



March 2009

### In This Issue

Goat News	
Canary Island Fellowship	1
Information from La chèvre	1
Goat Products	1
Jämtland Goat Cheese	2
Book Announcement: <i>How to Raise Goats</i>	2
Effect of Sex and Carcass Weight	2
In vivo estimation of goat carcass	3

Information from La chèvre	3
Country Report from Heifer China	3-4, 8
Goat News from Around the World	5-7
IGA News	
Editorial	1, 8
IGA Training Centers	9
Events and Activities	
IGA Board Meeting	9
10th International Conference on Goats	9

# International Goat Association Newsletter

KEEP INFORMED — STAY IN TOUCH — GET INVOLVED

Welcome to the IGA newsletter. We are proud to provide you our readers with the latest goat related news, updates, special IGA offers and information.

## Editorial

*Dear Members of IGA:*

### Value in our services

The International Goat Association continues to affirm the mission and vision of our organization as we established in our strategic plan.

Our objective is to develop activities that will improve our contribution to goats and small livestock in favor of a more sustainable and local food supply, prosperity for all humankind and the fight against hunger and poverty.

This important goal needs to be strengthened because of the present challenges that are being faced by goat

producers and the livestock sector in general.

### A World Facing Dramatic and Urgent Challenges

We all know about such global challenges as: climate change, desertification, a lack of clean safe drinking water, overpopulation, soil erosion, wasted natural resources and a loss of biodiversity.

Three global challenges need to be explored further because of their seemingly contradictory affects on our planet.

The need to produce more to feed the

human population.

The damaging environmental effect of livestock and livestock-related anthropogenic activities.[1]

The need to produce locally to avoid negative externalities.

### Promoting Our Collective Awareness

We really need to promote a collective awareness on these challenges, the dangers and opportunities. The relationship between using locally raised livestock to feed the earth's human population needs more attention. Our

*Continued on page 8*

## Canary Island Government Fellowship for African Citizens

The Canary Island Government is offering fellowships for Ph.D. and Master Studies on Canary Island (Spain). Applications should be submitted from March 20 to April 20. Fellowships will

cover: study costs, transport, housing and subsistence, a small monthly salary and medical insurance. Spanish language knowledge is mandatory. For more information visit [www.pbca.es](http://www.pbca.es).

Contact persons:

Dr. Juan Capote ([jcapote@icia.es](mailto:jcapote@icia.es))

Dr. Anastasio Argüello ([aarguello@dpat.ulpgc.es](mailto:aarguello@dpat.ulpgc.es))

## Goat Products: Symbols for Biodiversity and Local Foods

Contributed by **Jean-Paul Dubeuf**

Slow Food International

([www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com)) is involving more than 80,000 people from 850 local chapters to promote taste education and

fight for the preservation of agricultural biodiversity.

One of their goals is local projects that work to protect small scale producers and to safeguard quality artisan products.

Each local chapter has defined what they called sentinel products they help and support. Many of them are goat products or related to goat activities.

## Jämtland Goat Cheese (Sweden) Ripened in Caves

Contributed by Jean-Paul Dubeuf

Goat cheese ripened in caves is a typical production of Central Sweden, mainly in the Jämtland and Härjedalen Provinces. It has been produced for centuries during Summer in small cheese making units with crude milk from goats grazed locally. Many goats are still grazing in high ranges. The local Svensk Lantrasget breed is in danger with just 2,500 heads, but it is well adapted to the hard and wet climate of Central Sweden.

The cheese is made each morning with milk from both the previous evening and

fresh morning milk. Each rectangular cheese is pressed manually and is kept for 6-7 months to ripen in natural caves to favor the development of the rind. Once threatened by the European hygienic regulations, the producers have preserved their tradition with excellent hygienic conditions. However, only six producers still remain to produce this unique delicious cheese.

Some producers to contact by email:

[Inger.nilsniils@tele2.se](mailto:Inger.nilsniils@tele2.se)

[gert@rocketmail.com](mailto:gert@rocketmail.com)

[info@hillsandsgetgard.com](mailto:info@hillsandsgetgard.com)

[Helen@gardnas.se](mailto:Helen@gardnas.se)

[Ullagettran@hotmail.com](mailto:Ullagettran@hotmail.com)

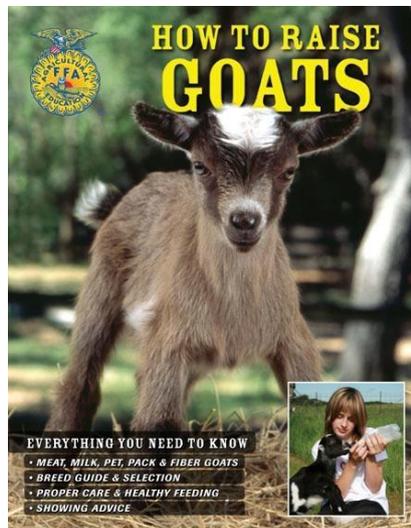


## Book Announcement: *How to Raise Goats*

If you're thinking of acquiring a goat or starting a herd, for whatever reason, *How to Raise Goats: Everything You Need to Know* might be the book for you.

