

**ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW
&
KERNOW SHOW**

**JUNE 9th-11th
CONTACT
Mrs S Smith
01326 563299**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**THE BEST ONE DAY SHOW IN CORNWALL
STITHIANS SHOW**

**11th JULY
Contact
Mrs L DODD
07939826585**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CAMBORNE SHOW

**16th July
Contact
Mrs A Prout
01209717656**

CLOVEN HOOF
SPRING 2016



CORNWALL GOATKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Cornwall Goatkeepers Association

(Affiliated to the British Goat Society and member of Pygmy Goat Club)

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Goats for sale or wanted **Contact Hazel Badger or Julia Clark**

www.cornwallgoatkeepersassociation.co.uk

Hon. vice presidents (past presidents)

Mrs N Robathan	(1992/1993)
Mrs C Robinson	(1995/1998)
Mr & Mrs D Harris	(1999/2001)
Mr & Mrs Chris Leggatt	(2002/2005)
Mr & Mrs W Richardson	(2005/2009)
Mr N Julian	(2009/2014)

Hon. Life memberships Mr & Mrs R Whitty

Hon. Auditor Mr P Margetts (St Austell)

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Views expressed in this magazine are those of the various articles and not necessarily the authors of the editors, officers or committee of the Cornwall Goatkeepers Association

REMINDER FOR YOUR DIARY

SPRING SHOW
SATURDAY 7th MAY
MAY'S COUNTRY STORE,
HEWASWATER,
PL26 7JE

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the CGA were due 1st January, so thanks to all who have returned the renewal form and payment. For those who have not yet renewed their subscriptions, you will find a red mark on the address label of the Spring issue of the magazine, and we have also included another renewal form in case you may have lost the original.

CGA Shows for 2016

Included with this magazine is the schedule and entry form for our **Spring Show**, being held on the 7th May, at Mays Country Store and judged by Viv Bennett. We look forward to seeing lots of you there exhibiting with your goats or as spectators.

Our **Male & Youngstock** dairy show, with Mr C Nye as judge, along with our **Autumn Pygmy** show will be held on 20th August at Mays Country Store. While Sheila is away in the Gambia, if you have any queries regarding this show please contact me,

[Contact details will be found on page 2 of the magazine.](#)

Geoff Munson

EDITOR

A very happy new year to all members and all those who read the magazine. I hope all the kidding have gone to plan, though I know it is not always straight forward, for one reason or another we may lose one. Nature can be kind but also cruel, as breeders we have to accept the unexpected.

Looking over previous editions of your Magazine, I believe it has been a compendium of information about the goat. This information could be plucked out and put together in a file for a quick read —Keeping A goat, housing, worming, feeding, training, getting your goat served by your chosen male goat, pregnancy, birth and after care of the goat, care of the kid, milking, feeding of the kid, feeding of the nanny now in milk. Know the property and value of the food you are feeding your Goats.

YOUR MAGAZINE HAS GIVEN YOU ALL THIS INFORMATION AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER

Dennis and I will be giving up the position of Editor and publicity for the club. If there are club members who would be interested in either job please let any committee member know . Dennis and I will not be holding these positions past the AGM 2016 .

We started back in 1990 our first show was Penryn Agricultural Show. A lot of the shows we went to no longer exist, lets hope that words of interest to bring back old Goat Shows, show fruit.

We have put a lot of effort into what we have done for the good of the Goat, and enjoyed it immensely.

We will be at shows to help as Collecting stewards and milk recording. See you at the shows, enjoy your livestock showing and be safe .

We both hope that the CGA will remain for many years, it has always be remembered for Dairy Goats .

Yours sincerely Dennis and Hazel.

From the Chair

Hopefully you will all be up to your necks in new kids by now? I trust they were all successful and vet free.

I really miss having newborn kids in my goat barn – the decision was made a few years ago that stress levels were getting too high. So, after two bad kiddings at the end of one kidding season, I decided to just enjoy the goats I have. So I am down to a 16 year old nanny, with the rest of the nannies at the ages of 9, 8, 5 and my old billy who is now 12. Who knows what next year might bring though? I am still so envious of those of you who are still kidding your goats and having the joy of new born kids charging around in the spring sunshine.

