



New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Assn Membership Newsletter October 2019

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

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

Material for next edition by **20th Jan 2020**

PRESIDENT'S BRIEF

Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter. The Spring has sprung and the grass is growing. Hopefully kidding has not been too adversely affected by the changeable weather.

The next show is the NZ Agricultural Show in Christchurch November 13th to 15th. The judge this year is Thomas Youlden from NSW, Australia. I look forward to catching up with members during the show.

Membership fees for the 2020 financial year were set at the AGM to remain the same as present at \$125.00. An invoice for this will be sent out in December 2019.

The NZBGBA website has had an overhaul as a result of our hosting company updating their software. This is now more informative and we intend to continually update references and information for visitors.

Animal transfers

There have been a number of animal transfers sent through where the breeder is trying to transfer an animal that does not appear in their stock holding as detailed by Genetic Gains.

This is causing problems for transfers as it is not possible to transfer an animal from a stud who does not have this animal in their stock listing. Can I remind all breeders to obtain a stock listing from Genetic Gains and check carefully. Advise of any animals showing that have been sold for stud, commercially, died or any other reason why they are now not in your herd. This process is the responsibility of each stud.

The process for transfers is as follows:

- 1 Transfer form completed for the animal with the form being signed by both the seller and the purchaser (form on NZBGBA website)
- 2 Completed form sent to NZBGBA C/o Brian Loughhead 241 Lawcocks Road RD1 AMBERLEY 7481 or amberfieldboers@gmail.com
- 3 An invoice will be issued to the seller for the required fee
- 4 When the invoice has been paid transfers will be sent to bureau for processing

Please follow this procedure for all transfers.

Kind Regards, Brian Loughhead - President

REMINDERS:

NZ Agricultural Show Wednesday 13th – Friday 15th November 2019.

Registrations Are your animal registrations up to date?

- Any transfers need to be completed on the current form, found on www.nzbgba.co.nz
- Contact Julia at julia@genetic-gains.co.nz for your current herd list & pedigrees.

BREEDER PROFILE

STUD NAME Crusader Boers
 BREEDER Geoff & Tracy Moore

LOCATION Oxford, Canterbury
 FARM AREA 23ha
 HERD SIZE 45 does bred 2019



Geoff & Tracy Moore with judge Chris Hampton at Mackenzie A&P 2018

We have finished kidding after an early start with our AI kids born at the end of July. The early start was due to fitting in with the vet's travel programme. This proved a challenge with a very successful AI programme resulting in a high number of kids born in a short period of time. We had a 95% conception rate resulting in 22 does kidding. Fortunately, the weather was quite good over the kidding period. This year we had two thirds more buck kids compared with doe kids born. The does kidded over nine days with 50% of them producing triplets or quads. Due to the high number of multiples birth weights were lower than normal.

Over the years we have had a number of AI programmes using laparoscopic AI with a range of conception rates from 40%-95%. The 40% rate was only from five animals. In 2018 we trialled cervical AI, which is non-surgical and a lot easier on the animals, with a result of 31% conception. We are still investigating options around getting better results from cervical AI. By using AI, it allows the ability to bring in new genetics that may not otherwise be available.

Pasture feeding goats has its challenges with the spring starting off with cooler temperatures resulting in grass growth being behind where it should be. This has proved tough on the does and kids as well as managing worm burdens. Feeding hay helps supplement their feed requirements and reduces worm burden.

Over the last five years we have done hundreds of worm counts using our own FEC kit to try and identify and manage worm burdens, resistance and resilience across the flock. It is obvious the young stock under one year need more management as they are more susceptible, then by yearlings they generally carry less worms and cope better. The kidding mob with the stress of kidding and rearing kids are likely to be more affected, particularly those having multiple births. There can be a big difference in worm burden for those does only rearing a single kid and being able to cope. Through our FEC sampling programme we are starting to identify some bloodlines that consistently carry less worm burden and others that seem to be less affected with higher worm burdens.

