

International Goat Association News

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October 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.

• **Reproductive Patterns in the West African Dwarf Goat on the Canadian Prairies**

By Lee M. Sanford, IGA member – Canada

Background

West African Dwarf goats come from the Djallonke breed. The true type of this breed is found mainly in 15 countries in equatorial West and Central Africa. Almost all of these countries border the Atlantic Ocean. West African Dwarf is one of several common names for the Djallonke goat.

Other names are African Pygmy, African Dwarf, Cameroon Dwarf, Ghana Dwarf and Nigerian Dwarf, to list but a few (International Livestock Research Institute). Traditionally, the dwarf goat has been an important source of milk and meat for people in this part of the world.

Dwarf goats from West Africa likely arrived in North America in the 1800s. Numerous importations are known to have occurred between the late 1940s and the mid 1960s (Amber Waves). In time, registries were set up for two distinct types of African dwarfs, a meatier type named the Pygmy goat and a dairy type called the Nigerian Dwarf goat. The National Pygmy Goat Association and the Nigerian Dwarf Goat Association were formed in the United States in 1975 and 1996, respectively. The Canadian Goat Association supervises the registry of these breeds in Canada. Pygmy and Nigerian Dwarf goats are kept largely for exhibition and research, and are popular as pets. Both breeds are rare, together accounting for only 2.3% (2299 animals) of the total number of purebred goats on record in 2001 (Canadian Livestock Records).

A small herd of Pygmy goats was established at the University of Manitoba in 1975. Dr. W. Martyn Palmer (Department of Animal Science) arranged to have a few bucks and does brought in from a breeder in Cleveland, Ohio. This spawned nearly a decade of research into the reproductive endocrinology of these animals, undertaken initially by two enthusiastic graduate students from Uganda. Goats in the Manitoba herd resembled those in a colony set up some 15 years earlier by the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland. We had a true miniature goat. Animals weighed about 25 to 30 kg and had black



Latest IGA News



IGA Restructures Membership Rates

Starting January 1, 2007 IGA 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 United Nations – Human Development Index rating below .500 will be placed into the lower category. People applying for membership from a country with a rating of .500 or above will be placed into the upper category.

UN-Human Development Index countries **above .500**

- **US \$45.00 per year** – one year IGA membership* without the journal
- **US \$145.00 per year** – one year membership*, including the official journal of the IGA, *Small Ruminant Research*

UN-Human Development Index countries **below .500**

and white coloring. One buck born into our herd was strikingly red in color. This article gives a synopsis of our investigations on the Pygmy goat, focusing on the seasonal aspects of their reproduction.

Experimental Overview

The goat herd was kept in a well-ventilated, research barn where animals experienced the normal changes in photoperiod in southern Manitoba (latitude 50°N). During the year, day length (dawn to dusk) ranged from 8.1 to 16.4 hours. Ambient temperature in the barn (heated in winter) varied between 5 and 25°C. Bucks and does were penned as separate groups either adjacent to or within a few meters of each other. Goats were fed a diet of legume hay and grain. Drinking water and mineralized salt were available ad libitum.

Does were considered to be in the breeding season when they were exhibiting behavioral estrus and cyclic changes in the secretion of pituitary (LH and FSH) and ovarian (estrogen and progesterone) hormones. Times of estrus were detected by teasing does with an intact buck or by placing a vasectomized buck in with the does for 15 to 20 minutes several times each day. Endocrine changes in the blood circulation were examined during seasonal anestrus, the estrous cycle, and pregnancy and parturition.

Studies with bucks were designed to examine hourly, daily and yearly rhythms in the secretion of several reproductive hormones. Testicular size, libido and the influence of mating on reproductive and specific, stress-related hormones were also investigated. Scrotal circumference was measured with a flexible tape after bucks had been given a tranquilizer. Libido was tested by placing bucks individually with ovariectomized does brought into estrus with injections of progesterone and estrogen. Blood samples were routinely taken from the jugular vein and sera were assayed for hormone concentrations by radioimmunoassay.

[To read the rest of this article, click here.](#)

• FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the IGA,

2 Months of FREE Online Access

If you sign-up for membership now we will start your membership immediately. Usually all IGA memberships are from January to December, but sign-up now and receive online access to SRR for the last 2 months of 2006 FREE!

