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Presidents Brief:

Welcome to issue 4 of our e newsletter.

With the 2015 mating underway or about to commence there is an interesting article on buck preparation included in this issue.

The pedigrees on the SIL database are still being worked on with NZ Sheep Breeders.

Progress has been slow with the NZ Sheep Breeders time being primarily focussed on the sheep studbook. If you are submitting pedigrees for registration please ensure that your information is correct and also remember to double check whatever is returned from NZ Sheep Breeders. You as breeders have a responsibility to know that the Boer goat that you are selling matches the pedigree registered against it.

At the 2014 NZBGBA South Island Boer Goat Championships the Executive set up a small area close to the ring as a point of contact for anyone with enquiries about our breed or wanting to join as a member. This initiative was well received by the public with many inquiries about the breed and association. My thanks to the executive members who manned this area over the duration of the show.

For those members who have yet to pay their 2015 subscriptions, please forward payment as soon as possible. Your association relies on membership fees to operate.

It was pleasing to see the 2014 Annual Report for the Canterbury Agricultural & Pastoral Association come out with a picture of a Boer goat on the cover. This can only be good for promoting the breed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The 2015 AGM will be held in Oamaru this year on the weekend of 16th -17th May. The executive has taken on board the views of members for the AGM and have decided on a lower key, lower cost event on the Saturday, with a farm visit on the Sunday morning.

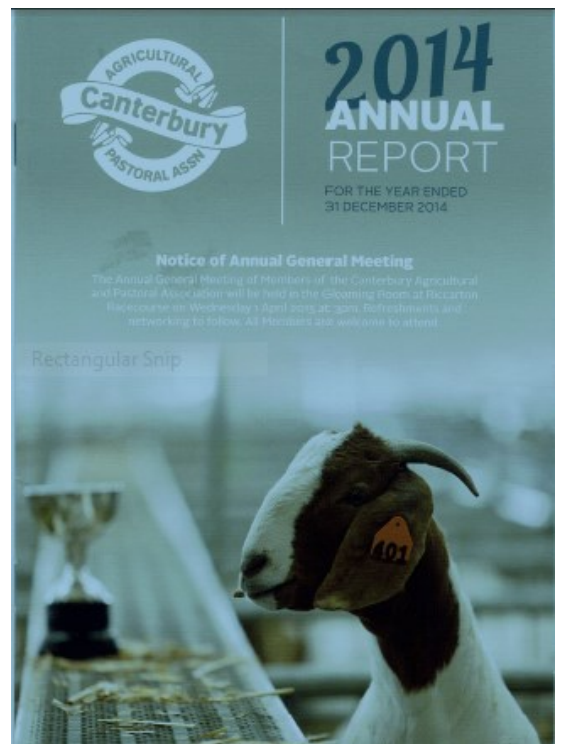
The idea being that members who have to use air travel can arrive into either Christchurch or Dunedin on Saturday morning, and travel with local members to Oamaru to arrive for the lunch time start. The registration form and details will be emailed to members as a separate form with this newsletter.

Please complete the registration form and make payment as soon as possible in order for attending numbers to be given to the venue. An accommodation option is available as detailed, but is up to individual members to arrange this directly. The Executive is hoping to see as many members as possible for this weekend.

See you soon

Regards

Brian Loughhead – NZBGBA President



Canterbury Show 2014

Due to too many show photos in the December edition these photos have been rolled over to this edition.

Having a chef (Mark) doing a live cooking demonstration with Boer infused meat over the 3 show days was a major achievement.

Due to the efforts of Jenny Bassett liaising with Shingle Creek Chevon who supplied the Boer infused meat the sessions were well supported.

Over hearing some of the comments made by the general public were both supportive and encouraging. We as the breeder/grower just need to work out how to best capitalise on opportunities like this.

Come Canterbury show time 2015 this interactive demonstration has got to be high on the list of “must have”.

Make sure you let all your friends know that Christchurch has a very good restaurant that can cook Boer goat meat and you

need to support Mark as well at the **Baretta Bar and Restaurant – Christchurch.**



Wanaka Show 2015.

We were privileged to be invited to judge the Upper Clutha A&P Show in Wanaka in March 2015.

