



2018 NASCO FITTING & SHOWING SEMINAR

BOERS BY HOBBY MEAT GOAT OUTLINE



Thank you for attending! Boers by Hobby started in the meat goat industry in 2001, purchasing three does. We now run between 200 to 300 total meat goats. We enjoy the Boer goats because of their size, personality, and ongoing demand for goat meat. They are also one of the **MOST REASONABLY PRICED** project animals, starting at approximately \$350. Below are essential meat goat topics that we will walk you through to maximize your success of your meat goat project(s).

SELECTION AND EVALUATION:

- **AGE:** The approximate age of a market ready meat goat is 7-9 months, so count back from your fair date i.e. if your fair is August 1, count back 7 months which equals Jan.; count back 9 months which equals Dec.
- **AGE TO PURCHASE:** Most producers wean at 3 months, so most purchase their projects around 4 months of age
- **PEDIGREE:** Look at the individual, but ALSO the sire and dam (parents) if possible.
- **HANDLING:** You should not have to put your hands on all the animals until you have narrowed it down to the top 2-3.
- Look at the wether's "**silhouette**" ~ level top, flair to rear leg (i.e. like a football), good rack and rib "shape" and spring.
- Get a "**PROUD**" goat with attitude!
- **FINISH:** If buying 90 days or more before fair, animal has to be a little lean or it may be too fat by fair time.
- **FORE ARM:** this area is a good indication of overall muscling; the fore arm especially correlates to loin eye size.
- **MUSCLING:** feel the *Longissimus Dorsi* (longest muscle all along the back). If there's a slight "bump," he may muscle up better than the gangly stage he may be in when selecting. Also feel the length & depth of the loin above the hollow area behind ribs.
- **RUMP/HIND LEG:** look for muscling on the top of the rump that carries down through the lower portion of the leg.
- **STANCE:** Look at the width of the animal's skeleton: once a narrow goat, always a narrow goat. Look for a **wide-standing** goat, in both the front and rear, plus the fullness of the rack which is behind the shoulders.
- The most desirable look is **moderately wide in the front and gradually wider to the rear.**
- **FEET AND LEGS:** although correctness is less emphasized in market classes, the market goat usually still has to look "pretty" to win; he needs to have moderate set to the hock. No cow-hocked legs or weak pasterns.
- Note the difference between a **wasty front end** vs. a **wide front end**. The chest floor should be **FLAT**, no extra skin.
- There is no ideal market weight for a market goat. Depends too much on the individual's frame, muscling, etc.
- **FINAL FINISH:** .08-.15" backfat is desirable. FYI, goats finish from front to rear and inside to outside, so if your goat is fat outside, he is **REALLY** fat inside! Proper condition is very, very important in the market goat circle.

FITTING & CLIPPING - MARKET GOATS

One of the most enjoyable and challenging parts of preparing your goat for showing is fitting and clipping! Here is an **abbreviated** list of some of the essential items needed for preparing your goat:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| • Rotobrush for legs | • Whitening powder | • Medium Adhesive | • Show leads |
| • Whitening Shampoo | • Stain Remover | • Oster/Andis/Lister clippers | • Fly Spray |
| • Orvus Livestock Shampoo | • Purple Oil or Final Bloom | • Cool Lube for clipper blades | • Revitalize dry |
| • Antifungal Shampoo | • Cool Blue | • Revive Conditioner | • Blower/dryer |
| • Rake/Slicker Brush | • Baby Wipes | • Goat/Sheep Hoof Trimmers | • Hose/Nozzle |
| • Electrolytes | • Probios | • 30 or 100 cc Drench Gun | |

Grooming: Wash your goat minimally, one time is great before clipping the first time to get the major dirt out to help your clippers last longer. We use a **whitening shampoo** mixed with **Orvus shampoo**. Sullivan's also has a **Antifungal Shampoo** that works well to avoid various fungus at many fairgrounds. Here's another great washing alternative: 1/3 part rubbing alcohol, 1/3 part vinegar, 1/3 part water. Mix the above ingredients and rub your goat down with that versus washing! The vinegar cuts the dirt just fine. Also, keep **EQ Tough Spot Stain Remover** or good ol' Windex on hand. It helps remove stains!! A small amount of **Final Bloom** is good to have to make horns

and hooves shiny, as well as dark areas of your goat.

