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Presidents Brief:

My name is Brian Loughhead and I am the newly elected President of your association.

The balance of the executive is Stephen Andrews, Owen Booth, Warwick Ferguson and Wyn Cruickshank. With the skill sets and experience the executive has to offer I am sure together with your help we can improve our Association.

Welcome to the first issue of our new quarterly newsletter. As outlined by Warwick, the aim is to have this newsletter published to members 4 times per year around the end of June, September, December & March. These tie in with the timing of various shows and events and the AGM of your association.

If you have any articles, stories, photos or recipes to include, please forward direct to our coordinator Warwick Ferguson at ferg2@slingshot.co.nz. Remember this is your newsletter and it will only succeed with contributions from members.

The goal for the new executive is for more transparency and communication with members in aiding us all to achieve the objects of the association. Please remember that the executive is here to manage the affairs of the association as reasonably directed by members. It is the job of each and every member to foster and promote these objectives.

In the coming month the executive will be formulating a budget for the next year, to determine what monies will be available to put towards the objects of the association. We will also be deciding on relevant, achievable Portfolios for each of the executive to manage. Overtime, as executive members change, the constant will be the Portfolios that together will form the base for the Association to move forward. How to grow and maintain the membership numbers is another issue that the executive will be focussing on.

Currently, I am working with NZ Sheep Breeders to sort out the pedigree issues on the SIL database. Please be patient as we work through some foundation studs pedigrees first. I will be in contact with each stud in due course regarding your own pedigrees and the process from here.

The picture featured at the top of this newsletter is of "Viking MU FF1009" the Supreme Champion Boer Goat at the NZBGBA 2013 South Island Boer Goat Championships held in Christchurch. Viking is owned by Owen Booth.

We envisage the current Supreme Champion filling this position until the next NZBGBA South Island Championship.

Communication and Education Portfolio Update:

Within this portfolio is the responsibility for the NZBGBA website.

When the previous website version was alive it was hard to enter data and photos into and the “Members Directory” had been coming for a number of years.

The NZBGBA version that is live now, looks the same as the previous one, but has had the Contents Management System upgraded so it is more responsive and admin user friendly, the roll over banners (photos at the top) have been upgraded to Java script and are able to be replaced by Administration. You will note that a Members Directory has been added along with an Application Form for Membership which is downloadable. The photo Gallery has also been upgraded.

From time to time the site may be off line as content is changed.

One of the achievable aims of the current Executive over the next year is to focus on making the website a vehicle for communicating to members and for educational opportunities.

The one downside is that there is now more work for who ever takes on this Portfolio as there is also a NZBGBA News Letter to co ordinate so that you receive it in the correct month (quarterly starting end of June).

Another challenge for this Executive is how to efficiently communicate with all of you. “Simply Boers” the previous magazine no longer exists as it was a printed publication that the current executive wished to upgrade to an E Letter and in doing so will save costs in printing and postage. To replace the magazine an E News Letter will be emailed to all that have an email address and those that do not will have one posted out to them or it may be possible to down load it from the web site in the near future. It is anticipated that the letter will be available in the latter parts of June, September, December and March. These months not only follow the seasons but also allow for pre and post show information to be shared.

Remember that for this E letter to be successful I will need your contributions to keep it full – anything from goat related trips and photos, information that other breeders might enjoy, seasonal information etc.

If you did not receive this E letter by email and would like to, please forward your email address to me.

Warwick Ferguson

Communications & Education Portfolio

ferg2@slingshot.co.nz

BREEDERS WORKSHOP – 2014:

On March 29th the Canterbury Boer Goat Group held a Breeders Workshop at Insignis Park in Christchurch. This was presented by Warwick Ferguson, who is a Level 2 Australian accredited Judge and is a member of the NZBGBA Executive.

The day was attended by 29 people, ranging from experienced goat farmers to those new, or looking at getting into breeding goats. The day was aimed at looking at the breed standard, with a view to



recognising good traits and those less desirable.

Attendees had time to meet each other over the lunch break before moving to the outer yard area to take a more hands on look at the points raised in the presentation. Three breeders were kind enough to put up there animals to be critiqued by both the experienced and the novice.

This gave the opportunity for everyone to see for themselves the differences and to ask further questions.

At the end of the day a selection of Salami was offered for sampling by Shingle Creek Chevon. Thank you to Shingle Creek for putting their product up for the attendees to sample as well as the Canterbury Boer Goat Group for all their hard work in making this event a success.

