

Dairy goat seminar held in Berks

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

LEESPORT — Dairy Goat breeders from several counties gathered last Saturday, at the Berks County Agricultural Center, Leesport, to hear the latest on goat management practices. With a veterinarian, a professor, and several extension personnel as speakers, the day-long seminar featured topics of nutrition, birth, inoculations, colostrum and mastitis.

Titled "Kidding Time", the meeting was aptly named as Dr. Lynn Sammons, Willow Creek Animal Hospital, Reading, began with his presentation concerning difficult births. According to Dr. Sammons, 85 to 90% of all births are normal but "multiples coming at the same time is probably the biggest problem." He suggested a sound breeding program where the does are both old enough and big enough to handle kidding.

To enhance his presentation, Dr. Sammons had constructed a box that he used to demonstrate how to pull kids from the doe. With the help of a stuffed toy lamb, Dr. Sammons was able to clearly show the different methods used to alleviate problem births. "My

trick is to get in there and shake them up a bit," he stated, referring to the problem of several kids and many different limbs to handle when pulling out a kid. "Go for the closest end and the head end if you can get it," he said. Pull down, Sammons told the breeders, and after the kid is out, hold it upside down and shake it and clean the nose off. He also suggested always reaching back inside the goat to make sure that there is not another one inside.

Some of his tips in handling births are:

1. After the doe is in labor one-half hour to one and one-half hours and nothing happens, reach inside the doe and determine if help is needed.

2. After you pull one kid, pull them all. The doe is probably exhausted and will not try anymore.

3. Sometimes it helps to place bedding or a sack filled with sawdust under her hind legs or rear end, if she is laying down, so the front end is down hill. This may help the kids to get properly lined for presentation.

4. Checked for cleaning and any tears in the uterus.

5. In any assisted deliveries, put

antibiotic powder in the uterus, or use antibiotics in the muscle.

Dr. George Haenlein, University of Delaware dairy specialist, was on hand to discuss drying off the doe, proper nutrition, and proper management practices. He also discussed current worming practices and the management that could eliminate worms. "It wasn't until man superimposed himself on goats and took away their normal avoidance of reinfestation," Dr. Haenlein stated, that goats had a problem with internal parasites. "I prefer to worm the does once they're fresh ... if I deworm at all," Dr. Haenlein stated.

"You cannot take housing plans that work for cows and make them a little smaller for goats," he stated. "We have to change our housing plans accordingly." "A goat is more like a horse than a cow," he continued discussing some mutual similarities. "We have to try to treat a goat like a unique individual."

"They don't need bedding," Haenlein said when discussing slatted floored pens. He also advocated fresh forages and a variety for the goats to feed on alternately.



Featured speakers at dairy goat seminar are Dr. Lynn Sammons, of Reading; and George Haenlein, University of Delaware.

Coordinated by the Berks, Montgomery, and Lehigh County extension services, the seminar also included a question and answer period, and many pamphlets on goats management to those attending.

Save big with SAME 9.75% financing



Special Retail Financing with interest rates as low as 9.75% for up to 60 months.

You may not get another chance at interest rates this low. See your SAME dealer today for details.

SAME

SAME and Lamborghini Tractors of North America, Inc.
PO Box 6865 Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Phone: (201) 560-9350

Berks milk

promo Wednesday

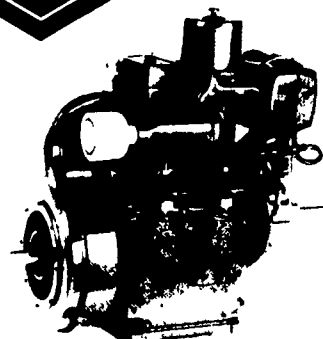
LEESPORT — A softball milk promotion will be held at the Reading Sunners diamond, Leesport, at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Exhibition games between the nationally-known Sunners and All-Star teams will be held. Between games at about 8 p.m. a contest will be held to guess the annual production of a cow brought to the diamond. Winner will receive a free month's supply of milk, either home delivered or through coupons.

The Berks dairy farmers' milk shake trailer will also be present.



**PETTER
DIESELS**



AIR-COOLED PH2
Water Cooled Version Available

- Hand Cranked Standard
- 24 Air & Water Cooled Models Available - 1½ - 40 H.P.

Diesels Our Speciality
Call For Used Diesels

Let Us Know Your Service Problems
24 Hour Service Check Our Prices
AUTHORIZED PETTER DISTRIBUTOR

**HOOVER DIESEL
SERVICE**

Main Location

PH: 717-656-6133
2998 West Newport Rd.
Ronks, PA 17572
2½ miles East of Leola
Along Rt. 772

Branch Location

PH: 717-786-2173
RD 3, Box 91A
Quarryville, PA 17566
2 miles West of
Georgetown on Furnace
Rd.

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED