



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 4 Number 1 January 2007*

Here is your January issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Another year has rolled around. We are hoping for a better year weather wise – things have been awfully dry for the last few years. Hay prices have skyrocketed and so has corn. We will have to be more creative in our animal management to cope with the challenges the New Year holds. Just remember – life without challenges isn't any fun!! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Harness Goats – A Brief Overview
- This Month's Quiz...
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- Answer to the January Quiz
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Harness Goats – A Brief Overview

Have you ever looked at those old prints of a child sitting in a small cart pulled by a handsome goat? Using goats as cart animals is regaining popularity and with the proper training, your wether can be the star at the next local parade - you will need to provide a harness, halter and cart and, of course, – the

goat!. When the parade is over, you will have a handy addition to the farmstead, able to haul wood, hay and entertain the grandkids. You can buy or build the harness and cart.

<http://www.geocities.com/goatacres.geo/instruct.html>

A large goat can pull a cart quite handily. Proper training is a must and requires just a few minutes a day. Picking out the right kind of goat is essential and the following site has basic tips on how to choose and train the perfect goat for your project:

<http://www.geocities.com/goatacres.geo/harn.html>

Why not look at this coming year's kid crop and pick out the kid most likely to succeed – at being a harness goat!

This Month's Quiz...

What information is found on a feed tag?

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### **Classified Ads...**

Computerized recordkeeping for your goats – [The Goatbreeders Notebook](#)  
Easy to use and affordable for the small herd.

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](#)

**JANUARY SPECIAL FOR SUBSCRIBERS ONLY!** Customized screensavers made just for you. –Get your custom-made screensaver for only 5\$ during January! That's half off the regular price!! [Click Here](#) and get a brief overview of how to get your Screen Saver. Then, email me at [goatsource9@cowisp.net](mailto:goatsource9@cowisp.net) and put GS January SS Special in the subject line.

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### **Recipes**

This time of year a hearty bowl of chili hits the spot! Try this one from Laffin K Goats:

<http://www.laffin-k.com/recipes.asp?r=19>

### **Answer to the January Quiz:**

Tags on commercial feeds are a legal requirement of State Regulatory Agencies. State regulators belong to the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). They provide guidance to Feed Control Service Administrators concerning identification of feedstuffs, feed mixtures, minerals, vitamins, and any feed additives (including antibiotics). Tags generally will carry the brand name, the company address and numerically coded batch number as well as descriptive name, such as “Kid Grower” and form designation (meal, pellet, coarse ground, etc.). If the feed contains any medication, the tag must identify the drugs and the concentration. The *medicated tag* must carry a warning showing withdrawal time in days prior to sale of animals. Usually, tags also provide *directions* for use. The tag

will contain information about crude protein, crude fiber and crude fat. Individual ingredients usually are not listed.

This information was excerpted from an article by Frank Pinkerton, Ph.D. Read the whole article here:

[http://www.clemson.edu/agronomy/goats/feed\\_tag.html](http://www.clemson.edu/agronomy/goats/feed_tag.html)

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### **Tour of a Feed Mill**

Every year, our local feed mill has a big open house and celebration. They are one of the oldest continuously running family businesses in our town and the mill is a historic landmark. I'm talking about Ranchway Feeds in Fort Collins. If you get a chance to go on a tour of the mill, GO! It is fascinating. They have their own pelleting mill, which can make everything from rabbit pellets to range cake. They also make many of their own feed supplements in "block" form. The mill is kept as clean as possible, because grain dust is highly explosive. Mixing of feed is all controlled from the office by an up-to-date computer system. I remember when our goat club had to get together and buy a ton of goat grain at a time to get it mixed the way we liked it. Now they carry several different types of goat grain. If you get a chance, stop by and talk to the friendly folks at [Ranchway](#). They are always willing to help out!

### **Now here is an interesting goat house!**

<http://www.geocities.com/goatacres.geo/tower1.jpg>

### **Helpful hints:**

When shaking out flakes of straw to put down in the barn, if it is dusty, shake it out outside to get most of the dust out, so the goats don't have to breathe it. Then transfer it to the barn.

A "snake light" flashlight that you can hang around your neck makes it easy to see what you are doing while leaving your hands free. They also can be made to sit upright on the ground and put the light right where you need it. The only drawback I find to my snake light is that it "eats" batteries!

That's all for this month,...

See you next month!!

## *Leslie, The Goat Source*

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