

# R EWE KIDDING

WINTER 2009/2010

“GOATS MILK IS ALKALINE AND COWS MILK IS ACID. GOAT MILK IS LOWER IN CHOLESTEROL AND HIGHER IN CALCIUM, PHOSPHORUS AND VITAMIN A.”

BY: ANIMAL CORNER

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## Targeting Markets

It is always a challenge to get the best possible price for your animals. To help with when to market certain animals to maximize price dates are below. This information is based on ethnic holidays.

### Western or Roman Easter (April 4, 2010)

Type of lamb wanted: 30-45 lbs. live weight, milk fed and fat

Type of goat wanted: Fleshy milk fed kids, 3 months old or younger. Acceptable weights range generally from 20-50 lbs. with 30 lbs. being most desirable.

### Easter or Greek Easter (April 4, 2010)

Type of lamb wanted: 40-55 lbs. live weight, milk fed and fat

Type of goats wanted: A slightly larger milk fed kid than Western Easter, ideally 35 lbs.

### Passover (March 30-April 6, 2010)

Type of lamb wanted: 30-55 lbs, fat and milk fed



- “Other holidays when goat meat is commonly consumed include Christmas, the July 4th weekend, and the numerous Caribbean holidays in August-Carnival, Carifest, Jamaican Independence Day, etc.
- The Christmas market is for milk fed kids and lambs. These young animals are rare, because they must be produced out-of-season breeding in May for October births. Kids and lambs as light as 18 lbs. may be readily accepted.
- Goats for the July 4th weekend are animals suitable for barbecue, generally cabrito kids for small parties and weaned market kids and yearling bucks, does, or wethers for large celebrations.
- Optimal goats for the Caribbean holidays are young, smelly 60-80 lbs. bucks. However, older animals of all sexes are often in demand and customers may prefer to buy them rather than pay the extra price for prime young bucks.
- The Chinese market goat according to Frank Pinkerton, PhD, is ‘limited to the six colder months. The preferred weight is 60 to 80 pounds live, and goats in good health are required.’ The Hispanic market for goat is for 15 to 30 lb. live wt. suckling kids for cabrito, and large weaned market kids for seco de chivo and barbecues. It is especially strong in some regions during Cinco de Mayo (May 5th), Mexico’s Independence Day.
- Cull does and bucks are also in demand for the curried goat market and for prison contracts.
- More information on popular holidays is available on the web at [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org)

By: News “Ewe” Can Use

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## Lamb Stir Fry

### CASHEW LAMB STIR FRY

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 Tbsp. Cornstarch
- 2 cups Cold water
- 4 Tbsp. Soy sauce, divided
- 1 bunch Chopped broccoli
- 3 med. Julienned carrots
- 2 Tbsp. Canola oil
- 1 lb. Boneless lamb steak, cut into thin strips
- 3 Garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 Tsp. Ground pepper
- 2 med. Bell peppers, cut into strips
- 2 med. Onions, halved & sliced
- 1 med. Zucchini (or yellow summer squash), sliced
- 1 1/2 cup Cashews
- 2 cups hot cooked rice

**METHOD:**

In a small bowl, combine cornstarch, water and 2 Tbsp. Soy sauce until smooth; set aside.



In a very large skillet or wok, stir-fry broccoli and carrots in 1 Tbsp. of oil until vegetables begin to soften. Add lamb, garlic, pepper and remaining soy sauce. Stir fry until meat is no longer pink. Remove and keep warm.

In the same pan; stir-fry peppers, onions, and squash in remaining oil until crisp-tender. Return lamb mix to pan. Stir cornstarch mixture and add to pan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in cashews. Serve with rice.

## Breed Profile Jacob

- Color:** Spotted black and white
  - Horns:** Yes,
  - Origin:** Syria, origin obscure
  - Year Identified:** 3000 years ago
  - Brought to US:** Early 1900's
  - Female Size:** 80-120 lbs
  - Male Size:** 120-180 lbs
  - Coat:** weight 3-4 lbs, will vary in color, crimp and fineness
- Born with horn buds
  - Have strong resistance to parasites and foot problems
  - Fleece light in grease (lanolin)

By: American Jacob Breeders Assoc.



**Facts**

- Typically identified by their black and white fleece and prominent horns
- Both males and females have horns, set from 2 to 4 horns are common with 6 horns being rare.
- Wool is highly valued to spinners and weavers.
- Animals should be 40% black and 60% white, black hooves and preferably black knees and hocks
- More goat-like curiosity and agility
- Lamb easily with 1 or 2 lambs in the spring only



Laura Frazier's Jacob Ram "Jericho"

**Ranch Quiz**

1. What is the easiest way to tell the common public the difference between sheep and goats?
2. What are animals called that have a 4 chambered stomach, which include cattle, sheep & goats?
3. Name the two types of goats that produce fiber.


