

HERD HEALTH FOR DAIRY GOATS

PLEASE NOTE: Each producer must develop an individual herd health program, depending on housing facilities, available feeds and production goals. This is not meant to be a recipe to follow, but merely guidelines for maintaining a healthy herd.

PRIOR TO BREEDING:

- Check general condition of does and bucks. Examine teeth & udders. Check feet and trim. Overgrown foot walls predispose to foot rot.
- Parasite control: check composite fecal sample from herd for worms and coccidia. Deworm as needed. Treat for external parasites.
- If vibriosis has been a problem, vaccinate pre-breeding. There is a combined vibriosis/chlamydial vaccine available.
- Clean, disinfect kidding areas/housing prior to bad weather.

BUCKS: Breeding soundness exam (including general physical and semen check). Mature bucks can handle 40-50 does/season. Young bucks (12-18 months) should not handle more than 20-25 does/season.

*Calcium/phosphorous rations should be 2:1. Watch alfalfa hay in particular. High concentrate diet & improper calcium: phosphorous predispose to urinary calculi (stones).

*Increase feed to bucks slowly.

DOES: Give does vitamin E/selenium & repeat 60 days prior to kidding.

*Goats are seasonally polyestrous, cycling anywhere from August to February.

*Does cycle every 19-21 days. Heat periods last 1-3 days.

*Records are very important. Keep track of heat periods and identify each doe.

*Doe kids should be at least 10 months old (80-90 lbs.) at first breeding (ideally a doe should have her first kid no earlier than 12-15 months of age).

*Removing bucks from does after breeding.

PRE-PARTUM:

- Dry does should be fed free choice hay (1/2 high-quality grass and 1/2 alfalfa hay). Should be on rising plane of nutrition last 2 months. Increase grain gradually to 1-2 lbs. /head/ day over 4-6 week period just before freshening. BCS (body conditioning score) 3- 3.5.
- Calcium/phosphorous ration should be 1.5 to1 for dry does.
- 10-12 month old doelings need enough protein to support fetuses while permitting her growth and development.
- 60% of fetal growth occurs during last 6 weeks of pregnancy.
- Dry off does for last 6-8 weeks gestation.
- Dry, high fiber diet w/limited water and irregular milking with help dry up a doe prior to this time.
- Deworm 1-2 times in last 6 weeks to avoid preparturient rise in egg contamination. Ideally does should be wormed, and then moved to a clean pen or pasture. Note: Older-type wormers such as thiabendazole (omnizole) and phenathiazines have been shown to have decreased efficiency because of parasite resistance. Use Valbazen, Panacur, Ivomec and Curatrem for broad-spectrum parasite and/or liver fluke control.
- Give vitamin E/selenium injection 60 days prior to kidding (and 5 days prior if problem).
- Vaccinate for clostridial diseases 2 months prior to kidding (C&D, Covexin-8, Fermicon CD-T). Give tetanus toxoid 30 days prior to kidding. Yearling does - 2 doses 4 weeks apart.
- Gestation in the doe is 150-155 days.
- Normal delivery occurs either front feet or back feet first.

Anecdotally: There has been much discussion about using Ivomec orally or subQ in goats. A table of dosages and withdrawal time is available based on FARAD data. Please call the office for a copy of this information.

KIDS:

NEWBORN

- Give 0.5cc IM vitamin E/selenium injection at birth.
- Give 0.25 cc IM vitamin A&D, 2 cc vitamin B at birth
- Dip naval in chlorhexadine solution. Leave about 2"stump.
- Sanitation is extremely important.

- Weak kids are often a result of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Rub Karo syrup into gums, or tube with Karo or dextrose, or give dextrose intraperitoneally or subcutaneously.
- Keep warm. Kids have poor thermoregulation until 3 days of age. (Body temp 102-104° normal)
- Kids should nurse within the first 2-3 hours of birth.
- Give warmed colostrum, 4-8 oz. Kids separated from the doe at birth are fed 4 times/day the first week then 2 times/day. Milk volume is 10% body wt over 24hrs. Increase by 2-6oz/feeding after first few days. Goat milk should be fed first 4 weeks; after that lamb milk replacer may be fed. (cow colostrum or goat colostrum frozen into cubes may come in handy in an emergency).
- Kids from vaccinated does: C&D antitoxin 3cc SQ and tetanus antitoxin 150 IU SQ.
- Kids from unvaccinated does: C&D antitoxin 3cc SQ and tetanus antitoxin 150 IU SQ. Repeat in 2 wks
- Give intranasal pneumonia vaccine if problem. Especially important if does or kids travel to shows.
- Group kids of similar age together, maintain clean, sanitary surroundings

1 WEEK OLD:

- Give sore mouth vaccine at 5-10 days of age.
- Watch for diarrhea and pneumonia

2 WEEKS OLD:

- Castrate buck kids not to be replacements. Be sure both testicles are descended.
- At this point, you may remove wattles and supernumary teats. (Be aware of ethical considerations in show animals.)
- Disbud between now and 4 weeks old. Be cautious with hot iron disbudding. Thermal meningitis may result because goats do not have a well-developed frontal sinus. (It is much less stressful to kids to tranquilize them for this procedure.)

1 MONTH TO 6 MONTHS:

- C&D toxoid & tetanus toxoid at 1 month. (Replacement doelings & bucks use multivalent vaccine at 6 mos). Revaccinate in 3-6 weeks.
- Give vitamin E/selenium injection at 1 month. Use Bo-Se at the rate of 1 cc/ 40 lbs. body weight.
- Kids may be weaned as early as 5 weeks, although most are weaned between 12-16 weeks.
- Deworm every 1-2 months until 6 months old.
- Offer creep feed as early as 4 days. Make sure they have access to creep and hay by 21 days.
- May add coccidiostat to water or feed after 2 months of age.
- Separate buck kids at 3-4 months as some may mature early.
- To avoid urinary stones (urolithiasis) in bucks and wethers:
Clean waterers are paramount & plenty of waterer space.
Wethers generally need no concentrates, unless being raised for meat.
Calcium phosphorus ratio should be 2:1. Avoid high magnesium or high mineral level s
Meats goats and bucks being fed concentrate rations should have 1% sodium chloride and .5% ammonium chloride. Alfalfa may help balance out phosphorus in grain rations.

SOME POINTS ON CAE (CAPRINE ARTHRITIS-ENCEPHALITIS COMPLEX)

- Serologic testing done in WA, MI, FL, CA and Idaho found 80% goat sera positive for CAE.
- The virus is transmitted in the neonatal period in milk/colostrums, secretions or excretions by the doe, or via the respiratory route.
- If this has been a problem, pasteurize milk fed to kids, separate immediately at birth, and consider testing the herd for CAE.

SCRAPIE ERADICATION IN A NUTSHELL:

1. Determine if your goats need official ear tags or other official identification to move interstate.
2. Request a Premises Herd ID number
3. Determine which of the approved ear tags or other official ID work best for you
4. Set up a system to record the ear tags or other official ID that are applied
5. Apply official ID before goats leave your premises (or arrange for application elsewhere)
6. Get a health certificate
7. Retain ID records for 5 years
8. Call toll-free for help if needed 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824)

Information website www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie