



Summer 2019 | Number 87

BRITISH
Boer Goat
SOCIETY

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*Cover photograph courtesy of Jess Yardley,
Jessley Photography*

Neither the Committee nor the Editor are responsible for the views or statements made by contributors, nor for the accuracy of advertisements. This newsletter is produced three times a year in April, August and December, latest copy date for the 2019 August edition is 15th June 2019.

www.britishboergoatsociety.co.uk

Note from Secretary

I have noticed that members are sending all enquiries to myself. In order to speed up the response and reduce my workload please can I ask for any queries related to registrations to be sent direct to Nicola Knott via email at registrations@britishboergoatsociety.co.uk.

For general enquiries please continue to email me at secretary@britishboergoatsociety.co.uk if you have anything you'd like to discuss or passed on to the committee.

Accessing the website seems to still cause confusion. Queries relating to logging into Member Hub, Grassroots or For Sale adverts please direct these initially to meganmorgan94@gmail.com or purpledeb282@yahoo.co.uk.

I hope you all have a great summer.

Best Wishes

Marilyn Leggett

Chairman's Chat

It has been an outstanding Boer Goat Showing Season with record entries at Royal Welsh Spring Smallholders Festival, Stafford County, Royal Three Counties and last but not least the 'newcomer' to the circuit, the Hanbury Show.

It was not just the number of Boers that were put forward that was impressive but the sheer quality throughout the classes, simply outstanding.

This has meant that the awareness of the Boer Goat and also the existence of Boer Goat meat has been heightened once again.

The footfall in and through the marquees at all the shows was tremendous and gave all the exhibitors plenty of opportunity for discussing with the public our great breed.

As always in life, one only gets out of anything what one puts in and I would urge members to be active and if in anyone's area there is a show that they love, please do approach them as they may also put Boer Goat classes on. The BBGS would certainly support them. Also any member who would like to organise an event, or have an idea for an event, please don't hesitate to contact

the Secretary with your ideas.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM.

Very best regards,

Jo Jenkins

Jo Jenkins



Photo Courtesy of Jo Jenkins

AGM 2019!

The date is set for this year's AGM - Saturday 19th October. The Trustees would like to thank Ian Graham of Oaklands Boer Goats, Somerset, for his very kind offer to host this year's event. There is a packed day of talks and demonstrations being held at Stawell Village Hall, followed by a short drive to The Boat and Anchor, Bridgwater for the AGM and carvery dinner. Keep an eye on the website and e-letters for further details. We are finalising the agenda as we go to print.



Photo by Jane Green, Hansus Herd

Kidplan & EBVs – Can They Improve Your Breeding And Profitability? or “Can You Judge A Book By Its Cover”?

7th June 2019

A growing number of breeders are using KIDPLAN, Estimated Breeding Values and Indices, and an increasing number of goat buyers are demanding solid data on the animals and genetics they buy. This begs the questions in the title: What could KIDPLAN do for me? Could it improve the animals in my herd and the profitability of my enterprise? How much time, effort and money would it take?

Assessing a goat is a bit like assessing a book. You can judge a book by its cover, or by checking the blurb on the inside page, or by reading the text. All these are valid and helpful, but they give you different views of the book. And so it is with goats. You can assess an animal by its appearance. You can take some ‘objective measurements’ on a particular day; or you can assess its genetic merit in detail.

Experts can judge the visible aspects of

a goat and objective measurements are interesting. But the real value of an animal lies in its progeny, not in itself, and its ability to throw good progeny is determined by its genes, combined with those of its mate. The genetic recipe that defines those progeny is not visible to the naked eye and is usually obscured by all sorts of non-genetic ‘environmental’ factors (such as early nutrition or litter size). Like the text in the book, it can only be unravelled by going through it in detail, over time, together with the data on all known ancestors, relatives and progeny, carefully eliminating all the ‘environmental’ factors. So the real genetic value of a goat can only be assessed by ‘progeny testing’.

To find out more, come along to the AGM on 19th October where Colin Ramsay will be speaking and available to answer any questions you have on this subject.

19th
Oct

THE BBGS
AGM '19

BY KIND INVITATION OF IAN GRAHAM
MANOR FARM

**A JAM PACKED DAY INCLUDING TALKS ON CHARCUTERIE, GRASS LEY MANAGEMENT AND EBV'S
WITH CONFORMATION AND HERD PLANNING ON THE FARM**

Meet at Stawell Village Hall (TA7 9AD) at 10am for 10:30am. Lunch will be a choice of chicken curry or lasagne. Please contact the secretary for any special dietary requirements.

