

## Library of Educational Presentations

OMGP Education Article January 2008

Happy New Year! A lot of change has happened in OMGP this past year. As the new policies are put into effect, there will certainly be more. One of the best of these upgrades is going to be in the OMGP website. Our past education articles are going to be available for your reading pleasure. Since this will provide a base of topic matter related to the health and welfare of our goats, I would like to move on to creating a library of visual material in the form of power point presentations that will be available to the areas. These will give the area representatives a variety of goat related topics that can be presented at meetings. These programs also will give the option of being able to produce handouts for members. I would like to limit each topic to approximately 30 minutes so that discussion can take place. This seems the best way for farmers to be able to share their experiences and to learn from others. We are aware that there are areas in OMGP that currently do not have meetings or have poor attendance. By providing material to present and the ability to advertise these meetings well in advance, the board is hoping to encourage members to meet and learn. I am very open to hear from anyone who has skills in creating power point presentations. My skills are limited but I did manage to create one to present to a group at an OSU Extension seminar. It is an overview to present to those that are considering getting in to the raising of goats. Once I figured out how to do the rudimentary, it took very little time to create the piece, so if you are interested, please contact me and we can work together to create this library. We are also considering how to go about preserving some of the wonderful presentations that we have had at the pen sales, area meetings and at the general meeting. Anyone with audio/visual skills would be a huge asset to us.

Since we will have a good base of information on goat tending available on the website, I would like to spend more time this coming year in addressing some subjects that have been touched on very briefly. For example, it is one thing to talk about the feet of our goats. Trimming and treating hoof rot is important to the beginner but most of us want to move beyond the basics to have a better understanding of the anatomy and physiology of our goats. With more in depth knowledge, we are better able to do critical thinking when faced with a goat that is just not thriving.

One of the things that I have noted in recent newsletters is that some of the area representatives are providing a very detailed account of their area meetings. This is such a wonderful thing to see! Having a subject not only discussed at the local level, but also presented in the monthly newsletter is so helpful to us all to know about trends and problems out there. Please keep up the good work in this area! This organization is not created by the select few but by the whole of the membership. No one needs to have experience in writing to be able to communicate a problem that they have had and the solution that they came up with. We are a collective of knowledge and experience. To share this is what will help us all succeed in our farming ventures.

I am writing this as I pack to head out of town for the holidays. I hope that you all are surviving the joys of winter and that your kidding is going well. I am hoping that my girls are willing to wait until I return!!!!

Linda DeHart  
Vice-President OMGP  
Education chair