off my mind in time for

Christmas. Put Christmas tree up with my little nephews and made mince pies with them, flour everywhere!! Marzipan and iced 11 Christmas cakes, of which some I sell and some are given as gifts for Christmas. I was glad to see the last one finished and boxed up, what a time they take.

20th-24th Dec, Trimmed the milkers and goatlings feet, it will be the last time for 1 of them before she kids as she is due just over 2 months. I never like messing with them much when they are heavy in kid, just in case I cause damage. Broke up work at mid day on the 21st Dec for Christmas, went to finish Christmas shopping, which seems to go and on!! Anska is doing fine now and is back to normal, eating well and bright in her self. Christmas Eve went delivering Christmas presents. Went to visit Joan Stevens of the Daycroft herd of Anglo Nubians, who lives in Gilwern near Abergavenny and had what we call Eve supper, which was honey roast ham, yummy. After Supper got back home at 10.45pm, got changed and went to Midnight Mass as I do every year, as that is the start of Christmas in my mind.

25th Dec, Got up went out to do the goats, the weather was very mild, unlike last year when it was freezing and with tons of the white stuff. The goats get treats like bananas, other fruit, bread and a warm drink on Christmas day, mad I know, but it is Christmas for them too. Well if I'm honest it's like Christmas most days for them, not a worry in the world!! Back in the house, to chill, open

presents and see my nephews, but the morning seemed to fly by. Then I was back on the road down to Joan Stevens for Christmas day lunch, where I was fed as if I was twelve kings rolled into one!! had turkey, rack of Welsh beef and all the trimmings. Those of you that know Joan will know she is a very good cook. Spent most of the day there, then went home to do my goats & enjoy a drink or two!!

26th-27th Dec, Got up early for a holiday day. Did the goats then off to the Boxing Day sales, where I was meeting up with friends for lunch, which was nice. On the way home from the sales I passed hounds out hunting, which is always nice to see. I used to be as keen on hunting on horse back as I am on the goats, but the goats took the place of horses for me. Boxing Night is the night that it seems like the whole of Mid Wales comes to town!! I did goats late afternoon, as I had friends coming round for a few drinks and a night out on the town!! Which was really good, but not such a good feeling the next morning when I had to get up to do the goats, that was one of those mornings, when I asked myself why keep goats!! I was ill.

On the 28th Dec I returned to work for the day, a bit of a shock, the thought of it was worse than the deed, as things some times are. Later that evening packed some clothes, as I was heading up to Scotland for New Year to the Gordon's at Guildy Den, home to the Guilden herd the next day. Left instructions for the person who comes into do my goats for

me while I'm away. Nick from the Ashdene & Theban herds arrived at mid day on the 29th Dec as we are both going up north for New Year. The weather wasn't very good, heavy rain. We only drove half way and stayed near Penrith, to visit Del Knowles of The Wrotham herd which took four & a half hours, due to the poor weather. Del took us out for an Italian meal, which was nice. Then it was back to the hotel for a much needed nights sleep. Next morning 30th Dec, Del came to see us off, and it was onward and upwards to Scotland. The weather had turned colder; we did run into a little bit of light snow, but nothing really. We arrived at Guildy Den; about an hour after we got there it started snowing, and was white within an hour. We were shown around the goat house, they have some nice stock. They have a nice new billy house, which Gordon Smith built. Later that evening Agnes Atkin, her husband Rob and other visitors arrived for a meal and drinks, which was very enjoyable and much appreciated that they had turned up in snowy weather.

Next day New Years Eve, Party time!! Nick and I had another look at the goats in the light of day and spent time chatting about the pedigree/breeding behind the goats. Then we went into Dundee for a look around, and had lunch. Went back to Guildy Den in the afternoon, where Gordon Smith took us out for a run in the car to Montrose, on the Angus coast. Then it was time to get changed to go out for a meal, and to party the New Year in!!

Thanks for taking the time to read this diary, as I said at the start it's not the busiest time of the year goat wise within the Teilos' Herd.

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda - Happy New Year & hope to see many of you around the shows.