A booking fee is required of £6, payable by BACS or Paypal with AGM & Surname/Member No' as reference. There is a Paypal button on the website.

AGM will be held at 5pm at Boat and Anchor, Bridgwater followed by carvery (£15/head). A limited number of rooms available at special rate. Please quote BBGS when booking.



Further details will be on the website as they become available.

Evaluating Carcass Quality on the Hoof and Hook

Peter Tubby – CSO2

It is notable that goat keeping knowledge tends to revolve around the live animal, in terms of feeding, management and marketing and selection of breeding stock. However, an essential part of the red meat business is the assessment, evaluation and marketing of carcasses; which are after all our end product. With beef and pigs, grading at abattoirs is compulsory (if more than a small number are processed per week). Sheep are currently classified on an industry wide voluntary programme which will soon become law. The criteria for these assessments cover dressing specifications, accurate weight, carcass conformation and fat levels.

There is currently no official or legal scale for goats, the sample size is just too small – a mere drop in the ocean compared to sheep. Estimated figures for processed goats range from 25-45k annually, compared to sheep/lambs of around 12 million! However, it makes sense for us as

producers to learn how to judge our live animals for readiness to market/slaughter and assess our carcasses in order to better inform our breeding and feeding decisions. Whilst there is no requirement to use the existing sheep classification scale (EUROP), it makes sense to do so as this allows us to talk to butchers, farmers and wholesalers in a universal language. As the goat meat market grows, these classifications will be used in order to determine value as they already are in other species.



The scale works by assigning a letter to the conformation of the carcass (see photo 1)

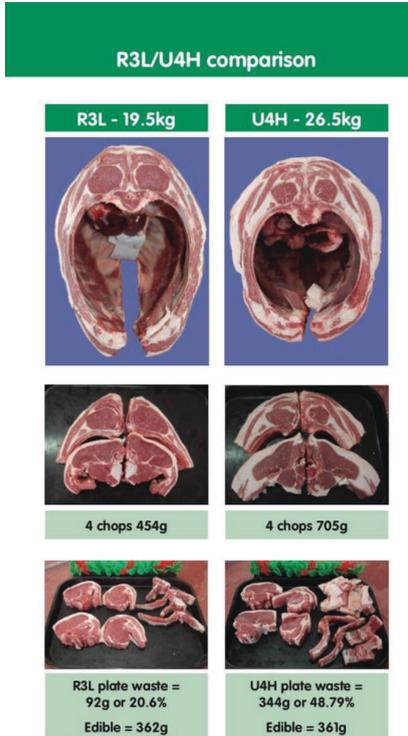
and a number to the fat level of a carcass (photo 2). In simple terms, the weight of a carcass tells us how much is there; the conformation tells us where it is; and the fat level tells us how much lean meat is available. As these are sheep grades, we have to be realistic in our expectations of goats. An R grade (average in sheep) is a very good goat carcass, a U grade is exceptional.

Fat levels are more controversial. Too fat is far worse than too lean. I will put in a proviso at this point -if you have a customer who particularly wants fat carcasses, and you can provide them at a profit, crack on! However for the general meat market/general public it's not what is required. An R3L is 'industry standard' – chops are a good size, the legs and shoulders make nice joints and the fat cover is good for cooking. If you go to 3H it's a more traditional carcass, which local butchers may prefer (and won't penalise against). A 2 grade for the fat is not an issue either, and in the processing/export markets, is actually sought out for its higher lean meat percentage.

By way of a comparison of how fat affects yield, see the below picture (photo 3). If you take an average conformation, moderate fat carcass (R3L) and compare it to a heavier, better conformation, high fat carcass (U4H) there is no advantage in running an animal on for heavier fat levels, costing more in time and input too. Would you see that return?

In order to achieve the right carcass grades for your given market, being able to assess live animals will put you at an advantage. Whilst it is possible to have some ideavisually, hands on is essential to get an idea of how the animal will kill out. Weight isn't the best indicator of market preparedness – we are not farming poultry.

To assess conformation, the key handling points are shoulder and loin. A P grade shoulder and loin will feel very concave. The spinous processes (backbone) will be very evident and the profile of the animal generally dipping/saggy. An R grade (reminder - this is a decent goat) will have straight profiles, a well-developed muscle that will feel slightly convex through the loin and the spinous process will be harder



to detect. A U grade (an exceptional goat) will have convex profiles, with the spinous process difficult to detect and a fuller look. In terms of fat, the dock and

