



British Boer Goat Society

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October 2025.

Dear Members

Autumn is here, the days are growing shorter, the leaves are turning, and there is a crispness in the air. With Halloween just around the corner, it is the perfect time to embrace some seasonal fun!

Stay tuned for all the latest news and updates from BBGS!



Payments

A gentle reminder when making a payment to BBGS by either BACS or PayPal could you please add your membership number and a reference to your payment i.e. Transfer, Membership or Reg.

Transactions will not be processed until payment has been received

Many thanks.

Show dates 2026.

- Staffordshire County Show, 27th & 28th May 2026
- Royal Three Counties Show, 12th-14th June 2026
- Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show, 3rd- 5th July 2026
- Hanbury Countryside Show, 4th July 2026

Acorn poisoning

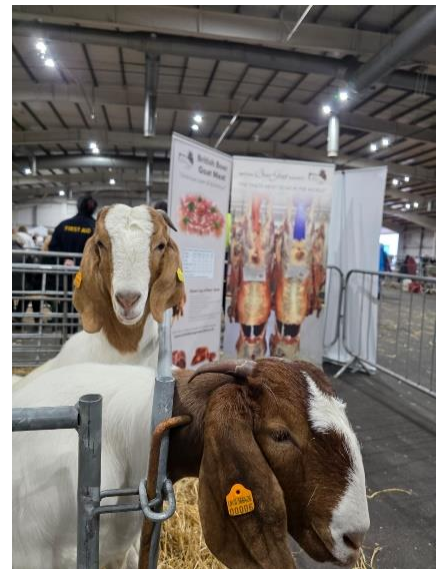
APHA is aware of several recent cases of acorn poisoning in cattle and sheep. This includes other laboratories reporting diagnosed cases in their newsletters.

This year is described as a “Mast year” with a high acorn crop predicted, so awareness is relevant as the impact in individual herds and flocks can be significant with high mortality. Cases are more likely following stormy weather resulting in high numbers of acorns falling on the ground in a short space of time. Clinical signs can be seen 3-7 days after ingestion of green acorns in autumn and include anorexia, depression, polydipsia and polyuria, haematuria, icterus and constipation followed by diarrhoea.

Diagnosis of intoxication is based on clinical signs, biochemistry (increased BUN and creatinine), necropsy, and epidemiology.

Thank You

The BBGS would like to extend a huge thank you to Trustee Daniel Wright for proudly flying the flag for BBGS and all its members up the country. His dedication and efforts are greatly appreciated, and we are incredibly grateful for his continued support and representation.



Slow-Braised Boer Goat Stew with Root Vegetables



Ingredients (Serves 4–6)

- 2 lbs Boer goat shoulder or leg, cut into 1½-inch cubes
 - 2 tbsp Olive oil
- 1 large Onion, chopped
- 3 cloves Garlic, minced
- 3 Carrots, sliced thick
- 2 Parsnips or Turnips, chopped
 - 2 Potatoes, cubed
- 1 cup diced Tomatoes (fresh or canned)
- 1 ½ cups Beef or Goat broth
- 1 cup dry red wine (optional, or replace with broth)
 - 2 tbsp Tomato paste
- 1 tbsp fresh Rosemary (or 1 tsp dried)
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme (or 1 tsp dried)
 - 1 bay leaf
- Salt and cracked black pepper to taste

Directions

1. **Brown the meat:** Heat olive oil in a heavy pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Brown goat pieces on all sides, working in batches if needed. Remove and set aside.
2. **Sauté aromatics:** In the same pot, add onions and garlic. Cook until softened and fragrant, about 3–4 minutes.
3. **Build flavour:** Stir in tomato paste, then add red wine (if using) to deglaze the pot. Scrape up all the flavourful browned bits from the bottom.
4. **Add vegetables and liquid:** Return the goat meat to the pot. Add carrots, parsnips, potatoes, diced tomatoes, broth, and herbs. Stir well and bring to a gentle simmer.
5. **Slow cook:** Cover and simmer on low heat for about **2 to 2½ hours**, or until the meat is tender and the vegetables are soft. (You can also cook in a slow cooker on low for 6–8 hours.)
6. **Season and serve:** Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Serve hot with crusty bread or over mashed potatoes.

Setting Your Boer Herd Up for a Successful Kidding Season

Breeding season is one of the most important times of the year for any Boer goat operation. Whether you are managing a small holding or a large commercial setup, careful preparation can make all the difference in conception rates, kidding success, and kid health.

1. Evaluate Body Condition

Before breeding begins, assess the body condition of all does and bucks. Does should be in moderate condition — not too thin or overly fat. Thin does may struggle to conceive, while overweight does are prone to kidding complications. Bucks also need to be in good working condition since they can lose up to 10–15% of their body weight during breeding.

2. Nutrition and Flushing

“Flushing” — the practice of increasing a doe’s feed intake 3–4 weeks before breeding — can improve ovulation and increase litter size. Offer a small grain supplement or high-quality hay to provide extra energy and protein. Make sure clean, fresh water and free-choice minerals are always available.

Do not forget trace minerals: **copper, selenium, and zinc** play vital roles in fertility and overall herd health. A targeted mineral supplement designed for goats is a worthwhile investment.

3. Health Check and Parasite Control

A few weeks before breeding, perform a full health check. Trim hooves, check eyes for signs of anaemia (a sign of barber pole worm), and deworm selectively based on faecal egg counts.

Healthy goats are more likely to conceive quickly and carry kids to term successfully.

4. Buck Management

Inspect bucks just as carefully as the does. Check for sound feet, a clean sheath, and no signs of lameness or injury. Testicles should be firm, evenly sized, and

free of swelling. Bucks should also receive a balanced diet and have access to clean water and minerals.

5. Recordkeeping and Observation

Keep detailed breeding records including doe ID, buck used, and breeding dates. This helps you predict kidding dates and manage nutrition accordingly. Once breeding starts, observe interactions to ensure the buck is active and does are cycling normally.

Final Tip:

Good breeding preparation sets the stage for healthy kids, higher conception rates, and an easier kidding season. A few weeks of planning now will save you countless hours — and headaches — later.



Photo courtesy of Romanno Boer Goats - Hornets Isaac

Join the BBGS Committee: Your Society Needs You!

The BBGS is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated members to step forward and become Trustees within the Society. This is your chance to contribute to the future of our charity, share your ideas, and help make the BBGS even better.

In order to maintain the Society's activities, we need your help. A small committee limits our ability to expand and enhance the initiatives we know our members would love to see. We need more hands-on deck to help share the workload and bring fresh ideas.

If you have any great ideas or suggestions, we are eager to hear them! Your input is invaluable, and by joining the committee, you can help turn these ideas into reality.

We encourage all members who feel they have skills, ideas, or simply the enthusiasm to make a difference, to consider joining the committee. Monthly meetings are held via Zoom, lasting between 1 to 2 hours, making it convenient to participate.

If you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to our secretary at bbgs.secretary@gmail.com. Your involvement could be the key to driving the BBGS forward.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to give back to your Society.



Photo courtesy of Romanno Boer Goats

Best regards
Trustees of the British Boer Goat Society

