



New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Assn

Membership Newsletter October 2018

Contact us: nzbgba@gmail.com
www.nzbgba.co.nz

Facebook: NZ Boer Goat Breeders Assn
<https://www.facebook.com/nzbgba/>

PRESIDENT'S BRIEF

Welcome to the October 2018 issue. By now most studs will have either finished or started kidding and the results will reflect the mating choices that were made. Hopefully the outcomes were favourable.

The export of registered Boer Goats to Korea last year highlighted to all the importance of submitting birthing information to our bureau in putter Genetic Gains. The sooner studs can provide this information the better. Please remember to update the animals recorded as being owned by you. This includes advising of sales for stud, deaths, sales for commercial etc. Any questions regarding this can be referred to Julia Aspinall.

julia@genetic-gains.co.nz

Please remember the standard animal tag identification to be used for all animals and should be as follows Example: 1234.1801. 1234 would be your stud ID with the Bureau, followed by a decimal point. Then the number with the first 2 digits representing the year, and the remainder of the digits being the animal number. Your stud ID (1234) will only be shown on the registered pedigrees but you must submit your goat ID as 1801 or 18099 etc. even if you choose to tag your goats simply as 01 or 99. For exporting purposes it is crucial that the NZBGBA identification system is robust and more importantly we all follow the same system.

The Canterbury group has the NZ Agricultural show coming up from 14th to 16th November with Vicki Mitchell from Australia as the judge. Good luck to all involved.

Kind Regards
Brian Loughhead – President NZBGBA

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NZ Agricultural Show (previously Canterbury A&P)

- Working bee Sunday 11th November from 1.30 - 3.30pm-ish at the Goat pens in the Livestock Pavilion. Any help appreciated.
- Boer Goat showing Wednesday 14th November from 9.30am. Supreme exhibit approximately 3pm.
- Our judge is Vicki Mitchell from Coomboona Boer Goat Stud near Shepparton in Victoria, Australia. Vicki has judged internationally, including at the Wanaka A&P Show a few years ago.
- Thanks to the many stewards who have taken time off work to run the ring, with particular thanks to Head Steward Stephen Andrews who has come in this role from Waiuku, Auckland for many years.
- Boer Goat dinner at Lone Star, Riccarton on the Wednesday from 6pm, seated 6.30pm. All welcome, please RSVP to Philippa before midday Wednesday.
- Boer Goat publicity tent - help manning this on the Thursday and Friday would be great.
- A great chance to have a talk to fellow breeders, we hope to see you there.

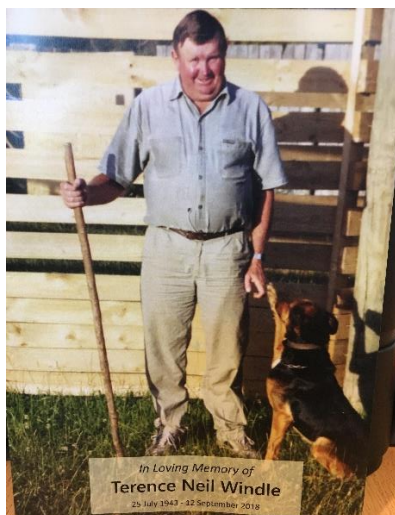
South Island Agricultural Field Days (SIAFD)

- Held at Kirwee, Canterbury on 27-29 March 2019.
- Publicity stand with live goats.
- More details in the next newsletter.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS:

Please can you email nzbgba@gmail.com with your details so that we can update our database. Thank you.

- Name
- Stud name
- Account name for invoicing
- Email address
- Mobile
- Postal address



Condolences from the Association to Lyn and family on the passing of Terry Windle on the 12th September 2018.

Terry was an enthusiastic member of the Boer Goat association and previously had been a convenor of the Canterbury A&P boer goat section, Chairman of the Canterbury Boer Goat Group, a successful exhibitor winning the Supreme Boer Goat at the Canterbury show, and was a judge at the Mackenzie A&P show.

Always willing to have a chat to prospective boer goat owners and fellow breeders, his laugh will be remembered by many.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please can you complete the short online survey on the NZBGGBA which will be sent as a separate email. This will give us an understanding of our membership and thoughts on direction of the Association.

As our membership is currently quite small, we would like to grow it, and you may have some answers to help us achieve this!