ribs are often the most useful indicators although the loin can give an idea of fat levels. Anyone familiar with body condition scoring in sheep or cattle should be able to adapt this. The difficulty in the loin is that a well muscled animal that has a covered transverse process can be mistaken for fat...or vice versa! In a 1 grade for fat the individual bones of the dock are very easy to detect, individual ribs feel bare and hard, are prominent and visible. For a 3 grade, moderate pressure is required to detect bones in the dock, the individual ribs have a softer feel and if using the loin, the processes begin to feel rounded. In a 5, the bones of the dock can't be detected; the ribs are undetectable with the fat having a soft and spongy feel to it. By learning to predict carcass grade in advance, not only can we send to slaughter in a timely fashion, we should also be able to match the correct carcass to the correct market. For example, if you estimate you have an R2 and an R3H and one customer wanting dice for curries and another a traditional butcher, it makes sense to send the R2 for dicing (as the lean meat percentage is higher) and the R3H to the butcher (as the

joints will look great on display and cook really well).

With goat meat still a niche market, as producers we need to be professional and able to market our product to the existing industry standards - in a way that is understandable to all parties and ensures repeat custom. I hope you found this brief article useful. I am always available for a more in depth chat about carcass matters (find us on facebook @nettagoats or contactus@nettagoats.co.uk).

All pictures credited to AHDB

SERVICE CERTIFICATES:

As the breeding season approaches there are few things to consider to ensure registration of any resulting kids next year is plain sailing.

Service certificates are needed when you don't own the buck that sired the kids. If you buy goats that are already pregnant make sure you get a service certificate from the seller. Also, if you sell any of your goats in kid give the buyer a service certificate so they can register the kids if



they want.

If you use AI to get your goats pregnant you will need a service certificate from the inseminator and it is also a good idea to keep the empty semen straw as added proof of the buck used. If you do a Laproscopic AI programme the vet doing the work should leave you a signed form that states the goat's eartag number and the identification of the buck semen that was inseminated. **Make sure you keep this safe as this is your service certificate.**

Also, if you have any embryos implanted the vet should give you a signed form with all the details of which goat had which

embryos and the number implanted. **Keep it safe as it will be needed when you come to register the kids.**

Service certificates and Vet forms for AI and ET need to be submitted when you do the registrations of the kids. Without them you will not be able to register the kids.

Service certificates can be downloaded from the BBGS website or I can email or post copies to you on request. Any queries regarding registrations or membership you can email me on registrations@britishboergoatsociety.co.uk

Photo by Mr Rees & Mrs Chillery, Majestic Herd

Our Showing Debut 2019!

By Laura Richards

Gary my husband, our 4 children Christina and Freya (8), Amelia (6), Eliza (4), and myself, had our first experience of showing which took us to the Smallholders Show in Builth Wells. We arrived on Friday and settled our goats in their pens in the very spacious new barn. This was a very enjoyable few days and the girls enjoyed all the attention they were getting from the public, especially when Amelia was laying on one kid fast asleep in the pen (bearing in mind this was the wildest one we took). The show really seemed to calm them down with the washing, grooming and intense handling.



The judge for the two days was Robyn Browne, his first debut judging also, and he

did a great job, especially keeping Amelia upright when he shook her hand to give her the rosette, and the kid shot off, but he kept hold of her hand and kept her upright!.

The weather was kind to us with only one shower each day after showing had finished. With record entries the crowds at Builth were showing a lot of interest in the classes.

No-one mentioned the mountaineering and we had a long walk up the hill to our campsite! I think over the 2 1/2 days we were there I walked about 17 miles!!! Kept us fit.

Two weeks later we attended the Staffordshire County Show and we took 7 of our Boer goats.

There were 6 competitors there this year and a large number of Boer goats filling the marquee, which was fantastic to see. We decided to camp in our tent, which was in a lovely, almost private area just for the Boer goat exhibitors, and it was right next to the Boer goat marquee, which was lovely and the girls thoroughly enjoyed going to check

the goats every few minutes, not sure all the goats felt the same.



The Goats Have a Herd Health Plan But Do You??

By Antony Key

There is a very prominent issue that we have been affected by and it is something that most people don't think about until it happens.

One week before kidding Ruth had her arm broke in three places , rendering her

unavailable for the kidding season and I would also have to drive her to hospital for outpatient appointments.

We were fortunate that as we had a number of young people we had given work experience to over the years we managed to arrange for one of them to give us cover whenever needed. We employed her services on a self employed basis as she was intending to start up a farm labour service once leaving college, so this has helped her start a new business and we have been able to carry on and ensure that Ruth's recovery was not delayed by doing too much and we have kept calm during this period.

It is easy to think we are all invincible and nothing bad will happen but when it does a plan needs to be in place, either on paper or in everyone's mind, to ensure that the goats can be attended to at short notice by someone you can trust to do with the care and attention that all farmers, breeders and keepers of goats would wish for.

