

# Dairy specialist challenges goat owners

**Special to Lancaster Farming**  
**LANCASTER** — Questions. George Haenlein, dairy specialist at the University of Delaware, presented lots of them at the recent meeting of the Dutch Country Dairy Goat Association.

Through slides and commentary, Haenlein challenged the group to pursue answers to some of the problems he sees in the dairy goat industry. Among the questions he posed were:

✓ Did you know that TBZ, the most commonly used goat wormer, does not control the most prevalent internal parasite in goats—Haemonchus?

✓ Are dairy goats suited to the temperate climate?

✓ Is browse an important part of the diet for dairy goats, and what happens to them when it's eliminated?

✓ Did you know that in California they are using goats to graze down the fire breaks?

✓ By removing the horns from goats, as we are robbing them of a natural heat control mechanism much like the dewlap or floppy ears on the rabbit?

✓ Is it possible that the increased vascularization we have found present in the sinus area in goats provides cooling of the blood, protecting the brain from heat stroke?

✓ Did you know that Pennsylvania is the only state in the Union with research in goats currently taking place?

✓ And did you know that while we all know that some babies cannot tolerate cow's milk, not one medical person is involved in goat research?

✓ Did you know that Penn-

sylvania is one of the few states permitting sales of raw goat's milk through raw milk licensing?

✓ Did you know that the milk code in Delaware says milk is the secretion of a cow, period? I wonder what they would say if we would start milking mares — and there is commercial mare's milk available, you know.

✓ Are you aware that to nine out of ten milk sanitarians, goat's milk stinks and carries everything bad in the world.

✓ Should we be trying to raise the goats like dairy cattle, or should we be recognizing their differences?

✓ Can dairy goats survive the strains of confinement housing used in other dairy animals?

✓ In our confinement systems, do we seriously consider the parasite control problem?

✓ If we raise goats in confinement, should we raise them on an elevated floor?

Termining parasite control efforts in dairy goats "marginal", Haenlein urged the group to push for approval of a wider range of goat wormers. Through slides, he emphasized goats are naturally inhabitants of arid regions and that when goats are raised in temperate regions, chemical wormers must be used.

Slides of goats indigent to the Swiss Alps provided a graphic reminder that goats are naturally browsing rather than grazing animals. Haenlein noted that resins, present in evergreens, have been recognized for their usefulness in controlling diarrhea and digestive upsets in goats. In addition, pictures showing goats nibbling shrubs which are

poisonous to them prompted Haenlein to question upsetting what this process of selective browsing does to the dairy goat.

In his talk, Haenlein emphasized the need for dairy goat owners to see the goat as a total animal capable of providing meat as well as milk. And services such as grazing hillsides and scrub areas, he noted, have been used by people in Europe for centuries.

Relating postmortem findings of increased vascularization in the sinus area in goats compared to other cattle, he said, "We can find no reason for this to be. Could it be this provides cooling of the blood into the brain even when the body is too hot?"

Haenlein urged the group to address itself to the prejudices against goat's milk through support of research efforts. He called

the finding for the Pennsylvania research project "pitiful."

In dairy goat management, Haenlein said, "The goat industry is gaining and benefitting from what has been done in this country in the dairy industry as long as it is recognized there are certain basic differences, not all of which are medical. Maybe out cows are able

to stand confinement a little better than our goats.

"Maybe we have a problem similar to that in turkeys. In Texas they can raise turkeys on the ground, but not here. Maybe goats are similar. We seem to have a problem (internal parasites) that our vets don't know how to cope with."

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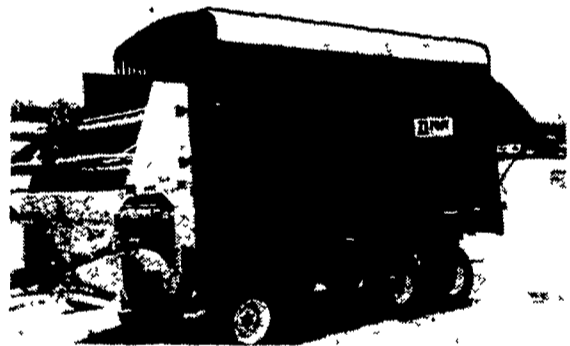
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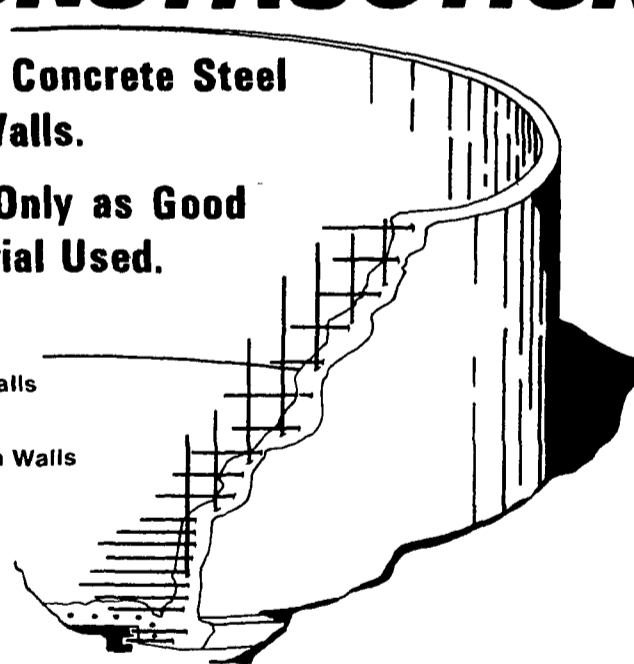
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