Copper toxicity in the California dairy goat herd

In 2007 I was contacted by an attorney from San Francisco, he stated he needed help with the case he was working on. We agreed to work together and the journey begins.

He said he sent me several depositions; there were about 4 feet thick. The basis of the lawsuit was this, the owner had purchase of minerals from a distributor, and claimed he was had death losses due to feeding this mineral.

The attorney in California had hired numerous people. A nutritionist, a toxicologist, a veterinarian, an epidemiologist, and a pathologist. At one time or another all of this made a trip to California. I made two trips one to look at the herd that had been purchased by a second owner and to San Francisco for my deposition.

Upon visiting the ranch outside of Reno Nevada visiting with him now current owner he did no medical problems with the goats. They were in a feedlot type situation meaning no grazing everything was brought that they consumed. Therefore parasites and such were not a problem.

Five different companies were being sued over this matter, the distributor that delivered the mineral to ultimately the company that manufactured the mineral. The law suit was in effect for millions of dollars plus all the veterinary fees the previous owner had incurred. A total of six animals died during the timeframe that was contested.

The main problem as I viewed it was a veterinarian from UC Davis who overreacted. She jumped on the copper toxicity bandwagon and never got off. She even went as far as to take the goats of all supplemental copper and in fact caused a copper deficiency syndrome. Her article can be found in the J AVM a journal.

All of the defendants won out-of-court.