The club is continuing to thrive with new ideas, new shows, and more importantly new members joining our ranks. Long may Cornwall Goatkeepers exist.

The committee have decided to keep the CGA shows at Mays Country Store for another year. The venue was trialled last year and proved to be very suitable with easy access and exit for us all – it also has clean undercover showing area if required. I will be having a conversation with Jenny May to see what special goat food offers she can put on for us this year. If anyone has any special requests please let me know in advance of the show and I will see what they can organise.

With the weather being so bad my goats don't even want to put their heads out of the shed – so more mucking out to be done. Fortunately we have plenty of hay from last year so we can cope with the spillage – if we didn't make our own then it would be an expensive time.

I look forward to sun shine and shows – meeting up with good friends compensates for the work required setting everything up.

Kind regards to you all

Julia Clarke

No kidding! 999 was for a bleating goat

WHEN police received a report of cries from a woman in distress at a notorious suicide spot, they scrambled the force helicopter.

But thermal imaging cameras on board quickly revealed that the 'sobbing and wailing' was coming from... a bleating goat.

Hundreds of pounds were spent flying officers to the Avon Gorge in Bristol after a member of the public feared the worst and dialled 999. After leaving the scene on Sunday, the helicopter squad – based at nearby Filton – tweeted along with an image of the goat: 'We may have found the culprit!'

They later claimed the animal 'may or may not be the cause' of the noises.

But it did not stop colleagues at other police helicopter bases poking fun on Twitter. The team at Carr Gate in West Yorkshire kidded: 'That's a bit gruff!' and officers at St Athan in South Wales asked: 'More screaming goats?'

Police helicopters cost about £850 an hour to fly and use on average between 250 and 300 litres of fuel. Last year, the Filton crew made a 40-mile round trip to Cheddar Gorge in Somerset after reports of a child crying for help – which turned out to be a goat and kid.

Ollie Dismore of the National Police Air Service said such emergency reports are 'taken seriously', adding: 'The cries of animals such as goats can be mistaken for humans in distress.'

Six feral goats were introduced to Avon Gorge in 2011 to help boost the growth of local wildflowers.

From The Daily Mail 26th January 2016

Male, Youngstock & Pygmy Show : Well supported, in spite of road congestion and being held on a Saturday. The Dairy judge was excellent and related to all. William Merrell asked about the show's income. It was £412 in 2014 and £336 in 2015 when it clashed with Okehampton show. A discussion ensued on dates and venue for 2016, final decisions being left to the Committee.

Election of Officers:

The 2014/15 committee formally stood down and elected for 2015/16 as:

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder	Vote result.
Chair	Julia Clarke	Nigel Julian	William	For - Elected
	Hazel Badger	Sue Smith	Dennis Badger	Not elected
Remaining Committee				
Treasurer	Geoff Munson			ALL Re Elected en
Secretary	June Markham			
Members	Hazel Badger Julia Clarke, Odette Eddy, Neil Munson, Tina Murphy, S u e S m i t h (Helston)			

Winter Meal: It was agreed to hold the meal on Saturday 16th January at the Victoria Pub Threemilestone as usual.

Any Other Business:

The Website needs attention. Doreen will be invited to the next Committee meeting when it will be discussed.

Awards:

Presentations of the awards then followed, as per the attached list. Geoff Munson officiated in the absence of Mrs Wilshaw. (A bouquet will be sent to her on behalf of the Association thanking her for carrying out the time consuming task of collating the points to find the winners)

AGM 2016. This will be held on 15th October at Playing Place.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm followed by tea, refreshments and informal talk.