Written by Carol Amundson, the former editor of the Minnesota Dairy Goat Association newsletter, this approachable guide covers every component of raising goats for fun or profit, meat or milk. Beginning with the basics, history and behavior, types and breeds, *How to Raise Goats* answers all a prospective owner's questions about getting a goat, from land requirements and regulations to choosing or assessing particular animals or breeds. Details about housing, feeding, breeding, milking, training, showing, transporting and marketing, make this an indispensable manual for every prospective goat owner.

*How to Raise Goats* is published in



association with the National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, dedicated to agricultural education since 1928, and has

been reviewed and approved in accordance with industry standards.

Mrs. Amundson has been raising goats since 1989 on a farm near Scandia, Minnesota, with her husband and daughter.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7603-3157-6

\$19.95 US • £12.99 UK • \$21.95 CAN

Pub. Date: April 2009

Trade Paper / 8.25 x 10.625 / 192 pages / 249 color & 10 b/w photos

Imprint: Voyageur Press

Available in bookstores everywhere or through [www.voyageurpress.com](http://www.voyageurpress.com).

For trade inquiries, contact us at [trade@mbipublishing.com](mailto:trade@mbipublishing.com) or (800) 458-0454.

## Effect of sex and carcass weight on sensory quality of goat meat of Cabrito Transmontano

Written by S. Rodrigues and A. Teixeira

The main purpose of this work was the characterization of Cabrito Transmontano goat kid carcass and meat, which is a Protected Origin Designation product.

The effects of sex and carcass weight were studied. Sensory attributes of toughness, juiciness, flavor intensity, flavor quality, odor intensity, fiber presence (stringy), sweet intensity, and overall acceptability were evaluated in 60 males and females allocated to 3 carcass weight groups: 4, 6, and 8 kg. Sensory quality of meat was evaluated by a trained

taste panel of 11 experts in 5 sessions. Generalized Procrustes analysis was performed, and 93% of total variability was explained by the 2 first factors (axes). Correlation between sensory traits and factors 1 and 2 allowed the factors to be renamed as toughness/aroma and juiciness/acceptability, respectively. Procrustes analysis indicated that a sex effect was detected by experts. Meat from males presented greater juiciness, flavor quality, and general acceptability than did meat from females. Cabrito Transmontano Protected Origin Designation includes animals from 4 to 9 kg of carcass weight. However,

differences among them can be important, because the taste panel found differences between animals from distinct carcass weight ranges. Lighter weight carcasses were considered more tender with less flavor and odor intensity than heavier carcasses.

Key Words: Cabrito Transmontano • goat/kid • meat • Procrustes analysis • sensory trait

J. Anim. Sci. 2009. 87:711-715.  
doi:10.2527/jas.2007-0792

© 2009 [American Society of Animal Science](http://www.asaspubs.org/)

## In vivo estimation of goat carcass composition and body fat partition by real-time ultrasonography

Written by A. Teixeira, M. Joy, and R. Delfa

The accuracy of ultrasound measurements to assess goat carcass composition and the partition of body fat depots was evaluated. An ultrasound machine with a 5-MHz probe and image analysis was used to assess in vivo fat thickness and muscle depth in 56 Spanish Celtiberica adult goats, in lumbar and breast body regions. The goats were slaughtered and the weight of body fat depots recorded. Measurements corresponding to the in vivo ultrasound fat thickness and muscle depth were taken on carcasses. The left sides of carcasses were completely dissected into their components. The best relationships ( $r = 0.94$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ) between in vivo and carcass measurements of fat thickness were obtained when measurements were taken at the sternum, and the best anatomical point was located between the

third and fourth sternbrae. The best correlation coefficients ( $r = 0.84$ ) for muscle depth were found for measurements taken between the third and the fourth lumbar vertebrae at 2 cm from the middle of the vertebral column. Body weight and ultrasound measurements were used to fit the best multiple regression equations to predict carcass composition and the partition of body fat depots. All equations, with the exception of those for muscle quantity, omental, and total body fat depot amounts, were computed after performing a logarithmic transformation. Body weight in association with the ultrasound measurement taken at largest LM muscle depth, between the first and second lumbar vertebrae accounted for 90% of the muscle weight. Body weight was the first variable admitted into the prediction models of muscle, mesenteric fat, and total body fat and accounted for 82, 67, and 79% of the variation in tissue

