



New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Assn

Membership Newsletter Winter 2024

Contact us: nzbgba@gmail.com

www.nzbgba.nz

Facebook: NZ Boer Goat Breeders Assn

<https://www.facebook.com/nzbgba/>

Material for next edition by **20th Nov 2024**

Greetings from your new President.

Firstly and most importantly, on behalf of the whole of the NZBGBA, I would like to offer our thanks to our immediate Past President Warwick Ferguson who has provided a very capable hand on the tiller at the NZBGBA. I am sure we all wish Warwick well in his battle back to full health.

It is a great honour to be elected as Warwick's successor. I am conscious I have big shoes to fill! I am now trying to get my mind around an action plan for both the coming year and the next 2-3 years.

As outlined in Warwick's note elsewhere in this newsletter the NZBGBA is confronting a number of challenges which we must address quickly to ensure the future success of the Association. Most importantly membership of the Association must be viewed as adding value for you as a breeder. If we are not adding value the Association will wither and die.

I believe we currently add value in several ways. For example

- We maintain the Boer Goat breed Registry
- We share information through our regular newsletters. You will see a section in this newsletter about Urinary Calculi which can become rapidly fatal, particularly in bucks. We would like to share this type of information in future newsletters so just let our editor (Jenny) know of any topics you would like covered. There is a lot of knowledge within our membership so let's share it!
- We promote participation in A&P shows where advice from local and international judges helps to advance the quality of the NZ Boer Goat herd. We should aim at being among the world leaders in Boer Goat genetics.
- We are starting to work with exporters to develop a consistent year on year demand for quality breeding stock that allows NZ breeders to confidently manage their stock numbers as well as benefitting from higher financial returns.

However, we recognise we have some real challenges in areas such as encouraging new members and particularly young members. I don't think there is any simple answer. Many other livestock associations are confronting the same issue. This is our number one priority that we have to address to ensure the future of our Association

I would appreciate feedback from members on how we can help them and how we can improve and grow our Association. Remember, this is YOUR Association. The committee does not have a monopoly on good ideas! Please have your input.

John Binney

johnbinney@iinet.net.au

NZBGBA AGM 2024

The AGM was held via Zoom online on Sunday 19 May.

The executive for 2024 are

Brian Loughhead	Interim President since Warwick's resignation. Treasurer & Registrations
Marita Eisenlohr	Secretary
John Binney	Wanaka Show convenor
Jenny Bassett	Editor. NZ Ag Show co-convenor

The Executive's subsequent zoom meeting in July saw appointments of positions. John Binney was nominated as President and he accepted. Already John has been contacting exporting parties to get an up-to-date position on upcoming exports and continues to be the Wanaka Show representative.

TRANSFERS OF REGISTERED ANIMALS

If you have sold animals and the purchaser wants to keep the animals and subsequent progeny registered, there are two major steps at time of sale. Ideally this would be completed as soon as possible, but is allowed up to six months from the date of sale (this is to minimize issues between all parties well after sale of animals).

1. Purchaser to become a member of the NZ Boer Goat Breeders Assn.
 - o Form for new membership applications found in the membership section on www.nzbgbba.net
 - o Current membership is \$125 per year.
 - o The purchaser nominates a stud name and three letter prefix and this is approved by the Executive (after checking against previously registered names and prefixes).
2. Animal registrations are transferred to purchaser.
 - o Forms are found in the membership section on www.nzbgbba.net
 - o Each animal needs its' own form due to the details required on parentage, etc
 - o Once the forms have been completed and signed by the purchaser, they get emailed to nzbgbba@gmail.com.
 - o The Vendor is then invoiced transfer fee/s by the NZBGBA.
 - o Once paid, the NZBGBA will advise Genetic Gains to action the transfer of registered animals to the new owner.

It is the responsibility of the NZBGBA member to keep your herd register current. As a minimum, this should be on an annual basis with a completed kidding list (template is emailed out by Genetic Gains each year).

