

2021 Face to Face Presenter and Course Descriptions

Commercial Dairy Goat Production Topics

Keynote Presentation-John Voster Milk Source LLC Co-Founder and Vice President of Livestock

Session Name: Chilton Dairy: A Look Inside a Large Goat Dairy

One of World Dairy Expo's 2020 Dairymen of the Year discusses the promise and pitfalls of launching one of the state's largest goat dairies.

John Vosters is a partner in Milk Source LLC. His role is VP and Livestock manager of the nearly 90,000 cows and goats at Tidy View, Omro, Rosendale, New Chester, Hudson, Medina, LaBelle, Heifer Source, Calf Source and Chilton Dairy. In his role he is responsible for all animal care, production and employee development and performance. John is one of the founding partners of Milk Source and his parents purchased the farm that became the first dairy of Milk Source in 1965. He is an active member of the Wisconsin Dairy Alliance, Dairy Cares of Wisconsin and Outagamie County Holstein Breeders. He — along with Milk Source Partners Jim Ostrom and Todd Willer — were named World Dairy Expo's 2020 "Dairymen of the Year."

PR in AG, or, more accurately, "My Grandparents Didn't Need a P.R. Person ... Why Do I?"

Three generations ago, EVERYONE was either farming or personally knew a farmer. Today, fewer than 3% of our population has ANY contact with agriculture. How do we talk with our neighbors and consumers now?

Avi Stern Director of Public Affairs for Milk Source LLC

Avi Stern is in his third year as Milk Source's director of public affairs, after previously serving five years as the company's communications manager. By his own admittance, "agriculture was darn near the last profession I would have guess I'd land in" after a 25-year career in newspaper journalism. Stern edited and/or reported for The Gary (Ind.) Post-Tribune; The Saginaw (Mich.) News; The Post-Crescent of Appleton (Wis.); The Fond du Lac (Wis.) Reporter; and others. Stern also served as Goodwill North Central Wisconsin's director of donations and community relations prior to joining the Milk Source team. He is a graduate of Indiana University and serves on the executive committee of Dairy Cares of Wisconsin Inc., a non-profit that raises funds in support of the Children's Wisconsin healthy system.

Assuring dairy goat well-being using benchmarking and lameness monitoring

In this session we'll review findings from a midwest survey on dairy goat management practices. Findings on multiple issues will be discussed with specific emphasis on monitoring of foot health.

Dr. JK Shearer Professor and Extension Veterinarian- Iowa State, College of Veterinarian Medicine

Diplomate of the American College of Animal Welfare Dr. Shearer is Professor and Extension Veterinarian at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. His primary areas of research interest are lameness and welfare issues of beef and dairy cattle. He is probably best known for establishing the Master Hoof Care Program, a training program designed to teach on-farm employees how to properly care for foot problems in cattle. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Animal Welfare and currently serves as Chair of the Food Animal Working Group of the AVMA's Panel on Euthanasia.

Environmental sustainability of dairy goats

Retailers, some consumers and some in the federal government are looking to mitigate environmental impacts and sustainability of animal source proteins. In this session we will review some limited research that has been done comparing the environmental impact of dairy goats to that of dairy cattle. We will also discuss potential benefits of goat production in this topic that need to be studied. Attendees will leave with some information that they can use to interact with the public and policy makers regarding the sustainability of dairy goats.

Abortions

In this session we will review the common causes of abortion in dairy goats as well as the diagnostic, prevention and treatment options available for each.

Dr. Plummer, Iowa State College of Veterinarian Medicine Dr. Paul Plummer - Paul J Plummer, DVM PhD, Diplomate ACVIM (Large Animal Internal Medicine) Diplomate European College of Small Ruminant Health Management. Dr. Plummer is an associate professor with a joint appointment in both Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine as well as Veterinary Microbiology and Preventative Medicine. His primary faculty duties fall into two basic categories, research and teaching/clinical. He has a 60% research appointment and maintains a lab that currently has eleven members. The focus of the research is best summarized as a molecular bacteriology of pathogens associated with ruminant or zoonotic human disease. Recently the lab has also added a significant focus on culture independent bacteriology and virology using metagenomic techniques and next generation high throughput sequencing to study polybacterial disease processes. These techniques are being applied to study a variety of ruminant disease processes as well as antimicrobial resistance horizontal gene transfer. The teaching/clinical component of his appointment focuses on ruminant internal medicine and infectious disease. He is board certified in Large Animal Internal Medicine and is the only person in the US board certified in Small Ruminant Health Management. He grew up on a dairy goat operation and continues to milk goats with his family today.

