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### Presidents Brief:

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2015.

Most breeders will be finished kidding for this season and I hope you have had a good breeding season and your kids on the ground are growing well. For some weaning will have finished while others are just starting.

What have we as an Association achieved over the past year?

We had a successful 2015 Wanaka Show with the Australian judges doing BGBAA Classifications for a number of studs, a successful NZBGBA South Island Boer Goat Championships with a NZ judge – just for a change, a number of other local shows, field days or exhibits in both islands, all helping to promote our Boer Goat. Thank you to all involved.

Our membership has increased to almost 40 making the break-even point easier to achieve and with that a little more money that can be reinvested back into the members.

During the winter the executive started putting together some promotional material for use by members when promoting goats. These are still in development, with each executive member contributing on a variety of topics based on their own experiences. These will not be definitive but some starting points for conversations. Any relevant input is always welcome.

At the South Island champs a new initiative by the executive was presented – all to do with promoting the Boer Goat. Caps @ \$25.00 and shirts @ \$35.00 with the NZBGBA emblem. These are being sold to only cover the costs of producing. Please contact me if you would like any of these.

Last year with the 25th anniversary of the forming of the NZBGBA, lapel badges were made. Additional badges are still available at a purchase price of \$20.00. We still have a quantity available so please contact me if you wish to purchase badges.

In the last newsletter I asked for ideas about the timing, location and topics for the 2016 AGM, and to come back to the Executive by the end of 2015. To date we have received no replies so please put your thoughts in writing and if nothing is received by the Executive by the end of January then the executive will put a format in place.

Planning is well underway for a Breeders Workshop to be held in Christchurch on the weekend of 27 & 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. This will be hosted by Jenny and Guy Bassett at Sheffield, Canterbury and presented by Stephen Andrews who is a NZ Advanced Level Judge and Executive member.

Otago - Taieri A & P Show, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016. This is a new show that ties in nicely between the NZBGBA South Island Show and Wanaka Show which is on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Owen Booth has grown Taieri from an exhibit of Boer goats to being asked to run a show so please support this show as every new show helps to promote our breed, provide herd benchmarking and valuable opportunities for our up and coming NZ Judges. Congratulations Annabelle on your appointment, we know you will carry the day.

Once again the predictions are for a long hot dry summer in most of the country, please read the article on condition scoring and follow the given link to Goat Welfare.

Have a happy and safe New Year and see you all in 2016

Brian Loughhead – NZBGBA President

## 2015 NZBGBA South Island Boer Goat Championship

The 2015 South Island Champs was held in Christchurch 11-13th November 2015. Warwick Ferguson (NZ) was the judge and awarded Supreme Champion Boer goat to a 2015 born buck kid owned by Owen Booth. Well done to Owen and to all exhibitors. We had a new group of helpers this year which made the day flow very well. Once again we had Boer Goat meat being cooked by Mark from Baretta Bar and Restaurant, Christchurch. A big thanks to all those involved especially our sponsor AGRISEA

