

GOAT FARM LEAPS AHEAD WITH KUHN EUROMIX

PALMERSTON NORTH – (28 July 2009) – A new Kuhn Euromix 980 mixer wagon is making life easier for Waikato goat farmers Hans and Linda Wolvers, at the same time it is improving the diet of their animals. The Wolvers operate a 40-hectare goat milking farm, on which they run between 750 and 800 goats, including replacements. This season they milked about 580 goats.

To avoid worm build up, the operation is a zero grazing. The goats are housed in loafing barns with feed delivered to them by conveyors. Though the animals have access to an outdoor area, it is covered in river stones.

The Wolvers purchased the Kuhn Euromix 980 in March. They have previously operated feed-out wagons but had never owned a mixer wagon. In the past Hans Wolvers fed the goats three or four times a day but with the mixer wagon that has been cut down to two or three depending on the season.

“Goats are bloody fussy eaters. They don't like to have the same feed shovelled at them all the time, so we have to keep changing what we feed them,” Hans Wolvers says. “It would have been easier to have stuck with milking cows. In fact, we keep some beefies around to clean up the conveyors when the goats turn their noses up at the feed.

“The mixer wagon allows me to incorporate different feeds in one hit. In the past I would do a separate feed of brewer's grain in the morning, which I had to shovel onto the conveyors by hand. Later in the morning I would feed out light grass silage. After the goats got back from the milking shed in the afternoon they would get fresh grass and if they finished that up we would feed them again in the evening.

“Now with mixer wagon it takes 10 minutes to prepare a meal. We can mix the brewer's grain with the silage for the morning meal and put together different mixes of grass, silage and maize for the afternoon feeding.” Hans Wolvers says he tried to mix different silage formulas through his feed-out wagon but he found the system wasn't offering the consistency of mix he wanted.

“I wanted to be certain that the animals would get the same mix when we finished feeding out as when we started. That was the main reason for buying the Kuhn mixer wagon,” he says. “It's been marvellous. Now I've incorporated maize into their diet and will be adding minerals as well. It's opened up another scheme of feeding and I can target what I want to feed better.”

The Wolver's goats have responded well to the new feed. "The thing I've noticed the most is they don't seem to gorge themselves like they used to – they know now that they can eat it all day," Hans Wolver's says. "One of the major problems we had was goats overdosing on some of the feeds, but we don't get that any more. That's a major plus.

"The other thing is we get less wastage. When the feed has been processed in the mixer wagon, the goats can only physically grab a mouthful that they can swallow. They can't grab a big mouthful and have a lot of wastage fall on the floor."

Hans Wolver's says the Euromix 980 is manoeuvrable and easy to operate. He began looking at different mixer wagons at fielddays and purchased the Kuhn Euromix through Giltrap Farm Machinery Ltd in Otorohanga. It did require some modifications so the extension would work with his conveyor system.

"The extension part on the Euromix was modified to fit inside our conveyors. Factory fit the extension is 900mm wide but we had to get them cut back to fit our 500mm conveyors. We also had to extend its length from 750mm to 1.5m to reach into the conveyors." The alterations were done by Whatawhata Engineering and they were a big success.

Images:

1. [Wolvers Goat Farm 006.jpg](#)
2. [Wolvers Goat Farm 008.jpg](#)
3. [Wolvers Goat Farm 016.jpg](#)

For More Information Contact Your Local Kuhn Dealer or

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