One thing we have learnt over the years is that health and feeding have a large bearing on the Boer goat's ability for growth. Overall, we are happy with this year's crop of kids and look forward to the summer to watch them thrive and reach their potential.

Geoff & Tracy Moore



NZ AGRICULTURAL SHOW 2019

We are very fortunate to have Thomas Youlden, a Level 3 judge from NSW, Australia coming to judge the South Island Championships at the NZ Agricultural Show at Christchurch on Wednesday 13 November 2019. Thomas is flying into Wellington with his spouse Simone a few days earlier to see some sights as they travel down to Christchurch.

He will be judging all day on the Wednesday, coming to the boer goat dinner at the Lone Star at night, and attending the show on the Thursday where he will be available to speak to exhibitors and attendees. On the Friday Thomas & Simone may decide to explore Christchurch and surrounds. They will be staying with Jenny & family on the Friday night after the show and flying out on the Saturday, so unfortunately not much spare time to visit local breeders.

Thomas Youlden is a BGBAA level 3 judge who since 2006 has judged many local, royal and state shows throughout Australia. Thomas has also served as a state and federal board member for the BGBAA.

Thomas's passion is agriculture having completed a Degree in Agriculture through Melbourne University. Thomas has been in the Boer goat industry for over 15 years and currently runs a herd of over 150 breeding does as well as white dorpers in the Central West of New South Wales Australia.

Any queries regarding the show to either Jenny or Philippa (Boer Goat section convenors).



NZ AGRICULTURAL SHOW EVENTS

Sunday 10 Nov from 1.30pm	Working bee at the Livestock Pavilion to set up the judging ring & pens etc
Wednesday 13 Nov 9.30am	Show. Judging of boer goat section – all day
Wednesday 13 Nov 6.30pm	Boer Goat dinner – Lone Star Riccarton. RSVP to Philippa 027 431 4884.
Thursday 14 Nov	Show. Depending on time, exhibitors may provide doe hoggets for judging by the Youth Section in the late afternoon.
Friday 15 Nov	Show. Muscle scanning time TBC (see next article).

MUSCLE SCANNING

To encourage and promote the use of muscle scanned full blood Boers the NZBGBA Executive have approached well known scanner Peter Clulee of Otago Ultrasound Livestock Scanners. Peter is a regular at the Canterbury A&P Show (or NZ Agricultural Show as it is now known) and has scanned the sheep section for many years specialising in stud Rams.

Peter has offered to talk through the process, advantages, disadvantages of muscle scanning to all Boer exhibitors at the show, likely to be Friday, time TBC. He has indicated he would be happy to scan 6 Boers as a demonstration which would give a benchmark for those breeders who are interested and participate. The Executive will cover the cost of scanning more than the 6 as long as exhibitors discuss numbers with the Executive beforehand. The Executive acknowledge that not all breeders will be able to make use of this offer so they intend to work with interested NZBGBA breeders who may be able to hold a field day where Peter can be included - South Island of course.

The general consensus of the Executive is that we are losing the battle against other specialist Breeds by not being able to pass on breed data to potential buyers. We breed a Rolls Royce of meat goats with the ability to pass on rapid kid growth but have very little science or recognisable methodology to back the statement up. It is time to be a leader within the NZBGBA and use the data that will be gained as another Marketing / Management tool. You only have to look at the advance of lamb weaning weights over the past 10 years through a combination of better feeding, ewe scanning for multiples and selection of Rams with above average eye muscle.

I have three different aged bucks entered in the show, two of them are there to give me some idea how my breeding bucks scan and measure against other bucks. They offer different traits that I want in my herd. I encourage the exhibitors present to put some animals forward for scanning for their own benefit but also as a starting point for our industry moving forward. Please let me know your numbers and class of stock to be scanned by Thursday 14th Nov so that I can book in Peter's time.

