

Fresh Doe and Newborn Kid Management

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Overview

- Introduction
- Fresh Doe Management
- Newborn Kid Management

Introduction

- Goats are intelligent animals
- Approximately 500 million goats worldwide
- Estimated number of goats in MN at 7500
- Vital for meat and milk production
- Ideal as companion animals
- Ideal for FFA and 4-H groups
- Significant growth in dairy and meat goat industries in Minnesota

Reproduction

- Goats are seasonal breeders
- Minnesota breeding season: early August through February
- Approximately 150 day gestation
- Does often produce multiple kids
- Puberty: 6-8 months, breeding at 7-10 months or at 70% of body weight for doelings
- Production goals dependent on breed and producer: dairy or meat, companion, competition

Reproduction

- Goat production goals: revolve around the pregnant doe and good management!
- If the doe is not pregnant: acceptable for pet goats but unacceptable for production does!!
- Reproduction success depends on:
 - Healthy does with healthy, trimmed feet
 - Good Nutrition
 - Disease and Parasite Prevention

Fresh Doe Management

- Begins before the doe is bred
- Good management practices are essential
- Preventive health strategies are essential
- Detailed Record Keeping is Critical:
 - Requires identification of all does/bucks
 - Frequent observation of heat cycles
 - Heat detection
 - Recommend hand or small group breeding
 - Production and genetic history

Nutrition

- Good nutrition essential for reproduction
- Trace granular mineral or salt with iodine
- Ration: should be balanced and consist mainly of quality forages,
- Pregnant Dairy Does: 2 lb/grain mix/day average
- Fresh, clean water
- Forage: ideal relative feed value >165 for pregnant does
 - Ideal RFV for lactating does >185
 - Know the forage source and quality
 - Forage analysis: Dairyland Laboratories, Inc
 - www.dairylandlabs.com

Parasite Control

- Emphasis on prevention not treatment!
- Parasite Control Strategies:
 - Control fecal-oral contamination
 - Feed/mineral/water off the ground
 - Feeders should be “goat proof”
 - Clean feed and water troughs regularly
 - Store feed/grain/mineral in clean, dry area
 - Keep cats and rodents out of feedstuffs
 - Control feral cat population

Parasite Monitoring

- Parasitism: major cause of production losses
- Monitor parasite levels with fecal egg counts (FEC's)
- Deworming should be based on FEC's
- Regular deworming with no knowledge of parasite levels in herd is not recommended
- Reducing exposure to feces is #1

Body Condition Score (BCS)

- Reproduction and twinning: influenced by good management practices and BCS
- “Flushing”: technique to increase kidding rates with supplemental grain before breeding
- BCS influenced by nutrition, parasite control, health status, life stage, age, breed
- Must palpate animal to body condition score

Body Condition Score

- 1: extremely thin, weak, emaciated
- 2: extremely thin but ambulatory
- 3: very thin, ribs/backbone sharp/obvious
- 4: slightly thin, ribs/backbone visible
- 5: moderate, backbone palpable, some fat
- 6: good, smooth look
- 7: fat
- 8: obese
- 9: extremely obese
- Note: refer to Breeding/Goat Management in the Goat Herd (Luginbuhl, Poore, Mueller, Green)

Recommendations

- From Luginbuhl, Poore, Mueller, Green
- End of pregnancy: 5-6
- Start of breeding season: 5-6
- Body condition score before and after kidding to insure nutritional needs of the doe meet her reproductive and lactation requirements

Mastitis Prevention

- Mastitis Prevention
 - Helps maintain healthy doe
 - Essential for colostrum and milk production
 - Decreases health risks for newborn kids
 - Provide a clean environment
 - Keep the udder clean
 - Attention to milking procedure in dairy does
 - Dry treat dairy does
 - Provide 60 day lactation rest period

Vaccination of the Doe

- Vaccination strategies will vary
- Caution when vaccinating pregnant does: do not use CLA or Covexin 8 vaccines
- All does:
 - Clostridium perfringens C/D and Tetanus
 - 2-3x as goat kid
 - 4-6 weeks pre-partum to doe to provide colostral antibodies to the goat kid
 - Quality colostrom essential to the goat kid!