Contact Julia at julia@genetic-gains.co.nz for your current herd list & pedigrees, and update any animals on the register that have been sold (not for stud), died, etc.

2023 President Report – presented at the NZBGBA AGM May 2024

Hello all, welcome to all new breeders and those that are well versed in breeding Boer goats.

Like all Breed Societies the past year has proved to be very trying. Membership is declining mainly due to older breeders reaching retirement age, the younger generations having no desire to take on the family farm and the issue of the lack of members providing a very limited local sale scene for well breed breeding stock. Commercial and lifestyle block sales are more the norm.

The incoming executive will no doubt have a few discussions around this membership issue. Although membership is down the Association has money in the bank so if managed wisely there is a future for the NZBGBA. It is worth noting that the constitution allows for a minimum of 3 executive members and the main function of the NZBGBA is maintaining a full pedigree registration pathway for breeders to be able to record genuine full blood Boer goats.

Over the year of 2023 the NZBGBA held their annual shows at Wanaka in March and Christchurch in November. Thanks to Owen Booth who judged Wanaka and to Australian judge Peter Mitchell who judged at Christchurch. To the breeders who exhibited, thank you, without you there is no show. To all that received a ribbon, well done. To those that received a broad ribbon or better, congratulations.

Due to the financial state of the Canterbury A&P Association this year's NZBGBA South Island Champs will need to be carefully considered - how do we best promote our breed at this premier show. Will our breeders support the show with all the changes that are happening?

As with every year there are enquiries from overseas buyers for good breeding stock. Unfortunately, some of these overseas buyers are to be treated with caution. While export markets are a good source of income, often the timeline and expectation by the overseas buyer as to what the breeder will do and accept is misplaced and bordering on arrogance. Export opportunities will appear again next year, but will we breed the numbers they want, will the money be sufficient, and will the goats be paid for and leave New Zealand? Because our breeder base is so small it is better for us to get that message across to the overseas buyers or agents. We could agree to breed 150 good quality kids each year for as long as money is good, but we cannot breed 300 kids a year every 2nd year. The membership scale is not there to ramp up. We need to find that person.

As you are all aware, in November I resigned from the position of President and executive member due to an ongoing cancer journey. Mid-June will determine my future options including surgery. Whatever is determined I will still have a further 3 months of chemo to follow. At the start of this journey the treatment was based on “curative intent” not palliative care and that is still the case.

As I will not be standing for the next executive, I would like to thank Brian for taking over as President and to the other executive members who I have worked alongside.

