IGA Newsletter
December 2016

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Letter from the President, IGA 2016 to 2020

Dear IGA Members,

As we prepare for 2017, IGA's new Board of Directors is planning to make our organization stronger and better equipped to meet the needs of our members. The past four years under the leadership of Dr. Juan Capote brought increased membership, as well as a higher international profile and a renewed dedication to the use of goats to improve the lives of millions of rural poor. IGA produced an exceptional study, ***Scaling Up Successful Practices for Sustainable Small Ruminant Production*** for IFAD: http://www.iga-goatworld.com/scaling-up-successful-practices.html. We must continue to develop new areas to share IGA expertise.

The recent International Goat Conference in Antalya Turkey was a great success, from excellent presentations and wonderful technical tours to the new friendships and professional collaborations that developed. Again, I want to thank Conference Chair Dr. Irfan Daskiran, the host country committee, and the IGA Scientific Committee led by Dr. Lucia Sepe. The proceedings will become available soon, and a special edition of **Small Ruminant Research** will feature the best papers and posters.

The future of goats

One key lesson from the ICG in Antalya is that the world of raising goats and making goat-based products is both expanding and becoming more complex. Importantly, **goats and their products are no longer associated with poverty** in most parts of the world. Products

such as cashmere, fine cheeses and meats with ***"appellation d'origine contrôlée"*** are available in many countries and often command premium prices.

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Announcement: 13th International Conference on Goats, September 2020

Dear IGA Members,

It is with great pleasure that we inform you the IGA Board of Directors has selected Hungary as the site of the XIII International Conference on Goats (ICG) in 2020. We have no doubt that this conference will be an exceptional event in the history of IGA!

The Board had three wonderful choices, each with well-developed proposals and much to offer. Hungary came out the winner this time, but we look forward to having IGA regional conferences in India and Nepal.

2020 ICG Venue
Eger, the Baroque jewel

The picturesque town of Eger is located in the Western gate of the scenic Bükk Mountains. This thousand-year-old Episcopal seat, today an archiepiscopal center, is one of the most beautiful baroque towns of the country. Its inhabit-

ants are proud of its illustrious historical

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Goat Book mobile app review

UPDATE
We shared this review with the team over at Goat Book, and we're happy to report that they responded positively. They said they will work to improve the app based on our recommendations, starting with fields for udder score, udder health, breeds, kid status, and a gestation calculator with flexible date entry.

Special thanks to Dr. Paula Menzies, IGA Board Member, for this review.

NOTE: The publishers of this app are offering an extended 6-month free trial to IGA members. If you choose to continue after the 6-month free trial, then the annual subscription cost is $15.00. Contact IGA to learn how you can try this app out for 6 months.

According to their website, "'Goat Book' is a web-based application along with a mobile app to help Goat producers manage their goat data." The app is designed to:

- track kidding data,
- track herd vaccinations, medications, and maintenance,
- generate reports by bucks or entire kid crop,
- enter breeding information on your doe herd,
- project birthing dates,
- generate individual doe productivity records,
- manage your semen inventory,
- multiple user login for the same account, and
- data synchronization between devices.

It was very easy for me to register for the free 30-day enrollment, and I quickly received an email response with a downloadable PDF tutorial.

Entering Animal Information
Inputting your animals can be done manually or as an Excel spreadsheet if you already have the data. Manually entering a very small herd would be fine, but uploading this information via a spreadsheet would probably be easier than cursoring through the same fields online. The format for the spreadsheet is xlsx, so there is likely no compatibility issues with older versions. The columns need to be organized in a specific order but any Excel user can do this easily. The only column that isn't "general" format is udder score, which is a drop-down menu.

Here is where I began to run into problems with the app. The choices for udder score are: 1 = excellent; 2 = good; 3 = fair; 4 = poor. I am not sure if this is an acceptable scoring system. As a vet, I find it uninformative. There are more complex udder scoring systems out there that look at suspensory ligaments, udder depth, teat placement and length etc. It would also be important to know udder health status, e.g. mastitis, blind quarter, Staph aureus carrier – but there is no flexibility to add these options.

Many of the fields are "Required", i.e. that animal's record cannot be saved if a required field is left blank. There is also variability in what fields are required, e.g. for does – birth date (day-month-year), and both sire and dam. For buck, only dam is required but not its sire.

Other information that I thought would be important is missing. For example, there is a place to record colour but not breed. There is no way to record when an animal leaves the herd either by dying, sold for market or breeding or being culled. No way to record reason for culling or death. The app uses the vague term "sale price." I was not sure if this is the purchase price of the animal, what the animal was sold for, or perhaps this is what the owner anticipates the animal is worth.

Entering Birthing Information
Online entering is similar to entering a doe, but the only required fields are crop year, kid ID, sex and doe ID. Optional fields are buck, date of birth (strange since it is required for buck and doe data), location of birth, birth weight (it doesn't indicate whether pounds or kilograms) entered by clicking up or down or entering a number, 30, 60 and 90 day weights, and date weaned.