Clipping: In summer, you can clip your market wether one time per month. It actually helps keep your goat cooler in summer. Get a goat coat or “sock” to put on your goat to keep him warm in cooler months. We clip one day before the show so they are as freshly clipped as can be, but **check your local rules**. Be sure to abide by their rules first. We use a size (Oster) **83AU & 84AU**, (Andis) **25-30**, or (Lister) “**fine**” on the blades, “surgical” is too close. It should cut to about 1/4”. Use cooling lube or spray on clippers to keep from getting hot. We use Sullivan’s **Revive** to keep skin from drying out. It will help reduce dandruff and most importantly, reduce the **LINES** that you sometimes fight with when clipping the body of your market goats. Shear all the way to the hock & knee, but be sure to blend in at that point so it will look **NATURAL**. Clean up longer hairs on the coronet band, dew claws, and cannon bone area. On the inside of the front legs & belly, you can use a finer blade to make them appear extra sharp.

SHOWMANSHIP

There are many ideas on how to master the art of showmanship. A few items you need for showing:

- **All in one leather and chain lead (goat chain)** • **Leather halters with chain under chin**
- **Approx. 20” Dog Chain** • **6” or less Strap** **OR** • **Clip to hold two end rings of dog chain together**

Here are some absolute things you must do to be successful in showmanship:

- Make sure your goat is **clean**
- Lead and control animal with proper technique, **NEVER** go behind your goat
- Use a **tug-and-release** technique when leading your goat if he is stubborn. **NEVER** drag or crank their tail!
- Always keep your goat between you and the judge
- Have “**3 EYES**”! Watch the judge, your animal, and the other exhibitors
- Be courteous and helpful to the other exhibitors
- Be able to answer age-appropriate questions, such as body parts, feed ration, etc.
- **STUDY, PRACTICE, and PRACTICE!!** Go to other shows to either watch or show, go to proficiency day (Stanislaus County’s is in mid-March), get on the internet, and really **GET TO KNOW** your stuff!!

HEALTH + FEEDING

Health of your goat is just like keeping yourself healthy. Feed **consistently & on time** so your animal doesn’t get stressed. Spend time daily with your animal ~ hand feeding is good for building a bond! Also, **de-worming** will help ensure your goat will stay free of worms, which can cause other health problems.

Health is definitely related to feeding a quality product, such as a pelleted grain such as **Bar-Ale Mac Goat Final Drive** or **Associated Dominator** goat pellets. It contains additional **selenium**, Bio-Mos, etc. Of course, it **MUST** include **ammonium chloride** to prevent urinary calculi, a blockage that prevents mostly wethers from urinating. Feed additives to push your goat or hold your goat are available. Remember, you want a goat obviously to make weight, but not fat!

We perform hoof trimming 2-3x per year, plus we breed for good hard hooves to minimize hoof trimming.

Here’s a list of shots that we give to keep our goats healthy:

- 1) **CDT:** for prevention of tetanus and overeating disease..... Sub-cu: 2cc / head **annually** & at 30 and 60 days for the youngsters
- 2) **Bo-Se:** for prevention of selenium deficiencySub-cu: 1cc / 40 lb.**semi-annually** or as needed (selenium deficiency can cause weak pasterns, weak newborns, retained placentas, etc.) We give the above dosage approx. 4 weeks before kidding, 1/2 cc to all newborns, and as needed on mature animals.
- 3) **De-Wormer** (in TX every 3 weeks has been necessary! **Approx. 3x/yr for us**) .. Injectible **Ivermec** 2 cc/100 lbs. or oral **Cyductin:** 1cc / 20 lb. as needed. **Safeguard** is an oral product, but often too weak. If your animals become thin and/or are itching with a dull hair coat, try worming. Rotate wormers annually is recommended by our veterinarian.
- 4) **External pests** (i.e. lice, mites, ticks, etc.): Ivermectin pour-on, Prolate or Synergized Delice Pour-on liquid, permethrin dust, or other as needed.
- 5) **CL:** we vaccinate our breeding herd to prevent CL abscesses Sub-cu: 2cc / head **semi-annually** Stress seems to bring this bacteria on, so keep your goats healthy by having a routine feeding schedule and keep them comfortable. Per UC Davis, this is a very weak bacteria. We and many other established breeders nationwide want to **eradicate** it from the breed through vaccination. If you do get an abscess, re-vaccinate immedi-

ately. If it appears that the abscess is getting soft, isolate animal, clean abscess and discard any discharge in a sealed bag, and clean open wound with gentle iodine (2% or less) or Betadine. Keep isolated until healed.

6) **CAE**: All animals we have had tested for this have been negative. There is currently no vaccine for CAE.

7) Other items such as **Nuflor, Biomycin, Naxel** or **Draxxin** for pneumonia; **Pepto-Bismol** and **sulfa pills** for diarrhea or cocci, **Goat Drench, Revive, Magic**, etc. **Probios** is EXCELLENT to keep your goat's stomach happy!