Insurance policies need to be carefully examined and ticking the right boxes and paying the necessary premiums to ensure that these situations don't undermine the viability of the business or hobby.

Keeping a folder with all relevant information relating to the livestock is useful so anyone stepping in can see at a glance how many animals you have, what they eat, where you buy fodder, veterinary details and any other useful contact details.

Making plans for the worse case scenario which may force the sale of the herd, who will be left responsible for making this decision and do you have prospective homes lined up if the inevitable happens or you are incapable of looking after the stock.

Artificial Breeding Day for Goats and Sheep in Stowmarket, Suffolk 13th October 2019

We are having a Laparoscopic AI and ET (Embryo Transfer) day for Sheep and Goats in Stowmarket on 13th October 2019. The team from AB Europe (Malvern) will be visiting Stowe Vets Large Animal department in 54 Bury Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1JF for the day where breeders will be able to bring their animals along for Laparoscopic AI or ET (frozen embryos only). **Pre booking essential.**

The fees are:
£15-£20 per animal for AI
£75 per embryo for ET
£5-£10 per animal entrance fee on the day

For both of these procedures, breeders will need to source and purchase semen or embryos in advance. All fees are payable on the day.

Programmes will be supplied to each breeder with full instructions on how to prepare (synchronise) animals for the day. The entry fee will go towards the travelling fee for AB Europe and hire of the venue.

You will need to purchase progesterone hormone sponges (or cidrs) and injection of PMSG from your vet as part of the program. We may be able to help with sourcing these.

If you are interested in booking on this event, or have any questions please get in touch ASAP with:

Nicola Knott : topknot@boer-goats.co.uk
Tel. 01449 737951.

Or Emma Reader at Stowe Vets on 01449 776201 emma.reader@stovevets.co.uk

MEMBER PROFILE

Name: Charlotte and Sharon Riggs
Prefix: Himmon
Region: South West (Dorset)
Health Status: All of our stock are from tested/accredited bloodlines. We will be going for accreditation later this year
Member since: 2012
Size of Herd: 162

How were you introduced to Boer goats:

Prior to getting the goats, we used to do horse drawn weddings and funerals. After stopping this in 2011, we found ourselves wondering what to do next, and after researching options for months, we decided that Boer goats would be an exciting venture—but we soon came to realise that finding them would not be quite as easy as it seemed! After hours of scouring the BBGS members list and making calls to what seemed like anyone and everyone, we finally managed to source our first goats. Our travels took us as far as Lancashire—an 8 hour journey each way!

Topics you would like knowledge sharing days to cover:

I believe that it is important for Boer goat breeders to learn more about goat nutrition, so one of the main things that I would like to see covered more thoroughly is feeding guidelines and how Boer goat owners can reduce their feed costs. I also think there should be more focus on the benefits of faecal egg counts

over routine deworming.

Objectives for Herd:

Running a herd of breeding goats on a 6-acre smallholding has its challenges. Despite our best efforts, we always run out of grass sooner than we would like; it is for this reason that our herd are given ad-lib hay at all times. Our does are bred to be hardy and efficient, with supplemental feed only being given for flushing and kidding. Our primary goal is to breed quality boer goats which are cheap to keep and easy and friendly to handle, while also being capable of breeding three times in two years in order to make it possible to run a viable boer goat business on a limited amount of space. We are also looking at starting to sell goat meat in three months' time.



Best moment of goat keeping:

Goats are an absolute delight to keep and to decide on the single best moment would be impossible, but their hilarious antics make everyone laugh! We'll never forget getting our first two does and witnessing our first kiddings. In 2016, we were also approved for permitted development on a redundant barn to residential use, meaning we are now living on site, making kidding a whole lot easier!

Best piece of advice:

Never take goats seriously. They'll make you laugh and they'll make you cry, but it's all worth it in the end!



Other livestock:

The goats make up the majority of our animals (not surprisingly) but we also have two horses who have the luxurious lifestyle of being lawnmowers as part of rotational grazing plans. We also have a farm cat who is a much loved member of the family, but unfortunately, he is useless at his job and doesn't catch anything.



Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes



Safeguarding the Health of Your Stock!

- Accreditation for MV, CAE, Johne's Disease and EAE

Buying Rams?