I did like that the optional birthing ease field provides good options to select from, but the birth type was odd. The app only allows single, twin, triplet, quad (nothing higher) and died. What if it is twins and dead? Or one twin lived and one died? This

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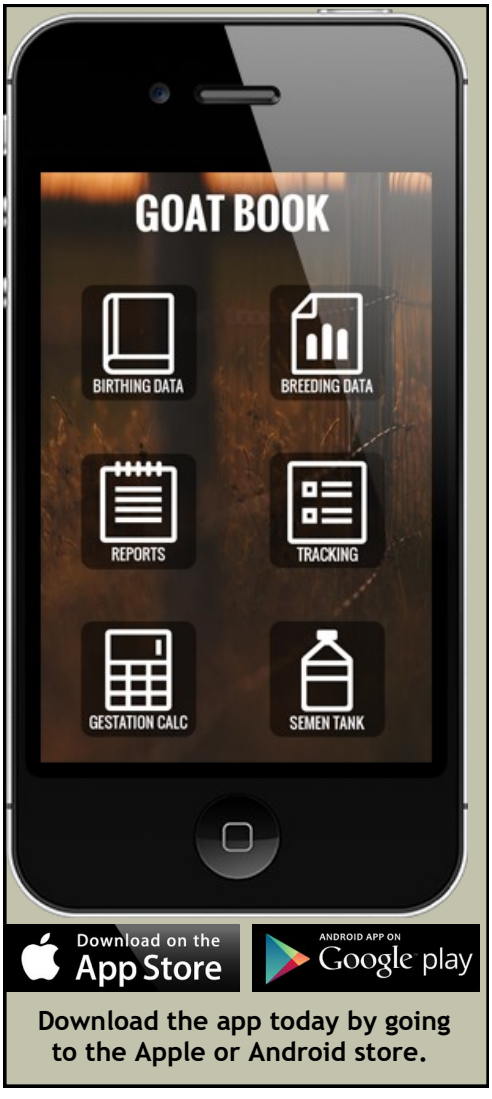

Download the app today by going to the Apple or Android store.

Animal Agricultural Systems In Asia: Enhanced Impacts and Rural Prosperity

Written by Dr. C. Devendra, IGA Country Representative, Malaysia

Abstract
Agriculture is challenged today by several major factors: diminishing arable land, resource constraints, increasing costs of inputs, and climate change. In Asian agriculture, productivity and economic transformation have promoted unprecedented rural growth, improved livelihoods and prosperity for progressive farmers, bypassing the poorer farmers and the landless. Animal agriculture and animal production form the backbone, and focus on the two most critical concerns: food insecurity and poverty. Integrated Research & Development that links increased productivity with efficient Natural Resource Management (NRM) is an important pathway, involving about 87 % of the global 470 million small farms (< 2 ha) in Asia. Ruminants can be used as an entry point for the development of less-favored areas (LFAs). Given its primary task is to produce enough food to feed 9-10 billion people by 2050, the current circumstances are extremely daunting and challenging, especially increasing animal protein supplies.

The key strategy is to intensify and increase productivity from animal-agriculture with improved management of natural resources with an integrated research approach which includes inter alia:

- A relentless search for efficiency in NRM to improve productivity (meat, milk or eggs) per animal and increased animal products per unit area without environmental degradation [1].
- Maximise productivity through sustained NRM, yield-enhancing technologies and intensification in whole production systems.
- Animal-agriculture provides a perfect platform for integration, the benefits of positive interactions, and community based participation involving the farmer, researcher, extension staff and policy makers.
- Silvopastoral systems are badly neglected, underestimated and underutilized in Asia. The opportunities for interdisciplinary approaches linking productivity with NRM for economic gain, improved livelihoods and self-reliance are enormous.

Increasing productivity from animal-agriculture systems is urgent, and there is no room for complacency. Commitment to resolve the numerous challenge domains, provide practical solutions and self-reliance are important objectives in which vision must lead the way.

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2016-2020 IGA Board of Directors announcement

Dear IGA members,

We want to thank all of you who voted during our recent election. The ballot contained a wonderful group of candidates, and it was hard for most voters to choose only 12 people. We are proud to announce the results to our members first.

The IGA Board of Directors for 2016 to 2020 will be:

- Dr. Dilip Bhandari
- Dr. Noemí Castro Navarro
- Dr. Hervé Hoste
- Dr. Nazan Koluman
- Dr. Jean-Marie Luginbuhl
- Dr. Paula Menzies
- Dr. Beth Miller
- Dr. Tilahun Sahlu
- Dr. Lucia Sepe
- Dr. Juan Felipe Torres-Acosta
- Dr. Carina Visser
- Dr. Yingjie Zhang

During the recent 12th International Conference on Goats, the new Board met and elected:
Beth Miller, President
Carina Visser, Vice-President
Lucia Sepe, Vice-President
Jean-Marie Luginbuhl, Secretary-Treasurer
Noemí Castro Navarro, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Yan Landau, Editor-in-Chief
Juan Capote returns to the Board in his capacity as past president. In addition, the new Board appointed two additional Board members to help support their efforts.

- Dr. Sándor Kukovics
- Dr. Yoko Tsukahara

Thank you again for your participation and for your continued support for IGA.

Participatory epidemiology & gender analysis to address small ruminant disease constraints in Livestock and Fish and Africa RISING project sites in Ethiopia

Summary
Animal diseases continue to constrain livestock productivity, agricultural development, human wellbeing and poverty alleviation in many regions of the developing world. In Ethiopia this is not only true for Livestock and Fish and Africa RISING project sites, but has been mentioned in sites of different project or programs where ILRI has been involved.

This participatory epidemiology and gender survey was conducted to better understand what these main livestock disease constraints are, how they affect different household, and how much men and women farmers know about their transmission. The findings of the study will also assist in defining future research related to small ruminant diseases, their economic impacts and gender issues related with animal diseases. Moreover, it also established gendered baseline data to monitor impact of future animal health interventions in small ruminants.

