

International Goat Association News

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August 2006

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Greetings! Welcome to the IGA Newsletter. We are proud to provide you our readers with news, updates, special offers and information about the IGA.



• Romania Symposium Report

By Stela Zamfirescu, IGA Board Member and Regional Director – Central & Eastern Europe

For the first time in Romania an international animal breeding symposium was organized by; a local agency, an international agency, local universities, and several national and state agencies. The symposium was organized in Constanta from June 27- 30, 2006.

254 persons attended this meeting, out of which 60 were international visitors; 23 were from CEEC countries (Hungary, Albania, Polish Republic, Albania, Kosovo, Slovenia, Croatia, Turkey and Azerbaijan), 22 were from European Union countries (France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany and The Nederland), and the remaining 15 were from USA, Mexico, Venezuela, Egypt, Jordanian and Syria.

This international symposium included; 5 scientific sessions, 2 workshops and a round table, which had a large attendance of goat breeders and specialists. In addition, the IGA Board of Directors had 2 meetings. The last day of the conference was dedicated to professional visits at the Institute of Research for Sheep and Goats Breeding Palas, 2 units of cow and goat milk processing and a farm of milk goats.

The symposium was opened in Aula Magna of Ovidius University of Constanta by IGA President and President of Argosy University – Seattle, USA, Dr. Christopher Lu. In his opening address, Dr. Lu discussed the fact that IGA has promoted the protection of goat species, encouraged breeders to raise

Latest IGA News



IGA Restructures Membership Rates

IGA's Board of Directors recently restructured membership rates for 2007. As part of our commitment to improving goat research and development around the world, the Board has decided to reduce membership fees for people living in countries that are ranked below .500 on the United Nations – Human Development Index (UN-HDI).

For more information read the latest letter from IGA President, Chris Lu or [visit our website](#)

[For more information on the UN-HDI, click here.](#)

NEW Romania Conference Photos!

We would like to let our readers know that we have posted pictures from the recent International Symposium in Romania on IGA's website. For all of you who were unable to attend, we hope that this will give you a glimpse into what we experienced.

[For more Romania](#)

productivity in goat exploitations and promoted IGA concepts through international conferences from the organizations beginning on January 12, 1982.

A majority of presentations during the symposium focused on the production of goats from CEEC countries, the technologies of breeding and exploitations in some EU countries, the advantages of traditional products from goat milk and meat, the quality of goat milk and goat milk products.

[To read the rest of the report or to see some photos from the conference, click here.](#)

• FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the IGA,

IGA Restructures Membership Rates for 2007!

Recently, I sent out a letter to all IGA members and friends announcing an important decisions made by IGA's Board of Directors during our recent board meeting in Romania. Starting January 1, 2007 we will be utilizing a restructured membership rate system. IGA membership rates will be split into two categories; upper and lower. People applying for IGA membership from a country with a HDI rating below .500 will be in placed into the lower category. People applying for membership from a country with a rating of .500 or above will be in placed into the upper category.

As part of our commitment to improving goat research and development around the world, the Board has decided to reduce membership fees for people living in countries that are ranked below .500 on the United Nations – Human Development Index (UN-HDI). The Board's decision will provide better access to information for researchers, producers and extensionists living in these countries, as well as expanding IGA's global network.

To offset a portion of this fee reduction, membership rates for the upper category have been raised by \$5 from their current levels. However, this small increase will not fully meet the amount of money that IGA expects to subsidize per lower category member. If you know of any organizations that would be willing to help us by subsidizing part or all of these fees, please let us know.

For more information on the UN-HDI, visit: <http://hdr.undp.org/hd/>

We have also included a full list of countries and their ratings and links to other membership issues on the IGA website. From IGA's homepage, click on the membership section and then click on **Individual Membership**.

Please share this information with fellow IGA members and colleagues. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Christian DeVries at goats@heifer.org. Thank you for all the work that you do to make IGA a stronger organization.

[conference information and pictures, click here.](#)

Member Feature Recommendations

As we announced in the June 2006 IGA Newsletter, we have opened a new section that features IGA members. We want to know more about our members, so please send us your recommendations for who we should feature in this new series. Send us an e-mail with the name of the person you are recommending, what their goat related qualifications or experience is, and why you think this person should be featured. We will then contact the person you recommend and ask them for some additional information, including a recent photo. Remember, you cannot recommend yourself.