Best Wishes,

Shane.

HOW NOT TO MAKE CHEESE! BY ANNE BENSON

I have always wanted to make cheese, from as long as I can remember – or at least for as long as I've been reading John Seymour's books! The trouble is it always seemed so complex and required such equipment. I would pour longingly over small holder equipment catalogues and search avidly over the internet for cheese kits and presses but inevitably I could never justify the £100 or so for such luxuries. After all you can buy a lot of cheese for £100 and it's not something we could sell. (Have you even attempted to read all that dairy legislation) So it was on the to-do list but never got done – until I met someone who made simple curd cheese with no fancy equipment and it sounded so easy. What had I been waiting for?

I went out and bought my first bottle of rennet and have been experimenting ever since. I still have no official equipment but we manage to make various delicious cheeses all the same. Not every batch is a success and I've had some wasteful surprises that could probably have been avoided. My methods are somewhat unorthodox and when I read articles on proper cheese making I



cringe at my inadequacies but hey, this is what we do...

Equipment

I think a photo (above) will explain it best!

The Geo tin has five decent sized holes punched in the base for drainage. The plunger came from a coffee cafeteria – we break the glass sections on a fairly regular basis so have a ready supply of redundant plungers! I buy a packet of muslin nappies each year to replace my cheese clothes and sew new tin liners and little cheese bags as

Cont'd overleaf

the old ones get too tatty to use.

(I always use bright coloured thread in case it gets caught up in the cheese!) We use our normal stainless steel cooking pan and colander.

So how's it done? We usually make either cream cheese or a feta style of cheese. We often intend to make hard cheese as well as soft rind cheese but just can't stop eating it long enough to mature so rarely bother these days! In all of these procedures we try to have everything as clean as possible and work with a clean apron. We also try to use the freshest milk but sometimes need to collect over more than one day. If we need more than 3 days we'll pasteurise at the 3 day point and then only add another 2 days. This doesn't seem to prevent us making lovely cheese but we are careful to be extra clean on those collecting days. The girls udders are cleaned more carefully with baby wipes and our hands are washed just before milking. We'll also cover the milk straight away and run it into the house to go straight in the fridge rather than taking it in when everything is finished!

Cream cheese.

If I have enough milk I'll separate some cream and use it to fortify milk for the cheese. I can't imagine having enough to make cheese purely from cream although I'm sure it would be delicious! Our separator is from the US. Some friends brought it over when coming on holiday so that is our one official item of luxury equipment. Shame I don't have more milk to pass through it – just think of the

ice cream I could produce eh? It seems we get a tiny piddle of cream from our milk and need about 15 pints to make it worth turning the separator on. Quite a bit is lost in the cones but 15 pints will give us enough to mix with 8-10 pints of milk for delicious cheese. You can use a spigot jar (buy online) to separate quite effectively and it's a lot cheaper although slower.

Anyway, cream or no cream I let the milk stand in a covered pan in our cool dining room for 1-2 days – spending on the time of year. Less if it's warm weather. If the milk is from one days milking and I have any yoghurt on hand I'll add a dollop to give it a good start. If the milk is older it doesn't need it. We'll make cheese from 6 to 10 pints at a time.

Next I add rennet according to the instructions on the box – different brands require different amounts, but I don't usually heat it when making cream cheese. I'll make sure the milk is well stirred with no cream separation evident. The milk curdles and separates in a few hours, sometimes less and this is when I sometimes mess up by forgetting it for too long! I then strain out the whey by simply pouring the whole lot into a colander lined with a large cheese cloth. I'll then pull the corners of the cloth together, wrap an elastic band around it and hang it from a cupboard door in the kitchen (using an I.D. card neck ribbon!) with a bowl beneath to catch the remaining whey.

Once the cheese is well drained I work through it mixing in salt. Sometimes I'll

also add herbs or garlic depending on what we fancy. And that's it. Yummy, easy cream cheese.

So what is the old tin for then? OK.....Here's our Feta procedure.