weights, respectively. The ultrasound measurement of fat thickness taken at the third sternbrae was the first variable admitted into the prediction models for intermuscular fat, kidney and pelvic fat, and total carcass fat and accounted for by 73, 75, 71, and 79% of the variation in the weight of these fat depots, respectively. The ultrasound measurements taken in the breast region, particularly at the third and fourth sternbrae, were the most suitable for assessing fat thickness. The results of this experiment suggest that BW associated with some in vivo ultrasonic fat measurements allow the accurate prediction of goat carcass composition and body fat depots.

Key Words: body fat • carcass composition • goat • ultrasound

J. Anim Sci. 2008. 86:2369-2376.  
doi:10.2527/jas.2007-0367

© 2008 [American Society of Animal Science](#)

### Information from La chèvre

Special thanks to Damien Hardy, Editor-In-Chief of "La chèvre" and IGA member

#### About Capr'Innov

The second edition of the "Capri'innov" Show took place on November 26-27, 2008, in Niort (Poitou - Charentes) within the heart of the main French goat milk producing region. This show has received more than 3,000 visitors who met the hundred exhibitors of equipment and services for goat keepers. The visitors, coming from all over France and abroad, greatly appreciated this gathering and the dialogue between professionals in the goat sector. The next edition will

take place in 2010.

A national plan to revive the goat activity in France decided by the National Inter professional Association (ANICAP)

The National Inter Professional Goat Association gathered goat breeders and dairy goat societies. Together they have outlined a very important plan to support the goat sector and provide the demand of the market for goat milk. This plan called, "To live well by producing goat milk" aims to develop the income of breeders, to help them keep active, and to develop a more positive image of goat keepers.

To improve their income, extension services will be standardized. A diagnosis will help breeders to achieve a clear idea of their own strengths and weaknesses, and to identify points for improvement with the support of their technician. New settlements and transmission of farms from retiring breeders will be promoted. A survey of the creation and disappearance of goat units will be set up. The guide to settle in goat farming will be updated. Lastly, the plan will communicate key information to technicians, farmers and future breeders thanks to a new internet site: [www.bienvivredulaitdechèvre.fr](http://www.bienvivredulaitdechèvre.fr).

### Country Report from Heifer International China

China has a long history of raising goats going back over 3000 years ago. With fast development China has taken first place in total herd size. By 2006 there had been 199 million heads in stock, 24% of the world total, and 156 million fattened, up to 40% of the world total.

Goat raising has been an important means of income generation for millions of China's rural families, making up 30%

to 50% of the whole family income. Goat raising also created a boom in the feed industry, including grass seed industry, and process industry. Thirdly it diversified nutrition resources for many Chinese families. For many rural minority communities, goats are treated as one of the family and also considered as wealth.

In order to meet demand goat breeding has been shifted from hair type to meat

type. Early in this century China imported Boer goat blood to improve the local ones which indicates the efforts and practices. China also has several fine meat type breeds, such as Nanjiang Huang goat, Chengdu Ma goat, and Matou goat, etc.

Continued on page 4

## Country Report from Heifer International China (continued from page 3)

With great potential in China's domestic markets, some bottleneck issues have been identified. Specific high yield meat breeds still need to be worked on. Currently each Chinese citizen only consumes 2 kg of meat each year leaving huge room for expansion. In short, stable crossbreeding combinations and multi-dimensional crosses need to be promoted. Nutrition and management should be highly stressed. Lastly industrialization needs to be scaled up.

Heifer International's China program has helped hundreds of thousands of rural families raise goats, and plant grass, to promote zero-grazing. Mainly Heifer China encourages farmers to raise crossbreeds with local blood, which is one way to improve growth rate, and localize animals.

Following are some stories from Heifer China projects.

### Story #1

Aergege is a woman living in Xincun Village of Xide County, Sichuan Province. Two men and one woman in her family live on 0.8 acres of arable land and a few heads of animals. Her whole family had only RMB 1,000 yuan (\$147 USD) annual income before Heifer entered her village.



When Heifer started working in her village in 2005, Aergege became a project farmer and got 20 does and 1 buck. She actively participated in technical trainings on forage management, nutrition and offspring management, etc.

During the past three years 45 kids have been born and the survival rate was 100%. The project goats and offspring brought her RMB 6,600 (USD \$795), which tripled the family income.