Thank you to Warwick for his time and effort in presenting such an informative Workshop. We would also like to thank the Executive for financially supporting the workshop.



2014 Mackenzie Highland Show:

Judge: Terry Windle

Kid Buck	O Booth		
Kid Doe	P & B Loughhead	G & T Moore	P & B Loughhead
18-30 Month Doe	O Booth	O Booth	Bassett Family
Mixed Age Doe	O Booth	O Booth	Bassett Family

(must have reared a kid)



Supreme Champion Boer Goat - 2014 Mackenzie Highland Show

LONG FIBRE: CRITICAL TO GOOD NUTRITION

Goats are ruminants, and ruminants must have roughage in their diet to keep the rumen functioning properly.

Roughage is defined as any feed ingredient that has a high concentration of fibre that breaks down slowly.

The best roughage is long coarse fibre. Long coarse fibre is plant material that is from 10mm to 38mm in length or longer. The goat's rumen works best when the roughage effect takes place.

The coarse materials rub against the walls of the rumen, stimulating the muscles to contract and relax -- agitating the materials in the rumen. The resulting slurry of materials is more easily digested by the micro-organisms that inhabit the goat's rumen.

Think of the rumen as a fermentation vat. Once the micro-organisms have done their initial work, the goat regurgitates and re-chews the coarse materials before the micro-organisms can metabolize them to benefit the goat.

This is called "chewing its cud."

The rumen tends towards a slightly acidic level (6.8 pH) When saliva mixes with the cud, "buffers" in the saliva help keep rumen acidity down. Rumen micro-organisms work best in a neutral to slightly-acidic environment.

When the producer feeds the goat sugars, starches, and other rapidly-digested feeds (grain-based feeds), the rumen becomes more acidic.

Introducing long fibre into the rumen helps minimize this acidic effect by the longer chewing time that is necessary to break down and digest the fibrous materials. The longer fibrous material has to be re-chewed, therefore remains in the rumen longer -- adding to this buffering effect. This nutritional balance is critical for the good health of the goat.

What exactly is roughage?

In terms of processed feed, roughage is made up of materials such as cottonseed hulls, soybean hulls, oat hulls, rice hulls, and "forage products," which are defined on feed tags as high-fibre ingredients that include any type of hay, silage, or fresh forage.

(This writer recommends against feeding silage to goats.)

Roughage values can be found in the Ingredients section of the feed tag if the state in which the feed is produced requires such disclosure.

Grinding roughage into small particles greatly reduces the "roughage effect" on the rumen. For this reason, ground and pelleted feeds such as alfalfa pellets are not roughage. While containing fibre, alfalfa pellets do not provide roughage. Alfalfa either pelleted or in hay form is high in calcium and protein and low in energy and phosphorus, so it should not be fed exclusively but rather as part of a balanced nutritional program.

Since the "roughage effect" does not occur with grain-based feeds and does take place with long fibre digestion, producers should deduce from this information that goats should not be fed grain at night in cold weather but instead should be given extra grass hay to keep the rumen functioning which in turn keeps the goat warm.

How much roughage does a goat need? Acid Detergent Fibre analysis measures digestible and non-digestible forms of plant materials. Without going into the technical aspects of WHY, producers should know that an ADF level of about 28% is appropriate for goats. If the ADF is over 40%, feeding grain-based materials is essential, because the fibre is low in energy.

Most feed tags do not include ADF measurements, so the producer must ask the feed company's nutritionist to supply that information.

When having hay tested for nutritional values, the producer should always ask for the Acid Detergent Fibre level in the hay. Read feed tags for Crude Fibre values. Remember that goats in non-managed situations can vary their diets by selecting a variety of plant materials that keep the rumen acidity in balance. This is not the case in managed herds or in feed-lot situations.

Most processed feed is either pelleted or ground to increase digestibility or to keep the goat from selecting the items it likes and leaving the rest. The latter is called "textured" feed and is not a desirable type of feed for goats.

If the Crude Fibre level is low, then additional roughage needs to be added to the goat's diet. Remember that Crude Fibre in feed needs to come from roughage items like cottonseed hulls (see above).

If Crude Fibre is high and roughage is low, then the fibre will not provide the roughage effect that the rumen requires and digestive problems may well occur.

Always transition the goats feed sources gradually over a period of at least 10 to 14 days. This rule holds true for both changes in grain-based feeds and for forage, browse, and pasture rotation.