Secretary's Notes

I have a guilty secret. I have only just taken down my Christmas tree! Yes, it stays up from Christmas Eve until the end of February. The pretty fairy lights, reflecting off the coloured baubles, are delicate beacons that brighten up the dark days of Winter. Goodness knows, with the constant rain and lack of sun during January and February, we needed something to raise the spirits. Suddenly, on cue, along come the Spring flowers! My indoor coloured lights can be packed away for another Winter and instead, happy yellow Daffodils take centre stage.

Spring is a lovely time of year, full of promise. I hope your kiddings are going smoothly and your new additions will please you. I hope you will give everyone a chance to see them at the Spring Show.

New Year, new hopes. I still hope that more people will step forward to come on the Committee. We need more volunteers to help. The Committee members are getting older and slower – deteriorating health and changing circumstances are standing in the way of future commitments. Where is the young blood, the bright young people with new ideas and the ability to think outside the box?

If new Committee members are not found, there is a serious possibility that the Cornwall Goatkeepers Association will no longer function. Sheila mentioned this in her President's address recently. The Committee feels they are living on borrowed time. Please think about joining the Committee – seriously, you don't have to be a “bright young thing”, just having a love of goats is enough! It's not a difficult task, only 4 or 5 meetings a year and an AGM to attend. We are a happy little group and we really would welcome more people joining us. Think about it, have a chat with current members (listed inside the cover of the Cloven Hoof magazine). There are eight months before the AGM, get someone lined up to nominate you, someone else to “second” you – we will be waiting with open arms.....

Best wishes,

June.

HOW TO SHOW A GOAT

Whilst most of you know all about showing, some do not and some have become 'slack' on how they need to do it. So, without wishing to offend anyone, I give some suggestions.

1. You need a goat that is entered into the show, a white coat, good strong shoes (goats hooves can hurt!) and a means of fixing the showing no. on your coat. Clips are good or just a safety pin.
2. Leading the goat. It is easy with a goat that you know, to just expect the goat to follow you. Better if you have the collar right under the mandible and a short lead, then the goat knows *you are in control*. Goats are strong and you'll not want to be dragged around in front of everybody! The strongest of goats can be good if led correctly, have been trained to walk and you do not need to be strong.
3. In the ring, keep the collar close to goat's head, as I said above, keep your eye on the judge, 'stand' your goat correctly i.e head up, front legs straight, back legs spaced backwards and back line as straight as possible (unless an AN). Front legs not splayed but back legs need to be apart. Tail, if the goat is happy will be up and 'jaunty'.
4. Leave your goat once you are happy- don't fuss. Check that she/he stays as you placed her/him then look at the judge. If goat moves, place as you wanted by moving your hand along the back bone, keeping goat's head up.
5. Do not talk to your next competitor nor to anyone outside of the ring.
6. When asked to walk the goat, keep the goat between you and the judge and keep the collar in the controllable position always.
7. Keep your eyes and ears on the judge or ring steward who will tell you what and where to go, or copy your competitors.
8. Each time you are asked to show a different angle of your goat, get her/him to stand correctly as stated above.
9. Each time keep your eye on the judge-see where he is looking and be attentive to your goat, you will feel "movement" through the lead if it is held correctly.

We moved our own two shows - Spring and Male & Youngstock/Autumn Pygmy show to Mays Country store this year. This is a good venue with easy access, plenty of hard-standing for parking and showing, the opportunity to show inside if the weather demanded, also as they do not have any other "cloven hoof" events there is no problem getting the licence to run shows there. Every venue needs to be able to keep all cloven hoof animals off of the show site (both inside and outside) for 6 weeks before and 6 weeks after the event which is a lot to ask of some land owners.

Unfortunately some members are experiencing problems getting a supply of AML1 forms - I have obtained a box full from ARAMS on behalf of the CGA so please just let me know and I can send some to you.

I would like to say a special thanks to the committee and our members for their hard work this year with special thanks to Geoff who amongst all of the other work he does for the club he has provided the new judges books - it makes show secretaries work a lot easier and gives a more professional vision of the club to our judges. Plus Odette for finding a supplier of engraved tumblers to be presented to judges as a thank you present.