Moreover, the goat manure was used to fertilize their farmland, thus the crop production also increased. Her family has

experienced a dramatic change.

Heifer International asks participants who have received a goat to pass on a goat. Aergege passed on the gift to another needy family in November 2008. She recalled the promise she made on the day she received her Heifer goats in 2005: "One day my family will improve with Heifer's help, and I will help other poor families with similar situation as I have. I will try to pass the gift ahead of schedule as early as I can." During the POG ceremony she received an award of a red flower, to show her commitment to passing on the gift, from the project partners, leaders from Sichuan and Chongqing Regional Offices and Heifer China.

Story and photo by Aniumo, project partner in Xide county.

### Story #2 – The Love Postman

A'en Lequ was one of the first recipients of Heifer's Meigu Women's Goat Breeding Project recipients, also the leader of Yiqugu Village project community. Since Heifer's implementation, he has been very active in his community: conducting a baseline survey along with project partners regardless of tiredness, introducing Heifer's poverty alleviation values and importance, guiding villagers to build up pens and change traditional feeding method, mobilizing them to plant trees, leading them to plant grass for winter storage, activating other recipients to pass on the gift. He has done a great deal for holistic community development. With the support of Heifer and his diligence, he has passed on five goats as gifts, the values of the 12 Cornerstones and scientific breeding.

Having 10 Meigu goats in stock now, he



had already sold 15 with a cash income of RMB 5,800. Now he tells everyone

"Heifer is good, the income is better, life quality is enhanced, the environment is cleaner and our minds have changed. We can live a much better life if we work on diligently!"

Story and Photo by Jiwu Lamo, Project Partner from Meigu county.

### Story # 3

Liu Hanyou, 50 years old, lives with his wife Li Guilin and two daughters, in Taigushi village of Xinchengzi Town, Miyun, Beijing. With only 0.48 acres of farmland they were only able to earn 1,500 RMB per year.



In 2002, Heifer China came to Taigushi village. Through the 12 Cornerstones training, Liu Hanyou got to know Heifer International and became a project recipient. The couple considered using the fund from the project to make well-bred goats. After a few days Liu Hanyou received the passing-on gift fund with 4,000 RMB, in addition, he borrowed some money from his relatives and bought 30 goats to raise. From then on the seeds that Heifer planted grew a new hope for his family.

Heifer Project provided the initial funds for producing and organizing project recipients to attend Cornerstones and skill trainings. Liu Hanyou, seldom walking out before but active in this project, was enlighten by the training and deeply shook by the principle of passing on the gift, at the same time his feeding skill was also improved.

By 2003 they were able to earn 10,000 RMB, which was hard for him to ever imagine earning before this project. Smiles have appeared on their faces. Having suffered from illiteracy, the couple determined to support their

Continued on page 8

## Goat News from Around the World

### [U.S. Approves First Drug from DNA-altered Animals](#)

U.S. health officials on Friday approved the first drug made using genetically engineered animals despite lingering concerns over health and environmental implications.

The drug, GTC Biotherapeutics Inc's anti-clotting therapy Atryn, is an intravenous therapy made using a human protein gathered from female goats specially bred to produce it in their milk.



<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE5154OE20090206>

### [EFSA Evaluates TSE Risk from Small Ruminants' Milk](#)

In an opinion published today, EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) assessed the human and animal exposure to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSEs) agents from milk and milk products derived from sheep and goats. The Panel concluded that milk and milk products from flocks affected by classical scrapie, and to a lesser extent from sheep and goats in general (due to the presence of infected animals showing no clinical signs), could expose animals and humans to the causal agents of this TSE. As classical scrapie is an animal disease and has not been found to affect humans, these findings have implications for animal rather than human health.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/128445.php>

### [Scientists to Clone Pashmina Goat, India](#)

A team of scientists from Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana are working on a project to clone the famous pashmina goat, the success of which is expected to give boost to the dwindling trade in the sought-after fur.

Under a World Bank aided project, the scientists from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and National Dairy Research Institute will use somatic cells from the

ear of a goat to produce the clone.

<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Scientists-to-clone-pashmina-goat/426021/>

### [Goat Milk May Soon Save Millions of Lives, California, USA](#)

A research team at UC Davis is hoping to save millions of lives with a product created from bioengineered animals. Just last week the FDA approved the first drug for humans, created from a similar animal.

But what the Davis team has created, would work in an even more basic way. Being goats they don't get excited about much.