Pulling a goat off pasture into a pen-fed situation must be done carefully. Grain-based feeds are lower in roughage than forage/pastures, which are 100% roughage.

The rumen needs time to adapt to the new feed source so that acidosis and other rumen problems do not occur.

Grain is also the source of starches. Starches are high in energy but they also reduce the digestion of long fibre. Therefore, too much starch is not good. Some goats don't digest starch well and will bloat. Feed consistently -- same amount at the same time every day.

Overeating Disease (Enterotoxaemia) is very preventable. Indeed, virtually all rumen-related problems are the result of poor management decisions and are preventable.

The producer doesn't have to be a nutrition expert. Utilizing basic information available from feed tags (protein level, crude fibre number, mineral content), feed company nutritionists (ADF in grain), and testing laboratories (ADF in hay) will allow the producer to make intelligent decisions



about his herd's nutritional needs.

Wanaka A & P Show March 2014 South Island New Zealand.

Geoff & Vicki Mitchell

On our approach into Queenstown International airport in the South Island, we were able to experience some of the best panoramic views that New Zealand has to offer.

The mountain ridges rising from the ocean were rugged and snow-capped even at the beginning of autumn. The many lakes nestled between the mountain ranges were an array of vibrant blue colours the like not seen in Australian lakes.

We settled into the tourist town of Queenstown taking in the breath taking sights of the lake and mountains. The following morning we headed off on a short drive along the grand ridge road to the township of Wanaka which is also on the shores of a beautiful lake surrounded by mountains at the top of the Clutha Valley in the farming region known as Central Otago.



The Wanaka A. & P. show grounds are spread out on lovely parklands with a very large horse event being undertaken in several rings within the local rugby union field. The majority of the show grounds had been filled to capacity with agricultural trade sites and displays. It took us the best part of our spare day to walk around and investigate the hundreds of exhibitors and to partake in some of the local delicacies on offer.

The Boer Goats show ring was set up for showing on the Friday, with a large gazebo to house the goats for the exhibitors, some of which had travelled more than 5 hours to attend the show. On arrival at the show grounds on Friday morning the exhibitors were madly rushing around to get their animals ready for showing. They kindly stopped what they were doing to allow us to introduce ourselves and have a chat to each of the competitors before the show commenced.

The first class for judging was Boer does under 12 months. After checking mouths and teats, we looked back at the line-up of animals and realized that there were over 20 does in this class. We would have liked to split the class into 2 divisions, however as the does were very even and there was no quick method to split the class it was decided to continue as it was.

It took some time for both Judges to work in tandem to place the goats in order. The depth and evenness of the class was quite impressive with an eventual winner being found.

The next doe class was for 1-3 year olds and this had two distinct age groups, so it was decided to split this class into 2 divisions. The final class was for some wonderful older does that displayed classic Boer doe traits.

We then broke for some light refreshments before commencing to judge the junior bucks. This class was again for Boer Bucks under 12 months and the high quality of these bucks had us working hard to place them in order. The mid group bucks were judged next followed by some very good senior Bucks.

The championship classes were a very close affair with the Senior Champion Doe completing back to back Grand Champion Doe titles, whilst a very impressive Junior Champion Buck just nudged out the Senior Champion Buck for Grand Champion Buck.

We were then asked to judge a new innovative class of 3 junior Boer goats bred by the same sire using meat carrying capacity and uniformity as the judging criteria. Once the judging was concluded, the broad winning Boer goats were paraded to highlight to all the exhibitors and spectators the wonderful Boer Goats that were on display at the 2014 Wanaka A. & P. show. The Boer goat section was then awarded a special achievement medallion by the show society for its contribution to the 2014 show.



The usual end of show pack up did not occur as we had to pull down the show ring and pens as the cattle show was being set up for the next day on the same arena. Everybody jumped in and assisted, so it did not take too long. Goats were relocated to the nearby gazebo setup to house them overnight as most exhibitors were staying overnight to attend the exhibitor's dinner held at a local restaurant on the shores of the lake.

The dinner menu was designed in consultation with the Shingle Creek Chevon creative chef and consisted of a choice of 2 main dishes. On the menu was the choice of either Chevon rack of goat in a beetroot sauce or Chevon goat back strap with couscous. A cracking evening was had by all and just as well there was to be no showing the next day.