- Protect your flock and select accredited animals

Other Disease Testing

- Test for Johne's, Border Disease, CLA

Scrapie Monitoring & Genotyping

- Private confidential genotyping service
- Join the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme



scan to go to our members database



Photo above courtesy of
Ian Johnson

Photo on the left courtesy of
Jo Jenkins



For more details on health schemes and other services, please contact:

SRUC Veterinary Services
Greycrook, St Boswells, TD6 0EQ
T: 01835 822456
E: psghs@sac.co.uk • W: www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk



fb.com/SRUCVets

SRUC is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC003712
AD22.5.2019

Goats For Sale

KEYTHORPE HERD Leicestershire

Breeding stock, bucks, does, starter herds, does with kids at foot
BBGS registered

High Health Herd – CAE/MV Accredited & clear (negative),
Johnes & CLA clear (negative)

www.keythorpe.co.uk 01858 55 55 77 boer@keythorpe.co.uk
facebook.com/britishboergoatses

HILLSIDE BOER GOATS has for sale a selection of 100% Boer
goats, buck and does kids, a selection of proven does and a
proven buck. All from a CAE, Johnes, and scrapie monitored herd.
Prices from £350. In Shropshire. Contact 07890572730, email
laura_richards30@yahoo.co.uk.

NORTHLEW BOER GOATS

Quality BBGS Reg. PURE BRED Boer females for sale. Excellent
genetics. High health status, CAE Accredited, CLA & Johnes
negative, Scrapie Monitored, closed herd.

Registered, 3 bucks available from selected stock.
£350 ready to work.

Starter herds, 4+ Females plus 1 unrelated buck, 5% discount.

Facebook: Northlew Boer Goats

www.britishboergoats.co.uk

Avril 07768 856 522

100 0/0 Boers, bred from BBGS registered stock, SAC Accredited.
Littlefield Boer Goats has a selection of animals available both
Red and Traditional. Please message for price list.

Contact: Jan Harding-Mabbs on Messenger,
Email: littlehazelfields@yahoo.co.uk or www.
ediblegoatandgarden.co.uk

For Sale. 100% Boer from the Majestic Herd. Bucks and Doelings.
Excellent breeding, sired by Macriloda Sergeant.
Tel: 01239 814557

Monty's Weaned Billy's for sale!

We are based in Kent but can deliver. They have Arcon breeding.
Monty Head 07740466226

Michaelmas Herd has for sale

4 x 2 year old disbudded does with May born female kids at foot.
£400 per doe and kid.

Email meriel.picton1@btinternet.com

We have a few Pure Bred and Full Blood bucks for sale

CAE Accredited

Lallybroch Boer Goats

Contact Mike Stenner

07947134184

mike8201@icloud.com

Full Blood Boer Buck (d.o.b. 13/01/18). BBGS registered.
Robinsfolly D'Artagnan by Dalebury Dekel out of Dalebury
Chaya. £750.

D'Art knows his job and is easy to handle. He is kind but
persistent with my very small herd of bossy ladies (seven year old
Morley sisters) and easy going with his male kids. He is only for
sale now as I am keeping his lovely daughters. For the same reason
I am selling his buck kid (d.o.b. 20/02/19) out of Morley Utopia.

The herd is CAE accredited but too small to do D'Art credit. He is a bored Boer in a big pasture. Pics available on email or WhatsApp.

Contact: Susan Holland (Sue) mobile 07798848297

Email: sue_dawn_holland2@yahoo.co.uk

The Hansus herd will have 10 breeding Boer does available, both pure and Grade 1s, various ages, from mid August. Also 3 pure Boer bucklings available now and potentially any of this year's weaned, entire male kids and 7 castrates for meat. Very high health status, Scrapie, Johnes and CAE accredited. Now located 15 mins off the southern end of the M5 near Exeter.

Jane Green 07786 787796

The Trustees would like to remind members that when advertisements are placed on our website it is they who are liable in law not to misrepresent any goat for sale, under the Business Advertisement Disclosure Order. Whilst every care is taken by the British Boer Goat Society to ensure clarity of purpose, it is the responsibility of the advertiser not to infringe current legislation.

Subject to the above, the British Boer Goat Society accepts no responsibility for an advert placed and its placement does not infer any endorsement of the contents or subject matter of the animals therein.

Advertising

Standard advertisements of the type included to date are free of charge and include all those on the website. However, we also offer the option to buy full or half page advertisements,

the prices are as follows:

- Half page with black and white photograph £10.00
- Half page with colour photograph £25.00
- Full page with colour photograph £45.00

Complaints & Discipline

Thankfully there has been no disciplinary matters to deal with.

The committee did however receive a complaint in late February of this year.

The complaint was made by one member against another member.

Discussion was had by the committee around the different aspects of the complaint, and the conclusion of the discussion was to seek legal advice.

After discussing the legal advice received, the committee decided to heed that advice and wrote to both parties, complainant and complainee.

This matter (complaint) is now closed.