WANAKA A&P SHOW (UPPER CLUTHA A&P)

Due to dwindling boer goat exhibitors at this show, the organisers would like to have an early indication of who is likely to exhibit for the coming show on Friday 8th & Saturday 9th March 2019 (with judging on the Friday).

If there is little support they will possibly cancel the competition but retain a publicity tent.

Please contact Owen Booth at boothao@xtra.co.nz if you are considering entering.

NZBGGBA FACEBOOK PAGE

This has recently been set up and will be administered initially by Executive member Jenny Bassett. Posts will mostly be initiated by Jenny. Posts from others are set to be approved by Jenny before being published. In this way we are trying to control what gets posted – it is a similar set up to the South African Boer Goat Society FB page. If you have any comments about the Facebook page please use the Message function on Facebook or email nzbgba@gmail.com

OTHER FACEBOOK PAGES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

- DRL – Disease Research Ltd <https://www.facebook.com/DRLotago/>
- Goat Veterinary Consultancies <https://www.facebook.com/goatvetoz/>
- South African Boer Goat Breeders Society <https://www.facebook.com/SA-Boerboktelersvereniging-SA-Boer-Goat-Breeders-Society-195178623863227/>
- Canterbury Boer Goat Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354920724717561/>
- NZ Goat Talk <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469161439880826/>
- Boer Goat Breeders Assn Australia <https://www.facebook.com/groups/397084853764340/>
- Australian Boer Goats <https://www.facebook.com/groups/172795339474324/>

Thank you to Executive member Warwick Ferguson for his many years of editing this newsletter. He has done a great job creating an informative newsletter with articles and photos covering a wide range of topics. After about five years of being editor he has passed this onto myself (Jenny Bassett) and I hope that you will send me things to include for future editions. Email nzbgba@gmail.com

Thank you to Philippa Loughhead for obtaining sponsorship for two new trophies to be awarded annually at the South Island Boer Goat Championships.

The Champion Junior Boer Doe trophy is donated by Hedley John Exporters.

The Champion Junior Boer Buck trophy is donated by Balcairn Stockfoods.

Thank you to these two businesses for their support of our industry, please support them.



STUD PROFILE - WHITESTONE BOERS, MILTON, SOUTH OTAGO

A little bit about myself. Farming has been a big part of my life. I left school in 1962 and worked on a farm in Moa Flat, West Otago where I got my basic training in farming. I was involved in YFC which I enjoyed, particularly the stock judging competitions. I have also enjoyed attending A&P Shows where I have been involved with Romney sheep and Murray Grey cattle stud breeders.

In recent years I have attended the Sydney Royal Show 4 times helping out in the Boer Goat section. There is usually between 200 and 300 goats entered. I enjoyed talking to breeders and viewing so many goats.

In 1982 I purchased 4 Angora goats when living on a 30ha property at Geraldine. They were the first goats I had owned. We moved to Te Anau from there where we owned a 245ha property and we took the Angoras with us. During that year a stock agent offered me \$50,000 for the farm animals but I said "no, I'm in it for the long haul". The next year they were worth very little as David Lange introduced the livestock tax which crashed the Angora market. While in Te Anau I went up to Gisborne to look at Feral Does and purchased 300 goats which we farmed in Te Anau breeding towards Cashmere and meat.

In 2006 the Whitestone Boer Stud was established by purchasing 21 Landcorp does from Tony Grayling. Our numbers increased over the 6 years to 60 does using bucks from Tony and Wynn. In 2012 I decided I needed to source some new genetics. While attending the Sydney Royal Show I checked the boers out and liked the type of goats that Paul and Jan Ormsby were showing. The next day after the show we motored to Paul's property at Forbes NSW and looked at his stud. From there we purchased 15 does and a buck.

The goats arrived at Christchurch airport on May 2012, 8 does were inked on arrival. The balance were mated by Viking MU1009 on arrival. They were synchronized to be ready to take the buck straight away.

The introduction of the Mugambi blood has been huge for our stud and has progressed us to a level which we would not have achieved otherwise. Our last two breeding seasons we AI'd 21 does in 2017 and 35 does in 2018 using semen from Mugambi Boer Goat Stud. The semen was from 4 different bucks. The progeny from these bucks have given the stud another lift and I am very pleased with the progeny.

We have been farming on our 10ha property at Milton, South Otago for the last 18 months. The climate can be cold and wet at times but I am really pleased with our goats, they have adapted to the climate very well. At present our stud is running 42 mixed aged does, 3 adult bucks, 18 doe hoggets and 14 buck hoggets.

