

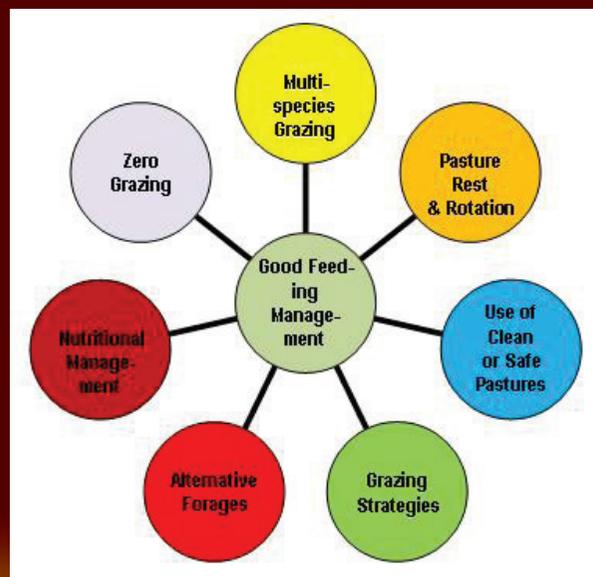
certain that the adoption has succeeded.

To persuade the Doe to accept the kid, one of several techniques can be used. Rub the kid in the placenta of the doe's own kid; if you are replacing a dead kid, put its skin onto the adoptee; if the doe still refuses, she can be put into a head gate to prevent her pushing the kid away when it attempts to suckle. After a few days, the doe will usually accept the kid.

Feeding Goat

Nutrition plays a major role in the overall productivity, health, and well-being of the goat flock. During the grazing season, goats are able to meet their nutrient requirements from pasture and a salt and mineral supplement. Permanent pasture should be the predominant source of nutrition for the goat flock.

Intensive goat production systems where the goats are housed and fed harvested feeds are not as profitable as more extensive production systems where they harvest their own feed. When a sufficient quantity of forage is available, goats are able to meet their



nutrient requirements from forage alone along with a supplemental source of salt and minerals.

Legumes should be planted on permanent pastures to improve the quantity and quality of forage produced during the grazing season. Goats prefer to graze leafy,

vegetative growth that is 2 to 6 inches tall rather than stemmy, more mature forages. Pasture growth is not distributed evenly throughout the year. Rotational grazing programs designed for the movement of goats every 10 to 14 days are instituted to improve both pasture and kid production. More intensive rotational grazing systems where higher stocking rates are used help to promote more complete forage utilization, but also require greater input costs in the form of fence and water and may result in higher levels of internal parasitism, increased risk of coccidiosis, and impaired kid performance.

Considerations

One of the basic aspects of a goat farming operation is to make sure that Does become pregnant and have kids. It is important to understand the basic physiology of the reproductive cycle to ensure that management decisions do not prevent Does from becoming pregnant. Conception rate varies between season, age, breed and kidding system. Understanding the effect of these factors will enable you to determine what a good conception rate is for your farm.

Good conception rates are essential for the profitability of a goat farm. If conception rates are not high, consider and review the many factors that influence the number of Does kidding and the number of kids born, including age, breed, kidding interval, health, nutrition, stress and the ability of the Buck.

Common Diseases

The two common diseases in Goats are foot rot and worms.

Foot Rot - Overgrown hoofs can trap dirt and mud thus weakening the hoofs and allow foreign objects to penetrate and injuring the foot.

Signs - Goats may be found to be limping, Loss of appetite.

Immediate Impact- Goats will drastically lose weight. Reproductive performance will decrease.

Prevention - Avoid grazing in wet and boggy areas, Continuous trimming of foot every 5 – 6 months

Treatment-Trim the overgrown hoofs and treat with copper sulphate mixed with Vaseline. Dip the trimmed foot in a 10% Formalin solution.

For more information contact

Land Use Planning Section, Koronivia Research Station

Phone: (+679) 347 7044,

Lautoka-Phone: (+679) 666 4425,

Labasa-Phone: +679 881 2466



Ministry of Agriculture

BASIC INFORMATION ON GOAT FARMING



Farmers Leaflet 2014

BREEDS



Anglo Nubian Buck

- Long deep body
- Roman Nose (convex)
- Dual purpose (meat and milk)
- Very fertile
- Well adapted
- Good mothering ability
- Large pendulous and floppy ears
- Buck weight 79kg and Does weight 61kg



Anglo Nubian Doe

- Coat is fine and glossy and can be of any color **ally droopy ears**
- Large size and double muscled
- Fast growth rate and high carcass quality
- Developed for meat and hardiness
- High resistance to worm and diseases
- Docile and having high fertility rates
- Superior mothering skills compared to other goats
- Buck weight-120kg, Does-100kg
- Susceptible to wet weather/conditions (foot rot)



Boer Goat

- Mostly white body and brown head



Boer Cross

REPRODUCTION & GROWTH

The profitability of a goat enterprise depends on the number of kids sold either for meat or as breeding stock. The number raised to market is a reflection of the complete management of the flock throughout the year. One of the critical points in this management cycle is kidding.

The Doe is required to deliver strong healthy kids and to have sufficient milk to raise those kids. Her ability to do this is a reflection of the gestation management. The amount of supplementary feed depends on the size and body condition of the Does and the quality of forage being fed. Flushing to be done 2-3 weeks prior to mating. This is to stimulate higher ovulation rate. Mating can be done in 2 ways

Hand Mating – Doe on heat identified through teaser bucks, Doe and buck allowed to mate in a single pen, Season may reach up to 21 - 42 days depending on the

does on heat.

Paddock Mating – Bucks and Does are left to mate freely in the paddocks. A ratio of 1 buck : 20-30 does is used. A period of 21 days is allowed for paddock mating.

Kidding:

- The average gestation period for a doe is 150 days
- The doe may produce single, twins and triplets kids
- Navel of newborn should be dipped in iodine / cotton wool soaked in iodine to be rubbed to the navel and its base
- Newborn kids should get colostrums within the first 1 – 6 hours Colostrum should be ingested or bottle-fed to weak kids as soon as they have a suckling reflex
- In the first few days of a lambs life there are several procedures that should be carried out.

Management Practises:

Castration (optional)

Best time to do castration is when kids are 7 days old.

Methods include open castration, rubber ring and Burdizzo (crush)

The purpose is to remove unwanted traits, Fastened growth rate for fattening stock, Tame wild and aggressive adult animals]

Tagging:

Identification purposes, Tagging is done when kids are 3 – 4 days old,, Tag number contains the year and sequence of birth

MANAGEMENT

Fostering

For any one of a variety of reasons, a kid may need to be fostered onto another doe. If possible fostering should be considered as an option before bottle feeding for the orphan.

Fostering should be as soon after birth as possible. If the kid has not dried off, so much the better. If fostering from a set of triplets, choose the strongest kid Keep the Doe and the fostered kid in a kidding pen until you are