



**Winter 2020  
Number 91**



## Winter 2020 | Number 91

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Cover courtesy of Robin & Beckie Browne - Ruby Red Boer Goats

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*Neither the Committee nor the Editors are responsible for the views or statements made by contributors, nor for the accuracy of advertisements. Latest copy date for the Spring magazine is 19th March 2021.*

The committee and Registrations secretary will be taking their Christmas break from Wednesday 23rd December 2020 to Sunday the 3rd January 2021. Although any important information will be dealt with from the secretary's email address. Bbgs.secretary@gmail.com. Merry Christmas .

## Chairmans Chat

Dear Members,

2020 has been such a difficult year for so many.

Indeed, having the Boers has often been a very welcome distraction from the seemingly endless wave of bad news from all aspects of the media. I hope that everyone has managed to stay safe and healthy.

In this year of uncertainty in regard to Brexit and the Coronavirus, what is absolutely sure is that, in contrast, the interest in the Boers has been exceptionally buoyant. Many breeders have been advising us that sales of both live animals and also meat have been very strong which is great news. I would like to welcome all the new members of which there are many!

With the uncertainty of a no deal Brexit looming on the horizon, the Trustees have been involved in exploring all opportunities to ensure that members' interests are protected and best served. We will keep everyone updated at every point. Currently we are in the hands of the politicians and bureaucrats'...

A very big 'thank you' to all the members who submitted photographs for the Calendar much appreciated. This will make a super gift for family and friends or a treat for oneself. If anyone has photos of goats that they particularly like, please do forward to the Secretary as we need photos to use all year round.

May I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and here is hoping for a more 'normal' 2021!

*Jo Jenkins*

**DID YOU KNOW** - You can request a meat certificate from the BBGS to give provenance to your pedigree Boer goat meat!  
See the BBGS website for more info

## Registrations & Membership Secretary Report

First, I'd like to welcome all the new members who have joined the BBGS this year. In October we reached a milestone when our 1000th member joined. Welcome to Charlotte Chute member number 01000. We hope you all enjoy your Boer goats as much as we have over the years.

Over the last few months, Transfers and Registrations have been pretty busy. Members are still taking advantage of the amnesty on doubling registration fee for animals over 1 year old. This has been reviewed and the good news is the amnesty will continue until 31st January 2021.

A reminder, particularly for new members, please be aware it is only possible to register buck kids from dams that are Grade 0. So, if you have does that are Grade 1, 2, 3 or 4, you will only be able to register the female kids from these.

It has come to light that some members are not notifying us if they have to re-tag goats that lose their ear tags. If you have to tag a registered goat with a new number because you cannot get replica tags, you must let me know; otherwise the goat will cease to exist since its ear tag will not match its registration card.

Unfortunately, ear tags very often do not last as long as the goat! I, like everybody else, have this problem. I have tried lots of different types of ear tag. I like the Allflex Bubblegums as they punch a smaller hole in the ear than some of the other tags which is kinder for the little kids and they are relatively cheap. But they do seem to break and fall out rather easily. I am thinking of trying a different brand of tags this year. They are more expensive but say they will last the lifetime of the animal. Buying replica ear tags over time adds up so the more expensive brand of tags may be more cost effective in the long run. The problem with trying different brands of ear tags is you always need a different applicator too!

Below is a small piece about the subject of Ear tags and tagging.

Best wishes to all members for a happy Christmas and New Year with many new kids to register in 2021! ,

*Continued on Page 4*



## Ear Tagging and Registration of Goats

It is a legal requirement to identify goats, and this is normally done by using ear tags. Unlike sheep, goats do not have to have EID identification unless they are being exported. However, many breeders do use EID identification. The rules regarding ear tagging and identification can be found on the DEFRA website at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-identify-your-animals>

The rules state that goats must be identified:

- within 6 months of birth if housed overnight,
- or within 9 months if not housed overnight,
- or before they are moved off the holding if this is sooner.

From experience, it is easier to tag kids when they are 2 or three weeks old and small enough to be picked up than to wait until they are 6 months old!