Owen and Annette Booth
www.whitestoneboers.co.nz

JOHNES DISEASE AND ITS EFFECT ON GOAT FARMING

What is Johne's Disease and What Causes It?

Pronounced 'Yoh-nees', Paratuberculosis is another name that is often used for this disease. It is a bacterium (mycobacterium avium ss. Paratuberculosis -MAP for short) that causes Johne's disease. It is a disease of the intestine.

Johne's disease is primarily a health problem for ruminant animals (hoofed mammals that chew their cud and have a 3-4 chambered stomach). Some of the more common ruminants are cattle, sheep, goats and deer. According to LSB it is more common across New Zealand farms than we think.

The infection happens in the FIRST few months of a KID'S life. The infection occurs in KIDS but signs of the disease may not occur until the animals are adults around 3 years. Infection can result from contaminated faeces or milk from an infected DAM (mother). Some kids can become infected before they are born (in utero transmission), some bottle-fed kids can become infected with MAP from contaminated milk collected from an infected DAM.

- Infection occurs in first few months of a kid's life
- Passed on from an infected DAM
- Infection from contaminated faeces, milk or in utero

Johne's disease can in some cases remain dormant (undetected) until the animal reaches adulthood. No one really understands what causes a clinically normal goat that has been infected by MAP for months or years to suddenly become sick from the infection. Research suggests that stress (environmental and nutritional) often triggers clinical disease.

What are the symptoms?

Weight loss and scouring although in goats scouring is less common than with cattle.

There is no cure. In New Zealand and Australia there is a vaccine available. The problem with vaccination is that it can interfere with TB testing and some importing countries do not like vaccinated animals.

How Does Johne's Disease Enter a Herd?

Johne's disease typically enters a herd when an 'infected but healthy-looking goat' is purchased. This infected animal begins to shed the organism onto the premises eg pasture or water sources. Research has suggested that shedding of Johne's bacteria occurs during the clinical stage of Johne's disease and these animals are known as 'super-shedders'. YOUNG ANIMALS are more susceptible to infection than are adults.

How to Protect Your Herd from Johne's Disease?

Purchase animals from a source herd free of Johne's disease

If you purchase an animal check that it has been **blood tested** or have the tests completed BEFORE it leaves the source farm

Only purchase test negative animals from test negative DAMS

Remember it is the DAM that passes the disease on to the kids in the first instance

Laboratory blood tests as well as environment (soil) test are available.

What Happens When There is a Test Positive Animal on your Farm

Remove and isolate immediately or cull

Cull any animals that show relentless weight loss and/or scouring (get your veterinarian to rule out other common causes of scouring etc) – sometimes scouring is not present in goats

Test other animals in the herd – cull any that are test positive

Be vigilant

Perhaps subdivide your farm and have safe grazing areas.

What is the Life of Mycobacterium paratuberculosis Bacteria?

Life cycle of MAP is 2 – 6 months. Can survive up to 12 months in a sheltered damp area but is quickly killed by **sunlight and dryness (desiccation)**.

Leave pasture fallow and replant

What are the Effects on the Stud Breeder?

The emotional fallout is huge and may have a devastating effect on the breeder resulting in the loss of years of quality breeding.

To conclude; “blood test animals” that you wish to purchase, only purchase test negative animals from test negative DAMS despite the status or accolades of the breeder. Don’t let the disease become a part of your farm. Honest, open communication from the breeder is paramount, along with possible support and advice from the association and other breeders.

Acknowledgements:

Beef and Lamb Fact Sheet: April 2016. Johne’s Disease – Management for New Zealand Beef Cattle and Dairy Replacements.

Elsken, L. A, Lewis-Hintz, A.M, Whipple, D. L, 1985: The pathogenesis, diagnosis and control of paratuberculosis (Johne’s disease) in goats. AM. Ass. Vet. Lab Diagnosticians 28th Proceedings: 121-130
LSB (helping one another): Dr Marjorie Orr, Lifestyle Farmer and Veterinarian: Johne’s disease - Overview
MacDiarmid, S.C. 1987. Vaccination against Johne’s disease. Surveillance, 14(1); 6-7

Thomas, G. W, 1985: Johne’s disease (paratuberculosis) in goats. Veterinary Annual 25:231-5

Disclaimer: The information and opinions contained within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Association (NZBGBA). We recommend seeking veterinary advice for any animal health issues.