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1. Welcome!

Welcome to the first combined Newsletter of the Victorian and New South Wales Branch Committees. We believe this combined Newsletter will help spread the work load and reach more members with interesting articles, news items, upcoming events and reports on past events. We hope you will enjoy it.

Remember that all links within this article are active if underlined and blue so they will go directly to the website indicated. If you have a slow connection you can copy and paste the link directly to your browser.

Please forward any items of interest to the Secretary of Victoria or New South Wales. Thank you.

2. More on Drenches....

Breeders sometimes incorrectly assume that a single dose of drench will effectively kill all worms in the goat. This is not the case. A repeat drench may be required three to four weeks later to effectively kill the residual immature worm burden. Does which are lactating or have had kids weaned from them and remain hollow through the flanks in spite of access to good feed and being drenched, may be candidates for a second drench.

The important thing with drenching goats is to monitor the necessity and also the effectiveness of the drench. Repeated use on an ad hoc basis can cause a resistance. When even a few worms survive and mate, their offspring survive as larvae on the pasture so there is a genetic propensity to resistance to that type of drench. Over time these resistant worms increase and the drench will fail to work.

Have a worm test (Fecal Egg Count) done just prior to drenching to determine the EPG (eggs per gram) count. The report will indicate a low or high worm burden. Drench if required. Test the effectiveness of the drench ten to fourteen days later with another worm test. Note that there may be other factors in play which may affect the second count, for example:

- the drench is inappropriate for the worm species (check the label and know your worms)
- the dose rate is incorrect (dose to the heaviest animal),
- animals missed a treatment or spat out the drench
- the drenching gun was faulty
- The drench was not properly mixed or was past its use by date (shake the drench and check its use by date)

Make sure you have eliminated the above possibilities.

WormBoss (MLA) (http://www.wool.com/Grow_WormBoss.htm) is an excellent

site to visit for information. A monthly newsletter describes which worms are prevalent in which states/regions. It also lists providers in Victoria and NSW who do FEC's (see the links below). Shop around.

Here is the link to Victorian providers: http://www.wool.com/Grow_WormBoss_Professional-service-providers_Victorian-service-providers.htm

Here is the link to NSW providers: http://www.wool.com/Grow_WormBoss_Professional-service-providers_New-South-Wales-professional-service-providers.htm

Any drenching should be part of an overall farm management program to minimise worms. Rotational grazing, quarantine and drench all new arrivals, do not overstock, cross graze with cattle or horses, do not graze pasture so it becomes very short and allow access to browse instead of all grazing can all assist in worm control.

Remember that drenches not approved for goats may be an issue in slaughter animals. The fact that they are not approved does not mean that they don't work, it is strictly an economic factor as there are not enough farmed goats (compared to sheep) for the drench companies to go through the financial hurdles in getting them tested and approved. In the meantime, seek veterinary advice for use in slaughter animals and strictly observe withholding periods.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:

<http://sydney.edu.au/vetscience/sheepwormcontrol/topics/topic7.html>

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/111060/Drench-resistance-and-sheep-worm-control.pdf

<http://www.mla.com.au/files/b3984827-bf3a-42b8-bce2-9d640171aaa0/gig-parasite-control.pdf>

3. *Coccidiosis in Kids*

The first things which come to mind seeing scours (diarrhoea) in kids are worms, coccidiosis or feed. If it is feed, either too much hard feed or fresh growth it will usually clear up within a couple of days. The only way to test for worms or coccidia is to have a worm test done professionally (see above). You need to have individual samples done not a bulk sample and ask for a coccidia test to be done as well as a worm count. Only a couple of samples need to be tested; it is safe to say that if coccidia is present in large numbers in the samples it will be present in all the kids even though they may not be scouring.

What is coccidia?

Coccidia are not the same as worms and cannot be treated with worming products. The sporulated coccidial oocysts are passed through stools onto the ground where they are swallowed. It can affect sheep, cattle, goats, pigs and rabbits. Young animals are most susceptible, however they develop an immunity as they get older.

Once the oocysts are swallowed they infect the intestines, spreading and reproducing inside an intestinal cell. In fact thousands of intestinal cells can become infected as a result of swallowing one oocyst. Intestinal function becomes disrupted and results in diarrhoea (sometimes with blood in the faeces), weight loss and even death. Some animals may die suddenly without these symptoms.



The Ideal of a Healthy Kid!