### What to do if your BBGS registered goat loses its ear tag identification?

If a goat loses its ear tags, they must be replaced – below are the options:

**1. REPLICA TAGS** – These are copies of the original tag. If a goat you have bred loses its tags it is possible to order replica tags and re-tag the goat with these. No change to the registration card required. This is the preferred option for re-tagging of registered goats.

**2. RED REPLACEMENT TAGS** – If a goat you have not bred loses their ear tags then you can order a pair of Red Replacement tags. Being Red denotes that the goat was not born on the holding but has been re-tagged. These will carry your flock number rather than the flock number of the animal's birth.



*Fig.1 Caisley flag tag on a buck kid*

The new identification number and the old ID need to be recorded in your Animal Movement Book and the BBGS Registration secretary must be notified (send in card with new number written on it) so the registration record and card can be updated with the new ID.

**3. ORDINARY REPLACEMENT TAGS** – If a goat you have bred loses their ear tags and you do not have time to order replica tags, then you can re-tag them with some of your own standard tags, but this will mean they have a new ID number. The old ID and new ID numbers need to be recorded in your Animal Movement Book. The BBGS registration secretary must be informed of the new ID. Please write the new ear tag number on the registration card and send it to the registration secretary and a new card will be sent out and the registration record updated.

*Nicola*

## **30 Years' Commemorative Pin Badge On Sale!**



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# Understanding Forage Analysis

By Fred Power, ForFarmers



Forage, be it grass silage, hay, or haylage, will make up the largest proportion of a goat's winter diet. With feed likely to be the largest cost on most goat units, making sure forages are of a high quality, and stored and fed correctly, makes economic sense.

"With forage as the bedrock of many diets, knowing its nutritional content is crucial in order to build a balanced diet that delivers high performance," says ForFarmers' Fred Power. "Get ensiled forages analysed, ideally using dry NIR technology, to give an accurate picture of what you are feeding."

With dry NIR analysis, silage samples are dried overnight to remove moisture before being finely ground, placed in a vial, and scanned at multiple points to ensure the whole sample is analysed. All of these factors improve the accuracy of the final result.

"It is also important to understand the information provided by a forage analysis," Fred adds. Below are a few of the key terms on an analysis explained:

**Dry Matter (DM) (%)** - a measure of how dry the forage is. Very wet forages, with low DM values, can mean goats find it hard to get the intakes needed to meet their nutritional needs. Ideally you are looking for a DM value above 25%.

**D-value (%)** - a measure of feed digestibility.

**Metabolisable energy (ME) (MJ/kg/DM)** – a measure of the usable energy available to the animal.

**Crude protein (CP) (%)** – is a measure of the protein content of the feed, but not the protein quality.

**pH** – is a measure of the acidity of the silage. The target pH will vary on the DM% of the silage but generally less than 3 or higher than 5 suggest poor fermentation in the forage.

**NDF (Neutral Detergent Fibre)** – is required to promote good rumen function and development. Excess fibre can slow down fermentation in the forage, reducing intakes, while too little fibre can mean to a rapid fermentation, leading to the risk of acidosis.



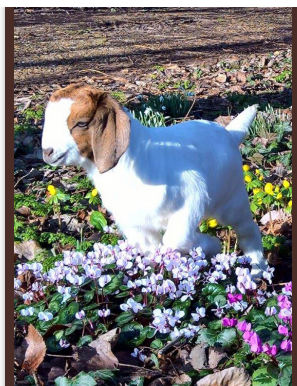
**Sugar (%)** - shows the sugar content of the forage. Usually the higher the value, the better.

**Ash (%)** – a measure of the mineral and trace element content in the forage. Values above 9% may indicate soil contamination and can lead to poor fermentation in the forage. Soil contamination is a particular issue for goats because of the risk of listeria.

“Forages also need to be stored correctly to ensure they maintain their nutritional quality and reach the goats in the best possible condition. Make sure forages cannot be contaminated by pests or vermin and that all feed areas are easy to access and kept clean,” Fred concludes.

For more information about goat nutrition, visit the ForFarmers website [www.forfarmers.co.uk](http://www.forfarmers.co.uk) or call 0330 678 0982.

## BBGS Calendar 2021 On Sale Now!



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Calendar 2021

£5.50 each including P&P.