The study sites were target areas for Livestock and Fish CRP and the Africa RISING project in the Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions of Ethiopia. A total of 14 Woredas were included in this study. The participatory appraisal methods used in the study included focus group discussions which were conducted with men or women only groups. Various tools, such as semi-structured interview, simple scoring, proportional piling and seasonal calendar were used to facilitate the process. The validity of the results was assured by triangulation (Catley, 2005).

READ MORE or
DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT

Ninth International Sheep Veterinary Congress, May 22-26, 2017, England

"Sustainable global food security through efficient sheep and goat production"

Background
How must small ruminant production efficiency be improved to sustainably meet the needs of the world's growing human population for food?

Global ruminant livestock production is inherently inefficient, and small ruminant farming is frequently uneconomic, or fails to alleviate poverty in a welfare-friendly manner. Our Ninth International Sheep Veterinary Congress will identify opportunities for improvement in the efficiency of small ruminant production to sustainably meet the needs of the world's growing population for food.

Progressive improvement of agricultural production efficiency through the twenty-first century is a global priority to meet the burgeoning needs of the world's population for food and fibre. However, agricultural sustainability is threatened by a global reduction in available productive land, regional scarcities of replenishable water and the inevitable failure of disease control.

Goats are generally efficient in their metabolism and tolerance of poor quality and potentially toxic nutrients, while sheep are particularly well-adapted to convert short herbage to milk or meat. Different small ruminant breeds and production systems have been developed to suit local resources in seasonally biodiverse environments throughout the world. Small ruminants are therefore adaptable to meet global needs for food security and have potentially important roles in improving the health and wellbeing of the rural poor in their marginal environments. Small ruminants are further suited to enhancing the livelihoods of the poor, due to their manageable size, relatively low maintenance requirements, low capital investment cost, short generation interval and ease of marketing of animals and products, hence suitability as short-term economic reserves. Small ruminant farming is widely considered to be a solution to the challenge of achieving socioeconomically and environmentally sustainable global food security in the face of effects of population growth, urbanisation and affluence, vulnerability to climate change and the hitherto irresponsible agricultural use of drugs and chemicals.

The Ninth International Sheep Veterinary Congress will be held in Harrogate, England over a period of five days between 22nd and 26th May 2017, forming the basis for enduring longer-term collaboration between colleagues with complementary interests in small ruminant health and production. The aim is to provide a platform for the translation of applied research findings in the fields of genetics, animal husbandry and disease management into economically and environmentally sustainable utilisation of natural resources by small ruminants in their target environments.

VISIT THE CONFERENCE SITE

SEE THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

A Short History of Goats in Hungary

Special thanks to Sándor Kukovics, IGA Board member, for sending in this information. The history of ancient Hungarian goat was summarized by Sándor Kukovics (2001) in the "Living heritage – Old Historical Hungarian Livestock."

Goat husbandry was a matter of prohibition and permission in Hungary over the last several centuries. An order issued in 1801 at Kővár (Molnár, 1996) expressed the real motive of prejudice related to the goat: "..for the poor it should be admitted to send one or two goats to the common pasture." Goats and poverty were associate concepts. Rezső Károlyi wrote in 1910: "Some people went so far with argument, as considering the regression of goat population as a sign of growing affluence." At that time, the goat population of (the country) Hungary was estimated as about a quarter of million heads, whereas in Germany, a much more advanced country 3.5 million heads were kept. Rodiczky in 1911 still complained of the scarcity of goats held and bred in the farms.

Goat husbandry in Hungary has shown interesting changes during the last 110 years from sociological point of view.

The number of goats diminished between 1880 and 1904 from 236 352 to 206 449 heads. Then "the last conscription of 1945 registered 59 000, the increasing population reached in May of 1947 some 102 000" (Horn, 1948), but the referred area (the country itself) was only one-third of the earlier one owing to the Peace Treaty of Trianon (and Paris later on).

The Central Bureau of Statistics (1998) proved that the population of goats grew gradually until 1953, then the process was reversed, but in the 1990's increased again.

Between the two World Wars, and during the World War II, breeding stocks were organised but ceased after a couple of years. Animals were imported to the country several times from abroad for breeding purpose, thus the breed alleged as native began to change. Dezső Károly still mentioned and showed photographs of white, black and red-grey goats in 1910. Horn suggested in 1948 only "Hungarian white" or "Improved white", moreover "Improved roe-coloured" breeds, as officially accepted Hungarian goat breeds. They were the results of imported Saanen and different varieties of Alpine goats.

The appearance of goats in the Carpathian basin was certainly a couple of thousand years ago, although no distinct local breed could be identified. Almost the whole population is a kind of fallow breed. The variability in colour, size, horn characteristics, length of hair, and performance of the population is rather conspicuous.

Recently, the "native type" within the population of the fallow goats were reduced to a few percent. Those were the animals with long hair. The same variability was supposedly represented in the ancient time too. All over the country similar variability was present. The Alpine type was easy to distinguish, and the description of the breeds must be commenced with the fact that all published reports of the last century dealt with the improvements of the goat population by imported breeds.

Rodiczky (1905) wrote about the White Hungarian Goat: "All over the country goats of long or short fur and of good milk production can be found, which are prone to be improved with selected sires either found within the population or imported ones." "One of the best breeds was found at Temeslippa, where the farmer József Halas attempted to breed Angora goats around 1860-es. Pretty white goats are to be found in the region of Budapest and Kecskemét."

In his book of 1911 dealing with goat breeding information is given on the "Hungarian white milking goat" only. The same author mentioned, however, the diminishing interest in the crosses with Angora goats. He was discontent with the fact that "nobody cares with the breeding for milking performance." "Pretty white goats are found in county of Baranya on hills of the border towards Tolna county, but in general, to the white colour few attention is paid, which would do much more harm, but the spirit of selecting the better characters, would, certainly, find followers among the small owners."