1. Tail up for goats, tail down for sheep 2. Ruminants 3. Angora & Cashmere

Answer Key





## *Artificial Raising Lambs (apply to goats)*

- Self feeding is more profitable than bottle feeding (mainly due to labor but partially due to feeding time).
  - Self feeders with nipples positioned at the bottom of the bucket have proven to be the most successful. Nipples should be no less than 12" but no more than 15" from floor.
  - Appropriate level of colostrum is 20ml per pound of body weight.
  - Calf milk replacers can cause severe scouring and death loss.
  - Studies showed the stronger, larger lambs provided the greatest returns when left on the ewe, while the weaker lambs raised by artificial means had greater survival rates.
  - Lambs should be identified within the first 2 to 6 hours for artificial rearing.
  - "Occasionally a lamb may attempt to adopt a larger lamb as its mother by sucking on the larger lamb's navel or scrotum. Lambs developing this habit consume little milk and may eventually die. Therefore, lambs exhibiting this behavior should be removed immediately from the group and fed by themselves until they learn to suck the nipple.
  - Lambs are more likely to try coarse feed rather than pellets.
  - Producers with a history of large numbers of multiple births should consider artificial rearing (on a self feeder) to save more lambs and increase profitability from more lambs marketed.
- 
- lambs from other ewes as candidates for artificial rearing
  - Make sure lambs receive colostrum from the ewe or administer supplemental colostrum directly to lambs within 12 to 18 hours after birth.
  - Administer 0.25 mg selenium per 10 lbs of body weight
  - Only use a high quality milk replacer specifically formulated for lambs. Calf milk replacer is unacceptable.
  - Use cold milk replacer (35 to 46 degrees F) to minimize spoilage and digestive upsets.
  - Approximately 4 to 5 hours after the last feeding of colostrum, begin training lambs to the nipple.
  - Repeat training sessions every 4 to 6 hours until lambs are sucking on their own. Excessive handling of lambs may cause them to become overly dependent on human assistance.
  - Observe lambs closely for the first 3 to 5 days. Make sure all lambs are fully adjusted to the nipple.
  - Clean milk feeding equipment every 2 to 3 days with warm soap and water.
  - By 5 days of age, provide lambs with a free-choice source of water and a highly palatable, high protein feed.
  - Pen wean lambs abruptly at a minimum of 20 lbs body weight.
  - Vaccinate lambs for *Colostridium perfringens* types C & D at 3 to 4 weeks of age and booster 3 weeks later.
  - Continue feeding high protein dry feed until lambs weigh 40 lbs.
  - At 40 lbs body weight, switch lambs to a lower protein growing feed or place lambs on high quality pasture for grazing."

Below is a quick reference check list for successfully raising orphans.

### **"ARTIFICIAL REARING CHECKLIST:**

- Obtain supplies and a source of frozen colostrum well ahead of lambing.
- Select the weaker, less aggressive lambs from ewes with 3 or more lambs, and malnourished or orphaned

For further information on this topic please visit <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/410/410-023/410-023.html> or call your local extension office for details.

## *Mortality Diposal*

Unfortunately death loss is a fact of life on the farm. Hopefully it isn't a major issue or other appropriate measures may need to be examined. However, the question is what to do with animals that have passed on the farm. There are several different options available to producers. They are rendering, composting, incineration, landfill and on-site burial.

Rendering has some advantages and disadvantages. The main advantage is it removes the dead animal from the property. Normally the charge is minimal and will vary from one company to another. The main disadvantage is the animal must be less than 24 hours passed (more than that and they will refuse). Two companies that service the area are LeeWay Farms at 336-352-4740 and B & B Farms at 919-742-5564. Helpful hint, call to check charges and what animals accepted.

Composting is a legitimate practice on the farm. However specifics won't be listed here due to space. If interested in this practice call local your livestock agent.

Incineration is not usually economical for larger animals (bigger than poultry) and smaller farms.

Some county landfills will dispose of dead animals. The sites should be called before delivery.

On-site burial is typically the most common method of disposal. Unfortunately decomposition takes longer and many struggle with depth to keep scavengers/predators from digging up an animal. An onsite burial needs to be buried within 48 hours of death and must be 200' from water wells.

*By: Va. Tech*

## *Volunteers*

For those that don't attend the livestock shows in the area it might not be common knowledge of the local volunteers.

In the sheep, Austin Armstrong helps kids show lambs without huge investments. Some of the locations they showed were the Stokes County Fair and Dixie Classic.

In the goats, there were a couple of major volunteers. In Forsyth County David Lawson allowed 17 children to practice at his farm and exhibit his goats at the Dixie Classic. In Stokes County, Herbert Young offered his goats for youth to show. These goats were then cared for and practice sessions were at Hawk Farm (Mary Jo Hanes). In this group from Stokes County, there were 5 youth. John Leap of Forsyth County also had a number of youth showing goats at the Stokes County Fair.

At the Dixie Classic Meat Goat Show, Forsyth and Stokes County had the majority of the show!

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[www.ces.ncsu.edu/forsyth](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forsyth)  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/stokes](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/stokes)



*Until next time....*

*See ya!*

## *Events Calendar*

Jan 8-9	Va. Sheep Symposium and Sheep Management 101 Workshop, Blacksburg, Va; contact <a href="mailto:sgreiner@vt.edu">sgreiner@vt.edu</a> or call 540-231-9159
Jan 20-23	American Sheep Industry (ASI) Annual Convention, Nashville, Tn.; <a href="http://www.sheepusa.org">www.sheepusa.org</a>
Feb 20	A Good Snake, Charlotte, call 704-598-8857
Feb 27	Peach State Classic (Boer), Perry, Ga.; call 912-359-3161
Feb 27	N.C. Meat Goat Assoc. Field Day, (FAMACHA & Fecal Egg Counts on agenda) Raleigh; call 919-542-1232
Apr 23-24	Official Boer Goat Judging School, Raleigh; call 704-482-4365
Apr 24	Foothills Goat & Sheep Producers Assoc. Show, Shelby; call 704-482-4365
May 15	Embracing Your Alpaca Investment, Beaverdam, Va., 804-449-1423
May 1-2	Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, W. Friendship, Md., call 410-531-3647
June 10-12	American Kiko Goat Assoc. National Convention & Sale, Perry Ga., call 229-831-4759

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