Warwick Ferguson
2023 NZBGBA President
May 2024

WANAKA SHOW - 8th March 2024 – Judge Warwick Ferguson

450 Doe Kid -born after July 1st,2023

1st Wynn Cruickshank
2nd Raynbird Boers
3rd Raynbird Boers

450.1 Champion Kid Doe

1st Wynn Cruickshank

451 Doe - 12 mths and under 24 mths

1st John Binney
2nd Wynn Cruickshank
3rd John Binney

452 Doe - 24 mths and under 36 mths

1st Wynn Cruickshank



453 Doe - 36 mths and over

1st Dougal Laidlaw
2nd Wynn Cruickshank
3rd Wynn Cruickshank



453.1 Champion Senior Boer Doe

1st Wynn Cruickshank
2nd John Binney



453.3 Grand Champion Boer Doe

1st Wynn Cruickshank



454 Buck Kid born after July 1st, 2023

1st Raynbird Boers
2nd Raynbird Boers
3rd John Binney

454.1 Champion Kid Buck

1st Raynbird Boers



455 Buck 12 mths and under 36 mths

1st John Binney
2nd Raynbird Boers



456 Buck 36 mths and over

1st Wynn Cruickshank
2nd Tony Grayling
3rd Raynbird Boers

456.1 Champion Senior Boer Buck

1st Wynn Cruickshank
2nd John Binney



456.3 Grand Champion Boer Buck

1st Wynn Cruickshank

457 Dam and Kid Progeny

1st Raynbird Boers

1st Raynbird Boers

2nd Raynbird Boers

2nd Raynbird Boers

458 Sire Progeny class

1st Wynn Cruickshank

2nd Wynn Cruickshank

**458.1 Supreme Champion Boer Goat**

1st Wynn Cruickshank

458.2 Lean Meat Trophy

1st Wynn Cruickshank

NZ AG SHOW 2024

You may have read that the NZ Ag Show 2024 is not going to be running in its' normal format. The Board of the NZ Ag Show decided that there was not going to be a show in 2024 due to their poor financial position. The Canterbury A&P Assn did not agree with that and have decided to run the livestock competitions as they did in the Covid year, with no public attending.

Since then, Event Hire has negotiated to run the event called 'The Christchurch Show', which is to be held over Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Show Week (November 14-16) at the Canterbury A&P Association's Show Grounds. It will incorporate many traditional elements including stall-holders, food vendors, competitions and amusement rides.

From a recent Specialist Livestock meeting, further information was received that the two parts of the Show (Event Hire and Livestock competitions) would potentially be separated with a security fence, so that no public would be able to visit the livestock competitions. Details are still being negotiated and the 2024 show may be different than what is currently proposed.

Following that meeting, Jenny discussed the situation at the Executive meeting and advised that she was unable to compete this year due to impending back surgery from an injury in February. John Binney also advised he was unable to exhibit in 2024. The Exec decided that as there was potentially only three exhibitors and the non-public aspect in 2024, that the Boer Goats would cancel for this year and look to return in 2025. Jenny has advised the Show Secretary.

URINARY CALCULI – PIZZLE ROT

In goats, clinical obstructive urolithiasis, or urinary calculi, is most frequently seen in young, early-castrated male goats fed high-grain diets, although it can also occur in intact males and may result in their destruction as breeding animals.

What are urinary calculi?

Urinary calculi are “stones” formed by an agglomeration of minerals (primarily phosphorus) in the ureter, the tube which leads from the bladder to the exterior of the animal. Males have a long ureter with a sharp curvature which makes them much more prone than females to develop urinary stones.

Signs of urinary calculi in goats

Clinical signs of urinary calculi include restlessness and anxiety. Tail twitching is an early sign. There may be excessive vocalization and animals will strain frequently and forcefully to urinate. Marked abdominal pressure may produce some degree of rectal prolapse. Inexperienced owners may assume that the goats are constipated and medicate goats inappropriately rather than seeking veterinary attention. Drops of bloody urine and (or) crystals may be seen attached to preputial hairs. Goats with partial obstruction may be able to void small intermittent streams of urine, but show discomfort. **This is an incredibly painful and life-threatening situation that will not resolve on its own – if you see any of these signs, immediately seek the services of a veterinarian.**

When the obstruction goes uncorrected, rupture of the bladder or urethra usually results within 24 to 48 hours, allowing urine to leak into the surrounding tissues. At this point, only surgical intervention will save the animal, and the success rate is low.

Causes of urinary calculi in goats

There are many predisposing factors which contribute to urinary calculi formation in goats:

- **Early castration.** The hormone testosterone influences diameter growth of the ureter, so the earlier the goat is castrated, the slimmer the ureter and the more prone it will be to blockage by a stone. It is recommended to wait until at least 4 months of age – and preferably 5 or 6 -- to castrate young bucks.
- **Decreased water intake.** Anything that causes the goat to drink less water will result in more concentrated urine and a greatly increased chance of urinary calculi development. Withholding water from show goats to enhance their muscular appearance has been known to have fatal results. Always provide goats with an unlimited supply of clean, fresh water. Provide salt to enhance water intake – the minerals in salt do not contribute to development of urinary calculi. Since water sources can occasionally be high in minerals, it may be wise to have your water source tested and then take steps to alleviate any problems.
- **High phosphorus intake.** Grains and grain-based feeds tend to be higher in phosphorus, the main mineral in calculi formation. (*Also lucerne – editor*)
- **Forage that has been fertilized with high-phosphorus sources.** It is common in many areas to fertilize with chicken litter, resulting in forages that are quite high in phosphorus. It is always wise to have forages tested so that, if necessary, calcium sources can be added to the diet to ensure that the ratio of phosphorus to calcium does not become unbalanced. Calcium content of the total diet should be 2 to 2.5 times that of the phosphorus.