Place all orders by email to [registrations@britishboergoatsociety.co.uk](mailto:registrations@britishboergoatsociety.co.uk).  
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Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 0SJ

*The Trustees wish to thank all members who submitted photos for this edition. Any members wishing to send in photo throughout the year which may be considered for next year's Calendar please email them to [competition@britishboergoatsociety.co.uk](mailto:competition@britishboergoatsociety.co.uk) with subject marked as "Calendar photo 2022"*

## Fullblood Debate

Dear Members,

It has been brought to the attention of the BBGS Trustees that the term 'Fullblood' is being increasingly used in the UK. This term is already used widely in other parts of the world and is a recognised description of some Boer Goats by some breeders.

It is not currently a BBGS officially recognised description.

In 2016, at a BBGS EGM, a Proposal was made by a Member to include the word Fullblood on BBGS Registration Certificates. The Proposal was defeated by 16 votes to 9 votes.

A Fullblood Boer goat, it is generally accepted, is descended (on both sire and dam sides) from Boer goats that can be traced directly (unbroken) back to South African Boer goats. It is not possible to breed up to Fullblood as both the dam's and sire's pedigree must be traceable in unbroken lines, directly back to South African stock.

It is not an indication of superior genetics or standard, but purely a method of indicating genetic origin.

It is a truism that beauty, or correctness and adherence to the Breed Standard in the case of livestock, is in the eye of the beholder. The Trustees would urge members to make themselves fully conversant with the BBGS Breed Standard especially when considering making a purchase.



It is not within the remit of the BBGS to ban the use of the term, for example, if Members use the term in adverts or correspondence. However, if it is used in an advertisement, the vendor must be able to prove the veracity of the claim. A potential purchaser is within their rights to ask for proof in the same way that proof of Health Status should be checked.

The BBGS is interested in hearing what Members take the term of Fullblood to mean and what importance they would attach to the description. Is it a term that Members think should be officially adopted or not with their reasons for either stance?

The Trustees look forward to members' input on this topic.

[www.abreeds.co.uk](http://www.abreeds.co.uk)

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## MEMBER PROFILE

**Name:** Gaynor and Ian Garbett  
**Prefix:** Fraithwen Goats  
**Member:** 00850  
**Region:** Mid Wales  
**Herd Size:** 40  
**Health Status:** We are CAE accredited, Johnes level 2 (will be level 1 at the next test) and we test annually for CLA.



### Introduction to Boer Goats:

We are Gaynor and Ian Garbett and have been breeding pedigree registered Boers for about 3 years now. We keep up to 40 Boers approx. We have been Anglo Nubian breeders for about 20 years but got the bug for Boers after being lucky enough to see some really lovely examples at our local show, the Royal Welsh Spring Festival! It fitted with our overall plans, as we breed Friesian horses and some part-breds here but wanted livestock to still be a part of the farm too.

### Best piece of advice:



The best advice we have had is to buy the best you can afford and about our management system, which saves us a lot of time and effort as we get older!

Our beautiful foundation does came from the Firscoft herd, and our decision to start with quality, pedigree, registered 100% stock has certainly paid off. The girls are strong, well-made and excellent dams. Our buck is currently Hornets Fearless, son of Hornets Excel, and is a lovely lad, very well tempered and has a lovely long, deep body.

We are soon to finish our new goat shed, which uses perfectly a space between our horse barn and arena, and for which Modulamb

made beautiful made-to-measure pen fronts for us, with drop in and out feed troughs and very robust rails, with high hay racks. They have made our life so much easier. We have an auto drinker in each pen and we can have double pens as required just by pulling pins out and moving dividers. The goats are already in there and its working well. We deep litter and the pens are designed to be removed for the handler to muck out as required.

We feed ForFarmers beef grower nuts, which they all love and they do well on small rations. Hay is our own and fed ad lib. We vaccinate with Lambivac 3 times a year and kid approximately 3 times in 2 years though of course condition is taken into account first and foremost.

### **Objectives for the herd:**

We breed to sell pedigree young stock at the moment, as I do with my Nubians. We have done some meat product development which we will spend more time on when we can. We have no intention of growing very big, just breed strong healthy, typey stock, and enjoy the people and animals we meet along the way!