But these animals on the UC Davis campus could be on the forefront of a medical revolution -- preventing diseases that claim millions of lives.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/health&id=6655827>

### [Goat Farmers Milk Good Times, Australia](#)

Once confined to specialty stores, goat's milk and cheese are increasing their share of supermarket fridge space as demand rises.

New figures from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation show a 25 per cent increase in annual goat's milk production within three years to six million litres.

"What was once a small cottage industry is now slowly evolving, with bigger farms being established and factories expanding," the corporation's Roslyn Prinsley said.

Margaret and Ken Vinicombe, who launched Kytren Fine Quality Goat Cheese in Gidgegannup in 1996, are among 65 commercial dairy goat operators across Australia.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=2&ContentID=123817>



### [Dairy Industry Continues to Grow, Wisconsin, USA](#)

Wisconsin's dairy goat industry is growing.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service reports that Wisconsin had 40,000 milk goats on Jan. 1. Its inventory was up more than 14 percent, or 5,000 goats, from the year before.

NASS says Wisconsin continues to lead the nation in the number of milk goats.

Nationally, the number of milk goats grew 4 percent in the past year to 335,000 as of Jan. 1.

However, the number of all goats dropped 2 percent to a little more than 3 million. NASS says that's the first drop since it started publishing goat numbers in 2005.

[http://www.midwestagnet.com/Global/story.asp?S=9786237&nav=menu1585\\_4](http://www.midwestagnet.com/Global/story.asp?S=9786237&nav=menu1585_4)

### [GM Goats to Make Breast Milk, Russia](#)

Scientists are genetically engineering goats to produce the same milk as a human mother.

They claim the breakthrough will allow babies whose mothers can't feed them to receive all the goodness of breast milk.

Researchers behind the experiments reject fears of Dr Frankenstein-style tinkering with nature.

They say their work will also lead to the development of medicines exploiting the antibiotic qualities of lactoferrin, a protein found in women's milk.

The revelations follow research by scientists in Russia

and Belarus in which male mice were implanted with human genes.

<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1141105/Were-raising-GM-goats-make-human-breast-milk-say-Russians.html>

## Goat News from Around the World (continued from page 5)

### [Future for Dairy Goat and Sheep Industry Bright, Australia](#)

Locally produced goat and sheep milk products are in demand and competing strongly with cheaper imports, according to new research on the industry.

The positive news for producers is contained in a set of reports and up-to-date manuals on goat and sheep milk products from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC).

The reports include an updated dairy goat manual, a new dairy sheep manual and a summary of the current status of the industry, Farming and Marketing Goat and Sheep Milk Products.

<http://wellington.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/future-for-dairy-goat-sheep-industry-bright/1424581.aspx>

### [Bill Changes Goats' Milk Standards, Vermont, USA](#)

A Vermont cheese company needs goats' milk so the Vermont House passed a bill aimed to help fill the shortage.

Lawmakers say Vermont Butter and Cheese Company needs about 10 million pounds of goats' milk, but can only get four million pounds-- half of which comes from out of state.

One obstacle: milk safety standards are set the same for cows and goats even though their biology is much different. That meant farmers could not use some goats' milk. So lawmakers set different standards for goats and cows.

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=9842848&nav=4QcSdcR6>

### [Angoras in the Spotlight, Australia](#)

Mohair value adding and goat meat industry trends were key themes at the Australasian Angora Goat and Mohair Show in Horsham last week.

The show included shearing demonstrations, mohair classing, goat judging, guest speakers and an awards presentation.

Exhibitors entered about 150 goats in the Australian Angora Goat and Mohair Show.

Horsham's Sylvania Park Mohair Farm

principal Rowena Doyle was on an organising committee for the show.

She said the show attracted the largest number of goats for the appraisal class in the show's 32-year history.

Mrs Doyle said animals came from New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. She said a New Zealand delegation also attended the event.



Nick van den Berg from Cherry Gardens, South Australia tosses a fleece at the Australasian Angora Goat and Mohair Show at Maydale Pavilion.

<http://wimmera.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/angoras-in-the-spotlight/1443468.aspx>

### [Importing More Goats and Sheep, Philippines](#)

The Philippines plans to import this year more than 3,000 goats and sheep from Australia to help improve the quality of the local livestock breed, Australian Ambassador Rod Smith said.

Smith said the goats would be used primarily for cross-breeding, to increase meat production and to capitalize on the rising demand for goat's milk.

He said 1,900 Boer (meat goats), Anglo Nubians and Saanens (dairy goats) and 1,200 Dorper sheep were due to arrive in the Philippines over the next two months, after a series of visits by Philippine breeders to farms in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria facilitated by the Australian Trade Commission.