But without the support of you, the members, the club would cease to exist so please keep up the good work

Treasurer's Report

Mr Munson reported that there was an overspend of £284.47 over income, leaving us with £3729 plus Santander shares worth £317. The CGA has 47 members. Income from Subscriptions was £31 up, Publicity showed a loss of £8.85 due to the purchase of stock cards. whereas Magazine costs were down by £70.44 to £419.56 due to less copies and less colour. The three shows covered their costs. Other expenditure totalled £72.46 (First Aid kits £41.20 Camborne special rosettes £13.26 Rose in memory of Sue Prior £18)

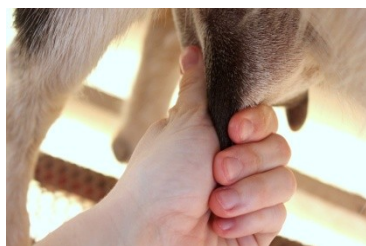
Shows, review of 2015:

Spring Show: A successful show, held at May's Country Store, Hewaswater, with good entry numbers from 11 exhibitors. Run by Mrs Julia Clarke. Bob Vickery an experienced judge and goatkeeper judged both the Dairy and Pygmy sections.,

Royal Cornwall/ Kernow Show went well and all enjoyed both shows. It is hoped that proper hurdles will be supplied in 2016.

Stithians went well. The layout was OK in the end. The water pipe could benefit from having a T section. It is hoped Pigmys can leave earlier next year. £3 per day for marquee and hurdles is very good.

Camborne: All enjoyed it. The show would benefit from having more Dairy goats present. It will be run by Angie Prout in 2016.



Congratulations, you've just watched your first tutorial on milking a goat! Now all you have to do is build a fence & shelter, purchase a goat (or 20), buy some food, breed your goat, wait for your goat to deliver babies, wait 2 weeks, then you can milk your goat!

SEE? EASY!

[HTTP://WWW.WEEDEMANDREAP.COM/HOW-TO-MILK-A-GOAT/](http://www.weedemandreap.com/how-to-milk-a-goat/)

CORNWALL GOATKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Playing Place Community Centre, Playing Place, Near Truro.
17th October 2014

Opening: The Acting Chair, Mrs J Clarke opened the meeting at 8.06pm, introduced herself and welcomed the 20 members present.

Apologies: from Jean and Keith Wilshaw, who have attended our AGMs for the last 45 years. And from Rob Prout,

Minutes of 2014 AGM: These were agreed by those present and signed by the Acting Chair on their behalf as an accurate report of the 2014 AGM

Acting Chair's Report

Welcome to everyone to the CGA 2015 AGM - it is good to see so many friends here tonight

With the show season now drawn to a close we think ourselves very lucky that, for most of the shows, we have been fortunate with the weather. With Cornwall Goatkeepers Association either running or supporting our Spring, Male & Youngstock/Autumn Pygmy, Royal Cornwall, Stithians and Camborne shows the committee and our members have been working extremely hard

Recently the CGA put in an appearance at M A Grigg's open day - Sue, Linda and I spent a lovely day talking goat to a lot of the visitors including one man who thought you could just put a couple of dairy wethers into a field and leave them to fend for themselves - just looking at them every whip and flip. He went away with a little bit of information.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE RING.

1) Know your competitor number and stand accordingly or see where ring steward asks you to go. Stand goat facing towards you so that the judge can see how she/he looks from the rear. Head up, back straight and rear legs apart or splayed. The judge will be looking at the legs to see if straight and to see udder attachment, if a milker, or rear of male goat.

2) When the judge has looked at all in the class, he will come to each goat to see inside her/his mouth. You will need to open goat's lips by having a firm hold on the head. Judge is looking at the "bite" of top teeth to bottom gum. Nothing you can do to improve what the judge sees just allow him to look.

3) Then judge will check goat's hooves and leg, then pass his hand over goat's shoulder, along back bone to rear back leg. He/she will check teats and check udder attachment or scrotum on male goat. Judge may make notes in the book he/she carries, to help him/her remember good and bad points of your goat.