Please Send Country Reports/Updates

Many IGA Country Representatives have responded to our request for reports on goat production in the countries that they represent. If you haven't had a chance to send us your update, we hope you will send it soon.

[To visit IGA's website, click here.](#)

Would you like to renew your membership? Do you have any questions about the restructured rate system? Please contact Christian DeVries at goats@heifer.org. With your support the IGA will be able to continue promoting goat research, regional conferences, sharing information and experiences, and building a better future for all.

Romania Symposium wrap-up

We would like to thank all of the people that made the recent International Symposium in Romania such a great success for all attendees. This conference offered all participants the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of goats and to communicate with colleagues from around the world.

Many thanks to our Eastern and Central Europe Regional Director, Stela Zamfirescu for organizing this symposium!

Upcoming IGA Conference

I would like to invite our readers to attend an IGA Regional Conference on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands, from October 4th – 7th, 2006. Although the emphasis for this conference will be on Latin American and Mediterranean countries, the scope will be international and all are welcome to attend.

IGA, SERGA (Spanish Society of Animal Genetic Resources) and SPREGA (Portuguese Society of Animal Genetic Resources) will be meeting jointly, as well as separately.

[To read the rest of Dr. Lu's letter, click here.](#)

• Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) in Thrace, Turkey

By Robin Nicholas, IGA Member - United Kingdom and Umit Ozdemir - Turkey

CCPP is an OIE B list disease caused by *Mycoplasma capricolum* subsp. *capripneumoniae* (Mccp). Unlike other mycoplasmas such as *M. mycoides* LC/capri and *M. capricolum* which cause sporadic problems in Europe including pneumonias and contagious agalactia, Mccp is absent from Europe but can cause devastating losses particularly in naïve goat herds as was seen in Eritrea in the mid 1990s when mortality and morbidity rates exceeded 80% and 100% respectively. CCPP is characterised by its contagiousness, pulmonary lesions, abundant pleural fluid and fibrin. The exact whereabouts of CCPP is not known because few laboratories are able to culture this remarkably fastidious organism. It is believed to have been absent from Europe for over 80 years but probably



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Goats in the News

- [Transgenic Antibacterial Goat Milk, USA](#)
- [GM Goat Milk May Help Fight AIDS, Brazil](#)
- [Killer Weed Hits Kenyan Herders](#)
- [Goats Produce Spider Silk with Multiple Uses, Wyoming, USA](#)
- [Goat Milk Program to Alleviate Malnutrition, Philippines](#)
- [Brucellosis: Deadly Disease with Many Names](#)
- [Canadian Cheese Maker Builds in Wisconsin, USA](#)
- [AI Program for Farmers, Philippines](#)
- [Vermont Company Rolls Out Three New Cheeses, USA](#)
- [GTC Receives EU Drug Approval](#)
- [Goats for Economic Empowerment, Malawi](#)
- [Goat Milk Soap Producers, Alabama, USA](#)
- [Expansion of Australia's Largest Goat Abattoir Begins](#)
- [New Goat Protein Energy Drink](#)
- [Rare Bagot Goats Born, United Kingdom](#)
- [Bluetongue Virus Hits Dutch Farm, Netherlands](#)
- [Second Test-Tube Goat Born in Mathura, India](#)

present in Asian Turkey.

We have been monitoring outbreaks of an unusual respiratory disease of goats in the Thrace region of Turkey over the last few years. With the kind co-operation of the Turkish Authorities, in particular the staff of the Pendik Laboratory, Istanbul, we visited several goat flocks in the Edirne region of Thrace region which borders Greece and Bulgaria between 2003 and 2005. Many goats visited showed overt clinical signs of respiratory disease. One animal (not the sickest animal in the flock of over 400 goats) was post mortemmed on the spot and showed classical lesions of CCPP: several litres of pleural fluid, plenty of fibrin and typical pulmonary lesions. Investigations have confirmed Mccp by culture, PCR and serological tests. Naturally affected seropositive goats, taken to the laboratory in Pendik, were able to transmit disease to all healthy contacts within 2-3 weeks.