<http://business.inquirer.net/money/breakingnews/view/20090106-181611/Philippines-to-import-goats-sheep>

### [Livestock ID Scheme Kicks in for Sheep and Goats, Australia](#)

The Riverina's sheep and goat farmers have to comply with the National

Livestock Identification Scheme requirements from this month.

The scheme requires all sheep and goats born after January 1, 2009, to be tagged.

Bill O'Halloran from the Department of Primary Industries says tagging is essential to stay internationally competitive.

"Industry has now decided that from the point of view of making sure every animal is identified and can be easily identified back to the last property or even the property of birth, we need to have everything tagged," he said.

"That was made even more important this year by some European Union audits that

identified some animals at abattoirs that they inspect across Australia that they didn't have tags and they weren't terribly happy about it."

The DPI says goats in the western division are still exempt from tagging requirements as long as they're being moved to slaughter either directly or via a depot property.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/01/07/2460756.htm>

### [Sales of Sheep and Goats' Milk Cheese Growing, United Kingdom](#)

Sales of sheep and goats' milk cheese are growing faster than cows' milk cheese sales, says Waitrose.

The supermarket says the category grew by more than 30 per cent in 2008.

Sales of Waitrose Fine Fettle sheep's milk cheese for example were up by no less than 900 per cent year on year.

Other cheeses made from sheep's milk were also seeing a significant uplift in sales, some of them selling four times as much as the time in the previous year.

Welsh Organic Pant-ys-Gawn, made from goats' milk, showed a 21 per cent increase in sales during the year.

<http://www.farmersguardian.com/story.asp?sectioncode=38&storycode=23575>

## Goat News from Around the World (continued from page 6)

### [Liver Fluke in Sheep, Australia](#)

Dreaded liver fluke is in 60 pc of the farms on the eastern seaboard of Australia despite the years of drought. These figures according to the Virbac Animal Health study recently completed on 500 properties, using the latest in technology.

April and May are the times fluke is normally picked up by sheep and cattle, when the autumn rains arrive. The parasite's host snail can survive drought by going underground, then becomes unearthed by the rain.

The parasite which is alive and around the size of a thumb nail, goes through the digestive system and lodges itself in the liver, where the feed on the food extracts and blood of the animal causing a severe loss in condition.

The livers are not fit for human consumption, when the animal is slaughtered and the livers known as corded livers, because the veins in which the flukes are living in swell up like cords and vibrate with the movements of the parasites.

<http://www.farminguk.com/news/Australia-Liver-fluke-in-sheep.9788.asp>

### [Study Group Says Cloned Animals Safe for Food, Japan](#)

A study group for Japan's top safety watchdog said cloned animals are safe for food, the first step in a series of decisions needed before the watchdog makes recommendations to the government.

With several meetings pending by a higher-level committee of experts, it will take months before the Food Safety Commission reports its assessment on the safety of food in production using the controversial reproductive technology.

The United States in January last year opened the door to bringing meat and milk from cloned cattle, hogs and goats and their offspring into the food supply.

"The working group focused on the assessment of the health of cloned cattle and hogs. The assumption of their discussion was that if such animals are healthy, food made from them would be safe," said Kazuo Funasaka, a spokesman at the commission, said on Tuesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/>

### [healthNews/idUSTRE50J1SV20090120\\_cyprusguide/cyprus.aspx?ID=5076](#)

#### Cyprus Pressing EU to Save Cyprus Goats

Cyprus is doing its best to convince the European Union to reach a decision on scrapie that will have the least possible consequences on the farming sector, Agriculture Minister Michalis Polynikis said yesterday.

In a broad meeting with agricultural organisations, cheese producers and sheep and goat farmers, the Minister informed those implicated on the government's actions to deal with scrapie. Polynikis said efforts were being made to convince the European Commission to reach a decision that would have the least consequences on the Cyprus farming sector.

He explained that Cyprus was facing the most serious problems with scrapie in the entire EU, adding that there between 20,000 and 25,000 vulnerable sheep on the island, and around 80,000 infected goats.

"The problem was created by the stance of the French Food Safety Authority to deal with sensitive sheep and goats in the same way as mad cow disease is dealt with, asking for a complete ban on meat and milk," said the minister, adding that this contradicted European views that milk and sub-products from sensitive animals posed no risk to public health.

"From the very first moment, there were intense and persistent interventions to the European Commission, dispatching a delegation of the Veterinary Services, as well as sending a letter to the Agriculture Commissioner, Mariann Fischer Boel and Health Commissioner Androula Vassiliou," Polynikis pointed out.

