## **Delaware goat breeders donate** foundation stock to Panama

NEWARK, Del. - John and Mary Smith may have common names, but they've chosen some uncommon ones for their kids: Liebchen, Kirschen-Kuchen& Bootsie, Jedidiah, and quite a few more.

Several years ago the Smiths of Townsend, Delaware, had 19 kids on baby bottles at one timeenough to keep anybody hopping. The kids were part of Delaware's largest registered Nubian dairy goat herd.

Only Jedidiah, Oscar, and the remarkable 18-year-old matriarch, Bootsie, still make their home with the Smiths. The rest of the herd had to be dispersed when Mary Smith suffered a spinal injury. Now Bootsie's 48 kids and their cousins are serving people elsewhere-most notably in the Republic of Panama.

At the organizational meeting of the Delaware Dairy Goat Association in 1979, the crowd in the small meeting room of the Delaware Department of Agriculture Building exceeded all expectations.

Where did all you people get goats?" asked an overwhelmed Agriculture Department official. About one-third of the people present pointed to the Smiths.

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Needless to say, the Smiths are very persuasive about goats. "They need so little, and they give so much," says Mary Smith.

Goats are friendly and affectionate, - distant personalities. They are easy to handle and inexpensive to feed. They help keep the lawn trimmed, and they provide excellent milk and cheese.

It's easy to make goat cheese at home. Mrs. Smith simply heats the milk, adds white vinegar, and strains it to produce cottage cheese or ricotta. She serves it plain, and she uses it in salad dressings, Italian stuffed shells, cheesecake, and her festive red and green olive cheese loaf.

Some of the Smiths' kids are providing milk, cheese, and lawn service to people in Delaware and surrounding states. Some ended up on a Greek or Puerto Rican dinner table at Eastertime. Some are pets, and others are providing lifesaving milk to babies with allergies or adults with peptic ulcers.

In fact, it was an ulcer that caused Mrs. Smith to get her first goat. Since Delaware has no goat milk market, people with medical problems requiring goats' milk often have to buy their own goats

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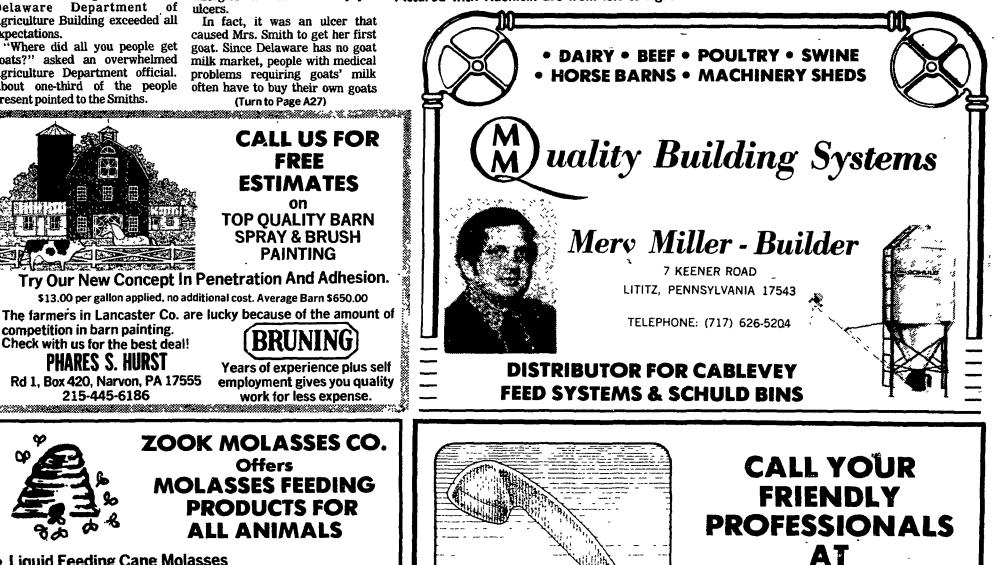
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Panamanian officials receive a short course on dairy goat management from University of Delaware dairy specialist George Haelein (left). Pictured with Haenlein are from left to right

dairyman A. Gomez, director of the goat project Thomas Bendiburg, and veterinarian Dr. J. Medrano.



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