Again we collect the milk but this time heat it (very slowly) according to the rennet instructions. I don't add any yoghurt, starter or culture, just plain milk. Once it's up to temperature I add the rennet & leave with the lid on for about ½ to 1 hour. Then I'll strain it as before. It tends to strain more easily as it's more sort of rubbery & well separated than the cream cheese. I then break up the curds with my (well scrubbed and very clean) hands, adding salt – quite a bit of salt as I want that feta taste.

I fit one of my cheesecloth liners to the tin and fold it over the outer rim to keep it in place. Next I'll pack the curds into the tin and cover with a circle of muslin. Now I push in the coffee plunger being careful not to drag down the cheese cloth. Push gently but firmly and whey is squeezed out of the base. I find about 6 pints of milk gives the least cheese and 15 pints gives the most for my particular tin & plunger to be effective. Too little and we run out of plunger depth but too much and it doesn't all fit!

Now, we've been meaning for some considerable time to make a basic press but as of yet it is still on the to-do list so for the moment I stand the cheese tin in a plastic lunch box (to catch whey) and wedge it in the corner of the worktop with some books. I then wedge a giant

tin of baked beans on top of the plunger to weight it down overnight.

In the morning I simply pull the formed cheese out of the tin and pop it in the fridge – after tasting of course! If I want to try and mature it into a harder cheese I'll wrap it in a sewn cheese cloth and store it in the dining room – dipping it in salt water each day. For a soft rind cheese I add bought culture powder before warming the milk for separating and then press it with a lighter weight. When maturing this rind cheese I'll wet it several times a day and keep changing the cheese cloth as often as it starts to stick to the rind. These cheese rarely happen in our house though as it's normally eaten fresh for lunch on the day it's made!

An alternative to the tin & plunger mold / press that has proved effective is the sprouter rack. Simply pack the curds straight into one of the sprouter trays and fit the next on top of it. For this to work the quantity of cheese has to be more precise for the trays to fit on top of each other and yet exert pressure.

So that's it. The dummy's guide of how not to make cheese....but it works for us. Please don't write to me if you get poorly or waste your milk but don't be afraid to experiment either - unless you work for environmental health services.

(Seriously though, use common sense and remember that non-pasteurised cheese is not recommended for young children or pregnant women.)

Anne Benson

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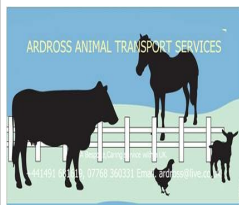
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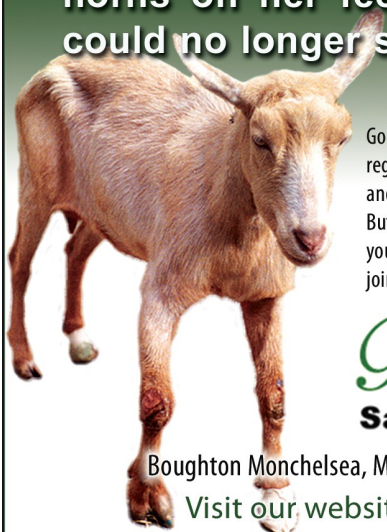
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Kids 4 Kids

The Governor of North Darfur hosts Kids for Kids Conference! We were delayed in Khartoum last month and could not be sure when we would be able to travel to Darfur to hold our Conference and Workshop and hear from the villagers first hand. People had just 36 hours notice to travel to El Fasher. Amazingly, 48 of our 59 villages were represented at the Conference. The evidence we were given from that extraordinary gathering is unique, and will have far reaching effects. Last year, I showed you the pictures of severely malnourished children who would have died if they had not reached hospital. But we did not know the extent of suffering in the far-flung villages in rural areas. The drought was severe, and the consequences tragic. Then the rains came early. People rushed to plant seed they had managed to save, but the rains stopped as quickly as they had come. By the time more fell, the plants had withered and died. What will children eat this year?