Providing a feed which contains a urinary acidifier such as ammonium chloride can aid in addressing stone formation. Later castration, plentiful water and salt, good forage, and exercise are all good management techniques. The condition is seen far more often in confined goats on high-energy diets than in pastured animals consuming large amounts of forage and getting considerable exercise moving around. (*Can put Apple Cider Vinegar in water troughs – find at farm store – editor*)

<https://www.purinamills.com/goat-feed/education/detail/urinary-calculi-in-goats>

NZBGBA SHIRTS & CAPS

Orders for NZBGBA branded merchandise – t-shirt and cap, please contact Marita via nzbgba@gmail.com

The attached photo shows Geoff modelling the new combination. Price will depend on number of items in each order, but approximately \$80 for both the cap and shirt.



BOER GOAT EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP & JUDGES COURSE

Dear NZ board, I am contacting you to inform you of a Boer Goat educational workshop and judges course that I am running in conjunction with Marie Barnes on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th October 2024 in Tomingley NSW.

The course has been approved by both Australian associations BGBAA and BGA and participants will be able to receive recognition for their participation in the course by the association of their choice for their appropriate level of qualification.

When I was over there in 2019 there was interest shown in a workshop/judge's school held in Australia, and this is the first time this opportunity has been approved since then.

**Educational Course
with Judges Examination
BGA Approved
BGBAA Approved**

Facilitators: Marie Barnes & Thomas Youlden
Location: Valley Boers Tomingley NSW

Sunday 6th & Monday 7th October
Early Bird Rate \$550 (paid by 31st July)
Normal Rate \$660
Morning Tea & Lunch provided

Attendees to confirm eligibility for judges examination with their association
Payment secures your place
Limited spaces available!

Contact: Thomas Youlden 0438 541 399

If any NZBGBA members are interested in attending or if the board has any questions please feel free to contact myself.

Regards, Thomas Youlden

0438 541 399 www.valleyboers.net www.youldenvalley.net

I have checked with Thomas & they are willing to still accept any NZ attendees as at 1 Aug - Editor

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

An interesting couple of articles from ABC News. Click on the link for full articles.

Record goat slaughter and production for 2023

01 March 2024

Goat slaughter increased by 41% and production increased by 30%.

Goat export volumes increased, driven by favourable pricing supported by zero tarriffs .

Carcase weights fluctuated in 2023, leading to an average decrease due to a broader weight range of goats being processed.

https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/record-goat-slaughter-and-production-for-2023/?utm_campaign=507509_The+Weekly+1+Mar+2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Meat%26+Livestock+Australia&dm_i=4PKB%2CAVLH%2C1MZWM%2C1B52U%2C1

Goat abattoir re-opening

28 June 2024

Goat slaughter rates in NSW are up by almost 5,000 per cent as Bourke abattoir gets underway.

The facility was shut down just four months after construction in 2018, when drought and rain limited goat supply. Three years later, it was purchased by Thomas Foods International (TFI) and is now processing 3,500 head of goats a day.

A \$50 million investment by Thomas Foods International will see an expansion of the plant to meet the growing demand for goat meat overseas and employ 200 new workers.

According to TFI, 90 per cent of the goats processed are farmed and 10 per cent are wild.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2024-06-28/outback-bourke-abattoir-sees-boost-in-goat-production-numbers/103997318>

CLASSIFIEDS

Clifford Ryan is a Northland small block farmer looking for 5-7 stud registered Boer breeding does.
Cliffordryan@me.com

NEWSLETTER

The editor welcomes articles, photos, etc for inclusion in the newsletter via bassettag@outlook.com

*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.*