STANDARD BOER GOATS					
<b>8500</b>	<b>Doe kid born after 1 Aug</b>		<b>8511</b>	<b>Buck kid born after 1 Aug</b>	
1	Owen Booth	WSB1558	1	Owen Booth	WSB1545
2	Owen Booth	WSB1530	2	Owen Booth	WSB1539
3	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG553	3	B&P Loughhead	AMB590
4=	B&P Loughhead	AMB597	4	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG554
4=	B&P Loughhead	AMB554	HC	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG552
<b>8501</b>	<b>Doe kid born before 31 July</b>		HC	B&P Loughhead	AMB598
1	B&P Loughhead	AMB451	HC	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG559
<b>8502</b>	<b>Junior Champion Standard Boer Doe</b>	WSB1558	HC	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG553
<b>8503</b>	<b>Reserve Jun Champ Standard Boer Doe</b>	WSB1530	<b>8512</b>	<b>Buck kid born before 31 July</b>	
			1	NO ENTRIES	
<b>8504</b>	<b>Doe 12-24 mths</b>		<b>8513</b>	<b>Junior Champion Standard Boer Buck</b>	WSB1545
1	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG406	<b>8514</b>	<b>Reserve Jun Champ Standard Boer Buck</b>	WSB1539
2	Owen Booth	WSB1411			
3	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG412	<b>8516</b>	<b>Buck 12-24 mths</b>	
<b>8505</b>	<b>Doe 24-36 mths</b>		1	B&P Loughhead	AMB404
1	B&P Loughhead	AMB1321	2	B&P Loughhead	AMB402
2	Owen Booth	WSB1328	3	Owen Booth	WSB1417
3	B&P Loughhead	AMB1320	<b>8517</b>	<b>Buck 24-36 mths</b>	
4	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG3010	1	NO ENTRIES	
<b>8506</b>	<b>Doe 36+ mths</b>		<b>8518</b>	<b>Buck 36+ mths</b>	
1	B&P Loughhead	AMB244	1	Owen Booth	MU1009
2	Owen Booth	MU856	<b>8519</b>	<b>Senior Champ Standard Boer Buck</b>	MU1009
3	Owen Booth	WSB1217	<b>8524</b>	<b>Reserve Snr Champ Standard Boer Buck</b>	AMB404
4	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers	JAG014			
<b>8507</b>	<b>Senior Champ Standard Boer Doe</b>	JAG406	<b>8522</b>	<b>Grand Champ Standard Boer Buck</b>	WSB1545
<b>8508</b>	<b>Reserve Snr Champ Standard Boer Doe</b>	AMB244			
			<b>8525</b>	<b>Supreme Champ Standard Boer Goat</b>	WSB1545
<b>8509</b>	<b>Grand Champ Standard Boer Doe</b>	JAG406			

<b>8526</b>	<b>Sire's Progeny</b>
1	Owen Booth
2	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers
<b>8527</b>	<b>Dam &amp; 1 progeny</b>
1	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers
2	Owen Booth
3	B&P Loughhead
4	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers
<b>8528</b>	<b>Breeders group</b>
1	Owen Booth
2	Bassett family / Jaegar Boers
3	B&P Loughhead



Supreme Champion WSB 1545



2015 NZGBA South Island Supreme Champion & Grand Champion Doe

**RED BOER GOATS**

<b>8530</b>	<b>Doe kid born after 1 Aug</b>	
1	B&P Loughhead	AMB581
2	Patricia Aldridge	MTS15BO5R
<b>8531</b>	<b>Doe kid born before 31 July</b>	0
<b>8535</b>	<b>Junior Champion Red Boer Doe</b>	AMB581
<b>8536</b>	<b>Reserve Champ Junior Red Boer Doe</b>	MTS15BO5R
<b>8537</b>	<b>Doe 12-24 mths</b>	
1	B&P Loughhead	AMB421
2	B&P Loughhead	AMB417
<b>8538</b>	<b>Doe 24mths +</b>	
1	B&P Loughhead	TDN8
2	B&P Loughhead	AMB1309
<b>8540</b>	<b>Senior Champ Red Boer Doe</b>	AMB421
<b>8541</b>	<b>Reserve Champ Senior Red Boer Doe</b>	TDN8
<b>8545</b>	<b>Grand Champion Red Boer Doe</b>	AMB421

<b>8548</b>	<b>Buck kid born after 1 Aug</b>	
1	B&P Loughhead	AMB579
2	Patricia Aldridge	MTS15BO6R
<b>8550</b>	<b>Junior Champion Red Boer Buck</b>	AMB579
<b>8551</b>	<b>Reserve Champ Junior Red Boer Buck</b>	MTS15BO6R
<b>8552</b>	<b>Buck 12-24 mths</b>	
1	B&P Loughhead	AMB418
2	B&P Loughhead	AMB450
<b>8553</b>	<b>Buck 24-36 mths</b>	0
<b>8554</b>	<b>Senior Champion Red Boer Buck</b>	AMB418
<b>8555</b>	<b>Reserve Champ Senior Red Boer Buck</b>	AMB450
<b>8556</b>	<b>Grand Champion Red Boer Buck</b>	AMB579
<b>8560</b>	<b>Supreme Champ Red Boer Goat</b>	AMB421
<b>Most successful exhibitor</b>		
Amberfield Boers		



2015 NZ Red Boer Supreme Red Boer Goat

## CANTERBURY BOER GOAT FIELD DAY REPORT

On the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015 a field day was held at the Amberfield Boer goat stud in Amberley by the Canterbury Boer Goat Group. It was attend by 28 people.