Causes

Most articles on the subject put the causes down to stress from overcrowding, weaning, bad weather, lack of shelter. Kids are more susceptible as they have an immature immune system.

Treatment

The most effective treatment is Baycox for calves or piglets. The former is more economical with large numbers of animals as you use less in quantity. Treat all kids and use in consultation with your veterinarian as this product is off label for goats. There is a withholding period for animals destined for slaughter.

If treated early enough the goats will recover within a couple of days and develop a level of resistance before significant damage is done.

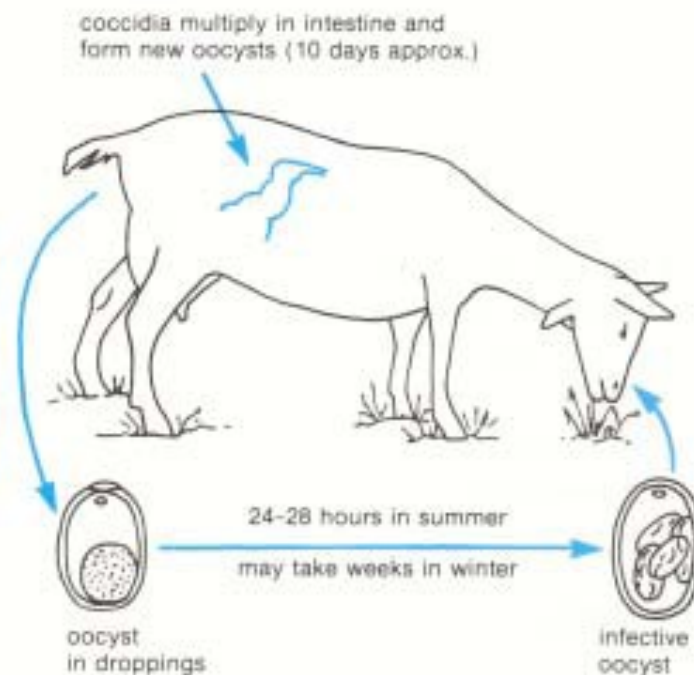


Image from: http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/178369/goat-coccidiosis.pdf

References:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/178369/goat-coccidiosis.pdf

<http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp?cfile=htm/bc/21200.htm&word=coccidia%2cin%2cgoats>

<http://www.goatworld.com/articles/coccidiosis/goatcoccidia.shtml>

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/178369/goat-coccidiosis.pdf



**Sometimes you can find
Friends in the most unlikely
places!!**

4. MLA Goats on the Move E-Newsletter

If you are not familiar with this e-newsletter from MLA it is well worth adding yourself to the subscriber list from the following link:

<http://www.mla.com.au/Publications-tools-and-events/eNewsletters>

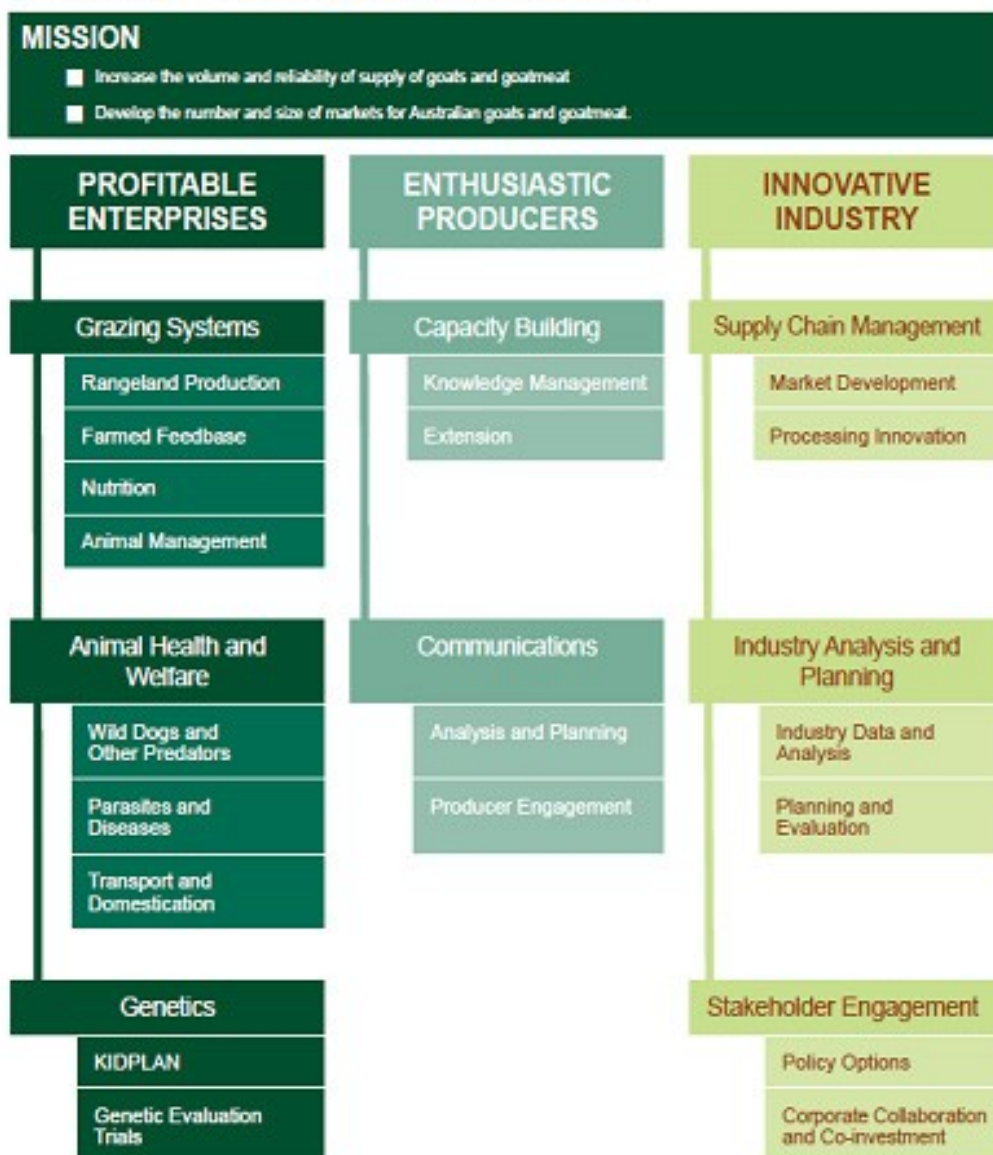
You do not have to be an MLA member (although membership is free) as you can subscribe as a guest. It lists market reports, upcoming events and other items of interest.

The MLA Research, Development and Extension Plan to be developed over the next five years makes for interesting reading:

<http://www.mla.com.au/Publications-tools-and-events/eNewsletters/Goats-on-the-Move/Strategy-plots-the-course>

A summary is given below:

Summary – strategies and activities



The section which details the planned activities to achieve the strategic outcomes begins on page 33.

Some of the Activities mentioned in the strategic plan have started to be undertaken such as the Cost of Production Workshops recently advertised. (More on this later in this Newsletter). Another activity is the Lamb & Kid Mortality Surveillance project 2012-2015, more about this is detailed below.

Your thoughts and feedback on the Strategic Plan are welcome and will be included in the next Newsletter. Forward responses to judithdaloisio@yahoo.com

Lamb and Kid Mortality Surveillance Project 2012-2015

This project run by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries allows investigation of causes of death in kids between the end of pregnancy and weaning as well as abortion in goat flocks. There is no cost to the flock owner. It is anticipated that 200 investigations will be conducted each year, until June 2015. Any unexplained deaths will be considered significant, including single deaths.

This project builds on the successful 2009-2011 project which found differing causes of death each year. Refer to the following article for more information on the 2009-2011 results:

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/about-agriculture/newsletters-and-updates/ag-in-focus/ag-in-focus-winter-2011/report-lamb-deaths-and-profit>

A Flyer is attached to this Newsletter. For further information in Victoria on the Lamb and Kid Mortality project please contact your local DPI Animal Health staff or the following DPI representatives:

Dr Dianne Phillips, Bairnsdale, 03 51520620

Berwyn Squire, Swan Hill, 03 50364839

Other DPI Health Surveillance Projects in Victoria:

The following website lists further initiatives in health surveillance of sheep and goats.

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/animal-diseases/disease-surveillance/victorian-livestock-health-surveillance-projects>

The three year Sentinel Flock project involved 20 sheep and goat herds in Victoria to collect and collate information on the causes and prevalence of death and disease and study the impact that these losses have on production systems. Results for this project will be published later in the year.