Warwick Ferguson
on behalf of the NZBGBA Executive

2019 KYABRAM SHOW, NSW – A NZ EXHIBITOR

Recently I enjoyed a Saturday of showing at the 2019 Kyabram Show, Victoria, Australia. For many years the generosity of Parra Boer Goat stud (Nerida Tull) has enabled me to run a small number of Boers for genetic collection and the sale of a few pays for the stud membership to the Boer Goat Breeders Association of Australia. Saturday was enjoyable for a few reasons, the main one being this was the first time that I have exhibited Boer goats under my Australian stud name of South Pacific Boers.

My introduction to being an exhibitor in Australia was less than memorable with a very feisty, unruly doe kid that gave me the run around and resulted in a tad embarrassing situation that was caught on video. With a very small team I was rewarded with a few placings until the "Breeders Group of 3" where my 3 were awarded 1st place. As the judge reminded all, the class is judged on type, consistency of breeding from different dams and positive common traits shown by all 3. Another reason for an enjoyable day was that the Victorian breeders were very friendly, very helpful and the day was warm without being overly hot.

The highlight of the day was a very sound, highly successful judging display by a new International Judge who has stepped up and out of their comfort zone. One of the pressures that came with the show is that 4 of the exhibitors are Australian Level 2 judges or above with some having passed a South African Boer Goat Association Senior school. To place the goats then comment positively with conviction while holding their composure at the same time showed that they were ready to step up.

To Philippa Loughhead, the judge - you have come a long way since we first had a chat at a dinner many years ago. You handled the day in a very professional manner, and you earned the respect of the Victorian breeders present, especially when having to make a couple of hard calls. I encourage you to take the next opportunity to add to your judging CV when it presents itself.

Warwick Ferguson - Kyabram exhibitor

2019 KYABRAM SHOW, NSW – A NZ JUDGE

I was honoured and privileged to be invited to judge the Kyabram show 2019. We arrived at Parra Boers on Friday afternoon, after a very early start. A quick chat and it was down to business. I was confined to the house, while Brian, Warwick and Nerida headed out to sort the show team for the next day.

Saturday we were up early, animals were loaded (unseen by me) and off for the hour and half trip to Kyabram. Having been to Kyabram show a few years back, it is was a familiar sight. An old WW2 Nissan army shed, in which the goats are penned, with a show ring assembled in front. The exhibitors unloaded and sorted their goats, while I went and watched the horses.

In Australia, they have a few different classes to NZ, 0 – 3 months, 3 – 6 months, 6 – 12 months, 12 – 18 months, 18 – 24 months, 24 – 36 months, 36 and over. Having familiarised myself with their breed standards prior to the show, I took a few deep breaths and the show began at 10am. I judged Standard Boers, Red Boers and Black Boers. I was impressed with the animals put in front of me. The does showed femininity and length, and this carried on through all the classes. They were followed by the buck classes, with again great length, and conformation.

While I would be lying to say I was not nervous, I managed to control these and complete my first International show. I am very grateful for the support and encouragement I was given. Being a judge is very different from exhibiting. Putting your personal likes, or dislikes aside to judge to the breed standard, and make decisions, even though at a glance, things can appear quite different to those looking on.

Kyabram was a lovely relaxed show, with friendly exhibitors who gave encouragement and support to each other. At lunchtime we were treated to a BBQ, with the exhibitors. It was so nice to sit and relax and enjoy their company. I would like to thank my husband Brian, and good friends Nerida and Warwick for encouraging me to take up the opportunity, to experience judging internationally. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks to the exhibitors, and to our friends in Australia for the opportunity.

Philippa Loughhead – Kyabram judge



GOATS, RUMEN FUNCTION and CLIMATE CHANGE

Article by Christine Lear

As Boer Goat breeders, we are aware of the adaptability and climate resilience of the breed in comparison to other ruminant animals. Goats have the capacity to convert efficiently poor quality feed to meat and milk. We found our herd adapted well to the move to South Island to a block that had gorse. Our goats hadn't been on gorse before. It took a couple of months and now they really tuck into the new and older gorse. What I didn't fully appreciate is that this resilience is linked to a browsing feeding pattern and rumen function. Rumen function is linked to enteric methane emissions, which are associated with global warming and the greenhouse effect. Recent research shows Goats produce less methane emissions than other Ruminants.