**[www.fraithwen.co.uk](http://www.fraithwen.co.uk)**

**FB #fraithwengoats**

Its a good time of year to check your paperwork and return any Registration Certificates which are no longer needed for dead goats or goats no longer in your possession. Please return to the Registration Secretary.



# Goat Meat Lasagne

Recipe by Robins Folly Boer Goats

## Serves 6

500g Goat meat mince  
1 Teaspoon olive oil  
1 Onion (finely chopped)  
2 Cloves garlic (finely chopped)  
1 Teaspoon dried Italian herbs or oregano  
400g Tinned chopped tomatoes  
1 Tablespoon tomato purée  
150ml Hot water (mixed with a vegetable or chicken stock cube)  
200ml Half-fat creme fraiche  
120 Grams reduced-fat mozzarella  
200g Mixed frozen vegetables (Mediterranean or green veg)  
3 Tablespoons parmesan (grated)  
160g Dried lasagne sheets (or 8 sheets)



## Method

1. Pre-heat your oven to 200C.
2. In a large frying pan on a medium-high heat, add the olive oil and once hot, add the onion and fry for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Now, add the garlic and give everything a good stir for a minute.
3. Increase the heat and add the mince, breaking it up with the back of your spoon. You want to fry this quite quickly so that it browns and the garlic doesn't burn.
4. When the mince is brown, sprinkle over the dried herbs, some sea salt and black pepper. Add the tomato puree and cook for another minute, stirring.
5. Add the chopped tomatoes, the stock, and the frozen vegetables. Carry on cooking this for 5 minutes. If it becomes too dry, add a little more water.
6. In a lasagne dish, begin by spooning some of the Ragu on the base, then add a layer of lasagne sheets (usually around 2 per layer depending on the size and shape of your dish). Keep layering with the Ragu and lasagne sheets, finishing with a layer of lasagne sheet on the top.
7. Spoon over the creme fraiche and spread it out evenly on the top.
8. Top with the cheese and some more sea salt and black pepper.
9. Pop this in the oven for 15 minutes, or until the pasta sheets are cooked.
10. Serve with a leafy green salad.

# Retagging Goats

*By Gil Liddle*

Goats and ear tags are not always a good combination, and the problem of lost and broken ear tags is a problem we can all relate to!

When a goat loses a tag or both tags, there are a series of Department of Agriculture regulations which must be adhered to. For instance! If you discover an ear tag, or any other type of identifier, has been lost or damaged, you must replace it within 28 days of noticing that it was lost or damaged.

All members should make themselves aware of regulations surrounding the keeping of goats. Some of the above and other DEFRA (DAFM) (DEARA) regulations are laid out here for you to read and understand.

In the last few months, the retagging of goats and the keeping of poor records by some members has caused a considerable amount of work for the committee. It was suggested that the high cost of replica tags might have been a contributing factor which encourages the practice of retagging by some members, rather than using replica tags.

In an effort to encourage the use of replica tags and discourage the use of retagging with another ID, the committee has negotiated a deal with Caisley tags which will mean that a replacement replica ID tag from Caisley tags will be no more expensive than the cost of an original ID tag. The only cost involved in using a replica tag will be the actual cost of the replica tag itself which will amount to a few pence.



The admin cost of a registration card for a new ID on previously registered goat will be £5 with immediate effect. We hope our members will take advantage of the Caisley offer and replace any lost or broken tags with replica tags at a very reasonable cost.

# Exclusive Member Only Offer

Purchase an applicator from  
Caisley and get replica tags  
at the same price as normal tags

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Please quote your membership number to receive offer pricing

## Replace Lost or Damaged Identifiers

*Reference: DEFRA, Department for Environmental,  
Food, and Rural Affairs*

If you discover an identifier has been lost or damaged, you must replace it within 28 days of noticing that it was lost or damaged.

If you remove a tag from an animal because of an infection, you must replace it as soon as the infection clears up.

You must record new tag numbers and old tag numbers, if you know them, in the replacement tag section of your holding register.

Replacement tags and pasterns must be red if they're applied to an animal on any holding other than where it was

- born
- last identified.

## SMR 8: Sheep & Goat Identification

You must identify your animals and keep accurate records to allow movements of sheep and goats to be traced. In the event of a disease outbreak, it's important that we know where animals have moved from and to.