4) You will be asked to walk your goat, either alone or with next goat to you, across to the other side of the ring. Judge is looking at how your goat walks and if there are any problems not seen when standing still.

5) When you return to your original place in the ring, you face your goat in the opposite direction so that judge can see her/him from the other side.

6) Now you will be asked to walk your goat around the ring, either leading all other competitors or following the one in front of you. This is where you hope that your goat will walk calmly if leading the class!

7) When back to your original place in the ring, stand your goat as before, this is when the judge has a final look at all goats to make up his/her mind. Make sure your goat IS standing as you want her/him. Don't worry if the judge starts looking in his book to see his notes. Keep your eye on the judge in case asked to walk your goat again.

8) This is when the judge decides. Remember the judge's decision IS final, it's his/her decision on that day, depending on what the judge sees and likes in your goat and the others in the class. If the decision is close, the final point to consider may be something as small as whether goat's knees are clean or your ability to show off the goat's best points!

9) When the judge has made his/her decision, you will be placed in an order, re-stand your goat in that place, as it may not be the final decision, keeping your eyes on the judge. Then wait patiently, till judge says that's the right order. He/she will give the placing as shown or ask the ring steward to declare the result. Wait till you are offered your goat's rosette or award. The judge will come along the line to tell each person the reason for his/her decision. Wait till all have been spoken to. Finally walk out of the ring, confident and accepting the decision, whether you agree or not. You may get the same position at the next show or it could change. Not all judges think the same way.....

Taken from The Australian Goat World

Volume 66 3rd June 2014

PICTURE THIS... 'THE GOAT PLACE'

A car swings off a highway into a spacious parking area adjoining a brightly painted take away store next to a small green enclosure where goat kids of various breeds play on a grassy mound, large rocks and cleanly sawn tree trunks. A few older milkers are among them. Behind the store are green paddocks with dairy goats grazing/ browsing.

The doors of the car open and two children spill out and run to the goat kid enclosure followed by their Mum. They are greeted warmly by a smartly dressed young person who offers them small bottles filled with



milk or wattle branches or a small quantity of grain so that they can feed the goat kids. The goat kids wander up, eager to be fed and patted.

Dad calls to Mum, 'I'll just get the usual, yeah?' 'That'll be fine,' Mum calls back, hastening

towards the kids, both two and four legged. The children enthuse over the baby goats, patting them and laughing at their affectionate behaviour while Dad

disappears into the store. He soon returns, carrying a tray of food and drinks. He sets it down on one of the impeccably clean picnic tables in one of the shelters provided for guests between the parking area and the kid's enclosure.

'C'mon guys, foods on!' he calls. The young goat attendant and Mum encourage the children to wash their hands at the wash bay to the side of the goat kid



enclosure.

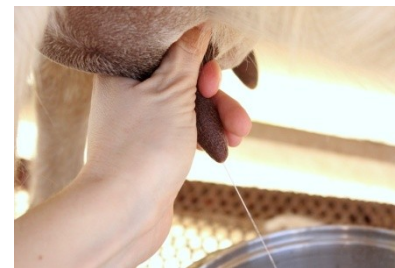
'Here you go,' says Dad, distributing burgers and drinks to each member of the family. "GO-Burgers all around, GO-shakes for you kids and coffees for Mum and me!'

Step Seven: Using you thumb and first finger, squeeze the teat hard so you trap the milk in the teat.

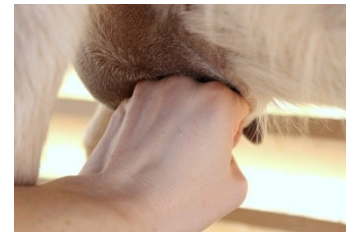


Step Eight: Now here's the hard part. While keeping your thumb and first finger tight, bring your palm and other fingers together. This pressure will squirt the milk out. If you don't get any milk or if you get a very tiny stream, it's because you aren't keeping your thumb and first finger pinched hard enough. Just remember, it's not about tugging, it's about pinching & squeezing.