Rezső Károly (1910) introduced a little bit larger variability: "The Hungarian goat population is utterly mixed, thus no distinct varieties could be recognised. Main differences are observed in the colour and the length of hair. However, neither of those traits nor the form of horns are coupled with each other and the performance of milk yield. Most abundantly, the white goats of medium long fur are found all over the country, but especially in Nyitra, Pozsony and Temes counties. Black goats occur too, pure or spotted, sometimes entirely black billy goats are met. Moreover, entirely or flecked red goats in combination with other colours can be seen. Entirely grey specimens are also found in Pozsony county. The goats held at the farms and guided daily to the common pasture are entirely different from the mountain or Alpine goats, which live all over the summer grazing in the mountains."

After World War II the situation of goats in Hungary was characterized

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A Short History of Goats in Hungary *(continued from Page 5)*

by Horn (1948) concerning the varieties as well as the status of husbandry: "In Hungarian population the milk performance is estimated on the basis of data available which is about 200-250 kg per goat. The Hungarian population is rather mixed. Many of the specimens are like of Saanen, Toggenburg, Appenzell, Thuringian, Charmois-coloured mountain goat, Verzasca, Wallis (Valashian), etc. It would be advisable in general to keep the rate of Saanen types (white) around 70%, and the fawn-coloured the other 30%."

Molnár (1996) dealing with the native goat, mentioned the long hairs (fur) as criterion. If the hairs were distributed on the whole body, that was called "tincses" (tressy), and if they were concentrated to the hind-legs "gatyás" (rough-legged). The latter is considered a variant of uncontrolled segregation in hybrids arisen by crossing between native and western breeds.

In 1970's, a new wave of breeding started with imported stocks from the Alpine regions. Repeatedly, at the early 1980's and the middle of 1990's animals from imports improved the populations, thus some more uniformity was gained.

After all, we could ask again: what was the Hungarian native goat like? The variable fallow native goat "called native goat" does not belong to any distinct breed, by all means, it did not achieve the status of a breed, but what could be the traits common to the native population? This breed was spread across ancient Hungary. Types were distinguished by mountains or on the plains (lowlands). Variability was conspicuous because no breeding objectives were followed. That was the basic trait of "breed". The size was small or mediocre, horns were large (on the majority of the she-goats as well), and long hair with variable colours (white, grey, brown, red, black, pied). Specimens of high milking performance were not an exception. The main utilisation was the milk and the meat, but also the fur and hide was a commodity, as well.

The traits of Hungarian fallow goat are summarised as related to the registered breeds: the withers of she-goats are 60-65 cm, the length of trunk 64-67 cm. Those of the billy goats: 65-75 cm and 70-80 cm. The skull of males is short, ears are short and erect (Sándor Kukovics, 1999). Both sexes are horned, the horns are twisted, and the length of horn on billy goats may attain one meter. The hairs are rather long. The colour is variable, though the charmoise colour is a sign of foreign influence. The fallow goat is resistant to weather adversities and poor keeping conditions.

Most authors agree that the fallow goat is native in the Carpathian basin and is bound to extinction. According to their horn, the first group of varieties represents the West-European breeds (Saanen, Alpine, etc.), while the second one are the Markhor goats with twisted, corkscrew horns. There are included specimens and breeds of horns bent backward and spread out wide, "prisca" horns. They grow horns in general, long hairs and are white, black, wolf or reddish coloured. They are poor performers, but their long hair and appearance is corresponding to the native type. On many sites goats with "prisca" horns can be found with mostly long hair, but with relatively poor milk production and brick shape.

The ancient Hungarian goat does not exist anymore. The genes are though maintained in the fallow goats, but a distinct breed was not developed yet.

History since 1990

The history of the imported goat breeds and the Hungarian native goats has diverged since mid-1990's when the last bulk importations of breeding livestock arrived from The Netherlands and France, and the first breeding societies were organised. First, the Hungarian Improved Goat Breeders' Society in 1994 was developed, followed by Saanen and Alpine Goat Breeders' Society in 1995, and the Milk and Meat Goat Breeders' Society in 1996. The first one wanted to cover all the goats originated from the crossings of Saanen and Alpine bucks and Hungarian Native goats. Later the Hungarian Goat Keepers and Breeders Association was founded at the beginning of 1998.

Because the dominant part of the goat population in the country did not belong to any of the societies, there were no programs available for them to join, a new breeding program was developed. On the basis of the survey, the development of the following three breeds were started in 1999: Hungarian White, Hungarian Brown and Hungarian Multicolour. The breeding works carried out during the period between the two World Wars and followed in the first ten years after the second one were the starting basements of these new breeds. In this breeding projects, three quarters of the domestic goat population could get the points to join. Practically the breeding works of four imported (Saanen, Alpine, Boer, Nubian) and three Hungarian goat breeds (the breeding of so-called Hungarian Improved Goat stopped) were carried out during the next decade. The organisation had almost 1 000 members and another 2 000 associated members in 2003; and it covered more than three-quarters of the goat sector in the country.

The Association helped farmers with breeding, organised the selling kids for slaughter, and purchasing of surplus goat milk. In addition, the milk

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A Short History of Goats in Hungary *(continued from Page 6)*

processing companies were members of the organisation, and the Association helped them in raw milk classification, product developments, and promotion of the products.