### What you **MUST** do

You must identify your sheep and goats:

- within 6 months of birth if housed overnight
- within 9 months of birth if not housed overnight, or
- whenever they move off the holding of birth if this is sooner than the above.

If you keep them for longer than 12 months you must apply two identifiers (typically ear tags). Both will bear the same unique individual ID number. For sheep, one tag must be electronic.

### **You must not:**

- Alter, obliterate, or deface any means of identification attached to an animal. However, you may apply additional management information as long the legibility of the UK flock mark or UK unique individual identification number is not affected.
- Remove or replace identification without permission from Defra through BCMS

### **You must:**

- You must replace illegible, damaged, or lost tags within 28 days of the illegibility, damage, or loss being spotted by you. Illegibility includes an electronic tag that will not transmit its number when scanned.

All sheep and goat keepers are required to keep a record of the following information:

### **Completing and maintaining on farm records**

- your holding details
- tag replacements
- all sheep and goat movements on and off your holding

For animals identified from 2010

- the tags applied (unique individual identification numbers for individually identified animals and the flock/herd marks for slaughter animals)
- date of identification
- year of birth (on holding of birth only)
- month/year of deaths (where known)
- breed and genotype (if known)
- annual count of animals on your holding as of 1 December each year

**DID YOU KNOW** - BBGS banners are available to members for promotional events!

Contact **[bbgs.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:bbgs.secretary@gmail.com)** for more info!



# Choosing Breeding Bucks – Don't Forget to Check the Goods!

By Charlotte Riggs

As the old adage goes – the buck is half the herd, so the importance of getting the right breeding buck cannot be stressed highly enough! However, he's only going to be a good stud if he's got the goods to make him an efficient breeder!

As such, it's vital that you check the conformation of a buck's testicles before using him as a breeding animal. The breed standard sets out that bucks need:

*“Two reasonably large, well formed, healthy, and equal sized testes in one scrotum. A scrotum with no larger split than 5cm is permissible. The scrotum must be at least 25cm in circumference.”*

Furthermore, the breed standards explain that bunched, calabash, or split testes are not suitable for a stud buck.

A buck has to be capable of serving a large number of does in a potentially short period of time, so he needs to be properly equipped for this job!

Both testes need to be descended into the scrotum for the simple reason that if he's only got one, he's not going to be producing as much semen. Testicles need to descend into the scrotum so that they are suspended away from the body; the heat of the body will kill off the sperm, hence, an undescended testicle is (almost certainly) useless.

The buck should also have large, rounded testicles; this, again, primarily goes back to the amount of semen he can produce. It is also important to note that larger testicles will have a greater surface area for heat loss, which will help to keep the semen cooler; this may be less relevant in the colder months, but for those whose bucks are working in Summer or Autumn, it's hugely important!

Finally, split testicles should be avoided where possible. The breed standard allows a split of up to 5cm at maturity; this is unlikely to impact much on the buck's efficacy as a breeder. However, a split greater than this is not only unsightly but also poses an additional risk of getting snagged – and if the buck injures himself, he'll likely be out of commission for quite some time



Figure 1. 4-month-old buck kid

## Buck Semen for Sale List

*By Nicola Knott*

Each breeding season I get members saying they want to do some Artificial Insemination on their goats but don't know anywhere they can source the semen.

I would like to create and maintain a list of bucks with frozen semen available for sale in the UK. I would then like to print the current list in the back page of the BBGS magazine with the other For Sale adverts.

If you have had any semen collected from your bucks and would like to add it to the list, please let me know. I will need the following information:

1. The BUCK – Name, ear tag number and BBGS registration number
2. Health status of the buck at collection – was the semen collected with export status, was the buck CAE accredited, Scrapie monitored, or of no particular health status.
3. Who owns the semen, contact for owner – email and /or phone number

If any breeder wishes to have semen collected and frozen from their bucks, please contact AB Europe and they will be able to give you more information about the booking in and costs.