The morning started with a morning tea, followed by our first guest speaker, Vet Ben Davidson from the Rangiora Veterinary Centre. Ben spoke to the group on the different types of vaccinations, off use label for goats, drenching, & noxious weeds.

He discussed the different types of vaccine available, such as the use of 5 in 1, 6 in 1 and 10 in 1 vaccines. He explained the importance of discussing which type is best suited to your farming needs with your vet. He also mentioned that some diseases that are covered in some of the vaccines are not in NZ currently. Again he stressed the importance of consulting you vet to make sure you use what is the best for your situation. Vaccinate does 4 weeks pre kid. Kids will need two further vaccinations, with the second being 4-6 weeks after the initial. Don't us a vaccine with selenium in it on kids. All 12 month olds need to be done as well, even if they are going to be going to the buck, these will then be done again pre kid to make sure they are covered. Due to vaccines being live, it is important that vaccines are not used past their expiry dates, and also disposed of, once they have been opened and used according to the product instructions, i.e. Can be used up to 30 days after opening. Selenium levels can be tested by a blood test pre kid and pre mating as required. Ben also showed where and how to vaccinated a goat.

Ben recommended using the refugia method for drenching. Using FEC is a great idea, which can give you a good overview of what level your worm burdens are sitting at. You can use your vet services or buy a kit and do this yourself. Kids with a FEC greater than 300-400 FEC can be drenched.

Parasites are found 90% in the animals and 10% in pasture with kids at the biggest risk. Spring and Autumn are the highest risk time and this is where knowing you stock and pasture management comes into play. Keeping pasture long enough and using pasture rotation, allowing paddocks to rest is the best option.

Good nutrition is essential, in helping build resistance to worms. Along with good management, rotation of paddocks and plants that are higher in tannin such as willow can also assist with this.

Following on from Ben, a shared lunch was enjoyed, with a chance to meet new people and have a good catch up with others. Once lunch was finished we moved out to the paddock where Brian spoke briefly about the property, and setup.

Paul O'Donnell from Agrisea then spoke on plant and soil health. Paul discussed the importance of the soil structure and biology, and how without these the plants won't thrive and put down deep roots to ensure they get all the good nutrition available. Paul discussed the pasture and show how the seaweed was working on the soil, and how the health of the plants was obvious by the size of the leaves, especially in the clovers.

Brian showed how to trim horns and how to use a grinder for hoof trimming. A basic demonstration was also given on show preparation and trimming. Due to people having to leave, this was kept brief.

Feedback from the day was very positive, and the Group would like to thank all those who attended the day.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Canterbury Boer Goat group event.

## Code of Welfare - Goats Issued by the NZ Government under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

You are about to or have purchased your Boer goat herd. Your enjoyment of this noble breed will depend on your ruminant livestock experience, management systems, whether you are proactive or reactive and your understanding of the laws around owning any form of livestock.

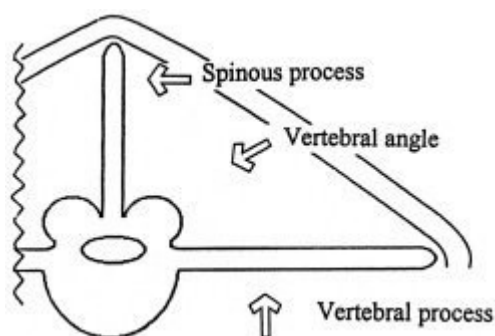
Every goat breeder should be aware of the responsibilities they hold on behalf of their goats and while Mother Nature can be tough at times you need to have a plan B at all times.

The NZBGBA would like to remind all Boer goat breeders that if you have not read and understood the Code of Welfare for Goats then now would be a good time. The following link <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1429> will be useful reading so that you understand what you need to do to keep your Boer goats stress free.

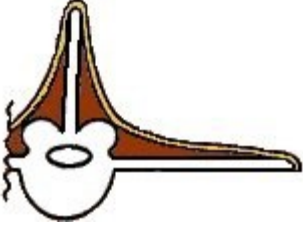
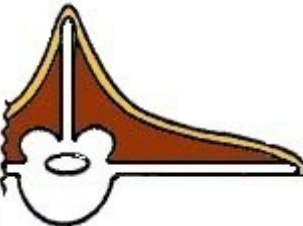
With the changing weather patterns that Mother Nature has chosen to deliver to New Zealand farmers over the past 5 years take note of the pages on “goat body scoring” which is also printed below.

