



# The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 8 December 2004

**Here is your December Holiday issue of The Goat Source Newsletter.**

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What's New This Month?

- Gifts for Goat keeper - Happy Holidays!
- Everyone likes a FREE gift!!
- Should I Dry Treat My Milkers?
- Save Your Old Toothbrushes!! ???
- This Month's Quiz...
- Have you heard about Heifer International?
- Answer to the December Quiz

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**Everyone likes a FREE gift!!**

The holidays are for gift giving and you need to get yours! **For December ONLY** - All subscribers to The Goat Source Newsletter will get a **free copy** of my "Cooking With Goats" **with any purchase**. All you need to do is order any product from my website during December and I will email you my PDF file "Cooking With Goats".

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**Should I Dry Treat My Milkers?**

It is a generally accepted management practice to dry treat milkers when you dry them off about 45 to 60 days before kidding. This is done using the same antibiotics as are used in cows. Consult with your vet as to what is the best to use in your area. Always use the whole tube in one teat - never split a tube between halves of the udder. This is an invitation to mastitis. Use the alcohol prep pads that come with the treatment to thoroughly scrub the teat end before inserting the tube.

After injecting the drug into the udder half, massage it to distribute it evenly and then teat dip with a chlorhexidine based teat dip. Watch your newly dried off does carefully for an over engorged udder. If you do have to milk her out to relieve the udder pressure, you will have to treat her again. Very seldom will you have to milk a doe out. The pressure is what tells the udder to quit producing milk and if you milk her again, it just sends a mixed signal. Be aware most does really don't like being dry treated! Have your vet show you how if you are unsure about doing it yourself.

## **Save Your Old Toothbrushes!! ???**

Your old toothbrushes can be used when you tattoo your kids. After piercing the kid's ears with the tattoo pliers, apply a small amount of ink to the brush and scrub it into the ear. Use green ink for the best results in dark ears. I use the ink recommended by the Angus Cattle Breeders Assoc. Even in older animals a properly done tattoo is still legible. As a health precaution, don't use the same brush on different age groups of kids or kids from different herds. Discard the used brush. I also clean the kid's ears with alcohol before I tattoo them.

## **This Month's Quiz...**

What is the gestation period of the goat (how long is she pregnant)?

## **Have you heard about Heifer International?**

Heifer International is an organization that is out to defeat hunger one goat at a time! They provide training animals and opportunities to people in many countries. And not only goats, but a whole Arc of animals that can help make life better for everyone! Go to their website and see how you can help... Donate a share of a goat as a Christmas present to someone you know today! <http://www.heifer.org/>

## **Answer to the December Quiz**

Five Months is the normal gestation for the domestic goat.

## **Gifts for Goat keeper - Happy Holidays!**

Gloves for small hands. A gift of work gloves will be much appreciated. It's hard to find well made, durable gloves if your hands are small.

Decorative Rubber Stamps, with a scented ink pad. A friend got me one that smells like cinnamon. I enjoy using it as much for the scent as the cute stamp.

Subscription to a goat magazine. News about her/his favorite breed will be treasured and read cover to cover.

Cookbooks featuring goat products.

A blank journal to record the adventures of the goat keeper in your life.

A book about raising goats, written by someone who has been there!

**Featured link of the month...**

Castle Pine Soap – [www.castlepinesoap.com](http://www.castlepinesoap.com)  
Handmade soaps, salves and unique fabric crafts.

Join our mailing list and receive our free newsletter!!  
Sign up at [www.goatsource.com](http://www.goatsource.com)

That's all for this month!!  
See you next month...

*Leslie, The Goat Source*

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