In addition, for people who live in countries where IGA membership will increase in 2007 to \$45, if you **sign-up before January 1, 2007 membership rates are only \$40 or \$140**. People living in countries where membership fees will be reduced can also sign-up before 2007 and they will still receive the



- **US \$20.00 per year** – one year IGA membership* without the journal
- **US \$60.00 per year** – one year IGA membership* without the journal

**All IGA memberships include online access to Small Ruminant Research and are from January to December.*

This decision will provide better access to information for researchers, producers and extensionists living in these countries, as well as expanding IGA's global network. We hope that you will join us in this effort.

For more information visit our website or click on the black and white IGA logo above.

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.

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

reduced cost. All IGA memberships include online access to Small Ruminant Research.

Why are we doing this? If you read our August Newsletter, then you know that we have initiated a new membership rate structure that will go into effect on January 1, 2007. For more information on these new rates, read the "Latest IGA News" column or click on the black and white IGA logo above.

Soon your IGA Country Representative will be contacting you personally to ask you to renew your membership for 2007. We urge you to renew your memberships as soon as possible. If you are not an IGA member, please consider joining, we need your support.

With your assistance IGA will continue promoting goat research, regional conferences, sharing information and experiences, and building a better future for all.

ALL members who have NOT renewed their membership for 2007 prior to January 31 will have their online access and/or SRR subscriptions cancelled. If you do not know when your IGA membership expires, if you know that you need to renew your membership, or if you have any questions, **DON'T WAIT**, contact Christian DeVries at goats@heifer.org.

Board Meeting

Dear board members – please remember that the next Board Meeting is scheduled to take place during the International Goat Congress in Potenza, Italy.

If anyone has an item to be added to the Board Meeting agenda, please contact Christian DeVries: goats@heifer.org, no later than June 20, 2007.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Lu

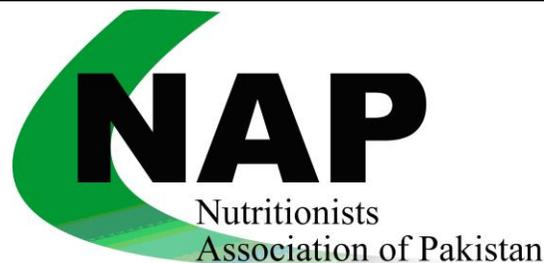
IGA President 2005-2008

• International Nutrition Conference, February 23-24, 2007, Lahore, Pakistan

Organized by NAP – Nutritionists Association of Pakistan

Important Dates:

1. Deadline for abstract submission, December 30, 2006
2. Early Registration, before December 30, 2006
3. Registration with late fee, after December 30, 2006



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.

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

Goats in the News

- [Goat Meat Leanest Kid on the Block](#)
- [Goats Key to Spread of Farming, Gene Study Suggests](#)
- [EU Will Comment on Human Risk from Prion Disease](#)
- [Animal ID System Worries Some People, USA](#)
- [Goats' Milk, Papaya and Moringa Trees to Help Malnourished Children, Mali](#)
- [October is Goat Production Month in Kentucky, USA](#)
- [Expanding Goat Industry Hungry for Information, Oklahoma, USA](#)

Call for Abstracts:

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations at the INC-2007 are welcomed. All abstracts will be reviewed by the INC-2007 Scientific Program Committee and those that are accepted will be incorporated in the final program for presentation. All post-graduate students will be provided opportunity to present their thesis research, and best paper selected among the presenters will be awarded.

Instructions to authors:

1. Abstracts must be submitted in English and should be prepared according to the typing instructions below.
2. The abstract typed in double space on standard A-4 size paper including title, author(s) name and full address should not exceed 200 words. Please provide two hard copies along with floppy in MS word format.
3. The abstract should contain specific information on objectives, experimental methods and statistical analysis used, together with synthesis of results and conclusions.
4. The Scientific Committee will select oral presentations among the abstracts submitted and notify the authors.
5. The deadline for submission of abstract is December 30, 2006.
6. All abstracts should be submitted together with the completed registration form.

