



# The Goat Source

## *The Goat Source Newsletter* *Volume 3 Number 12 December 2006*

Here is your December issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. I hope you had a very nice Thanksgiving with friends and family. I want to take this opportunity to say I wish you all a wonderful Holiday season – take the time to reflect on the lessons learned this year and look forward to all the joys and challenges of the coming year. Merry Christmas!! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

### **What's New This Month?**

- Results for The Goat Source Survey
  - This Month's Quiz...
  - How Many Firefighters Does it Take to Rescue a Sheep?
  - Classified Ads
  - Cold Proofing Your Goats
  - Answer to the December Quiz
  - Helpful Hints
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### **Results for The Goat Source Survey**

I have had a survey up on the website for a couple of months now and I thought I would share with you some of the results. I have not had time to compile all of them yet but here is an overview of what you all think so far:

- Most are current subscribers
- Most raise goats at this time

- Meal and milk goats are most popular, with pet next. We have a few harness goat enthusiasts and one fiber person. Several raise more than one breed.
- The majority are from the US.
- How-to articles are in demand, with recipes, breed related and crafts next. Breeder spotlight is mentioned – any one out there have a breeder you would like me to interview?
- Thank you for the many nice comments! I will try and get more results for next month's newsletter and try to have a list of articles for coming issues made up. No promises – you know how things go on the farm, never a dull moment!!

## **This Month's Quiz:**

What is Chlamydia ?

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## **How Many Firefighters Does it Take To Rescue a Sheep?**

To find the answer to this question, [Click here!](#)

## **Classified Ads...**

Recordkeeping for your goats the easy way – [The Goatbreeders Notebook](#)

Learn how to say “Good-bye” to city life! Learn about raising animals, gardening and making your own bread!! [Click Here!](#)

Great Holiday Present for the Goat Person in Your Life!! Check them Out Here - [2007 Goat Calendars & Goat T-Shirts and Gifts](#)

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## **Cold Proofing Your Goats**

Goats are very hardy animals and they can stand quite a lot of variation in temperatures. That said, my goats don't like the cold weather much at all. The last few days, it has been very cold (below zero) during the night and in the teens and twenties during the day. What can we do to make our goats more comfortable during these cold spells?

First off, start by making sure that they come into the winter in good physical shape. They should be in good flesh, but not fat and have a good hair coat. When it is really cold, goats will puff their hair out to trap heat. The fine down (cashmere) that most goats have serves as insulation. If your goat doesn't have much hair coat, you may have to blanket her. Be aware that if you make a practice of blanketing your animals, you will have to do it all winter! The

blanket that keeps them warm, will also prevent them from growing more hair coat to keep them warm. I wouldn't recommend this unless you absolutely have to!

All of your animals should have a draft free, dry barn to stay in. Note I didn't say a **warm** barn. In my opinion, a warm barn is asking for all kinds of respiratory ills. Most warm barns are not ventilated properly and allow damp air to build up. Keep a good clean, dry bed of straw down for them to lie in. Don't use wood chips, as they can harbor mastitis organisms, which could make your goat very sick. Replenish straw regularly. If you would not lie down on the straw bed, it needs more straw.

Make sure that all of the animals can and do get into the barn. If a dominant animal pushes a timid one out into the cold, make other arrangements. Move one of them if you have to. I find the colder it gets, the less my older does object to the yearlings! I guess they like that body heat and aren't picky about who provides it!!

It is critical that the goats have access to clean water, warm water is best. I find the electric stock waterers keep the water at a decent temperature so that the girls drink plenty. Do not think that they can eat snow! It will not provide enough moisture and a goat could easily become dehydrated and die. If you have to offer them a bucket of hot water twice daily to get them to drink – DO IT! Don't forget the bucks.

One winter, it was 20 below zero for a solid week. My Nubians were thoroughly sick of cold weather by the time it warmed up, but they came through the cold remarkably well for animals that are more adapted to heat than cold. I think a large part of it was due to dry straw, warm water and really fuzzy hair coats!

PS – Don't forget to cold proof yourself – I love my insulated coveralls!!!

### **Answer to the December Quiz:**

Chlamydia is an organism associated with diseases such as pneumonia, abortion, diarrhea, conjunctivitis, arthritis and encephalitis. For more information [Click here.](#)

### **Helpful hints:**

For a quick, easy (And Cheap!) mineral holder – I was storing a couple of 50# trace mineral blocks in the milk barn. I tipped one up on end and filled the depression on the end with loose minerals. The milkers always grab a little bit when they pass by. They also give the salt a lick or two in passing.

When it's REALLY cold – skip the teat dip!! The dangers of frostbite are greater than the threat of mastitis. Resume dipping as soon as it warms up a little.

Check out the dollar store for chain link collars – I found some very nice ones in the pets section, and at a buck apiece a great deal!!

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That's all for this month,...

See you next month!!

*Leslie, The Goat Source*

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