

## The Truth About Diatomaceous Earth

By David Crosby

I saw an article in another magazine that was written to expose unethical practices of a DE distributor on the east coast somewhere. Unfortunately, the article seemed to "throw out the baby with the bathwater" and basically discredit the value of DE itself because the author was angry with that rogue distributor.

Let me make this disclaimer: I sell DE locally (NM) and ship some around the USA. I do not make a living with it yet, though nothing would make me happier if I could. My enthusiasm for the product has absolutely nothing to do with selling it.

I have used DE on my place for more than 12 years for a number of reasons. I began to feed it to our sheep, goats, llamas, emus, horses, pigs and chickens to combat worms (parasites) in their intestinal tracts by topdressing it on and in their feed.

Then one day I found the 2x4s in the barn crawling with chicken mites and threw about half a coffee mug of DE into each of the nest boxes. **OVERNIGHT** the mites disappeared and have not reappeared. I have reapplied DE to the nest boxes twice more in the last 10 years and there are never any mites in the chicken stuff.

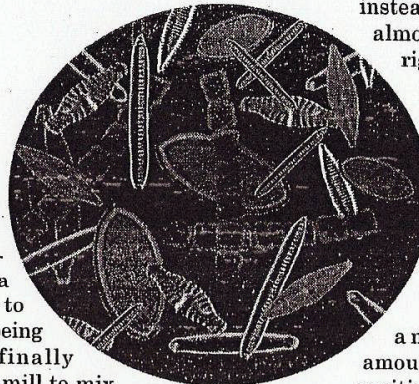
When I clean out the manure from in and around the goat/sheep areas the smell is always quite rank. I use my two pound duster and apply DE liberally to

the exposed areas and the odor simply disappears.

Because topdressing feed is a pain and is easy to neglect because of being in a hurry, I finally contracted a local mill to mix 50lbs per ton of DE into a 3/16 pellet along with 1,650 lbs of ground alfalfa and 300 lbs of ground grain (doesn't matter what kind) to produce one ton of feed pellets. Our goats, llamas, (we no longer have sheep) horses, and emus get these pellets. I still have to top dress for the fowl. They have had this for their feed for many years now and are healthy, happy, shiny and parasite free.

We run about 60 to 80 goats (Boer, Boer crosses & dairy) on average. I have tried just about every "dairy" feed there is but nothing makes the milk from the dairy goats like these pellets. Because there is absolutely no parasitic competition in their digestive systems, every bit of nutrients that they can absorb is absorbed and they therefore produce all the milk they are capable of.

The meat goats produce magnificent muscling also because everything they eat goes for that purpose,



instead of sharing it with parasites. Furthermore, almost all the does if exposed to a buck will breed right back and freshen again in six months. Most of our does do this repeatedly with no visible negative side effects. After about a week post kidding and with kids nursing they bounce back to a point physically that they hardly show signs of having kidded. Our goats are not special goats. They are just immensely healthy internally. Their hair is slick and smooth looking like they just stepped out of the shower.

Perma-Guard Diatomaceous Earth is nearly a miraculous substance. Fed in the recommended amount to ANY animal, DE will produce visible positive benefits. I have spoken with a number of individuals living in wetter climates who think it does not work well. So far always there is a fault in the way or amount they are feeding. A local vet said, "I've seen DE-fed horses with worms." The answer is, "No you haven't."

The space shuttle Discovery cannot be launched just any which way someone might want to just because someone is in a hurry and doesn't feel like following instructions. Feeding DE is no different. Two and a half to three percent of the weight of the feed that any animal eats daily (or per feeding) is the necessary amount of DE required to guarantee the demise of parasites in the intestinal tract of any animal. If you do not follow this ratio "the shuttle won't go." In other words if you don't follow instructions and you don't like the results, there you are!

A goat rancher in the middle part of the country told me on the phone that DE was not doing the job. I

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asked specific questions and discovered that his determination was based on the fact that there were still eggs in the feces. DE doesn't destroy eggs. But the moment the eggs hatch into parasites, the DE that is passing through the gut at any given moment kills those little critters.

Did you catch that? DE must be eaten **DAILY** following instructions! You see DE is not a poison, it's not an insecticide and it's not a "wormer." You feed it like a food supplement (it does have thirteen trace minerals) and it works like a medicine. It is the most incredible thing I have ever seen, other than the Grace of God.

And the flies... What flies? Most people who think about such things when they visit us say, "You don't have flies." Oh there is the rogue fly here and there but, you see, DE has been on our property hiding in the manure of all the animals and the flies are totally frustrated. You can just see Mama and Papa fly standing by their nest of eggs watching with glee as their baby larvae hatch. Then their wings droop as one by one they watch those larvae turn up their toes and die.

The important thing is that when used correctly, DE works. Try it. You'll like it!

**Questions About DE?**  
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