



The Goat Source

June 2005 Vol. 2 No. 6

Hi, Here is your copy of The Goat Source June Newsletter.
This will be a short newsletter due to the Memorial Day Holiday and all the new chores that summer brings to the farm.

What's News...

- Folded ears in Nubian kids
- Poisonous Plants
- June Quiz...
- Trailer Safety
- Answer to the Quiz

Fixing Folded Ears in Nubian Kids

Fixing those folded ears in Nubian kids can be frustrating but I have found an easy way to correct them if you do it when they are very young. You have to do it before the cartilage in the ear firms up. Take a piece of duct tape about 3 or 4 inches long and stick it to the inside of the ear and leave it for a couple of weeks. If it will stay on, the ear should straighten out. If it is stubborn, make a cardboard form a little shorter than the ear, and wrap the tape all the way around the ear with the form on the outside of the ear. Leave this on until it falls off in a couple of weeks. It's easier than any of the other fixes I've tried.

Poisonous Plants

Summer is here and the plants are growing like crazy including the ones that are toxic to our goats. Some of the plants that are in this category are: bracken fern, buttercups, chokecherry, cockle bur, hemp dog bane, hoary alyssum, horsetail, jimsonweed, nightshades, oaks, and poison hemlock. Go to http://ipcm.wisc.edu/uw_weeds/extension/articles/poisonpasture.htm for more info on these plants and how to identify them.

When I weed, I throw the plants into my garden cart and when it's full take them to the goat pen for the girls to munch on. Be careful - nothing poisonous or strong flavored (for the milkers - the flavors come through into the milk).

This month's quiz...

What is Leafy Spurge?

Trailer Safety

With the weather improving and shows starting, it's time to check your trailer for safety.

Check your tires for wear and proper pressure. Make sure you have a spare.

Check all gates and latches. Test your lights and brakes. Make sure the floor is not rotten anywhere. Look underneath for anything dangling or dragging.. Look to see that you have current tags!! Carry the registration in the glove box of the truck.

Have a Great Summer!!

Leslie - The Goat Source

Answer to the quiz...Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.) is an herbaceous, deep-rooted, perennial, noxious weed, introduced into North America from Eurasia and currently found in 26 states and six Canadian provinces. The weed is extremely persistent and competitive, and is primarily found on non-tilled areas. Goats have been found useful in its control. Further reading...

<http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/plantsci/hay/r1093w.htm#feed>

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