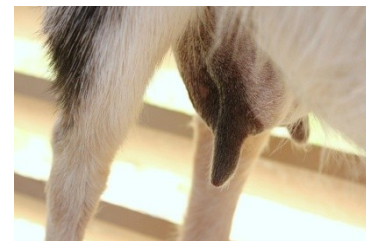
Continue with this motion (with a hand on each teat) until you get all the milk you can.



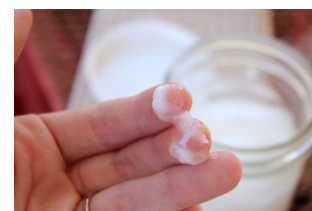
Step Nine: When you don't think you can get anymore milk, pause for a few seconds and punch into the udder lightly to help release another let down. This light punch is what the babies do to help stimulate another let down. Milk out any more that you can.



Step Ten: When you're all done, the udder should have a wrinkled look to it.



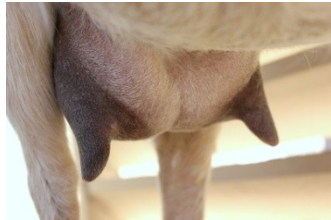
Step Eleven: Now it's time to apply my homemade udder balm to the teat and udder. My udder balm has 1 c. **coconut oil**, 10 drops of lavender essential oil, and 10 drops of tea tree oil. **Learn more about my favorite brand of essential oils here.**



Step Twelve: Rub my udder balm over the udder and the teats.



Step Two: If you can keep your goat’s udder shaved it really makes it easier to milk! This is a picture of my Nigerian doe before I’ve started to milk.



Step Three: Time to clean up that udder and those teats! I use my **homemade udder wipes**. They are a great natural alternative to those chemical-filled udder wipes you’ll find online. Be sure to squeeze the teat and wipe the teat opening well.



Step Four: You’ll need to do one squirt on each teat to flesh out any blockage and bacteria. (We’ll get to the proper milking technique here in a second)



Step Five: Take a look at that milk you just collected from the first squirt of each teat. You want to make sure there are no blood or clumps of milk which could indicate mastitis.



Step Six: How to Milk a Goat: The technique begins by grabbing the teat as high as you can, a good couple of inches into the udder.



The children are keen to get back to patting the kids again before they leave, so Dad accompanies them while Mum returns to The Goat Place store to replenish the family supply of goat milk soap, yoghurt and cheese and some goat milk based moisturizer for herself. She could pick up a few cards, pot holders, t-shirts or coffee mugs bearing goat logos for gifts if she needed, or a goat skin rug if she was feeling really indulgent...

As the family leaves, a coach pulls into the parking lot and pastel clad seniors negotiate the steps of the bus. Some head slowly towards the goat enclosure while others move towards the store. ‘We had a goat in the backyard when I was just a lass...’ murmurs Mavis to Betty. ‘Brother was allergic to cow’s milk. Was a lovely goat...we all milked her and looked after her...oh, those were the days, this is bringing it all back...’

*** *** *** *** *** *** ***

This is all pretty fanciful, I know, but it is an IDEA that a group of breeders could examine as a possibility if they wanted to earn their living from selling goat products directly to the public in what could be a very rewarding manner. As I see it, the ‘issues’ would be as follows

*the legal requirements for selling milk and meat to the public would need to be met (as with ANY takeaway business) A cooperative would probably

need to be formed with strict guidelines and perhaps a share arrangement established.

*shareholders would need to plan carefully for all round supply of milk and meat (not necessarily from their own farms) OR they would have ‘ordinary’ burgers and shakes and pies etc available as well as goat based products with the opportunity to pat and befriend goat kids just being the drawcard that lured customers to the business site.

* a suitable location would probably need to be on a major route between larger towns...or maybe on the edge of a small country town on a road that ‘goes somewhere’. It is the passing trade that would make such a venture work...quick service, clean amenities, somewhere to park and something to keep the kids happy for a little while.