• **Dr. Andrea Mongini**, DVM, Denair, CA, PH 209-669-9891, has valuable information on various topics involving veterinary care.

BREEDING GOATS & ULTRASOUNDING

Meat goat breeding projects have become a new avenue of interest. It's more of a commitment, but adds a whole new challenge and rewards of raising kids from birth to show or market. Gestation for a goat (time of breeding to time of kidding) is 5 months. We breed many of our goats in June, July and August for December/January babies, which is good for June/July/August fairs. We also have some born as early as September and as late as May.

Feeding for our Breeding Does: We feed pasture when available, alfalfa in the morning, & oat hay in the evening. Goat mineral blocks such as Sweetlix, loose minerals such as Bar-Ale Western Sweet Goat Mineral and iodized salt blocks. Grain only when needed, (such as after kidding for 1-2 weeks). Goat grain of at least 16% Protein and 4% Fat for creep-feeding kids is highly recommended and then until about 10 months of age.

Ultrasound for loin eye and carcass traits as well as pregnancy is a very practical approach to educating and learning more about our meat goats. We typically ultrasound and can get the best "pictures" at 40-90 days of pregnancy.

FITTING & CLIPPING - BREEDING

Grooming: Wash your goat as explained in the market portion of this flyer. **Clipping:** For breeding goats, we leave most of the body hair on to make the animal look capacious. Beginning with the head, be sure to clip up by the horns to create a half-moon appearance. This increases the breed character. Make sure the neck is cleaned up by clipping with guards or going WITH the hair, not against it. Topline should be clipped to make the animal appear level. Tail is clipped by going down both sides. The belly is clipped especially if you want your goat to appear taller. Hair above the hoofline should be clipped to be straight and neat. is very good for the horns and hooves.

JUDGING CONTESTS - Try your eye and judge whenever an opportunity comes about! Be sure to ask your leader or advisor if you enjoy this part of the livestock and specifically the meat goat industry!

SAMPLING GOAT MEAT

Did you know that goat meat is the most consumed meat in the world??? Many people, including meat goat producers, have never had goat meat, and do not realize that it is so nutritional. We often have TERIYAKI or PEPPERONI GOAT STICKS. Try an enree at a restaurant! Stay healthy. However you may stay involved in the meat goat industry, be sure to have fun. Be sure to call or email us if you have any questions!

*Thank you from **Boers by Hobby**
for coming to the Nasco Fitting and Showing Seminar!*

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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MEAT GOAT ASSOCIATION**

SHOWMANSHIP SCORECARD

Please consult the Showmanship Guidelines as to what the appropriate movements are, the what is considered appropriate equipment and clothing.

1. APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL		35
Condition of Animal	10	
Feet Trimmed and Horns clean and tipped	5	
Hair clipped correct length and neatly blended	10	
Cleanliness - animal clean and free from stains, special attention to head, ears, and tail head	10	
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2. APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR		10
Appropriate clothing, neat and clean		
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3. SHOWING ANIMAL IN THE RING		40
Leading - appropriate equipment, animal leads readily	10	
Presentation - exhibits correct position changes and sets the animal up correctly	10	
Best Advantage - Shows animal to best advantage, minimizing faults displayed	10	
Poise - Alert, courteous, and smooth. Responds to judge quickly and shows animal, not selves	10	
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4. KNOWLEDGE		15
Body Parts - Know parts and how they relate to function and to retail carcass cuts.	5	
Score Cards - Know both the Showmanship and Judging cards	5	
Faults / Strengths -		
Know faults and strengths of their own animal, and be able to evaluate other animals in the class	5	
	Total	100

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JUDGING SCORECARD

1. GENERAL APPEARANCE		20
	Overall balance of the animal	10
Head and neck assembly		10
	Fleshing - Loose and supple	5
	Stature - adequate height, shoulders slightly taller than hips	5
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2. FEET AND LEGS		15
Heavy, round bone with heavy muscling		5
	Leg Set - all legs are set square, wide apart. Front legs are strong and straight.	
	Hind are perpendicular from hock to pastern. Pasterns are strong.	5
	Travel - animal tracks in a straight line, both front and rear	5
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3. BODY CAPACITY		15
Ribbing - length, depth, and spring of rib		5
	Width Chestfloor and throughout	5
	Length	5
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4. MUSCLING		30
(Length, Width and Depth are 5 pts each)		
	Loin and Back	15
	Rump	15
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5. CONDITIONING		20
Animal should not be overly fat, or underfed.		
	Muscle definition should be evident and not hidden.	
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	Total	100

This is a good outline of what judges look for in evaluating market goats. Trends and personal preferences will influence the breakdown of each category, i.e. in California, most judges emphasize conditioning especially on the heavier goats in the show.