After ten years of successful activity the breeding projects of these Hungarian goat breeds were handed over to the Hungarian Sheep Breeders Association at the end of 2008; and the milk processing firms joined to the Hungarian Sheep Dairy Public Utility Association; and the Hungarian Goat Breeders' Association was ceased because of missing available resources for covering the activity costs.

By 2012, a couple of hundred Saanen, and Alpine purebred goats remained in the nucleus herds, along with less than 100 Nubian and 100 Boer goats. The Hungarian goat breeds having long hair were selected out, and since 2010 they have been called Hungarian indigenous goats. A couple hundred of these are still in the nucleus.

Today, about 44 000 heads of does are kept in production in the country on about 3 000 goat herds. About 21 000 heads are in the registration system (within it less than 1 000 are in nucleus herds altogether), and they are having individual identification with conventional and electronic ear tags.

Approximately 150 kinds of goat cheese are being produced in the country. Some 10 small-medium sized officially registered goat dairy factories are producing various kinds of goat milk products. Additional, goat milk manufacturing and on-farm cheese selling activities are ongoing in 15-20 goat farms, more or less under official veterinary control. However, several other goat farms are selling products to the local market without control.

Because the limited amount of goat milk produced on one average farm – and most of the goat milk processing firms are working on a system of buying up goat milk – some new investments, with several hundred milking does have emerged and are developing. Their technology and breeding techniques are following the most up to date developments in order to maintain profitable production. Most of their goat populations originate from imports. Beside the large farm milk production system new medium to large sized milk processing plants were also founded to be able to produce required amounts and various kinds of cheeses (and yoghurt, kefir, cream, etc.).

Announcement: 13th ICG, September 2020 *(continued from Page 1)*

past and the valuable heritage of monuments and buildings.

The city of Eger has an illustrious history dating back to the Romans, who called the town Agria, a name still in use, taking in the French who settled in the area in the 13th century, bringing with them their knowledge of viticulture, and the invading Turks, who came later.

The medieval castle – dating from the 13th century – on a small hill overlooking the town has been the site of numerous historical events and also played an important role in establishing Eger's reputation. The name of Eger represents, for every Hungarian, the story of determined patriotism, when the outnumbered heroic defenders in the fortress, led by István Dobó, held out against the Turks (more than 100,000) in their initial attack in 1552. Later, the Turks returned to take and occupy the town from 1596 to 1687.

In the 18th century, after 100 years of Turkish occupation, Count Károly Eszterházy, the Bishop of Eger, launched an ambitious city planning effort resulting in the construction of new churches, monasteries, the Lyceum building, the little and big provostial palaces and the county hall; the outlines of the present Baroque city center were established as well.

Of all the wines made in the Eger region, Bull's Blood remains the most famous, despite the fact that there are also some fine white wines, like Leányka, Tramini and Italian Riesling, which are produced in much larger quantities. There are several legends explaining the wine's rather unusual name; the most famous is connected with the siege of Eger Castle in 1552. Bull's Blood is a cuvée, a blend of wines made from several types of grape; it is a full-bodied red wine.

Eger is a colourful Baroque town known not only for its history, mellow charm and vineyards, but also for its thermal baths. Visitors looking for a bit of time-out can unwind in the peaceful Archbishop's Garden, a leafy park enclosing swimming pools and hot thermal baths.

The new Board and I look forward to seeing all of you in Hungary in 2020!

With warm wishes,
Beth Miller

World Goat Day 2017, Iran

A Celebration of the First Domestication of Goats and the Contribution of Goats Today

We are very happy to announce that World Goat Day 2017 will take place in Iran!

The success of "National Goat Day" in January 2016 showed the importance of goat production in Iran. Throughout the region and most of the world, goats continue to enhance the quality of human life. As we saw during the 12th International Conference on Goats in Turkey, there is global interest to learn from other researchers, producers, processors and other actors throughout the value chain.

Now, the Organizing Committee will convene, and a specific date will be set. We will keep you informed as we gather more information.

We know World Goat Day will be a great success, and we look forward to joining in the celebration.

What is World Goat Day and why Iran?

The archeo-zoological evidence suggests that Iran is one of the most important regions of sheep and goat domestication, and may be where the first domestication took place. Iran has a long and proud history of livestock keeping, and is well known for its many breeds that are adapted to different environments.

According to the most recent statistical reports from the Ministry of Agriculture of Iran, there are over 20 million goats in Iran, valued at around 4 million Iranian Rials/head. More than 80000 billion Iranian Rials (~ 2.5 billion US$) has been invested in this sector in Iran by private entities (mostly Rural and Nomads farmers) and the government over the past 35 years, which is a considerable investment when compared to other livestock species.

Goat breeding plays an important role in the national development of Iran, by providing the following benefits:
Production of animal protein (milk and meat).
Production of animal fiber (cashmere and hair) for the textile industry.
Production of skin for the leather industry.
Creation of sustainable employment to secure adequate income for family self-sufficiency and to prevent the mass migration of rural populations to urban areas.

National Goat Day provided an opportunity to reflect upon the important role of goats in Iran and in many other countries of the world, not only in food security, but also for employment, income, rural development, environmental management and cultural traditions.

Goats are increasingly appreciated because of their high adaptability to a wide array of environmental conditions, and their ability to thrive on "low quality" feed resources through selective feeding. The emerging challenges associated with climate change, the increasing pressure on natural resources and the high value of goat meat and milk across a number of Asian countries increase the socio-economic importance of goats. We must understand and protect existing goat genetic diversity to meet the needs for the future.

