



# Greenoak Newsletter for the Dairy Goat & Sheep Industry

Newsletter Date July 2008

## 3 High Specification Commercial Parlours Installed

Since the beginning of 2008, we have been working actively with our dealer network installing milking systems for Dairy goat and sheep Farmers across Ontario.

We have also installed 3 high specification commercial rapid exit double 24 Parlours for milking goats.

Each parlour is a different combination of milker units and automation, providing us with an exciting source of information regarding milking procedures, animal throughput and labour efficiency.



Parlour number 1 has one milker unit per 4 animal positions with cluster manager automatic take off.

This parlour is milking approximately 250 goats at this time with plans to increase to 400-500.

Parlour number 2 has one milker unit per 2 animal positions with stand alone milk meters and automatic take off.



Parlour number 3 has one milker unit per point with Milk Meters, PC Program and Auto ID.

As all three parlours have started milking this year, we have been monitoring the milking performance on each farm.



## Useful Information/Analysis of Parlour Performance

### Collecting yard/area design

All three parlours have a collecting area where the animals can stand prior to loading into the parlour.

The design of this area with the animal exit has a huge impact on animal throughput.

So, if you are looking for a fast throughput in your parlour, you should not neglect the design of the collecting area.

### Speed of Milking, Cluster on time & Milk let-down

In parlour number 3, we get the fastest milk let down and the least amount of re-attachment of the milking units over and above the other 2 parlours. (*This parlour has one milking unit at each animal position*)

Parlour number 2 appears to be better than parlour number 1 with speed of milking and re-attachment of the milking units (*parlour number 2 has one milking unit for every 2 animal positions*).

### Conclusion

It appears that the oxytocin released by the animal is affecting the speed of milking and causing the milker unit to have to be re-attached.

Animals standing next to an animal that is being milked appears to be self stimulating herself and prematurely releasing her oxytocin.

So, when the turn comes for this animal to be milked, she cannot sustain the flow of oxytocin hence her milking stops and the unit is removed.

When the unit is re-applied the milking starts again and we assume that the animal has been re-stimulated.

We will continue to monitor the progress on these farms and evaluate the data, especially as farm num-

ber 3 is already connected to a network system and a computer program with Auto ID.

As the PC program begins to gather further information we should be able to assess the actual Cluster on times and compare that to different animals of different yields.

Shortly, we expect to set up parlour number 2 to a Network, PC and Auto ID, so the comparison of data will be of great interest.

### Useful tips for new installations being planned!

Based on this information, we would suggest that having a smaller number of animal positions with a milker at each point, would be the most effective milking system.

By having one milking unit per point, we are changing the standard format of large installations, with many animal spaces but a few milking units.

We would also recommend a collecting area with possibly a backing gate for very large herds.

Such a change will also help farmers who are thinking of automation in terms of automatic take offs, milk yield recording and individual feeders at each point to offer a feed to yield system, as fewer animal positions will offer the lowest possible cost.

If you are planning a project in the near future, let us know and we will endeavour to provide information learned from these installations to assist you in choosing the most efficient option for your farm.

## RFID for Dairy Goats & Sheep



In April, there were a number of small workshops run by OMAFRA to provide information on RFID for sheep and goats.

Sheep already come under a compulsory tagging scheme when moving animals off farm. However, this has not yet reached the dairy goat industry.

Following various presentations, it appears we are around 2 years away from seeing such a scheme within the dairy goat industry.

So how will this affect RFID systems used for goats and sheep within a milking parlour in complying with the possible future requirements?

The answer, we have to assume, is that they will not comply because any tags supplied will be outside of a controlled scheme.

However, it was implied that any official scheme will accept a mechanical tag issued at that time.

Our strategy is therefore to provide RFID Tags to our customers who intend to go ahead with their projects and recommend they fit mechanical tags

which are issued by the official registration controlling body (*still to be decided*).

We at Greenoak will try to understand the details required (*when known*) to be recorded for each animal and accommodate it within our own Parlour Server Management Program.

This information can then be cross referenced with the official management tag number whenever it is available.

The aim is to reduce the paperwork in the future and provide a system of transition to the official tags cost effectively.

## Possible source for Dairy Goats

At this time it is proving very difficult to get dairy goats due to the popularity of the industry.

Our UK office has been contacted by the following organization suggesting that they maybe able to help with supplying goats/genetics for export from England. The organization is:

### ***Goat Genetics***

#### ***Promoting British Dairy Goats for Export***

#### ***Contact Christine Ball***

***Telephone 011 44 1785 824 897***

***E-mail [info@goatgenetics.com](mailto:info@goatgenetics.com)***

***[www.goatgenetics.com](http://www.goatgenetics.com)***

We suggest anyone interested in their services should make contact directly with Goat Genetics

*Note: We are not warranting or intending to imply that any products or services provided by the above company is warranted or guaranteed by Greenoak.*

*This is purely a service of information transfer for the industry.*

## Dealer Network for Ontario

As the dairy goat and sheep industry is growing rapidly within Ontario and Quebec, we are pleased to announce that we have set up a comprehensive dealer network to support your milking equipment and technology need from Greenoak.

Your Local Dealers are as follows -

### Dairy Source

RR #1, Keene, Ontario K0L 2G0

Tel 705 295 3247

Dortmans Bros Barn Equip Inc  
Adelaide Village, 2234 Egremont Rd

Strathroy, Ontario N7G 3H6

Tel 519 247 3435

Lawrence's Dairy Supplies Inc

1760 Hwy 138, Moose Creek

Ontario K0C 1W0

Tel 613 538 2559

### Moore Bros

5 County Dairy Services Ltd

80 Richmond Boulevard 214

Napanee, Ontario, K7R 3M3

Tel 613 354 4141

Norwell Dairy Systems Ltd

7877 Wellington County Rd, Drayton

Ontario N0G 1P0

Tel 519 638 3535

Norwell Dairy Systems Ltd  
594711 County Rd 59  
Woodstock, Ontario, N4S 7V8  
Tel 519 456 3535

Penner Farm Services  
RR #2, Tara  
Ontario N0H 2N0  
Tel 519 934 2343

## International Goat Symposium

Once again we are very happy to be participating in this years International Goat Symposium as an exhibitor. We have a large range of exciting new products to talk about.

The Symposium will be held in Stratford this year on August 12th, 13th and 14th.

For further information please visit the official website

[www.goatsymposium.com](http://www.goatsymposium.com)

For those customers who will not be able to make it but would like to discuss subjects in this newsletter further, please contact

Sandra on

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### Privacy Statement

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