



February 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 1

BREAKING NEWS

The Association met at the Flathead County Fairgrounds 4H building at 1:30 on Sunday afternoon, the 14th of January. It was at this meeting that the results of the NWMGA Survey were announced. Most of the respondents said they joined to network with other goat owners. Many were interested in a bi-monthly newsletter. Educational events seemed popular. The survey has prompted the group to start planning for a program of educational seminars, talks and sharing amongst the members. We welcome your comments and participation.

The winner of the drawing for the \$25 gift card at Murdoch's was Jennifer Beecham. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey and congratulations to Jennifer.

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.

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

Email to: bbranch@cyberport.net



Goat meat has less saturated fat per 3-ounce serving than chicken, beef, pork or lamb.

Goat	0.8 gm
Chicken	1.1 gm
Beef	6.8 gm
Pork	8.7 gm
Lamb	7.3 gm

Next meeting will be Sunday, March 11, 1:30 pm at the 4H building at the fairgrounds. Hannah Wehrmann will present a talk on how to conduct home fecal exams.

What do you call an unemployed goat? *Billy Idol*.

What do you call a goat at sea? *Billy Ocean*.

What do you call a goat with one ear? *Van goat*.

What do you call a goat that knows martial arts? *Karate Kid*

Special Days in February

Feb 1 National Freedom Day
Feb 3 Eat ice cream for breakfast day
Feb 11 Don't cry over spilled milk day
Feb 12 Lincoln's birthday
Feb 14 Valentine's day
Feb 18 National drink wine day
Feb 19 President's day
Feb 20 Love your pet day
Feb 22 George Washington's birthday
Feb 24 Open that bottle day
Feb 27 No brainer day
Leap Day - Not until 2020

February on a Goat Farm

Tom Petty had it right, the waiting is the hardest part, and when you have a little farm, winter comes with lots of waiting. It's still a ways away, but right now we're waiting for kidding season to begin. This year, we bred my favorite milking doe to a registered Nubian buck so we're hoping for at least one little girl from her. Our other doe, also a dairy goat but a poor producer, was bred to a meat goat. We're hoping her offspring will fill the freezer next year.

For us, February is vacation time. The goats are pregnant and have been dried up. That means all we have to do is feed them and keep them happy. Well, if you have goats, you know that's pretty much the same thing. What is important right now is nutrition for the growing fetuses. Pregnant does don't have increased nutritional needs until the last two months of gestation, when the kids do 70 percent of their growing. They also need additional water throughout pregnancy.

In the last 2 months, does' nutritional requirements increase greatly because the unborn kids are growing rapidly. Start grain gradually (just a handful a day) until your does are eating up to a half-pound of grain a day (depending on the goat size and breed) or half to two-thirds of their normal milking ration by the time they kid, in addition to hay. Gradually replace their hay with alfalfa so they get the proper balance of calcium and phosphorus. Continue to monitor their body condition and adjust feed accordingly; does carrying multiple kids need even more calories and nutrients.

- Sue Cummings, Editor-in-Chief

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