For **NSW members** the NSW Department of Primary Industries puts out a newsletter every three months called the Animal Health Surveillance Newsletter which provides interesting information on health findings across all livestock. Type Animal Health Surveillance in the Search option of:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

Put this on your wish list for Santa...A Goat Tower! What every farm should have for happy healthy goats!



5. Q Fever and Goats

I thought it was time to provide some information on one of the most infectious diseases in the world. A number of our more senior colleagues will know about Q fever, but I am aware of the numbers of new people that have joined our industry who have never heard of Q fever.

FAST FACTS

- Q Fever is caused by the bacteria *Coxiella Burnetii*. It was called query fever in the 1930's because it was not clear what caused the disease
- It is a zoonotic disease meaning it is spread from infected animals to humans
- It comes from the same family of bacteria that causes Legionnaires disease
- Farm animals are the main carriers e.g. Goats, Sheep, Cattle, Kangaroos and domestic pets can be infected
- Infected animals can lead to an outbreak of abortions or weak lambs, kids or calves
- Infected animals shed the bacteria in their urine, faeces, milk and particularly in birth products of infected animals (eg placenta, birth fluids etc)
- The bacteria is extremely hardy and can survive heat, drying and common disinfectants
- The bacteria can survive on a surface for up to 60 days and it can live in dust and dirt for many years
- Humans can become infected by breathing in dust containing the bacteria or more commonly for us trying to retrieve a kid at birth
- Most commonly affected are vets or abattoir workers as the foetus and placenta from pregnant animals contain the highest number of infective bacteria.
- The disease is rarely spread from human to human
- Only half the people infected will show symptoms of the disease
- Death from acute Q fever is very rare and occurs mainly in the elderly or those whose health is compromised by illness or disease

Signs And Symptoms

- High fevers and chills
- Severe sweats
- Headaches
- Muscle and Joint pain
- Extreme fatigue

If you note disease in your animals and subsequently you become ill, you should see a doctor as antibiotics can reduce the course of the disease.

What can we do to prevent contracting Q Fever

A vaccine is available to prevent you from contracting Q Fever. It is though extremely important to have screen done first due to the fact you may have already been exposed to the bacteria. It can be life threatening to receive the vaccination after already being exposed to these bacteria.

Only certain doctors are able to administer the vaccine so check out who has the authority in your area.

This disease has an acute phase which takes 10 – 21 days of incubation. The heart or lungs seem to be the bacteria's choice of aggravation. This disease can move from acute to a long term chronic disease.

I am aware of a few of people who have contracted this disease. One stated " I didn't know you could be so sick and still be alive" Another person ended up in hospital because they were experiencing cardiac chest pain and the valves in the heart can start to grow "vegetables" on them from the disease.

How Is Q Fever Treated

Treatment is relatively straight forward if Q fever is contracted it's just getting doctors to recognise the symptoms. Blood test will not show contraction of the disease until the symptoms of the acute phase have settled down. Two courses of an antibiotic called doxycycline is the normal treatment. Sometimes more courses of this antibiotic may be needed. Do be aware to cover up in the sun with this antibiotic as your skin will become extremely sensitive to UV rays.

All state health websites should have a fact sheet available online. If you aren't already vaccinated then see your doctor and get onto it. The initial blood test can take a couple of weeks to get back, as I'm led to believe due to the biological danger of this bacteria very few labs are accredited to test for it.

"Equally as important as vaccination, you need to ensure you take standard precautions to reduce the risk of disease transfer from animals to people. This means wearing protective gear such as gloves and ensuring that, after handling animals, you wash your hands thoroughly and change your work clothes.

While the risk of getting Q fever from animals is relatively low, you should practise standard hygiene when handling and moving livestock to reduce the opportunity for infection. If you are likely to be exposed to any ruminant giving birth, you should discuss with your doctor if you need to have the Q fever vaccine.

If you have had Q fever (whether you knew it at the time or not) you are usually immune from getting it again."

Quote from: http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2012/07/07/506025_farm-news.html

NSW has had 604 notifications of Q Fever from Jan 2008 – May 2012. Summer and kidding times have the highest monthly totals.

An Australian Q Fever Register has been set up which provides further information about the disease and statistics across Australia:

<http://www.qfever.org/index.html>

Marz Andrew

6. New South Wales Commercial Goat Expo Day a huge Success!!!

The enterprising venture by NSW BGBAA to host a Goat Expo/"mini " Field Day with commercial focus was an immensely satisfying success from all reports.