While anecdotal in nature, epidemiological evidence indicates the disease emerged in 2002 with the importation of 60 goats from one of the Turkish islands close to Thrace. It appears to have spread from this herd to at many others in the region. There may be other foci closer to Istanbul. CCPP is distinct from other mycoplasma pleuropneumonias (which are also present in this region) because of its contagiousness and high mortality/morbidity so it is probably more widespread as goat herds are semi nomadic in the region, grazing and mixing over a large area.

No vaccines are available at present in the region and what chemotherapy has been used (mainly tetracyclines) has not been very successful. This has all the makings of a major epidemic in view of the several million goats in this region. The use of fluoroquinolones may provide the best hope for controlling these outbreaks although it is unlikely to offer a cure. A full serological survey is required to determine the distribution of the disease so that control measures can be put in place. Neighbouring countries of Greece and Bulgaria should increase their surveillance for this highly contagious respiratory disease.

References

Ozdemir, U, Ozdemir, S, March, J., Churchwood, C., and Nicholas, R A J. (2005) Outbreaks of CCPP in the Thrace region of Turkey. Veterinary Record 156, 286- 287 http://www.avis.org/advances/Disease_Tempesta/nicholas/chapter_frm.asp

Special thanks to Dr. Robin Nicholas, IGA Member for this article and pictures.

For more pictures, click on a link below:

[CCPP causative mycoplasmas](#)

[Characteristic Lung Pathology - CCPP](#)

[To visit our blog or comment on this article, click here.](#)

Upcoming Events

- [International Goat Symposium, Sept. 12-14, 2006, Ontario, Canada](#)
- [KIKOFEST 2006, Sept. 14-16](#)
- [12th AAAP Animal Science Congress, Sept. 18-22, Korea](#)
- [IGA Regional Conference, October 4-7, La Palma, Canary Islands](#)
- [Goat Production Congress, Oct. 19-21, Portugal](#)
- [Symposium & Workshop, Dec. 5-9, Cochabamba, Bolivia](#)
- [International Symposium, 24-26 May 2007, Bella \(Potenza\), Italy](#)

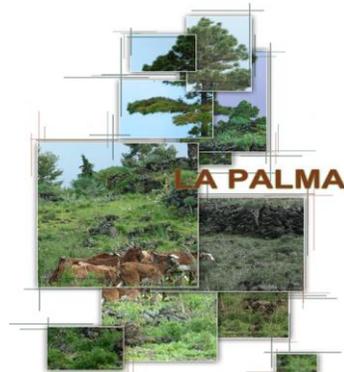
IGA's Global Partners

- [Heifer International](#)
- [University of Hawaii](#)
- [Elsevier](#)
- [Central Institute for Research on Goats \(website not working\)](#)
- [American Dairy Goat Association](#)
- [American Institute for Goat Research - E \(Kika\) de la Garza](#)
- [Vereniging Kwaliteitszorg Geitenhouderij Nederland \(VKGN\)](#)

• IGA Regional Conference, October 4-7, La Palma, Canary Islands

Characteristics of the Meeting

SERGA (Spanish Society of Genetic Animal Resources) and SPREGA (Portuguese Society of Genetic Animal Resources) are two non-profit, scientific associations which study the different genotypes of their local domestic animals. Their scientific conferences are usually held every two years, and include speakers and papers from Latin America, and they try and extend their influence throughout the Mediterranean area.



Amongst the objectives of the society is the exchange of information to help preserve and promote the local genotypes of domestic animals as a part of a sustainable development program, evaluating their products and maintaining bio- diversity.

Why should the joint meeting of SERGA- SPREGA/IGA be held in the Canary Isles?

Although the geographic scope and the disciplines undertaken may be different, the three societies have a great deal in common, ensuring that the meeting with parallel events will be interesting and relevant. The preservation and promotion of genetic goat resources is one such point. In the Canaries, for example, there are at least three breeds which are used in very different ways and account for at least 30% of the gross livestock product.