As noted in the 2014 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Statistical Yearbook, the Near East and North Africa account for the smallest share of global livestock and meat production of any of FAO regions. Within that region, however, Iran leads red meat production with more than one million metric tons annually. Furthermore, Iran is the region's third largest producer of sheep and goats. Challenges such as infectious diseases and obstacles to value chains limit benefits derived from sheep and goats in the Near East and North Africa, so policies supporting innovation and investment are essential.

FAO's research indicates that livestock supply chains are a definitive factor in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Goats will be important especially in the warmer, drier world of the future, and approximately 90 percent of all of the region's goat breeds are from drylands. They are a valuable yet untapped resource for future adaptation to climate change. As an example, the Adani dairy goat is one of the most important breeds in southern Iran, and it is well adapted to severe conditions. Despite high temperature, humidity and lack of good pasture, the breed performs well and has been regarded as an excellent animal for the export market. Likewise, Yazd province is one of the driest areas in the central part of Iran with less than 100 mm of annual rainfall, but the local Nodoshani and Rabati goats produce high-value milk and cashmere.

Sheep and goat products are especially important in developing countries where 45 percent of all sheep meat, 54 percent of all sheep milk, 93 percent of all goat meat, and 73 percent of all goat milk are produced. With adequate investment in value chain integration, we could increase the productivity and stability of livestock production in varied ecosystems. Furthermore, because livestock species are closely linked to the social and cultural lives of several million resource-poor farmers, investing in small ruminant species, principally goats, could contribute to sustainable farming and economic stability for the future.

Contact Dr. Farhad Mirzaei for more information:
farmir2003203@yahoo.com
IGA Country Representative, Iran
Secretary of the Organizing Committee for World Goat Day 2017

Goat Book mobile app review *(continued from Page 2)*

should be broken down into separate field – perhaps fate of the kid. But unfortunately, this program doesn't deal at all with death and culling.

There is an option to save and copy the dam information – I assume this was done to decrease the need to repeatedly enter the same information (e.g. if a doe has quads, you don't need to reenter doe ID), which is good.

I was not sure why all the birthing data had to be entered online or through the app, because there is no excel spreadsheet import option. But there is an option of exporting the birthing data as a spreadsheet or pdf.

Another nuisance problem occurs if a doe or sire ID is entered and it isn't in the database. The program puts it there and then will require you to edit to make sure the mandatory information is included.

Breeding Information
Required fields include:
Crop year – Does this mean the year the kids will be born into or the year the breeding occurs?
Breeding type - AI, natural and pasture exposed. I am not sure what the difference is between the last two?
Buck – This may be difficult if multiple sires are used, but perhaps this program is geared for the purebred producer and not the commercial? Because this field is required, anybody who uses multiple sires in a breeding group will not be able to use this program.

Reports
Reporting is very limited. Birthing history is just a count. I am not sure where the income report data comes from. This goes back to the vagueness of entering a doe value (sale price versus purchase price or value within the herd). The doe breeding info and overall breeding report are just number counts, there is no analysis.

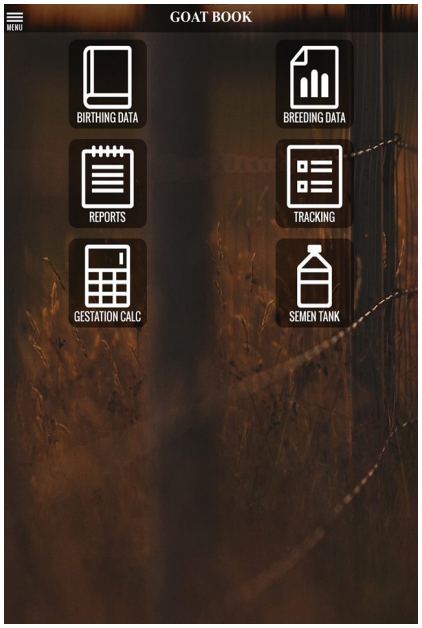
Gestation Calculator
This calculator is very basic. It only allows the use of 150 days with no option for different gestation lengths.

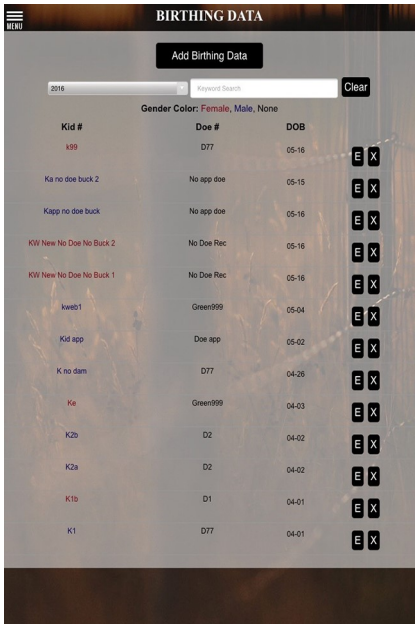
Semen Tank
This allows a producer to record inventory, and if AI is used, it subtracts that from the inventory.

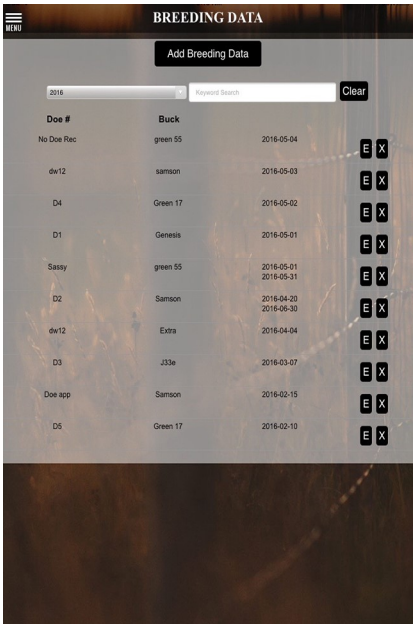
Final Thoughts
The app is easy to use, but unfortunately it lacks some things that I felt were important.
No ability to record culls (reason), and deaths (reason).
No ability to set production goals or analyze productivity or track productivity over time.
No ability to record udder health information or milk production. And if this is designed for meat, then why is there no carcass information?
I couldn't find where herd health events such as vaccination or deworming would be recorded, even though the app description says this is included.