Our invitation, trip & accommodation with a few South Island Breeders was organised by Wynn Cruikshank. We arrived in Marz's homeland & had an evening catching up with a good friend in CHCH before starting to meet people and the NZ Boer goat with herd assessment/classification on Tuesday using the BGBAA Classification Scheme. This was gratefully accepted & we were able to provide some confirmation that their breeding plans were on track. We then drove to Jenny and Guys property to do a classification and stay the night. We realised that Classification was not commonly used & a relatively unknown process to people but believe that everyone became more relaxed as we started the process and went through each animal they presented. We managed a quick visit to family in Dunedin, before travelling to Wanaka to prepare for our official duties.



show, we were invited by some of the exhibitors, to do Herd Assessments for them. They were all very excited & interested in this extra tool for furthering their breeding plans. We stayed a couple of days with Wynn & Tony & were shown some local sights.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit & feel very grateful to have been invited & given the opportunity to reinforce Classification as well as Judging Wanaka Show.

Hopefully everyone we were able to visit came away with something that will help in the progression of the Boer Goat Breed. We would like to thank everyone for their beautiful Kiwi hospitality and openness. We have gained some good friends from our visit & look forward to some of them being able to visit us in Aussie Land sometime in the future.

Lynn Wickenden & Marz Andrew

Show day was warm & sunny with only a brief few drops of rain after lunch. We were pleased to see some very high quality animals of all ages, all beautifully prepared & presented for us to judge. We were ably assisted in the ring by Jenny Bassett & her daughter Sarah as Ring Stewards. The general feeling of the day was one of friendship & good sportsmanship. We were interviewed by a reporter from the NZ Farmer paper, who was very interested in the future of the Boer Goat industry. After the



Wanaka Show 2015.



Junior Doe Champion



Junior Buck Champion



Junior Champion

Senior Doe

Grand Champion Doe & Reserve





Senior Buck Champion



Senior Bucks



Grand Champion Buck



Doe & Progeny

**UPPER CLUTHA A&P SHOW -
13TH MARCH 2015**

JUDGE	Marlene Andrew & Lynn Wickenden	New South Wales, Australia
STEWARDS	Sarah Bassett & Jenny Bassett	Sheffield, Canterbury
SPONSORS	Shingle Creek Chevron	

	STUD	TAG
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KID DOE (born after 1 Oct 14)

1st	Avonlea Boers	AVN LY 1401
2nd	Alpha Boers	ALP 4111
3rd	Sunny Park Boers	SPB 428
4th	Alpha Boers	ALP 4042
5th	Alpha Boers	ALP 4422
6th	Avonlea Boers	AVN MD 1453

KID DOE (born before 1 Oct 14)

1st	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1402
2nd	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1406
3rd	Whitestone Boers	WSB 32/14
4th	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1404
5th	Whitestone Boers	WSB 11/14
6th	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1407

JUNIOR CHAMPION DOE	Avonlea Boers	AVN LY 1401
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMP DOE	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1402

2TH DOE

1st	Whitestone Boers	WSB 24/13
2nd	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1302
3rd	Sunny Park Boers	SPB 3148
4th	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1303
5th	Sunny Park Boers	SPB 3174
6th	Avonlea Boers	AVN LY 318

DOE 24 - 36 MTHS

1st	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1201
2nd	Whitestone Boers	WSB 14/12
3rd	Gareth King	GK 1205
4th	Avonlea Boers	AVN 1209

SENIOR DOE 36+ MTHS

1st	Whitestone Boers	MU 856
2nd	Alpha Boers	ALP 8050
3rd	Avonlea Boers	AVN 0902
4th	Avonlea Boers	AVN 0903
5th	Whitestone Boers	WSB 746
6th	Avonlea Boers	AVN LY 1071

SENIOR CHAMPION DOE	Whitestone Boers	MU 856
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMP DOE	Alpha Boers	ALP 8050

GRAND CHAMPION DOE	Whitestone Boers	MU 856
RESERVE GRAND CHAMP DOE	Avonlea Boers	AVN LY 1401

KID BUCK (born after 1 June 14)

1st	Whitestone Boers	WSB 14/26
2nd	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1400

2TH BUCK

1st	Alpha Boers	ALP 350
2nd	Sunny Park Boers	SPB 3114
3rd	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 1301

SENIOR BUCK 24+ MTHS

1st	Alpha Boers	ALP 8005
2nd	Alpha Boers	ALP 973
3rd	Phoenix Boers	JAQ 41

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK	Alpha Boers	ALP 350
RESERVE GRAND CHAMP BUCK	Alpha Boers	ALP 8005

SUPREME CHAMPION BOER	Alpha Boers	ALP 350
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DAM & KID PROGENY

