



Ask the VMD

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If you have a question you would like to have answered by the team of veterinarians at Valley Animal Hospital, Palmyra, and Dr. Tim Trayer, Denver, send it to "Ask the VMD", Lancaster Farming Newspaper, Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

Arthritis got your goat?

A reader asks:

We have a goat that has severe arthritis in the joints above the hooves. We received pills from the vet to give her, but they do not seem to have helped. Would DMSO help our goat and where can we get some?

Name withheld on request

Dr. Sheaffer comments:

There are several forms and causes of arthritis in goats.

Two important causes are poor foot care and infection. Some goats do not have their feet trimmed properly or at regular intervals. Many goats are kept on concrete; many more are not allowed adequate exercise.

An infection of the navel in a young kid can lead to septic arthritis. Any bacterial or mycoplasma infection in other parts of the body in goats of any age may become manifested as a septic joint infection.

A third cause of arthritis is bruising of the joints. This again is a housing and management induced disease.

A fourth cause is nutritional — caused by the overfeeding of alfalfa hay and other high calcium feeds. When animals under one year of age are fed high calcium diets for longer than one season, a condition called osteopetrosis may develop. The disease becomes apparent in bucks when they reach 4 or 5 years of age and shows up in does a few years later. However, the damage to the bones and joints actually occurred during the first year of life due to the high-calcium diet.

DMSO has produced variable results in dogs and horses for arthritis. To my knowledge, it has not been officially cleared for use in food producing animals such as dairy goats. Your local veterinarian can supply you with this medication and give directions for its use.

Other medications which that may offer relief for arthritis are aspirin, corticosteroids, and phenylbutazone-related compounds. These, also, should be given under veterinary supervision.

In conclusion, arthritis in goats

can be kept to a minimum by the following measures:

- ✓ feeding diets balanced in calcium, phosphorus, and vitamin D;
- ✓ keeping feet properly trimmed;
- ✓ treating navels of kids with iodine or another antiseptic immediately after birth;
- ✓ allowing adequate daily exercise;
- ✓ keeping pens clean and well bedded.
- ✓ selecting breeding stock with good feet and leg conformation; and
- ✓ keeping free choice iodine and trace mineralized salt available to goats at all times.

Two swine breeders to exhibit hogs

AUSTIN, Minn. — Two Pennsylvania swine breeders James T. Parlett, Airville and Ed Brummer and Sons, Port Royal, are among a select group of swine breeders that will be exhibiting at the National Barrow Show to be held here

September 14-16.

Exhibitors from twenty-five states delivered barrows to the New Ulm, Minn. test station and were entered in the production tested barrow contest part of the National Barrow Show.

Meat processor receives state loan

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hollowell announced the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority Board approved a loan of \$326,422 to the Pennsylvania agribusiness. Hollowell said the loan would help to create 60 jobs for the new business.

The PIDA loan will go to Sheldon S. Kaufer, Inc., a Pittston, Luzerne County meat processor for acquisition and renovation of an existing 13,300 square foot facility.

The loan was among \$5.4 million in financing for 12 businesses, approved at the PIDA board's July meeting.

"We are pleased the PIDA loan program can provide the necessary financing to assist in the growth of these 12 Pennsylvania firms and in the creation of additional jobs for the state's working men and women," said

state Commerce Secretary Geoffrey Stengel, Jr.

Hollowell noted the PIDA board has repeatedly approved financing for agriculture-related businesses because of its growth potential and job stability.

"Loans through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority are important to Pennsylvania's agribusiness industries," Hollowell said, "and they are in keeping with the Thornburgh Administration's commitment to assist small businesses and boost economic development in areas of high unemployment. PIDA financing has become a realistic alternative for small agricultural businesses and for firms located in areas where unemployment is ten percent or higher."

"Many of the state's agribusinesses, and particularly food processors in areas of high unemployment, should investigate the possibility of financing expansions through the Industrial Development Authority," he said. "PIDA can offer low interest loans to these companies which are expanding or locating within the Commonwealth."

Parlett's Chester White barrow and Brummer's Poland China barrow will be among the 804 barrows whom upon completing the test will be slaughtered and appraised in a production-related carcass evaluation contest.

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