## Goat Terminology

Age	Male	Female
0-12 months old	Buck Kid	Doe Kid
12-24 months old	Buckling	Doeling
Over 24 months old	Buck	Doe

**DID YOU KNOW** - In the past, many called adults and female goats Billies and Nannies; however, the words “Bucks” and “Does” are globally recognised

## For Sale

HERD NAME: MAJESTIC BOER GOATS  
TEL: 01239 814557

Purebred, disbudded buck kids for sale. Strong & healthy, vaccinated, wormed, etc. Sired by Macriloda Sergeant or Morley Frank. Born March 2020. Contact Gill or Keith 01239 814557. Located Cardigan Wales.

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HERD NAME: WIELD BOER GOATS  
TEL: 07891 997262  
EMAIL: VLS-stud@hotmail.com

For sale, a selection of buck kids, available at weaning. A lovely selection of registerable purebreds and unregistered, quality intact males. All by Morley Elvis who carries exceptional bloodlines including, Karbo, Terraparks, Dalbury, Clear Day Park & Terraweena Burger. Out of a selection of top quality does including Morley & Hornets Excel. They are all smart kids and traditional/show markings. Based Hampshire. Please feel free to call: 07871 997262 or email VLS-stud@hotmail.com or visit our Facebook page, Wield Boer Goats and drop us a message.



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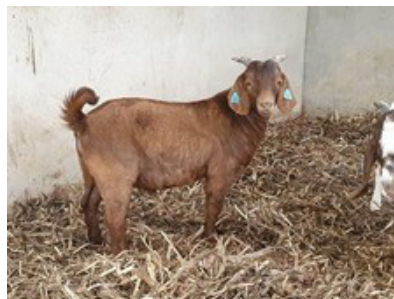
HERD NAME: FRAITHWEN BOER GOATS  
TEL: 07898891039

Fraithwen pedigree boers. All our stock is 100%. We are CAE accredited, Johnes tested level 2 currently and CLA tested. Lambivaccinated every 4 months. We have a set of 100% doe kid triplets born in June 2020, registered pedigree, traditional coloured, sire Hornets Fearless, Dam Fircroft Christyn.

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HERD NAME: KEYTHORPE BOER GOATS  
TEL: 01858 555577  
EMAIL: boer@keythorpe.co.uk

Keythorpe Red Xanthus 0.9528.R 100% – Sire Hornets Red Falcon – Sire Bailieston Boers Marlon Brando (AUS) – Dam Hornets Fallon – Sire Beech-Hay Red Legend. Showing willing to work already. Growing to be a very nice buck. SAC Accredited. CAE CLA JOHNES Negative Cattle always TB clear. Closed Herd. Registered and transferred with the BBGS.



NB. The British Boer Goat Society accepts no responsibility for an advert placed in this magazine and its placement does not infer any endorsement of the contents or subject matter of the animals therein.

### **Website Reminder**

Any member wishing to submit a 'For Sale' advert for their goats and equipment via the electronic form on the Society Web Site are kindly reminded to observe the maximum size of the photos which they submit (no greater than 128MB, 450 x 602) also allow 24hrs for the advert to be processed and loaded.

### **Oversized photos cannot be posted.**

Adverts welcome for forthcoming editions of the Magazine to [bbs.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:bbs.secretary@gmail.com). Alternatively, Alternatively, adverts can be sent by letter, for members who do not use emails to.

S. Johnson, Cherrytree Farm, Cherrytree Lane, Dalbury Lees,  
Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 5BE

### **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:

- Full page colour advert £25
- Half page colour advert £15
- Discounts available on multiple issues



**GLW Feeds are one of the largest independent, family-owned livestock and speciality feed manufacturers in the UK.**

We are very selective about the raw materials we use, and choose them not only for reliability and performance, but also for sustainability. As an example of this policy, we do not use Palm Kernel Meal in our feed mill.

We have developed a range of quality compound feeds for dairy goats, their youngstock, and for goats destined for meat production. These can be delivered in bulk (minimum four tonnes within our bulk delivery area), or 40 x 25 kg bags on a pallet nationwide.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time to talk through your potential requirements.

**We ensure you'll always get a positive response from our feed, our service and our people.**

**Visit [www.glw-feeds.co.uk](http://www.glw-feeds.co.uk) or contact one of our friendly account managers on 01509 501801 or [info@glw-feeds.co.uk](mailto:info@glw-feeds.co.uk)**