1st	Avonlea Boers	Dam - ALP 0124, kid - AVN LY 1401
2nd	Phoenix Boers	Dam - GBS 9037, kids - JAQ 1400&1404
3rd =	Whitestone Boers	Dam - MU 856, kid - WSB 32/14
3rd =	Drybreed Boers	Dam - ALP 8080, DRY 4424

SIRES PROGENY

	Group of 3, same sire, different dams	Sponsored by Shingle Creek Chevon
1st \$200	Avonlea Boers	Sire - AVN LY 1063
2nd \$125	Phoenix Boers	Sire - "Indiana"
3rd \$65	Sunny Park Boers	Sire - MSA "Dextrous"

Preparing Bucks for the Breeding Season

Let's face it. No one likes to handle bucks, myself included. They're big, smelly and strong. For this reason they are often overlooked in herd management. However, the male is vitally important. If a buck is not reproductively sound, the kidding rate will be reduced drastically and profits will be similarly affected. Therefore, in preparation for the breeding season, bucks should receive a little extra attention prior to being turned out with the does including: good nutrition, disease and parasite control, a breeding soundness exam, foot care and a general physical examination.

Nutrition

It is very important that bucks be in good physical condition prior to the breeding season, but not too fat. An active buck with a high libido (sex drive) can literally forget to eat during the breeding season. An adult buck can be left thin but a yearling buck can actually be stunted permanently. A young buck needs nutrients not only for semen production and mating but also for his own body growth. It takes about 60 days for spermatozoa to form and mature inside the buck's reproductive tract. Therefore, it



is vital that bucks receive adequate nutrition prior to as well as during the breeding season for optimum performance. If your pasture conditions are not adequate right now, you may want to consider a protein supplement to make sure that bucks are in peak condition going into the breeding season. This is especially true for young, immature bucks that are still growing. There are many commercial protein supplement products available including protein

blocks formulated especially for goats. Choose the supplement option that works best for you.

Every goat producer should have a working knowledge of the nutritional needs of their animals. While the purpose of this article is not to teach ration balancing, on average a buck will require roughly 5% of his body weight in dry matter intake (the weight of the feed with all water removed) per day. For example, a 100 kg buck will eat 5 kg of dry matter feed per day. If he is receiving hay that has a dry matter content of 80% (20% moisture), he will then consume 6.25 kg of hay per day on an as fed basis ($5 \text{ kg}/0.80 = 6.25 \text{ kg}$).

An average meat or fibre producing buck will require 60% TDN (total digestible nutrients), 11% protein, 0.4% calcium and 0.2% phosphorus in his total diet. It is important to make sure that the calcium to phosphorus ratio is at least 2:1 to prevent urinary calculi formation. It is also important to point out that these nutritional requirements will vary according to age, breed of goat, activity level, desired weight gain, and other factors. Please consult a nutritionist, or veterinarian to formulate a ration according to the specific needs of your herd.

Disease and Parasite Control

Disease and heavy parasitic infections will also reduce a buck's sexual performance. Here are some steps that you can follow to control disease and parasites.

1. Follow a preventative program for internal and external parasites dictated by your local conditions.
2. Promptly treat any animals showing signs of infection.
3. Isolate new animals and animals returning from shows for a period of 30 days before adding or returning to the herd.
4. Vaccinate bucks for enterotoxaemia and tetanus whenever does are vaccinated.

Breeding Soundness Exam

Before going on a long trip you probably give your car a tune-up and make sure that all the important parts are functioning correctly. The same concept applies for your bucks. You should physically examine all bucks prior to the breeding season each year to make sure that all "important parts" are functioning correctly. Just because a buck was sound a year ago doesn't mean that he's sound today!

You can begin by carefully examining the penis and prepuce (sheath). To do this, gently push the prepuce down to reveal the penis. If the penis does not appear, gentle forward pressure in the area behind the scrotum will place pressure on the sigmoid flexure and thus protrude the penis. When inspecting, make sure that the penis and prepuce are not adhered together. Next check the penis for sores or cuts. Also feel the pizzle (thin process on the end of the penis) to make sure that no urinary stones are lodged there.

Next visually feel the testes. Make sure that they are cool to the touch (heat may indicate a possible infection), roughly the same size, firm to the touch (not too hard or soft), and have no unusual lumps. If abnormalities are detected in the testes, the semen should be evaluated by a veterinarian or reproductive physiologist before allowing the buck to breed does.