The conference will take place on the Isle of La Palma (Canary Isles) between 4th and 7th October 2006, which, due to its special orography and isolation, constitutes an unique reservoir of native breeds and is therefore an exceptionally good place for these meetings, especially as it has an excellent infrastructure and is ideal for making a technical visit to see autochthonous goats.

The scope of the conference will be international, and essentially dedicated to Latin America and the Mediterranean countries.

Other points of interest

At the same time as the scientific events there will be a meeting of SLOW FOOD (6th October), a livestock farmers' conference (5th and 6th October) and a technical visit planned for 7th October will include the installations of the Centre for Preservation of Native Breeds, a ploughing competition with Palmeran breed cattle, a show of local breeds, a craft show and a lunch with the local livestock farmers. All this will take place in San Antonio del Monte in Garafia.

General Information

IGA Information

- [Would you like to become a member or renew your IGA membership? Click here.](#)
- [2007 IGA membership information](#)
- [IGA strategic plan: 2005 to 2010](#)
- [Would you like to submit an article to Small Ruminant Research?](#)

Top 10 Article from June Newsletter

- [Provisional Program for Portuguese Goat Production Congress](#)
- [12th AAAP Animal Science Congress 2006, South Korea](#)
- [First Goat Kids With Human Genes, Belarus](#)
- [Symposium & Workshop, Dec. 5-9, Cochabamba, Bolivia](#)
- [Where Goats are Beating Cows in Milk Production, Kenya](#)
- [NEW! - Goatkeepers' Animal Health Care Manual](#)
- [Goat Production in Turkey](#)
- [Human Stem Cells Go Into Goat Embryo, China](#)
- [Goat Workshop Report, Cairo, Egypt](#)
- [Portuguese Goat Production Congress](#)

There are direct daily flights to La Palma from Barajas Airport (Madrid), Los Rodeos (Tenerife) and Gando (Gran Canaria), as well as a daily ferry between Los Cristianos (Tenerife) and Santa Cruz de la Palma.

On the day before and the day after the events there will be direct transport from the airport to the meeting place. For further information please contact smdelgado@aderlapalma.org

[To learn more about this conference, click here.](#)

• **International Symposium Announcement, 24-26 May 2007, Bella (Potenza), Italy**

Dear Colleagues,

The CRA-Unità di Ricerca Zootecnia Estensiva of Potenza is glad to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the IGA by organizing an International Symposium in Bella (Potenza), Italy on 24-26 May 2007, on the topic "The quality of goat products: models and tools for evaluation and promotion".

Animal products are the major source of income for breeders. This income depends on the characteristics of the product and its final price. So, it is important to catch the product's specificities in order to sell it with the fair price, especially for goat cheeses, the most made in small quantity directly on the farm.

As a consequence, the evaluation process is a fundamental step in the production chain.

But how to make this evaluation? Which parameters can we use and for which aims? Moreover, may these parameters be universal or, otherwise, they have to be specific for a certain area?

Aims

The Symposium aims to offer a place to discuss about the parameters and factors that better describe the quality and the relationship of a product with territory and tradition, in order to promote the quality of goat products.

Who are invited?

We invite researchers and NGO, who worked in this sense above mentioned (on fibre, meat, milk and cheese), and all those who deal with local development to attend and submit their results and, primarily, their research and developing model.

Hope to see you in Bella,

Roberto Rubino - President of Symposium

• **International Goat Symposium – Canada, September 12-14, 2006**

For three days, September 12-14, 2006 the city of Lindsay, Ontario, Canada will be hosting an International Goat Symposium which will bring together goat farmers, world class speakers and demonstrators on topics of importance to the goat industry.

The symposium program schedule will include a bus tour of local farms, several speakers, a goat show, and banquet (featuring Canadian goat products).

