

CAE (Part 1)

By

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Lane County is blessed with a new veterinarian. Not only is he young and earnest but he is also a caprine specialist. His knowledge is not only out of a textbook but comes with the practical application of having lived on a dairy goat farm. I had the pleasure of having him out to my farm for rabies updates on my dogs. Of course, the first order of business was to find out if he likes to speak to groups!

He does and I hope to have him presenting to us in the future. One of the questions that I presented to him was the puzzling lack of vigor that I saw in my February kiddings. This problem was not present in the maiden group that birthed in May but one of the does that miscarried in December presented us with two kids a couple of weeks ago and these were just as lifeless. They had some energy at birth but then just laid back and died. Fully formed, good looking kids. One of the questions that he asked me was if I had any udder problems. Not me, the does. I did have one doe that developed mastitis and did not respond to antibiotics. His thought was that I might have CAE in my herd. Crap, what else can I learn to deal with? I asked him why this would present in one kidding group but not the next? Apparently, this illness can be silent in a herd and only manifest itself when the viral count gets high enough and the does start 'shedding' it. To determine whether this is the cause of my problem, he offered to come and do random sampling of blood from my herd, pool the specimens and have this tested. My first thought was that this wouldn't really change what I do on my farm as I already sell only to slaughter. After mulling it over, I decided to go ahead with the testing to at least have an answer. I will let you all know what the result is and also an article about this disease and the implications of infection in your herd.

Speaking of veterinarians, Charles Estill from OSU Extension will be presenting at our annual dinner in November. This will be your chance to become acquainted with the process of artificial insemination and have the opportunity to ask questions. As I see farmers having problems with the introduction of outside stock into their herds, I am inclined to think that this might be a viable way to improve your herd without exposing to diseases. We have members who are currently using this process. It would give us the opportunity to bring in good genetics without the muss and fuss of having the big boy actually there to do the deed. Diversity is a good thing.

Please plan to attend the Annual Dinner. The venue is in the woods by a lake in the high country. Overnight lodging is available just bring your sleeping bag and pillow. Haven't you just hated to have to leave the dinner when you really aren't done sharing stories to make the long, dark drive home? The lodge is heated with indoor plumbing and showers. There is a gathering room with a kitchen so we can have a continental breakfast before you start home. The rooms sleep 2-4 people so there is privacy for couples or a family. We are hoping to make this event and overnight stay as close to free as possible so all you will need is a tank of gas. There will be a board meeting and also a council meeting in the afternoon before the dinner so there will be ample opportunity to voice opinions, be involved in change and to socialize with a great group of people. There is plenty of area outside for the kids and adults to explore. Think of it as a nice mini vacation before the hubbub of the holidays to come.

My promise is an article on CAE in the next issue. Then we will return to Basic Goating 101 for those of you that are starting out and haven't really got a clue. Returning to the basics is also good for the experienced goat raiser as sometimes we overlook the simplest solutions to the problems that our lovely caprines present us with. And ohmygosh do they come up with some doozies!