Foot Care

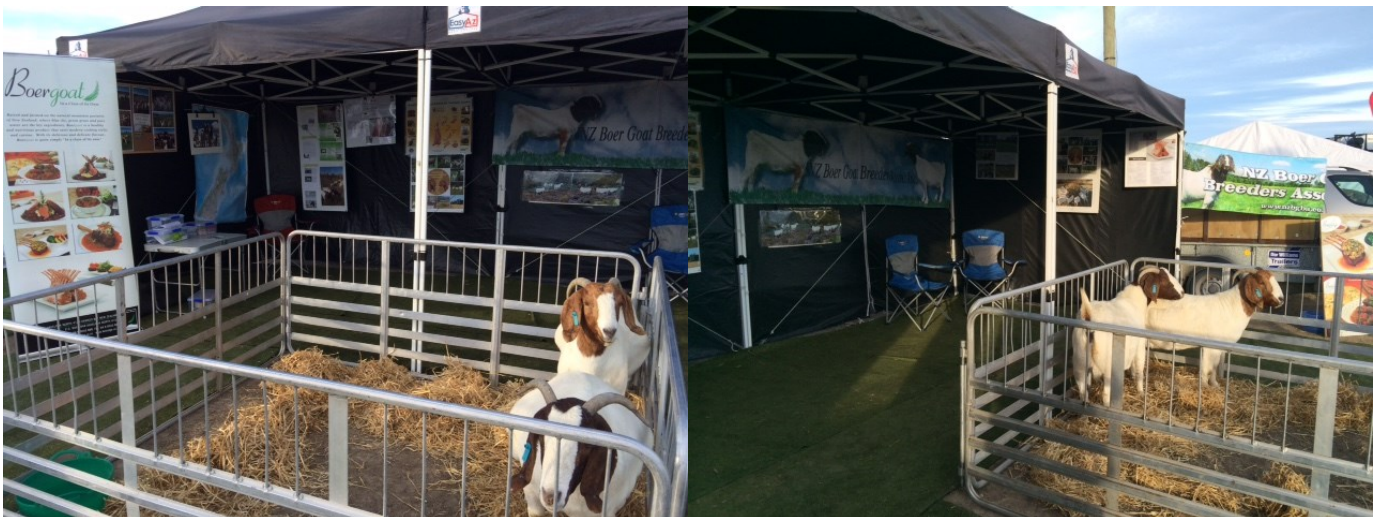
Bucks should receive hoof trimming and an examination of their conformation prior to the breeding season. Foot care is very important since problems will hinder the buck from actively seeking out does and mounting them. Bucks who find it painful to walk or mount will be reluctant to ejaculate even if they do attempt to mount. Possible causes of feet and leg problems include foot rot, overgrown hooves, improper foot trimmings, injury, or CAE.

While you are handling the buck, check his eyes as well. Bucks rely on sight to find does in heat in a large pasture setting, so make sure that the buck's vision is not impaired by cataracts, pink eye or excessive hair or other causes. In summary, it is of vital importance that bucks be reproductively sound prior to the breeding season. One can prepare bucks for the breeding season with good nutrition; regular health care and frequent foot care. Other precautions include breeding soundness examinations and general physical examinations prior to turning bucks out with does. If forage conditions in late summer are poor, you may want to consider supplementation to ensure optimum spermatozoa production in your bucks, especially for young, growing bucks.



Original author - Jackie Nix

South Island Agriculture Field Days



The recently held South Island Agriculture field days held at Kirwee was a tremendous success due to the hard work of Jenny & Guy Bassett, Philippa Loughhead, Geoff Moore, and Krysia Krawczk with the support of the Canterbury group. With over 800 sites the event was well patronised and many enquires were made about both commercial and stud Boer or Boer infused goats.

Meat Schedules – March 2015



Shingle Creek Chevon Schedule:

Oct 2014 - June 2015

Targeting Boer Infused animals

Age young through to 4ths

Min live weight 35kg No upper limit.

We are paying \$4 kg carcass weight, plus freight.

Enquires to Dougal Laidlaw 021339055

www.shinglecreekchevon.co.nz

Blue SkyMeats

Telephone

64 3 231 3421

www.bluesky.co.nz

Goat Schedule

15 kg and below - \$4.35

15 kg and above - \$3.50

Carcass Weight (kg)	Value (\$)
13	56.55
14	60.90
15	65.25
16	56.00
17	59.50
18	63.00
19	66.50
20	70.00
21	73.50

Note; Processing of goats is conducted when supply numbers and space allows.