On the Saturday it was a leisure day to wander around the show grounds whilst most of the exhibitors were on site to chat with many of the interested public who were keen to learn more about Boer Goats. We were also able to sit down and swap stories about goat farming with the exhibitors. It was interesting to be shown some of the young Boer goats that are the progeny of the genetics from some of our Australian studs.

The 2 main Boer Goat show sponsors trade sites were well attended and the popularity of goat meat and meat goat farming is on the rise in this area of the South island. The guys from Shingle Creek Chevon had plenty of inquiries for both meat and processed meat sales and several good leads from farmers wanting to run meat goats and supply goats back to the company.

Finally, we both would like to thank the organisers of the Wanaka A. & P. for the opportunity to judge in tandem and consequently being able to meet and spend time with some enthusiastic New Zealand breeders.

We all agreed that our two associations and members should work closely together in the future. The South Island has some wonderful areas for goat farming and the industry should continue to grow.

2014 Goat Conference - Queenstown

The wet weather did not deter the fifty plus group of people from climbing into four wheel drive vehicles, led by the Shotover Four Wheel Drive Club and heading up the slippery track on Waitiri Station where Dave and Jenny Aitken are farming 1500 mixed aged does, half bred wethers and cattle.

It wasn't for the faint hearted, those used to farming on flat land were certainly hanging on and not looking over the side of the track, in fact one Cantabrian decided it would be safer to walk back rather than risk sliding down. All vehicles arrived down safely.

We had intended to go to the top of the property but the wet weather did not allow this to happen. We were able to get to the stock yards which was quite a way in. Dave had mustered a large mob of does the day before and had them in the stock yards for us to see. At the yards Dave spoke to us about his management, how he said he was running a low input operation, no drenching, no foot trimming and culling does that did not perform.

The Does were in very good condition. Dave pointed out the job they were doing on the hills. The country was rugged steep hill. He showed us a block where the goats had not grazed, it was thick with briar but when the goats had grazed they had really opened up the country allowing his other stock, sheep and cattle to be more productive. The rain held off for a period of time then down it came again so it was decided to head back out to the local Gibbston Tavern where we had hot chips and drinks and further discussion in front of a warm fire.

This provided all conference participants with an opportunity to personally meet and network with each other. This set the scene for the remainder of the conference. After leaving the Gibbston Tavern everyone headed back into Queenstown to prepare for the Conference Dinner at the Skyline Gondola Restaurant. At 6.30pm more than sixty conference participants took a Gondola ride, which provided spectacular views over Queenstown, to the Skyline Restaurant to continue the conversations that they having earlier in the day.

Pre - dinner drinks were followed by a very large and exquisite selection of buffet food beyond anyone's expectations. The food was accompanied by the many choices of highly rated locally produced wines. To cap off a wonderful evening all boarded the gondolas and returned to their accommodation to prepare for what turned out to be a highly informative NZGoats Conference on Sunday morning.

The facilitated discussion and the high calibre of interesting and appropriate speakers ensured that this conference for all goat breeds was a pleasure to attend. The camaraderie developed from the previous day was certainly evident throughout Sunday's conference.

Meet the Quattro Boer Goat Group – South Africa

A group of young Boer Goats well adapted to south-eastern Karoo veld.

By integrating their clients as partners in the marketing chain, these breeders face the problems in the industry head on.

Red meat consumption is under pressure due to tough economic conditions and the rising cost of living is forcing households to spend increasingly less on this staple. The situation is exacerbated for SA farmers by imports from Namibia.



This is the opinion of Kobus Lotter of Willowmore in the [south-eastern Karoo](#), well-known Boer Goat farmer, founder member of the Quattro Boer Goat Group and international Boer Goat show judge. At the same time new entrants into the farming sector including weekend farmers are helping to flood the market. But the supply and demand wheel will turn as it always does he says.

On the other hand, the much-discussed market for certain cuts of goat meat to be sold in supermarkets can only be developed if there is a consistent oversupply for an extended period. Until then stresses Kobus, the sale of live animals will continue to dominate. The majority of animals are sold in KwaZulu-Natal at a weight of between 16kg and 35kg.

Current market conditions have led to an increase in intensive goat-rearing enterprises. Kobus contends however, that feedlot-raising of Boer Goats or any other breeds developed for extensive conditions pays only on paper. Most intensive operations are only temporary because parasites and diseases which flourish under such conditions eventually win.

He concedes that lifestyle farmers who have made their money elsewhere are sometimes successful with small scale intensive goat farming. But larger stud breeders and those getting above average prices for their stock usually farm on a semi-intensive basis combining veld and supplementary feeding.