We asked people to fill in a Questionnaire. The answers are harrowing. One question - How many children died in your village last year? One villager said 50 children had died in his village alone. The reasons? Malnutrition. One answer simply said - 'thirst'. Only a tiny percentage were able to grow vegetables. Virtually no one had had protein, in any form,

the previous week. Water is far distant from most villages, some said over 30 miles in summer. Can you imagine, walking that far, in the heat of summer, for every single drop? I will not go on. We asked people to prioritise - goats, donkeys, trees, blankets, mosquito nets, our handpumps, the whole list - but it was clear that everything is so desperately needed. From what we were told we have got it right. Our approach received the full support of the Governor and of his Ministers. My friends - we must go on!

The next ten years? We have drawn up a Business Plan which is ambitious, but 100% achievable if we have your support. We need £3 million pounds over the next three years. Look round here this evening - if each of us give a goat, a donkey we will be on our way! If you go home and get your friends to support us too, the difference we can make together will be huge. Give me the means, and I can start tomorrow!

It has been my ambition for years to provide Kindergartens in each of our villages. We visited a small kindergarten in El Fasher. The sweet little upturned faces moved me beyond words. My hands were empty, I had nothing to give. All I could do, was to sing - the whole of 'Twinkle Twinkle little Star'! There was no equipment, no toys, nothing.

Their lavatory was an unhygienic patch of sand, behind an inadequate screen. Just on the sand. The way out of poverty is education, and no one knows this better than the mothers of Darfur.

There is urgent need for midwives in the far north of Darfur. Our plan is a second Midwives' Training School. This will not just help mothers in childbirth, but midwives are trusted when they advise against traditional practices, and the advice they give for post natal care and feeding, is invaluable. We need to build the school and fund the midwives.

With us tonight are some of the celebrities whose wonderful pictures helped raise over £53,000 through **Drawn...to Darfur** this summer. We have chosen our 60th village because of the pictures they drew. In our Programme this evening you can see a little toddler whose hair has turned blonde from prolonged malnutrition. We must extend our Goat Loans to more families. The protein in goats' milk is beyond price in keeping children healthy. The mother in red on your Programme had had our goats for two years when I took that picture! What a contrast. The celebrities who supported **Drawn...to Darfur** included the Prince of Wales, the Prime Minister, the Pope, many members of the House of Lords, actors, actresses, artists - our very own Patrons! - gave us desperately


needed publicity. But despite this, donations have gone down dramatically this year. We cannot repeat **Drawn...to Darfur**. I need your help! The world has forgotten Darfur, but we cannot. We were shown beyond doubt that we have been doing the right thing for the past ten years, but I am shocked at the extent of the need, today, in Darfur. Those pictures of the two little children are proof, if proof is needed, that we must not walk away.

A gift to a child is a gift of life. Happy Christmas.

Patricia Parker MBE Founder of Kids for Kids


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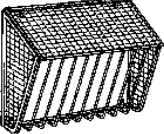
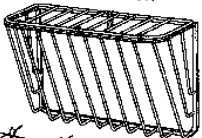



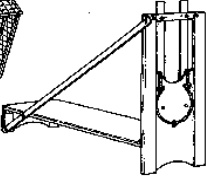








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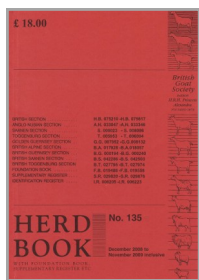
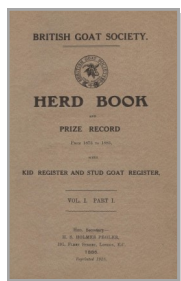
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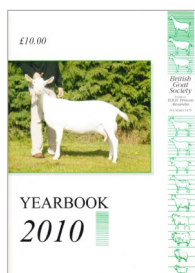
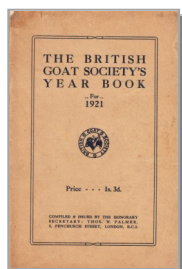
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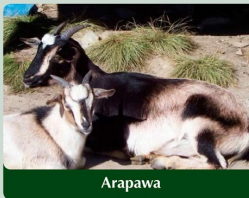
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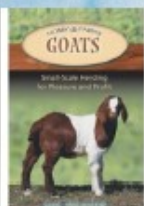


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