If the idea of earning a living by working for yourself, doing what you love and are already doing part time appeals to you, this might be something worth thinking about!

Over the years, I have actually identified three places in my local area that I think would be appropriate...two of them are old butter factories. Lots of space and character!

Kate Clarke Terrena Dairy Goats



SHOW DATES

May	7 th (Sat)	C.G.A. Spring Show	01726 823800	Dairy & Pygmy
May	19 th to 21st	Devon County Show	01392 353705	Dairy
June	9th to 11th	Royal Cornwall Show	01326 563229	Dairy & Pygmy
		The Kernow Show		Dairy
June	26th	Devon & Somerset		
		Male & Youngstock	01395 233985	Dairy
July	2nd	Machen	01766 771078	Pygmy
July	8th to 10th	Bridgend Show	01656 661338	Pygmy
July	9th	Liskeard Show	07894 456099	No Goats
July	11th	Stithians Show	07939 826585	Dairy
			01209 717656	Pygmy
July	16th	Camborne Show	01209 717656	Dairy & Pygmy
July	18th to 21st	Royal Welsh Show		
		Buith Wells	01982 553683	Pygmy
July	23rd	Mid Devon Show	01884 242486	Pygmy
July	27th	Yealmpton Show	07712 681306	Dairy
July	28th	Launceston Show	01566 775483	No Goats
August	1st	Brecon Show	01874 611811	Dairy & Pygmy
August	11th	Okehampton Show	01326866161	Dairy & Pygmy
August	20th (Sat)	Cornwall Mail & Youngstock and Pygmy Autumn Show	01726 890409	Dairy & Pygmy
August	25th	Melplash	01308 423337	Dairy
August	25th	Holsworthy Show	01288 355335	Pygmy
September	3rd/4th	Dorset Show	01305 264249	Dairy
September	10th	Frome Show	01373 463600	Dairy & Pygmy
<p>OCTOBER 15th</p> <p>CGA Annual General Meeting at Kea, Truro</p> <p>017260890409 For more info.</p>				

HOW TO MILK A GOAT: STEP BY STEP PICTURES

THERE'S A SHOCKINGLY SMALL AMOUNT OF INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET ON HOW TO MILK A GOAT.



Have you ever wanted to know how to milk a goat? Well, today is your lucky day because I'm going to take you on an adventure into my backyard farm where I just happen to have some goats! So, sit back and enjoy your first lesson on how to milk a goat!

I know what you're thinking...

"Why do I need to know how to milk a goat?"

Well, for starters, you WILL own a goat someday. This is simply non-negotiable. If you regularly read my blog then I consider you my friend, and let me just tell you it is my goal in life that all of my friends own goats. If you have a husband/wife/boyfriend/girlfriend who is hell bent on you NOT getting goats, then you'll just have to tell them you don't have a choice.

"Sorry honey, DaNelle says I have to, so....."

See, I got your back!

MILKING A GOAT IS ACTUALLY REALLY EASY ONCE YOU GET THE HANG OF IT.

But let me warn you that your first experience milking a goat may be a disaster. I'm just warning you now, because I'm your friend. Your hands will suddenly become completely useless balls of flesh and you'll wonder how you've even managed to feed yourself up to this point. It's a miracle you've made it this far in life, really, with those uncoordinated hand muscles of yours.

But don't despair! You will get better at milking a goat, trust me! Even if your first experience is kind of a disaster and you end up crying because you can't milk your freaking goat and then after 45 minutes and one teaspoon of milk later you use your old breast pump out of desperation, this too shall pass. (Ask me how I know)

HOW TO MILK A GOAT: STEP BY STEP PICTURES

Step One: Prepare some goodies for your goat. I prefer to do a mixture of alfalfa/bermuda pellets and some organic grain. Some other ideas are fresh weeds/grass, alfalfa hay, or barley fodder (sprouted barley grass).

You can also use this time to give any herbal mixers if you are treating your goat for anything. Just mix it right in and your goat will eat it up!