Referring to the government's plans, Polynikis said the aim was to delay a final decision on the matter from Europe until the end of the year (the EU is expected to reach a conclusion at the end of this month) so that the necessary interventions can be made to alter France's view on the issue.

<http://www.cyprusdirectory.com/>

#### Certified Organic Goat Cheese a Unique Niche Market, Canada

Shelley Campbell of Earltown has carved out a unique niche for herself in Nova Scotia agriculture. She and her husband Malcolm are the province's only certified organic dairy goat farmers.



They milk 50 of the 100 goats in their Tucker Meadow Farm herd of Alpine, Nubian, La Mancha and Sanaan breeds.

The couple started in 2003 with 15 goats, deciding from the beginning to seek organic certification. Shelley Campbell explains, "They (the goats) had to be on certified organic feed for one year. Also, all our hay and pasture land had to be certified organic."

That same year the Campbell's got a loan to build a cheese plant; in 2004 they acquired a processing license to make cheese.

Two reasons propelled the Campbell's into organic dairy goat cheese production. "I was always a dairy herd person. A friend had cancer and was looking for organic yogurt; but it was hard to buy. She said this is something you should be doing," Campbell says.

The couple originally wanted to get into organic dairying with cows, but were dissuaded because of the price of quota and the challenge of achieving organic certification within the quota system.

Dairy goats were the least cost, least hassle alternative, she says. "You just go under the radar."

<http://atlanticfarmfocus.ca/index.cfm?sid=199739&sc=586>

## Country Report from Heifer International China (continued from page 4)

two daughters to go to school for a better life no matter how much they will cost. They no longer have to worry about the tuition fees for their daughters.

In 2004, the house of another project farmer Wang Zuolin caught fire and more than 40 goats together with the fold were completely burnt. Liu Hanyou and other farmers donated six adult goats to help Wang Zuolin resume the

production, which left a deep impression not only to the project recipients, but also the entire village, from then on helping others became a public trend.

Liu Hanyou realized that farmers earned extremely low prices from their hard work. He contacted slaughter houses and found that the purchase price for traders was 1 RMB less than the sale price of slaughter houses. He began to actively

search for sales channels. As a result he didn't just solve the sales problem he increased was actually able to increase farmer's income. Now all the farmers nearby ask this warm-hearted man to help them sell their livestock.

Story by Han Fuquan, photo by Ma Fengying from Xiaomuniu Beijing Miyun Service Center.

## Editorial (continued from page 1)

current situation demands a well argued and presented response to these challenges.

### Goats - A Complex and Diverse Reality

More than any other animals, goats are an emblematic animal of this situation. Often they are accused of damaging the environment, but through sustainable animal management techniques they can be adapted to any climate and diet. When used right they can be a tool for protecting our planet and benefiting the populace.

To consider the goats as the banner for change we have to consider their diverse and ambiguous reality. Most of the world herd is still owned by poor farmers that could improve their daily food supply and income through goats or small herds of cows, sheep and so on, without heavy inputs.

Although goats are often associated with marginal lands and poor rural areas, the reality has changed and is very complex. In many areas, they are seen negatively for their supposed harmful effects on the environment.

Our objective must be to avoid confusion and to be comprehensive. We have identified with Christie Peacock and David Sherman, and their recent paper, "Sustainable goat production - some global perspectives." We urgently need, what is presently lacking, a comprehensive and solid study of the real positive and negative effects of goats, village herds and their real local functions with a focus on the social and local development of rural zones.

- What is related to industry and what is related to social welfare?

- We must take in consideration that in more and more areas, there is a well structured goat sector of industrial type.

Our aim is to link research, extension, production and processing on goats and small livestock production by sharing information, experience, and best practices for the sustainable benefit of humankind, to alleviate poverty, to promote prosperity to supply food and to improve the quality of life.

Such a mission is not simple and so it is necessary to clearly define our ideas on what it means.

### Local and Global Diversity with Complementary Activities

A commitment to fostering information, scientific knowledge, education and dialogue in favor of a rural sustainable development through goats and village herds, activities that protect bio and cultural diversity, respect for the environment, and local food supplies.

### IGA's Traditional and Successful Activities Supporting Applied Research

- High quality publications (Small Ruminant Research).
- Organization of International and Regional Conferences on Goats.
- Grants for young researchers and special studies.

### Expertise and Action that Favors Innovation and Development

- Support for local projects in collaboration with NGO and Development agencies.
- Support training and education by promoting and defining Educational programs, and by supporting the

creation of IGA recognized Teaching/Training Centers.