[For more information on this symposium, click here.](#)

• **Handbook of Milk of Non-Bovine Mammals**

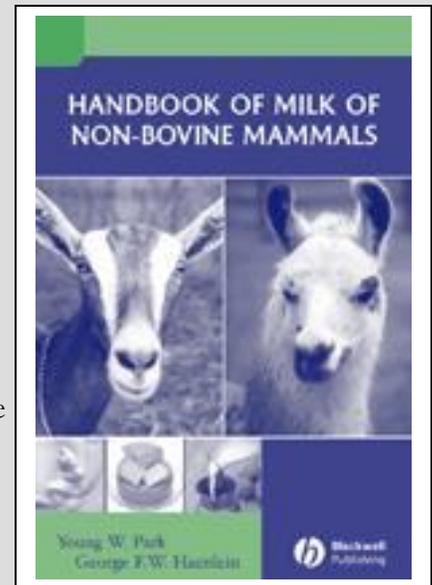
No one can deny the fact that the cow is the primary dairy animal species to provide humans with nutritious dairy foods through its abundance of lacteal secretion. The goat or other minor dairy species will never be able to compete with the cow in terms of the volume of milk production. Yet, the contribution of milks from other secondary domesticated dairy species to the survival and well-being of mankind around the world is immense and invaluable.

Testament to the importance of non-bovine milk is that more people drink the milk of goats than that of any other single species in the world.

In developing and under-developed countries, the secondary dairy species play a crucial role in supplying the food and nutritional needs of the people in those regions. Due to the unavailability of cow milk and the low consumption of meat, the milks of minor species such as goat, buffalo, sheep, and camel are critical daily food sources of protein, phosphate and calcium. Furthermore, because of important and inherent hypoallergenic properties, milks of certain species such as goat milk have been recommended as substitutes in diets for those with cow milk allergies.

Editors Park and Haenlein have assembled dairy and nutrition experts from around the world to contribute to the Handbook of Milk of Non-Bovine Mammals. Secondary dairy species addressed are the goat, sheep, buffalo, mare, camel, yak, deer (reindeer), sow, llama, alpaca, moose, musk ox, caribou, ass, elk, pinniped, polar bear and human. The book comprehensively covers the most important aspects of milk production including: trends and methods of raw milk production in different regions; compositional, nutritional, therapeutic, physico-chemical, and microbiological characteristics of the milks; processing technology; and types, distribution and consumption of the manufactured products from minor species milks. Of special note is coverage comparing specific human health attributes of milk from the various species, including nutritional, allergenic, immunological, and cultural factors. Because secondary dairy species have such a significant impact on human well-being and survival in many parts of the world, the Handbook of Milk of Non-Bovine Mammals is an essential reference book of leading-edge information for dairy scientists, nutritionists, food chemists, allergy specialists, health professionals, and allied professionals.

[For additional information or to purchase this book, click here.](#)



• **Thank you Heifer International!**

This is an open letter from Chris Lu to Heifer International President, Jo Luck. Heifer is one of several wonderful global partners that have teamed up with IGA. They also provide office space for the Director of Operations.

Dear Jo Luck,

We would like to thank Heifer International for your continued commitment to the International Goat Association. Your involvement in IGA means a great deal to us, and we appreciate your support of our efforts to highlight the importance of goats for improving the lives of people throughout the world. Together, we are making a difference – and helping to change the landscape of poverty in our world.

In 2005, with the support of more than 250 individual members and partner organizations in 63 different countries, IGA continued its mission. We're proud of our long history and reputation of promoting goat research and development around the globe. The knowledge that we share and the meaningful partnerships that we are creating can help reduce poverty and improve human life in countless ways. Through the years, with the strong support of our dedicated partners, the IGA has successfully:

- Linked a global network of producers, scientists and institutions to share best practices and help combat poverty, promote prosperity and improve quality of life for people around the world;
- United leaders from around the world through the International Conference on Goats, a premier event for industry researchers, practitioners and other devoted individuals and institutions;
- Developed a credible and reputable journal, Small Ruminant Research;
- Put science into practice by linking research institutions with rural and community development programs;
- Served as a valuable strategic and networking resource for members around the globe, helping them share vital knowledge, forge meaningful partnerships and develop exciting new technologies;
- Consistently assembled a dynamic and diverse board of directors to lead the IGA and its work into the future;
- Developed a highly regarded reputation for advocating the importance of goats in alleviating poverty through socially just, environmentally sound and economically viable goat production.

Thank you for your genuine dedication to the International Goat Association.

Yours truly,

Chris Lu