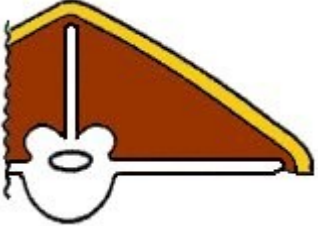
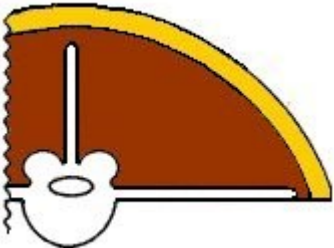
Illustrations show loin structure, the regions of the back between the ribs and hips. Descriptions are what you feel on the loin with firm fingertip pressure. Also discussed are in bones, or *tuber ischii*, part of the pelvis and located at either side of the vulva in does and the same location in bucks. Other versions of condition scoring describe fat padding on chest floor and how it correlates with features included in this system. Each of the five categories has a descriptive title and a score number. **Padding over the ribs is never used to accurately judge body condition.**

Parts of the Loin



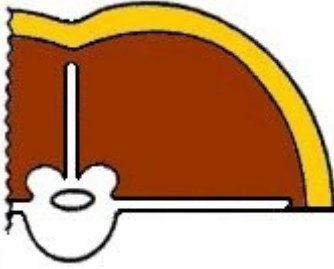
**Spinous processes** are the bones felt on top of the back. **Vertebral processes** are the long bones horizontal to the spine. The **vertebral angle** is the triangle between the top of the spinous process, the edge of the vertebral process and the skin. The muscle inside this angle is the *longissimus*, or eye muscle, a roast or part of a T-bone steak.

1 POOR							
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Loin</b></td> <td>No muscle on edges of transverse process, bones very sharp, thin skin Vertebral angle has little muscle and is very concave</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Rump</b></td> <td>Spinous processes very prominent with no muscle in between</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Pins</b></td> <td>Sharp outline visible; no muscle between skin and bones Very sharp, no padding</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Loin</b>	No muscle on edges of transverse process, bones very sharp, thin skin Vertebral angle has little muscle and is very concave	<b>Rump</b>	Spinous processes very prominent with no muscle in between	<b>Pins</b>	Sharp outline visible; no muscle between skin and bones Very sharp, no padding
<b>Loin</b>	No muscle on edges of transverse process, bones very sharp, thin skin Vertebral angle has little muscle and is very concave						
<b>Rump</b>	Spinous processes very prominent with no muscle in between						
<b>Pins</b>	Sharp outline visible; no muscle between skin and bones Very sharp, no padding						
<p><b>Features</b> Skeleton has little or no muscle. Hollows in the flanks below the loin are very concave.</p> <p><b>Causes</b> Poor diet, disease, parasitism, lactation, or any combination of these.</p> <p><b>Problems</b> Slow growth rate in kids; stunting in growing animals, conception failure, abortion, weak or dead new-borns, metabolic disease during pregnancy, very susceptible to disease.</p> <p><b>Solutions</b> Better nutrition, management and herd health program. Evaluate disease status.</p>							
2 THIN							
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Loin</b></td> <td>Muscle extends to the edges of transverse process, spacing can be felt between the vertebral processes, thin skin</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Rump</b></td> <td>Outline slightly contoured; light padding but bones still somewhat prominent and very easy to feel</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Pins</b></td> <td>Sharp, little padding</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Loin</b>	Muscle extends to the edges of transverse process, spacing can be felt between the vertebral processes, thin skin	<b>Rump</b>	Outline slightly contoured; light padding but bones still somewhat prominent and very easy to feel	<b>Pins</b>	Sharp, little padding
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<b>Pins</b>	Sharp, little padding						
<p><b>Features</b> Skeleton has some muscle. Hollows in the flanks below the loin are somewhat concave.</p> <p><b>Causes</b> Poor diet, disease, parasitism, lactation or any combination of these.</p> <p><b>Problems</b> Slow growth rate in kids and growing animals, metabolic disease, weak or dead new-borns, susceptible to disease.</p> <p><b>Solutions</b> Better nutrition, management and herd health program. Evaluate disease status.</p>							

