

Bear Creek Mobile Veterinary Services

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Herd Health Plan for Goats Husbandry:

Goats should be separated according to age, sex and gestation. Purchased goats should be separated from the rest of the herd for a minimum of 14 days where they can be vaccinated and dewormed upon arrival. Kids should be weaned at 4-6 months for meat goats. Replacement does should be separated from young bucks and market does for appropriate management. Replacement does should be ready for breeding when they reach 60-70% of their adult weight which in most meat goats is 60-70 pounds. All feeders should be placed off the ground and they should be constructed in a way that goats cannot lay or defecate in them. 1.5 to 2 feet of feed bunk space should be allowed per adult goat. All feed bunks and water tubs should be cleaned with soap and water every 5-7 days. Goats should be supplemented with a feed designed **specifically for goats** to complement their forage status. A 14-16 % protein high energy goat feed should be used where there is insufficient pasture at a rate of 1-2% of their body weight for kids one-year-old or less. Adults should be supplemented at a rate of 0.5 to 1% of body weight. Feed should always be feed at a minimum of twice a day and never left out for free choice. If you have feed left in your bunk then you need to reduce the quantity of feed offered until your goats are the appropriate body condition according to their production status. We prefer that each lot have a run in shelter where the goats can get in for severe weather.

Vaccination Protocol:

- 1.) Kids- vaccinated with a CDT (Clostridia Types C&D, Tetanus Toxoid) vaccine at 4 weeks and then repeat 3-4 weeks later.
- 2.) Pregnant Does- vaccinate with a CDT vaccine one month prior to kidding.
- 3.) Bucks and Yearlings-vaccinate with a CDT vaccine at the same time pregnant does are vaccinated.
**Goats that are handled frequently should be vaccinated against rabies.*

Deworming Protocol:

- 1.) Pregnant does should be dewormed 1 month prior to the first kid and then every 2-4 weeks until one month after the last kid is born.
- 2.) Kids should be dewormed initially at 4 weeks old, 7 weeks old, and 10 weeks old.
- 3.) Monitor your goats' mucus membrane color to determine if you need to deworm the group. Pink is normal. Pale or white means you need to deworm the whole group. *You especially need to check their gums 10-14 days after a hard rain.*
- 4.) Rotate your dewormers every other time to prevent them from developing a resistance. A good choice for dewormers are :
 - A.) Cydectin (Moxidectin 5 mg/ml)- give 1 ml for every 25 pounds **by mouth**- 25 day slaughter withdraw time and a 48hr milk discard time.
 - B.) Ivermectrin (1% injectable)- give 1 ml for every 50 pounds by mouth- 14 day slaughter withdraw time and 60 day milk discard time.
 - C.) Oxyfenbendazole (225 mg/ml)-give 1 ml for every 10 pounds by mouth- 10 day slaughter withdraw time.**These are all extralabel drug use doses and withdraw times are based on FARAD data.*
- 5.) Never underdose goats on dewormers. Be extremely careful when using over the counter dewormers like levamasole and valbazen-be as accurate with weight of the animal as you can and do not use in pregnant females.