Held at "Inglewood", Tracey Wood and Richard Zidarew's property on Saturday 12 May 2012, the well-publicised day (special thanks to Blair Bryce MLA for his support and efforts) drew people from as far afield as Canberra, Coonabarabran, Wagga, Hunter region, Condobolin, Cumnock and closer in, Cowra, Billimarri and Forbes. Of the 40 or so people present, only two (apart from the three organisers) were registered stud Boer Goat Breeders. This was most satisfying, as the organisers, (Jenny, Tracey and Marz) had wanted to get the message about the Day out to some of the many commercial goat breeders we are aware exist in our region, but we just don't know about them.

Each of our speakers created interest, from Laurie O'Neill (representing Alpaca Association, also a sheep breeder) speaking on the herd guards, their care and requirements, Ian Whalan - the inventor of Foxlights (also a sheep/goat breeder in Oberon region) with a complementary contribution to herd protection and poultry !! David Booth, Buronga Organics, gave a most informative talk on the domestic consumption market - with a mob of good boer/cross does and kids to illustrate his points. David was adamant "we need more producers" - this being one of the "take-home" points from the Day.

Alan Sharrock, Principal of our local Lachlan Vet Clinic - made an interesting presentation on husbandry, vaccinating, the importance of worm-testing, problems with worm burdens/control. endeavours to alleviate drench resistance and lack of on-label chemicals for goats.

Duncan Bruce-Smith (MLA) spoke on Livestock Production Assurance, requirements and differences for NVD's and Transported Stock Statements, the need for good record keeping for chemical use and bought-in feeds.

International Guest Speaker, Stephanus Malan, President of the South African Boer Goat Association, himself a notable stud breeder with a considerable domestic supply herd as well, was great. He had everyone hanging on his every word, with such a practical approach, very ably demonstrating his various points amongst the number of bucks before him. Very positive about the future of the goat industry, he was insistent on the importance of a good commercial herd, the need for stud breeders to differentiate between what is a good stud buck, good commercial bucks and cull bucks. He reinforced time and again the most effective and the only way this can be achieved is to have a good classification system in place. Such a system in place, provides some sort of quality control and some protection to potential buyers

Stephanus' final statement "Studbreeders should take note of what the commercial breeder wants and breed accordingly – focus on the economical values" was seen as the core of relevance for the stud industry.

Jenny Jones



7. MLA Cost of Production Workshop, Bendigo Wednesday 25 July 2012, PART ONE

The first of a two part workshop was held in Bendigo sponsored by MLA and run by John Francis of Holmes Sackett. There were 15 attendees ranging in backgrounds from commercial, stud and hobby farmers to a few potential new entrants into the industry.

The main part of the day was spent entering figures from the last financial year into a COP software program calculator which has been used for sheep. It was stressed that this was only one tool in the overall farm management but was the best in providing a correlation to profit. COP was Not a whole business profile, an indicator of return on investment, a financing tool, a gross margin or profit and loss statement, or a competition (there were no prizes for lowest COP). Some other points made were that stocking rates drive profitability and that we needed to make a financial investment through new genetics or increased livestock in order to take advantage of the exceptional years with better seasons.

There were considerable moans and groans as the data was entered and the program made its "calculations". One of the biggest problems from a personal perspective was having to incorporate \$77,000 (or a portion thereof) for one full time worker and an additional \$55,000 (or portion thereof) for a second worker. While I understand the "rationale" (this amount was meant to be the equivalent salary for a full time position), with both of us having reached retirement age, I don't know of any occupation where we would be able to earn that amount of money in the workforce at our age!

Needless to say my figures at that initial workshop did not portray a massive profit (!), but was not as bad as one participant whose loss was \$2.5 million.... until hastily corrected!

The next workshop will examine the results of the data and look at areas of the business to look for opportunities to improve profitability. For our farm, sacking the co-worker may be one good option!

It was also felt by some that workshops on issues which affect our profitability such as health problems (internal parasites), supplementary feeding (amounts to feed to be cost effective including lot feeding), genetics (to improve growth rate and carcass yield) would also be of significant if not more benefit to our industry.

Workshops were also being held in Dubbo on 27th July and Broken Hill on 2nd August. I look forward to hearing reports from any participants who attended these workshops!