<b>3 GOOD</b>		
	<p><b>Loin</b> Muscle and subcutaneous fat covers edges of vertebral process; individual bones are somewhat distinct</p> <p><b>Rump</b> Smooth, without signs of fat; pelvic bones and spine are distinct</p> <p><b>Pins</b> Slight pressure needed to feel the pin bones</p>	
<p><b>Features</b> Muscle over skeleton felt with gentle pressure. Firm pressure is not needed to feel bones. Hollows in the flanks are barely concave or level with the surrounding area of the sides.</p> <p><b>Problems</b> None. Maintain condition at 3 or slightly higher, depending on age and production status.</p>		
<p><b>Scores 1-3 represent muscle growth/expansion</b>  <b>Muscle does not grow after score 3.</b>  <b>Scores 4 and 5 represent fat accumulation</b></p>		
<b>4 FAT</b>		
	<p><b>Loin</b> Vertebral processes indistinct and firm pressure needed to feel them Vertebral angle rounded but not yet bulging over spinous processes Spinous process spacing difficult to detect; spine felt as a hard line</p> <p><b>Rump</b> Heavily padded with fat; bones can only be felt with firm pressure</p> <p><b>Pins</b> Heavily padded with fat, and firm pressure needed to feel them</p>	
<p><b>Features</b> Very firm pressure needed to feel all bony structures.</p> <p><b>Causes</b> Feeding in excess, limited exercise.</p> <p><b>Problems</b> Inhibited locomotion, easily tired, orthopaedic abnormalities, dystocia, and metabolic disease.</p> <p><b>Solutions</b> Reduce plane of nutrition, provide exercise.</p>		



## 5 OBESE



### Loin

Edge of vertebral processes and spacing between too fat to feel bones

Vertebral angle bulges over the level of the spinous processes

### Rump

Spine lies in the centre of a groove of fat

### Pins

Buried in fat, bones very indistinct

Buried in fat, hard to locate

**Features** Bones covered with a thick layer of fat over the muscle are very hard to feel.

**Causes** Feeding in excess, limited exercise.

**Problems** Inhibited locomotion, easily tired, orthopaedic abnormalities, infertility, dystocia, metabolic disease.

**Solutions** Reduce plane of nutrition, provide exercise.

## Photo Corner



I really am a pretty goat, not just a bucket head!

## Profitable Boer Goat Meat Production.

British farmers are historically world class at producing livestock – and usually pretty awful at marketing it! Unsurprising when you look at the skill set they have had handed down from generation to generation. Most successful business people will tell you to play to your strengths and outsource your weaknesses. This is why when the phone rings and people tell me that they want to start with Boer Goats I always ask them why? I'm not being clever or rude it's just that if they don't really know what the end game is they will never get there.

Generally the answer is either, hobby, meat for the freezer or commercial venture. The first two are easy answers, buy the required number of does preferably in kid and away you go. Simple health and management advice, and they have achieved what they set out to do in the first place and hopefully have lots of fun out of the goats and or filled the freezer with very healthy red meat and enjoyed the experience.

The third type of answer is slightly more complex as generally there is going to be a capital investment involved both in time and money. People are usually not expecting the answer they get when they ask me how to set up a commercial goat meat venture.

During the last 30 years I have learnt plenty about the white meat chicken industry, there is one golden rule that has survived the years – SELL IT FIRST AND PRODUCE IT SECOND. The practise of producing beef and sheep and then selling them to the highest (or often lowest) bidder in an open market scares the bejesus out of any white meat producer. If you don't know the selling price then how can you know how much you can afford to spend producing it plus your profit?

The selling price is made up of two components. Input costs and profit, there, I've used the forbidden word in the English language! Profit! Why shouldn't we be rewarded for all our efforts, inputs of time and money, risk and worry?

Here I will outline our marketing strategy and then our production costs but stress that this is our system and there is more than one way to skin a cat or in this case a goat!