I would find this program impossible to use with a large herd, since animals must be entered one-by-one. This app is probably only suitable for a very small herd, but it lacks some important features to be truly helpful in herd management decision making.

We hope this will be the first in a series of goat related technology articles. The IGA received no money for testing and product review, and we were under no obligation to publish a review of this product. The comments in this post are opinion, and were formed after the author personally tried out the app.

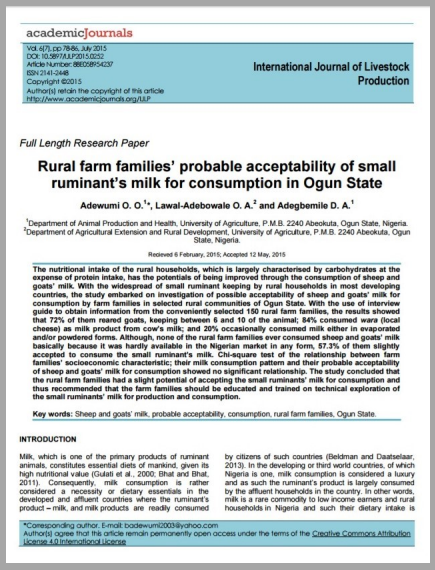






Rural farm families' probable acceptability of small ruminant's milk for consumption in Ogun State, Nigeria

The nutritional intake of the rural households, which is largely characterised by carbohydrates at the expense of protein intake, has the potentials of being improved through the consumption of sheep and goats' milk. With the widespread of small ruminant keeping by rural households in most developing countries, the study embarked on investigation of possible acceptability of sheep and goats' milk for consumption by farm families in selected rural communities of Ogun State. With the use of interview guide to obtain information from the conveniently selected 150 rural farm families, the results showed that 72% of them reared goats, keeping between 6 and 10 of the animal; 84% consumed wara (local cheese) as milk product from cow's milk; and 20% occasionally consumed milk either in evaporated and/or powdered forms. Although, none of the rural farm families ever consumed sheep and goats' milk basically because it was hardly available in the Nigerian market in any form, 57.3% of them slightly accepted to consume the small ruminant's milk. Chi-square test of the relationship between farm families' socioeconomic characteristic; their milk consumption pattern and their probable acceptability of sheep and goats' milk for consumption showed no significant relationship. The study concluded that the rural farm families had a slight potential of accepting the small ruminants' milk for consumption and thus recommended that the farm families should be educated and trained on technical exploration of the small ruminants' milk for production and consumption.



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Full Length Research Paper

Rural farm families' probable acceptability of small ruminant's milk for consumption in Ogun State

Adewumi O. O.[1]*, Lawal-Adebowale O. A.[2] and Adegbemile D. A.[1]

[1]Department of Animal Production and Health, University of Agriculture, P.M.B. 2240 Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.
[2]Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Agriculture, P.M.B. 2240 Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.

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The nutritional intake of the rural households, which is largely characterised by carbohydrates at the expense of protein intake, has the potentials of being improved through the consumption of sheep and goats' milk. With the widespread of small ruminant keeping by rural households in most developing countries, the study embarked on investigation of possible acceptability of sheep and goats' milk for consumption by farm families in selected rural communities of Ogun State. With the use of interview guide to obtain information from the conveniently selected 150 rural farm families, the results showed that 72% of them reared goats, keeping between 6 and 10 of the animal; 84% consumed wara (local cheese) as milk product from cow's milk; and 20% occasionally consumed milk either in evaporated and/or powdered forms. Although, none of the rural farm families ever consumed sheep and goats' milk basically because it was hardly available in the Nigerian market in any form, 57.3% of them slightly accepted to consume the small ruminant's milk. Chi-square test of the relationship between farm families' socioeconomic characteristic; their milk consumption pattern and their probable acceptability of sheep and goats' milk for consumption showed no significant relationship. The study concluded that the rural farm families had a slight potential of accepting the small ruminants' milk for consumption and thus recommended that the farm families should be educated and trained on technical exploration of the small ruminants' milk for production and consumption.

Key words: Sheep and goats' milk, probable acceptability, consumption, rural farm families, Ogun State.

INTRODUCTION

Milk, which is one of the primary products of ruminant animals, constitutes essential diets of mankind, given its high nutritional value (Gulati et al., 2000; Bhat and Bhat, 2011). Consequently, milk consumption is rather considered a necessity or dietary essentials in the developed and affluent countries where the ruminant's product – milk, and milk products are readily consumed by citizens of such countries (Beldman and Daatselaar, 2013). In the developing or third world countries, of which Nigeria is one, milk consumption is considered a luxury and as such the ruminant's product is largely consumed by the affluent households in the country. In other words, milk is a rare commodity to low income earners and rural households in Nigeria and such their dietary intake is

*Corresponding author. E-mail: badewumi2003@yahoo.com
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- Opportunities for leadership and participation in IGA committees.
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- IGA is the voice of goat researchers and producers at national and international levels.