Instructions for Posters:

1. Poster boards will be approximately 1.5 m wide and 1.2 m high.
2. Poster should be erected by 09:00 on February 23, 2007 and may be taken down 16:00 on February 24, 2007.
3. Posters will be displayed at Tea/Coffee area to encourage participants to examine the posters. The authors are requested to be available during this period.

Scientific Program:

The scientific program consists of four sessions i.e. Poultry Nutrition, Animal Feed Industry, General Animal Nutrition and Human Nutrition.

Special thanks to Talat N. Pasha, IGA Country Representative – Pakistan, for bringing this conference to our attention.

[Learn more about this conference, obtain a registration form, or become a member of NAP - click here.](#)

• Small Ruminant Session Report, 12th AAAP, Korea

By C. Devendra, IGA Country Representative – Malaysia

A session on small ruminants during the recently concluded 12th Asian-Australasian Animal Science Congress in Busan, Korea, was historic because it was the first in 12 meetings to focus specifically on small ruminants. There was good participation in both the oral and poster sessions which was attended by about 120 persons from 16 countries. There was a total of 59 papers and presentations (20 oral and 39 poster), of which 26 were specifically on goats. The subject areas covered were feeding and nutrition, breeding and genetics, animal health, meat science, and biotechnology, all of which reflected the

Upcoming Events

- [Penn State Sponsors Goat Conference, Nov. 4, USA](#)
- [Regional Biannual Conference, EAGODEN & UGONET, November 6-8, Uganda](#)
- [Symposium & Workshop, Dec. 5-9, Cochabamba, Bolivia](#)
- [International Nutrition Conference, February 23-24, 2007, Lahore, Pakistan](#)
- [International Symposium, 24-26 May 2007, Bella \(Potenza\), Italy](#)

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 \(VKGN\)](#)

growing interest in research and development of goats and sheep in Asia. Systems of production and post-production systems were poorly addressed. In general, the posters were of high quality, and it was also refreshing to see good participation from younger scientists from China, Korea and elsewhere. Dr. Choi Sun Ho, IGA's country representative for Korea, was very instrumental in organizing this session.

Among the lead papers presented were:

- Challenges and opportunities for R and D of small ruminants in Asia (C. Devendra),
- Recent trends in the application of new technologies for goat production in South East Asia (B.W. Norton),
- Current stats and development of small ruminants (Pu Jiabi),
- Genetic diversity and population structure of indigenous goats in Asia (Han Jianlin, et al).

Given the success of this session, it is likely that the 13th AAAP Congress, scheduled for Vietnam in 2008, will include a specific session on goats, given the expanding importance of the species in that country. This remains to be confirmed.

Following the meeting in Busan, there was a one day continuing 4th International Symposium on Agriculture, Biotechnology and Environment with a focus on "International Competitiveness of Goat Industry" sponsored by Daegu University and organized by Professor Hai Bum Song. A total of 12 papers were presented on various aspects of goat production, and included:

- Listening to farmers to improve expanded goat production,
- New technologies,
- Current status and development of goats in China.

The meeting also recognized the growing value of the Korean Black Goat breed.

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

• **Regional Biannual Conference, EAGODEN & UGONET, Uganda**

The Regional Biannual Conference of the Eastern African Goat Development Network (EAGODEN), with assistance from the Uganda Goat Network (UGONET), will take place at Mt. Elgon Hotel, Mbale, Uganda, from November 6-8, 2006. The conference intends to bring together farmers, animal scientists, veterinarians, economists, businessmen and women, and other stakeholders with interest in the goat industry.

Conference Theme – "Enhancing Goat Development for Poverty Alleviation and Improved Livelihoods"

IGA Information

- [Visit IGA's website](#)
- [Visit IGA's Blog](#)
- [General IGA Membership Information](#)
- [2006 membership application](#)
- [2007 membership application](#)
- [Learn your country's UN-Human Development Index rating](#)
- [IGA strategic plan: 2005 to 2010](#)
- [Would you like to submit an article to Small Ruminant Research?](#)

Top 10 Article from August Newsletter

- [Romania Symposium Report](#)
- [International Symposium Announcement, 24-26 May 2007, Bella \(Potenza\), Italy](#)
- [International Goat Symposium – Canada, September 12-14, 2006](#)
- [Handbook of Milk of Non-Bovine Mammals](#)
- [Transgenic Antibacterial Goat Milk, USA](#)
- [New Goat Protein Energy Drink](#)
- [Goats Produce Spider Silk with Multiple Uses, Wyoming, USA](#)

The sub-themes of the conference are:

- Pro-poor Goat development strategies under smallholder low input production systems,
- Commercialization of indigenous goat genotypes,
- Goat improvement and Animal health issues,
- Regional approach to goat development and poverty alleviation.