### Produce Solid Comprehensive Information

- For Civil Society, to promote animal production and pastoralism by didactic documents, for administration and public Services (edition of dossiers, lobbying).
- For farmers to sponsor and support the edition of didactic handbooks, documents for local projects (with NGO), to develop documents in local languages.

### Actual Items to be Developed at Several Levels

- Production systems, local forage and breeds,
- Development processes and governance,
- Product qualification, promotion and certification,
- Environmental and social impact of goats and livestock activities (including gender aspects),
- Disease control and hygiene,
- Management, nutrition and selection,
- Voluntary attitudes and a pro-active approach,
- Awareness of challenges for rural development,
- A network that assists this global movement by generating further discussion, research, implementation and innovation.

Sincerely,

Jean-Paul Dubeuf  
President of IGA

[1] FAO report on livestock systems

IGA Mission: The IGA promotes goat research and development for the benefit of humankind, to alleviate poverty, to promote prosperity and to improve the quality of life.

IGA Vision: IGA is a global network of people and organizations linking research and production by sharing information, experience, and best practices. IGA advocates socially just, environmentally sound and economically viable goat production. IGA promotes regional activities with a global and diversity perspective.

International Goat Association

Attn: Christian DeVries

1 World Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas 72202 USA

Tel: 501-454-1641

Fax: 501-907-2601

E-mail: [goats@heifer.org](mailto:goats@heifer.org)

[www.iga-goatworld.org](http://www.iga-goatworld.org)

## IGA Training Centers: Objectives and Reasons to Join

Our objective is to develop activities that will improve our contribution to goats and small livestock in favor of a more sustainable and local food supply, prosperity for all humankind and the fight against hunger and poverty.

At present there are challenges that we in the goat sector, and the entire livestock sector in general, are facing. One of the unique ways that the International Goat Association seeks to address these challenges is by certifying certain organizations.

Many different types of institutions will be interested in participating in this program, including: universities, research institutes, technical schools, farmer's schools, and farms with a high technical

level within their region.

Certifying an institution as an IGA Training Center (ITC) will be beneficial in several ways:

- Institutions that are approved will have a new prestigious certification which they can use to recruit students and teachers. International certifications are typically well received, especially by research institutions.
- Students will be better able to identify which institutions can provide them with the best educational experience.
- The IGA will also benefit from being more directly involved with

learning centers, teachers, and students, as they will promote the IGA name around the world. In addition, by requiring a high professional standard for ITCs, the IGA will further enhance its already excellent reputation.

Another reason for IGA to undertake this task is that currently no other organizations involved in goat promotion have yet created this type of certification. IGA will be leading the field.

It is important to remember that these certifications will be built upon the IGA's strong reputation, so it will be vital for IGA to make suitable selections in order to further improve its prestige.

## Events and Activities

### IGA Board Meeting

The first meeting of the IGA Board of Directors is scheduled to take place on August 23, 2009 in Barcelona, Spain.

The meeting has been scheduled to coincide with the EAAP conference which runs from August 24-27.

### 10th International Conference on Goats in Recife, Brazil, 2010

Fans of the goat were recently rewarded when the IGA Board of Directors announced their decision to sponsor the next International Conference on Goats. In the past the ICGs were presented every four to five years, but with goats becoming an increasingly important sector in research, agriculture, and production the Board of Directors chose to shorten the time between conferences. The 10th ICG is scheduled for Recife,

Pernambuco, Brazil in 2010 and will be followed by the 11th ICG hosted by the Canary Islands, Spain in 2012.

The last ICG in Brazil was 1987 in Brasilia. Recife is located on the Northeastern coast of Brazil a totally new area for IGA.

The Northeast region is made up of nine states and has several important key features:

- 85% of the land is semi-arid,
- 75% of the population is rural,
- 90% are small holders,
- 9.5 million goats across the region,
- 9 unique Brazilian goat breed in this area.

Maria Norma Ribeiro, a member of the IGA Board of Directors, will act as the Conference Organizer. Supporting her efforts will be:

- Dr. Francisco Fernando Ramos de Carvalho, Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco – UFRPE
- Dra. Elisa Cristina Modesto, UFRPE
- Dra. Adriana Guim, UFRPE
- Dra. Lúcia Helena de Albuquerque Brasil, UFRPE
- Dr. Roberto Germano Costa, UFPB/INSA
- MSc. Daniel Benitez Ojeda, EMEPA
- Dr. Wandrick Hauss de Souza, EMEPA
- Dra. Ângela Eloj, CNPC
- Dr. Raimundo Braga Lobo, CNPC

IGA's Board of Directors is confident that this team's experience will make them able to organize a successful ICG in only two years. The Brazilian team has organized eight international conferences in the past eight year.