I doubt whether commercial Boer Goat farmers in South Africa can successfully produce red meat under intensive systems he says.

Goats for example like to browse standing on their hind legs and are not bred to feed from a bag. In Australia, I visited an intensive goat farm where the flock was fed green feed produced in fodder production units. Eventually these animals destroyed an entire blue gum forest to satisfy their need for fibre.



The Quattro team (from left): Johnny Henderson (Toekomst, Somerset East), Vaatjie Nell (Geelhoutboom, Somerset East), Kobus Lotter (Doornpoort, Willowmore) and Sakkie Nell (Brakrivier, Jansenville).

Comparison:

Kobus's first-hand experience of Boer Goats includes being a judge at goat shows in the USA. In that country, some breeders have bred Boer Goats that resemble whippet dogs – long necks, high in the leg, with no body depth, he explains. They have little meat value and are kept for show purposes. They're very popular with youngsters in fact show wethers sell for big money.

By comparison, Australia's Boer Goats most of which are exported to the East, South America and Mexico compare well with those in South Africa. The breeders however have fewer good animals and urgently need new breeding material which they can get only from South Africa.

Kobus explains that farmers in Reunion east of Madagascar are also keen to upgrade their flocks. They have only about 20 000 goats and SA judges travel to the island to judge their shows and help them with selection. On Reunion goats are slaughtered for ritual and ceremonial purposes.

Export restriction:

Currently South African breeders are badly hampered by the foot and mouth protocol. We cannot export anything to Australia or Europe – no live animals, nor semen or embryos. As a result the industry loses millions he explains but unlike many other farmers Kobus is not worried that South Africa's Boer Goat genetics will be hijacked by other countries.

Everyone knows the Boer Goat is "Made in South Africa". The world also knows that the best breeding material is right here. We must just make sure we breed animals that are not only good looking but functionally efficient he says.

While Kobus concedes that indigenous goats do have a place in the goat market especially in areas where heart water or foot and mouth diseases are rampant he says the modern Boer Goat weighs more at five months than an indigenous goat does at three years. Moreover, it is possible to breed heart water resistant Boer Goats through strict selection over a long period.

However, we must guard against over fat show and sale animals that obviously impact on the functionality, libido and fertility of the breed Kobus warns. Because the goats are getting larger, longer and taller all the time, we're researching, weighing show animals and trying to establish a realistic live weight per age group for each veld category. We're looking for a balanced animal. Once this has been established breeders could save a fortune by simply finishing their show animals to an acceptable point rather than over feeding them.

Starting out:

The Quattro Group was established in 2005 by Kobus, Johnny Henderson and Vaatjie Nell of Somerset East and Sakkie Nell of Jansenville. All are experienced Boer Goat farmers and international Boer Goat show judges. In collaboration with the Western Cape Dorper Club, they started small with a sale in Willowmore. Combining the two breeds boosted the sale. Until then few Boer Goat farmers in the area had bothered to travel to a ram auction and preferred to buy from the farm gate. With this initiative we brought the rams to the flock farmers. Our sales grew from 20 rams at the first sale in 2009 to 60 rams and 120 ewes in 2012 notes Kobus.

Since 2010 they have also invited their clients to participate as guest sellers but selling only ewes. We are in effect, allowing our clients to compete with us but as only Quattro genetics is on offer we all score. We call it healthy competition and our clients keep us on our toes. Usually group members use money earned from the sale of ewes to buy Quattro rams at the same auction he explains.

Marketing:

Quattro also holds an annual sale without guest sellers in Bloemfontein. This offers mostly stud and show-type ewes. Kobus believes a reasonable price for a flock ram is R4 000 and for a stud ram R8 000 (NZ\$1,000). Last year the group bought Nesquik (08 73) the 2011 World Champion ram bred by Hannes de Witt of Upington for R90 000 (NZ\$10,000). According to Kobus this turned out to be a sound move.

The four breeders strive for functional efficiency in their flocks. The goats are never over fed and rams are tested for fertility and injected with blood from an animal infected with heart water to build up immunity. They also receive a broad-spectrum antibiotic to control possible secondary infections.

The Quattro Group runs annual Boer Goat courses, covering flock management, diseases and classing, under the auspices of the South African Boer Goat Breeders Association (SABGBA). Students who obtain 70% or higher in two senior courses may be invited to attend a judging course.

Publication allowed by the Quattro Group.

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