For more information contact: UGONET Secretariat, Attn: Dr. Jolly Hoona, Senior Vet Officer, Small Ruminants (MAAIF), P.O. Box 503, Entebbe, Uganda

E-mail: jollyhoona@yahoo.com

Or: Camillus Ahuya, FARM-Africa, P.O. Box 49502-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

E-mail: camillus@farm-africa.org

Special thanks to Dr. Christie Peacock for sending us this announcement.

[To comment on this article, click here.](#)

• International Congress of Agriculture in Fragile and Degraded Ecosystems, Cuba

The Organizing Committee is pleased to announce this important meeting where subjects related to agriculture in fragile and degraded ecosystems that will be addressed in Bayamo M. N., Granma province, Cuba, from December 7-9, 2006 at the Institute of Agricultural Investigations, Jorge Dimitrov.

Investigators, teachers, producers and students who are linked to agricultural activities and conservation of the environment are encouraged to participate.

Objective:

To exchange experiences which contribute to mitigating the negative effects of global changes, especially drought, in agriculture, the cattle ranch and the environment.

Symposiums:

- Ground Resource in Sustainable Agriculture
- Plant Genetic Biotechnology and Resources
- Sustainable Farm Production in Mountainous Ecosystems
- Rural development, Extensionism and Participative Investigation
- Sustainable Technologies for Major Cattle Production
- Environment and Sustainable Development

Workshops:

- 2nd International Workshop on Hair Sheep
- 1st International Workshop of Goat Culture
- Farming Production in Drought Conditions
- Sustainable Technologies for Animal Food Production

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

- [GM Goat Milk May Help Fight AIDS, Brazil](#)
- [Expansion of Australia's Largest Goat Abattoir Begins](#)
- [Symposium & Workshop, Dec. 5-9, Cochabamba, Bolivia](#)

- **IGA Blog**

Since we introduced the IGA Blog last year over 482 people have visited our blog to access past news, articles, and pictures, but there are other ways that you can use the blog.

Any IGA member can post a message, question, article, relevant goat information, or other IGA business. You can also comment on the posts and articles that have already been published on the blog by fellow members.

How do you post a comment?

At the end of each posting there is a signature, and each signature contains a comment link (example: [posted by Director of Operations ~ IGA @ 10:29 AM 0 comments](#)) If you click on this comment link it will bring up a new page titled, "Leave your comment." You can then choose to create an account with the Blogger service, choose Other and you can simply type in a name, or chose Anonymous. This will allow you to comment on the posting that you read.

In order to "post" an original message (not a comment), you must contact Christian De Vries, goats@heifer.org. He will verify that you are a current IGA member and will send you the necessary information to activate your Blog account.

Why should you participate?

We hope that you will use the IGA blog as a forum to exchange information, best practices, improve member communication and global connectedness. Members of IGA include; leading scientists, producers and institutions with unique resources and expertise. Through sharing ideas and knowledge the IGA blog will provide important information to people around the globe. With your help we can make this blog an educational outlet to promote goat research and development around the world.

Those who participate in this blog will; be better informed, obtain a broader understanding of global and local goat research and production, and have the opportunity to ask questions or share how they are improving goat production where they live.

If you have problems using this service please contact Christian De Vries, IGA Director of Operations at: goats@heifer.org

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

- **Abstract Deadline Extended for International Symposium in Italy!**

In order to meet the request of many of you, we gladly announce that the deadline for the Abstract submission has been extended to **15 November**.

Please submit all articles immediately to the Symposium Secretariat:

Lucia Sepe, CRA- Unità di ricerca Zootecnia Estensiva - Potenza, Via Appia, sn - BELLA SCALO 85054 MURO LUCANO (PZ) - ITALY

Tel. +39 0976 72915 / Fax +39 0796 79930

E-mail: lucia.sepe@entecra.it

[Register online now! Click here!](#)