Judith D'Aloisio



**Sometimes its not always
about money!!**

8. Gippsland Information and Husbandry Day 29th July, 2012

Seven breeders, or soon to become breeders, together with two young up and coming breeders, braved a very cold day to meet at Cadenza Boers for the training day. While some came from "just down the road" others traveled over four hours to find out about the business and care of farming Boer goats.

Most of those present were interested in the commercial end of Boer goat farming, and wanted to discuss the realities of raising goats and marketing their product. By following the FAQ booklet format we discussed all the basic requirements of successfully farming Boer goats and then went on to the more practical aspects of feeding and husbandry.

While the seven month old poddy kids at Cadenza were a great opportunity to practise condition scoring, the strong rising-two-year-old does were a reality check on the strength of Boer does, and much more of a challenge to practise hoof trimming and other husbandry procedures.

Overall a very successful day with some enthusiastic breeders and potential breeders ready to be involved in our industry.

Carole Axton

9. Classifieds

See the Classified section of the Victorian and national sites:

<http://www.bgbaavictoria.com.au>

<http://www.australianboergoat.com.au>

MAREMMA PUPS FOR SALE in VICTORIA

Healthy, happy male and female purebred maremma pups for sale. Parents good guard working dogs for goats and chooks. All pups vaccinated, micro chipped, and wormed. Call Phillip on 0415 464 869 or (03) 5634 2238



**Maremmas, ideal
Herd Guard Dogs!**

HEATHERGLEN STUD, VICTORIA

Bucks and Does available for sale at reduced prices due to lack of feed and space. Bloodlines from Mericol and Boetie Malan. See the Classified sections of the Victorian and National websites for more information and pictures.

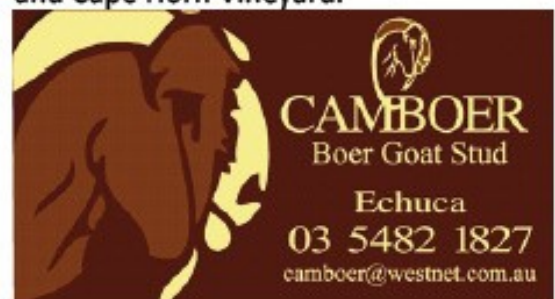
June Hollingshead 0432 552 081



Join us at Cape Horn Vineyard for a Winter Festival of Taste!

Come for a free wine tasting and choose a glass of your favourite wine to enjoy with a tasting plate of four succulent goat dishes for \$15.

Proudly presented by Camboer Goat Stud and Cape Horn Vineyard.



10. Upcoming Events**IN VICTORIA:**

AUGUST: The Information/Husbandry Day scheduled for 19th August at Ghin Ghin Stud, Yea has been postponed to Sunday September 9th due to the unpredictably bad weather and lack of support.

SEPTEMBER: Sunday 9th, Information and Husbandry Day Ghin Ghin Stud, Yea. PH: (03) 57973232 for a Flyer detailing course content and cost.

Sunday 23rd, Victorian Branch AGM. Details to be sent to Victorian members in a separate email.

IN NSW:

SEPTEMBER: Friday 28th, Wagga Wagga Show Contact: Lance Rodd 0269 226 214

OCTOBER: REMINDER FOR National AGM, Saturday 6th, Dubbo RSL

11. Goats wanted: These are the meat goat buyers that we know of. Please contact them direct.

IN VICTORIA:

Landmark. Sale. Older goats, lots of 10 or more. Transporting to Melbourne every Wednesday. Ring Rodney Perkins 0409660176

Leonard Livestock 0408327227

Ian Turpin. Looking for wethers 40-60kg.
camboer@westnet.com.au

Seven Hills. All types.
Taylan Atar 1300744557

Heather Osborn. Prime kids.
Weekly. (03) 5146 8234

APGM. Animals to 12 months.
Andrea Butterfield (03) 5754 2200

Hardwicks , Kyneton

Ring for specifications (03) 5422 0400

Penny and Lang, Kyneton

Ring for specifications (03) 5421 1800

Southern Goat Breeders, Tasmania.

All goat types wanted, prefer over 35kg live weight, will buy all year round. Phone Kellie.

K & J McChesney 0416 207 544

IN NSW:

David Booth, Buronga Organics
<http://www.burongaorganics.com.au/>

Justin Gilbert, Booma Boers
<http://www.boomaboers.com.au/index.htm>

(02) 66575308



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