Weather, type of feed and pasture affect Rumen factors such as pH, fermentation rate and Microbes. There has been some recent research into heat stress and rumen function. Rumen function is affected by higher summer temperatures, which increases the methane emissions from changes in the microbes and physiology. Heat stress can markedly influence an animal's condition.

The resilience of Goats has to have a huge advantage in global weather change. They are able to withstand higher summer temperatures and harsh environments, and can cope with heat stress better than other ruminants, without increasing methane emissions.

Table 1
Advantageous characteristics associated with goats over other livestock species to survive in harsh climatic conditions.

Criteria	Special Characteristics of Goats	References
Adaptability	Goats are better adapted to broad environmental conditions ranging from arid dry to cold arid to hot humid. Goats in the tropical warm climate are more or less dwarf and have less body weight, while goats in colder climates have bigger size and more fur growth. Due to their lesser body size, their metabolic requirements are considerably low, they have the ability to reduce their metabolism and their loose skin aids in easy dissipation of body heat.	[18]
Thermo-tolerance	Goats are more thermo-tolerant than all other ruminant species. They possess the ability to survive in different agro-ecological zones.	[19]
Drought tolerance	Goats possess the ability to thrive well in drought prone areas because of reduced water requirement in comparison to sheep and other domestic ruminants. Goats have better water conservation ability than other ruminant animals because of their browse diet. Further, the gut, especially the rumen, acts as a water reservoir during the periods of dehydration.	[19]
Ability to thrive well on low pasture	Efficient utilizers of poor quality and a wide range of pastures. Goats have improved digestibility compared to all other rumen animals and, moreover, because the small-sized feed consumption is also low, these factors together favour less CH ₄ production.	[19]
Low enteric methane emission	Goats produce less enteric methane compared to sheep and other ruminants.	[20]

Criteria	Special Characteristics of Goats	References
More demand for goat meat	Goat meat possesses less fat content and has no religious taboo; hence, it is relished by all. The lower saturated fat content in the goat meat improves the blood cholesterol level and stabilizes the heart rhythm of consumer. Goat meat contains vitamin B, B12 and omega-3 fatty acids. Further goat meat is lower in calories and cholesterol than the meat from other animals.	[21]
Milk with more nutrition	Goat milk is more nutritious than the milk from other species of livestock, easily digestible due to the presence of some beneficial fatty acids and contains fats and proteins in a finer state. Goat milk contains vitamin A, niacin, thiamin, ribofavin and pantotheanate.	[22]
Digestibility and feed conversion efficiency	Increased efficiency to convert feed into milk and meat than all other domestic ruminants, they can even digest poor quality feed. Goats have less proportion of gut in relation their total body weight, which enables the rapid movement of digesta from the rumen and the entire gastrointestinal tract.	[19]
Less initial investment	Minimum investment compared to large ruminants due to lower price. It is possible to get more animals at the cost of one cow. Less quantity of feed is required for goats compared to other domesticated livestock species.	[1]
Women entrepreneurship	Because of their small size, goats are easy to herd by women. They can let the animals graze on common property resources and private fallow lands. As they move as a herd, it is easy to track them.	[19]
Suitable for landless farmers	Small area is required to rear goats because of their small size, they require less feed and they can be easily integrated into other farming systems.	[14]

References;

1. *Climate change and Goat production, enteric Methane emissions and its mitigation*
 Pragna,P; Chanahan,SS; Seijian,V ; Levry,BJ ; Dunshear,FR.
Animals 2018, 8, 235

CLASSIFIEDS

Personalised plates for sale – SABOER – contact Diana Blackmore 021 141 1202.

NEWSLETTER & CLASSIFIED SUBMISSIONS

Email nzbgba@gmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter. Due date on front page of the newsletter.

HAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGED?

Email nzbgba@gmail.com with name, stud, account name for invoicing, email, mobile & postal address.

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.