We have sold all our meat animals forward for the next three years to a customer in Kent who already has a very successful meat selling operation in place with a proven track record selling goat, lamb and pork into farmers markets and restaurants. The animals are all delivered by me in groups of 20 weighing 40kg minimum, they are all outside of any veterinary withdrawal period and are all either Fullblood, 100% or very high percentage Boer goat. They are processed through a small English abattoir that stuns and is fully regulated by the Meat Hygiene Service. The customer pays me on delivery and as I know in advance the approximate delivery date I can usually arrange a return load that covers the cost of the fuel. I supply an approximate schedule of deliveries for the year so that marketing can be balanced against supply. If my customer is happy then I am happy. We get paid £2.50 per kg live weight. People will say that they can get more than this but it is usually for very small numbers and they forget the additional costs of transport, killing, packaging, labelling and delivery. I am trying to breed or buy in, to supply 200 animals for 2016 delivery. So that's the marketing sorted out, full loads of 40kg plus animals worth £100 plus on a long term contract to a respected, established customer.

For most people the production side of a goat meat business is by far the most interesting and satisfying side but the marketing has got to be watertight, regardless of whether you are selling direct to the consumer, live on a contract as we do, or into a butcher who will retail them for you.

We are semi intensive with our meat herd. The does run in groups of 25 housed during the winter in strawed yards and then during the summer they are out grazing in daylight and housed at night. The housing yards are the correct size to take 25 does plus kids up to the age of weaning at 10 weeks.

A group of 25 does will eat a round bale of haylage costing £25 per week during the winter and quarter that amount during the summer so £813 of haylage per year. (£33 head per year)

A group of 25 does will eat 300g of 18% nuts per day for 8 months of the year, none for the month after weaning and 1kg per day for 3 months prior to and after kidding, total of 162 kg at £0.25 kg. (£40 nuts per head per year)

A group of 25 does will use a round bale of straw costing £10 per week during the winter and half that amount during the summer so £390 of straw per year. (£16 head per year)

Mucking out is done by a contractor who also takes the muck away so we have no additional muck disposal costs. This costs £5 per doe per year.

Our veterinary costs in the meat herd are £18 per doe per year including her kids. This covers iodine spray, Lambivac, Baycox, Spot On and Dectomax.

A high percentage Boer goat doeling should cost £300 and rear 10 kids in 5 years before being culled at £100 resulting in £200 depreciation.

So the doe has cost Haylage £33, Nuts £40, Straw £16, Veterinary £18, depreciation £40 and mucking out £5, totalling £152 per year. Ex labour and housing.

We are selling the male kids for £100 at 40kg liveweight and the doe kids sell for £230 at 20 weeks when the bucks leave, giving an income per doe of £330 based on 2 kids sold per doe, 1 male 1 female.

The kids are fed the same nut as the does from the age of 10 days until they are 40kg, ad lib from a feeder. They are weaned at 10 weeks weighing an average of 24kg and remain inside until they are 20 weeks. Utilising the Boer Goats meaty genetics they will convert the feed at 5:1 meaning that each animal eats approximately 180kg of feed plus some hay. This costs £45 per animal or £90 per doe.

Using this system our costs are £242 per doe per year and she produces £330 leaving £88 per doe profit before labour and the cost of the buck. A margin that most sheep farmers would love to achieve.

By keeping the kids inside in they don't suffer from worms but you do need to treat for lice with Spot On and cocci is controlled using Baycox.

The system is simple. When the doe is kidding she is placed into a single pen, the kids are weighed, tagged and navels sprayed. At 4 weeks the kids are weighed, vaccinated and treated for cocci. This is repeated at 7 weeks and then at 10 weeks faecal samples are taken to see if they require a third treatment for cocci, and then they are weighed and weaned. Buck kids being taken to older ages or bigger weights may need castrating but we don't need to with them being sold at 20 weeks.

The main production system here at Cherry Tree Farm revolves around importing fast growing, high health status Fullblood Boer Goat genetics from South Africa via Australia and then performance recording the offspring to enable us to supply superior meat breeding animals into the fast growing UK goat meat market. The emphasis is heavily weighted to producing high daily liveweight gains, with low mortality, high fecundity; low feed conversion animals that classify well in the abattoir and meet the customers' requirements allowing everybody in the production chain to have a profit margin.

Anybody in the chicken industry reading this will recognise that we have utilised the same principles that apply in the white meat sector to producing goat meat:

Sell it before you produce it.

Measure everything.

Focus on Genetics, Management and nutrition.

Prioritise Welfare.

Leave everybody a margin!

Ian Johnson

[isjfarmingtld@btinternet.com](mailto:isjfarmingtld@btinternet.com)