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International Goat Association
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Late Fee Announcement

Dear IGA members,

We wanted to let you know of an upcoming change in our membership policy. As you know, over the past few years we have made some valuable changes and added a lot of new benefits for IGA members.
IGA memberships are effective for 1 year from the date you join.
All IGA memberships include online access to Small Ruminant Research.
Access to the MEMBERS area of the IGA website, where you get exclusive information, access to IGA member documents, etc.
We aggregate the best news and most important goat information for you in the IGA Newsletter.
Submit articles for publication in the IGA Newsletter.
We link you with your global colleagues providing you the opportunity to interact at conferences, through the Journal, and online.
Opportunities for leadership and participation in IGA committees.
Contribute to the national and global agenda for small ruminant production and consumption through scientifically sound and sensible policies.
IGA is the voice of goat researchers and producers at national and international levels.
And we will soon be adding a new benefit to this list: The chance to become part of the IGA Consulting Group and participate in upcoming IGA projects.

Overdue	Late fee*
1 month	
2 months	$10
3 months	$15
4 months	$20
5 months	$25
6 months	$30
7 months	$35
8 months	$40
9 months	$45
10 months	$50

** this is in addition to your normal membership fee*

These improvements are only possible when members pay their dues on time. When members delay their renewal, even if it is just one month, then the IGA has to pay to fill in that gap. Rather than raising membership fees to defray these costs, we have decided to institute a late payment fee structure. This new policy will go into effect beginning on January 1, 2017.

You will accrue a $10 late fee when your membership renewal is more than 1 month late. You will accrue an additional $5 for each additional month. Please note that the maximum late fee will never be more than the cost of a basic IGA membership. If you qualify for the reduced membership level, then your maximum late fee will correspond with the "Developing Countries Basic IGA Membership".

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Christian De Vries, IGA's Executive Director: admin@iga-goatworld.com.

Best wishes,
Beth Miller
IGA President

IGA wishes to thank our wonderful Institutional members

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Letter from the President, IGA 2016 to 2020 *(continued from Page 1)*

Plenary speaker Dr. Nissim Silanikove noted that goats will become more important to food production as **climate change decreases productivity in dairy cattle. In most ecosystems, goats will be a buffer because of their greater resistance to heat stress.** Therefore, our challenge is to increase our technical capacity to use goats appropriately to respond to the changing climate.

The excellent workshop on **"sustainable agro-sylvo-pastoral goat production"** also recognized the variety of environments where goats are raised, and the importance of **managing pastures**, especially with browse to improve both goat production and ecological quality. The lively and insightful discussion illuminated the big picture linking production, feeds & inputs, markets, processing, consumption and government regulation. Sustainability also involves intentional **outreach to youth, and deliberate linkages between consumers and producers.**

The future of IGA

As goats become more important globally, IGA must expand its role to facilitate interactions between researchers, extension officials, and farmers, as well as policy makers and the private sector. Together we can **advocate for sensible policies on production, trade, environmental and consumer protection, and development** that benefits those with the least. We can advise on the most promising areas for goat research, and for methods to bring the best technology to producers and processors. IGA must use its collective wisdom and its network of committed goat experts to improve all aspects of goat value chains, and to improve the lives of the men and women who raise goats in less favored settings.

Therefore, IGA is launching the **"Goat Consulting Group."** We will develop contracts with clients such as development agencies, government institutions, and private farms or processors to find appropriate consultants from among our members. The client would pay the normal consulting fee and a management fee to IGA. We will send out an email in early 2017 with more information, but if you're interested, let us know now (admin@iga-goatworld.com). Please note that the Goat Consulting Group is a separate organization from IGA, but its profits will be used to advance IGA's efforts.

The call to action

IGA will be encouraging **more regional meetings** over the next four years. Leading this effort will be our wonderful past-president, Dr. Juan Capote. International meetings are exciting events and provide valuable linkages across continents. However, many people are limited to local, national, or regional events. In addition to our next International Goat Conference in Eger, Hungary in 2020, we have already approved a regional goat conference in **Rajasthan, India for September 2018**, and World Goat Day, May 2017 in Iran. Contact us to learn how your goat events can receive IGA sponsorship. Please also send us details of all the goat related events happening in your area, so that we can share them through the website, Facebook, Twitter, and our newsletter.

IGA is able to work internationally because our **Country Representatives and Regional Directors** have introduced and supported IGA around the world. Learning about goat systems in other places stimulates our thinking for new solutions to our local and global challenges. Some countries still lack IGA representation, so any member in good standing with a commitment to advancing the use of goats can volunteer or nominate a candidate. We encourage you to become a Country Rep by contacting your Regional Director, the IGA Executive Director (Christian De Vries), or me.

Over the next year, we will report on a variety of topics and we hope you will join the discussion. Our first topic is **technology for goat management**. There are many products on the market. Which is the best for your situation or your clients? We are starting by reviewing software products, and we would like to hear about your experience and recommendations. Even if you are not yet using electronic management, we hope this will be helpful for the future. Future topics may include agro-ecological practices, branding of goat products, or linking producers with consumers. Please let us know what topics are of greatest interest to you.
Finally, we are surveying all our members to find out what you want from your organization. How can IGA better meet your needs? Please go to http://www.iga-goatworld.com/survey.html and share your thoughts about IGA and the future. We need your input as we update our Strategic Plan.

I look forward to serving as your president for the next four years. Together we can enhance IGA's role as the premier goat organization in the world.

With best wishes for very happy holidays, and both personal and professional success in the coming year,

Beth

Dr. Beth A. Miller
IGA President

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