Goat Milk Sweets, Learn how to make a variety of goat milk goodies! –

Cindy Hoehne Rainbow Ridge Farm - My name is Cindy Hoehne. I have been raising dairy goats for 18 years on our hobby farm/bed and breakfast in Onalaska, WI. We are very active in 4-H and have about 16 youth that use our goats for their 4-H project. The goats have been a huge hit with our guests, however, my hobby got a bit too big! Goats are like potato chips, you cannot stop at just one (or two because they are herd animals). Since we are a hobby herd, and not commercial, we needed to find a use for the milk.

Nutrition and Kid care after weaning-

Feeding and management strategies for replacements post weaning.

Managing does during Transition

Bridging the gap between pregnant and not lactating to not pregnant and lactating

Morgan Allen, Ruminant Nutritionist, Big Gain, Inc. - My name is Morgan Allen. I work as a Dairy Nutritionist for Big Gain, Inc in Southeastern Minnesota. In addition, our family has raised goats for 35 years and we currently have a small commercial goat dairy.

Producer Panel-

Michelle and Tad Ellinghuysen 2 Creeks Farm and Lacey Leona Jean Manager, Udder Alternative Dairy and Windy Prairie Goat Dairy, and Anna Thompson Hajdik Legendairy Toggenburgs.

Meat Goat Production

Meat Goat Farm Tour Virtual tour of a commercial grain-free pastured meat goat herd-

This virtual tour will show the key aspects that we've found are needed for successfully raising low input meat goats in Wisconsin, on brush and pasture, with rotational management, selection of parasite-resistant and metabolically efficient goats, among many other traits, winter feeding, and general management.

Cherrie Nolden, 1dr Acres Farm

Cherrie has managed pastured goats since 2008, has used her herd for brush control research as part of her MS degree in Agroecology at UW-Madison, and her PhD in Animal Sciences is focused on coccidia and roundworm GI parasites of grazing ruminants. She and her husband are growing their goat herd to 600 does and rotate them with horses, cattle, and other livestock in brush and pasture at their farm in Dodgeville, Wisconsin.

Goat Procedures

I will discuss various procedures such as dehorning, castrating, tattooing.

Health Assessment and Necropsy in Meat Goats

I will present information about the importance of doing necropsies on dead goats and what can be learned from them. I hope to have an actual goat to cut open.

Dr. Sally, Lancaster Veterinary Office

Veterinarian with interest and experience with goats.

The Business Of Goat Grazing

In much of the US there is strong and growing demand for targeted goat grazing -- the practice of controlling weeds and brush with goats. This session will explore the market forces behind that demand, the rewards and challenges of operating a goat grazing business, and what it takes to be a successful targeted grazing pro.

Meat Goats for Pasture, Profit, and Personal Growth

The growing demand for goat meat in the U.S., and the associated strong prices for goats, have many farmers thinking about "getting into goats in a big way." But the best reasons for adding goats to your operation may have little to do with the prices at the sale barn. Goats provide unique opportunities for open-minded farmers, and present unique challenges for even the most experienced livestock producers. Aaron Steele, founder of Goats On The Go® (a for-hire goat grazing operation), will present four good reasons and four bad reasons to be in the goat business, revealing hidden opportunities for both upstart farmers and innovative veterans in the process.

Aron Steele, Founder, Goats On The Go®

Aaron Steele is the founder of Goats On The Go®, a national network of “targeted grazing” service providers who use goats to sustainably manage vegetation for their customers. Aaron launched Goats On The Go® in 2012 as an unconventional way to take his small farm beyond a hobby in an environment where expensive land, questionable practices, and a bigger-is-better mentality are the norms. Goats On The Go® now licenses its growing portfolio of brands, training, and support to others, building a community of entrepreneurs who seek to operate profitable farms no matter their entry point or size. Aaron holds a Bachelor’s degree and MBA from Iowa State University.