The Pregnant Doe

- A healthy, pregnant doe is critical to success!
- Record keeping of breeding is essential!
- Pregnancy Determination: ultrasound
- Trans-abdominal ultrasound
 - Affordable and economical
 - Determines pregnancy and number of fetuses
 - Determines which does are open or have reproductive problems

Dystocia in Does

- Is your doe experiencing a dystocia??
- Check your breeding records to help make an educated decision
- Is your doe pregnant?? Or is she fat??
- Ultrasound information: to determine number of fetuses
 - Integrity of the placenta
 - Viability of the fetuses

Signs of Possible Dystocia

Dystocia

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graph TD; A[Dystocia] --- B[Prolonged Labor Due Date is Now Or Past Due]; A --- C[Pawing at Ground Colicky Concerned Behavior No Progress]; A --- D[Fetal Malposition Head, no feet Legs, no head One leg or nothing];
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Prolonged Labor
Due Date is Now
Or Past Due

Pawing at Ground
Colicky
Concerned Behavior
No Progress

Fetal Malposition
Head, no feet
Legs, no head
One leg or nothing

Dystocia Rules

Cardinal Rules:

Safety: for the doe and owner

Cleanliness: kid in a clean, dry area bedded with fresh straw, cleanse hands and the doe's perineum, gloves

Gentleness: never use force on a doe!

Lubrication: lots of obstetrical lube!

Dystocia Kit

- Keep emergency kit on hand
 - Clean, dry towels and bucket of warm water
 - Good lighting and clean, dry bedding
 - Obstetrical lubricant (lots of it!)
 - Cleanser for hands and doe's perineum
 - Gloves and clean plastic sleeves
 - Navel Dip
 - Kid feeding supplies: feeding tube or bottle
 - Remember: zoonotic potential

Once the Kids are Out

- Keep the kid(s) on clean towels
- Stimulate the kids by rubbing them
- Clean out upper airway, coupage chest
- Kids from a dystocia may be slow initially due to lack of oxygen
- Keep kids warm
- Feed colostrum: if goat kid slow to develop strong suckle, tube feed colostrum

The Postpartum Doe

- Provide room temperature water for her
- May also offer electrolytes if dystocia or prolonged labor, clean her udder
- Check for vaginal tears and bleeding if difficult kidding, retained placenta possible
- Antibiotic (Excenel) and Anti-inflammatory (Banamine) may be warranted
- Offer good quality forage and grain mix

Newborn Goat Kid Management

- Know the doe's breeding date
- Is she pregnant?
- Kidding area: must be clean, dry, bedded with fresh straw
- Goal: reduce bacterial exposure to newborn goat kid via mouth and umbilicus
- Breeding/ultrasound dates will determine frequency of how often doe is checked

Newborn Goat Kid Treatment

- Will vary depending on producer goal and type of doe (dairy, meat, pet, show)
- All goat kids should receive:
 - Identification
 - Umbilical dip
 - Health check for imperfections: check for hernias, extra teats, cleft palate, imperfect bite
 - 10% of their body weight in colostrum in 12 hr

More Health Strategies

- Design protocol specific for your goals
- Assess udder health of the doe
- Know the health status of the doe
- Heat treat colostrum for CAEV prevention at 135 degrees for 1 hour
- Separate out kids ASAP from the doe to reduce risk of CAEV or Johne's
- Place kids with ID in clean, plastic tubs
- Give Selenium or Vitamin E depending on region
- Disbud kids within 2 weeks of life

Environment

- Clean, dry bedding
- Damp, dirty bedding increase disease risk of mastitis, diarrhea, umbilical infection, pneumonia
- Good ventilation to reduce risk of pneumonia
- All feedstuffs off the ground to reduce fecal contamination
- Isolation pens for sick or new goats

Herd Health Programs

- Emphasis on preventive health strategies!
- Good record keeping
- Attention to detail and observation
- Cleanliness to reduce fecal-oral exposure
- Quality nutrition with emphasis on forage
- Parasite control and prevention program
- Know the pregnancy status of your doe!

Questions or Comments?

- Thanks!