



April 2018

Our Mission Statement:

To promote interest in and knowledge of goats, including their products, through educational programs within Northwest Montana; and to encourage men, women and children to participate in activities or events sponsored by the Association.

Welcome to the Northwest Montana Goat Association Newsletter

Volume 1 Edition 2

BREAKING NEWS

We had a great meeting on March 11 at the fairgrounds. Old business included more information about a blood draw clinic. LaSalle Clinic is interested in providing group service sometime in July or August. There will be a signup coming later. Also, we decided our small organization probably doesn't need bylaws so that was not tabled, it was canceled.

The most interesting part of the meeting came later. Hannah Wehrmann had brought information and equipment for us to learn about how to do goat fecals. She had sample goat poop and we all got to look at a slide under the microscope. She was disappointed to learn that her goat had no parasites but we all learned a lot about the testing process.

Membership dues for 2018 are due now. \$20 per individual or family. Membership puts your name and/or farm name on the member list on our website and allows free advertising on the website. Mail to: Connie Lockman, 1995 Conn Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. Email: bcranch@cyberport.net

**President: Ali Sandholdt
Vice-President: Sue Cummings
Sec/Treasurer: Connie Lockman**

Goat meat is considered a red meat, but according to the USDA, it's lower in cholesterol and fat than chicken, beef, or pork, but has about the same amount of protein. Cook goat meat slowly and at low temperatures to prevent it from drying it out which makes it tough.

Next meeting will be Sunday, May 6, 1:30 pm at the fairgrounds. The meeting will be in the Country Kitchen, and a pack goat demo will follow outside in the green space located a little to the north of the kitchen.

Why is it hard to carry on a conversation with a goat?
Because they are always butting in.
"Doctor, Doctor I feel like a goat."
"How long have you felt like that?"
"..... Since I was a kid."

Special Days in April

Apr 1 Easter (& April Fool!)
Apr 3 Don't Go To Work Unless It's Fun
Apr 6 National Walk to Work Day
Apr 12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
Apr 13 Friday the 13th
Apr 17 Income Taxes Due - extra time!
Apr 19 National Garlic Day
Apr 22 Earth Day
Apr 25 World Penguin Day
Apr 26 Take your daughter to work day
Apr 27 Arbor Day
Apr 29 National Shrimp Scampi Day
Apr 30 National Honesty Day

April on a Goat Farm

When I watched my does in their final weeks before kidding, I couldn't help but remember what I felt like when I was expecting my own kids. They were so big and awkward. Well, they finally had their babies. Storm easily had triplets on her due date so I thought the same would happen with Stripe. But no. Day after day we watched and waited. Finally, 5 days late, she had twins. Two beautiful little kids - a boy and the much hoped for little girl. Perky. Bouncy. But Stripe was not. Stripe had what Dr. Smiley called Periparturient ADR. She didn't eat, didn't drink and quickly became dehydrated. The vet said that in this situation, the problem is low blood flow, low hydration, or low calcium. He snaked a tube into her and we pumped in a load of dilute propylene glycol. He also gave her a shot of calcium. For a couple days, I fed her anything she would eat. She got all excited about bananas so I fed her sliced bananas. I found she would eat cooked kale and huckleberries. After a couple days, we were ready to push some more propylene glycol down her but when we went out with the syringe, she was eating hay so we left her alone. We're over a week now and she seems fine. We weighed the little girl a couple times and found she's fat and gaining weight.

Even the most experienced doe can have birthing and postpartum problems. So be available, have a vet's phone number handy and watch mom closely to make sure she is acting normally. Just when I think I've seen everything we get some new weird problem.

- Sue Cummings, Editor-in-Chief

**APRIL**
MONTH OF SO MANY THINGS

The Northwest Montana Goat Association (NWMGA) is a not-for-profit association for goat enthusiasts of all ages and interests!

Visit us at www.northwestmontanagoats.org