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SINCE

HOW TO GET STARTED RAISING BACKYARD GOATS

GET STARTED WITH BACKYARD GOATS USING THESE 11 TIPS.

Thinking about raising backyard goats but not sure where to start? Whether you're raising goats as pets or to provide food for your family, the basics are the same – food, water and shelter. Planning for these fundamental requirements before your goats arrive will ensure a happy, healthy backyard herd.

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE GETTING STARTED WITH BACKYARD GOATS:

BUDDY SYSTEM: Goats are social, herd animals. Having at least two goats helps with overall health and gives them someone to interact with during the day.

SHELTER: Provide someplace for your goats to get out of the weather. It can be as simple as a few pieces of tin or an elaborate shed.

FENCING: The saying goes, "if you can throw a bucket of water through it, a goat will find its way out." While this may be a stretch, goats do need more secure fencing than most livestock. Chain link fence, woven wire or hog panels set at ground level can work nicely. Avoid an elevated fence or gaps between the barriers so goats aren't tempted to crawl out.

SPACE: Provide a minimum of 15-by-15 feet of space per pair of goats. The more space for them to move, the better it will be for their overall health and well-being.

WATER SOURCE: A fresh bucket of water every morning and evening is a simple way to deliver water to goats. If you use a larger tank, make sure it's low enough for goats to reach.

FEEDERS: Obesity is a common issue with backyard goats. Invest in a feeder for hay and goat feed to monitor and control feed intake. Fence hanging feeders or an elevated trough work great and allows you to better manage intake. Do not feed goats on the ground to avoid spreading internal parasites propagated via manure.

FORAGE: Goats must eat the equivalent of 3% of their body weight in forage every day. For instance, a 100 lb. goat needs 3 lb. of forage each day. This can be hay or fresh grass provided by the backyard pen. Goats can be picky eaters, so it may take some trial and error to find the forage they like best.

GOAT FEED: With forage quality likely limited in a backyard, supplemental nutrition is necessary to ensure goats receive sufficient nutrients. High fiber, low energy goat feed works well for backyard goats because they can't overeat the pellets easily.

AVOID BLOAT: Because backyard goats sometimes overeat, bloat can occur, causing gastric issues, and in severe situations lead to death. Feeding supplemental goat feed according to the label is always recommended to avoid bloat. Additionally, a pH balancer provides extra protection against bloat. Including Purina® High Octane® ALLEVIATE® gastric support supplement at a rate of 1 ounce per every 50 lbs. of body weight per day will help prevent and relieve potential bloat issues.

GOAT MINERAL: Supplemental feed and forage supply protein, fat and carbohydrates, but are lacking in vitamins and minerals important to maintaining a goat's nutritional needs. Provide a loose bag mineral containing a balance of vitamins and minerals, such as Purina® Goat Mineral. Offer mineral free-choice in an elevated trough. Avoid using a mineral block because goats tend to climb things and play with it before eating.

ENTERTAINMENT: Goats are naturally curious and like to play. Giving your goats items to climb or jump from, like a ball or hanging material, is a good idea. Not only will it entertain the goats, but you'll enjoy watching them.

Follow these foundational steps and you'll be well on your way to raising happy, healthy backyard goats.

Clay Elliott, Ph.D.



THE POWER OF COLOSTRUM FOR KID GOATS AND LAMBS

KIDDING AND LAMBING SEASON BRINGS JOY AND EXCITEMENT FOR ALL INVOLVED. NEWBORN KIDS AND LAMBS ARE NOT ONLY ADORABLE, BUT ALSO REPRESENT THE FUTURE OF YOUR HERD OR FLOCK.

Colostrum feeding is essential for newborns and can play a significant role in your animals' long-term productivity potential. Read these tips to help you get newborn lambs and kids off to a strong start.

THE POWER OF LAMB AND GOAT COLOSTRUM

Newborn lambs and kid goats can be exposed to unfamiliar bacteria and pathogens, putting their health and future performance at risk. Nearly 20 percent of lambs die before weaning, with 80 percent of those losses occurring during the first 10 days of life. Research on kid goat pre-weaning mortality rates showed similar trends.



Colostrum, or the first milk from ewes or does, protects newborn lambs and kid goats with antibodies that fend off intestinal, respiratory and other diseases. Kids and lambs don't receive immune support from their mothers while in utero, so feeding high-quality colostrum or colostrum replacer during the first hours of life is essential for long-term health and performance. Colostrum also contains high energy levels to help newborns stay warm and Vitamins A and E promote digestive and respiratory system development.

FEEDING BABY GOATS AND LAMBS COLOSTRUM

Protection against disease hinges on high-quality colostrum fed immediately after birth. Timing is crucial because the intestinal wall begins to close only mere hours after birth, blocking the protective antibodies from entering the bloodstream.

Newborn lambs and kids should receive at least 10 percent of their body weight in colostrum by 18 hours of age. For example, a 10-pound animal should consume at least 1 pound (or 16 ounces) of colostrum in its first day of life. At least half of this volume should be consumed within 4 to 8 hours after birth.

Once in the system, the antibodies help fight off infections while the newborn lamb or kid builds a stable immune system.

COLOSTRUM QUALITY MATTERS

Colostrum is a critical ingredient to newborn goat kid and lamb success. However, poor quality or quantity of colostrum produced by the ewe or doe can – and does – happen. Colostrum production is highly variable, with older ewes and does often producing higher volume compared to younger animals. Ewes and does with multiple offspring are often unable to produce enough colostrum for all newborns, potentially leaving some of their offspring unprotected.

The health of the mother also impacts the quality of the colostrum produced. Ewes infected with Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) or does infected with Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) can transmit the disease to their young through the colostrum.

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COLOSTRUM REPLACER

One way to ensure all newborns receive high-quality colostrum in adequate quantities is through a high-quality colostrum replacer designed for lambs and kids. Colostrum replacers can provide the same – or even better in cases such as OPP or CAE – protection to newborn lambs and kids than maternal colostrum. Colostrum replacers give lambs and kids the nutrition they need with less risk of disease transfer.

High-quality colostrum replacers are typically made of dried bovine colostrum and contain high levels of natural colostral fat, protein, vitamins and minerals needed by newborn goat kids and lambs. When choosing a colostrum replacer, look for one that's high in Immunoglobulin G (IgG) to help provide essential antibodies to build the immune system.

LAND O LAKES® Colostrum Replacer for Kid Goats and Lambs contains over 20% IgGs.

Also, look for a product that's licensed and tested by the USDA to meet passive transfer requirements and is designed specifically for lambs and kid goats.

The first few hours of life can determine a kid or lamb's future performance.

Purina Animal Nutrition

YOUR GUIDE TO KIDDING PREP

The kidding season is an exciting yet stressful time of year. We're here to help you achieve a stress-free and successful season. This guide covers everything you need to prepare for kidding season.

OUR FREE GUIDE HELPS YOU:

- Set newborn goat management goals
- Make a pre-kidding checklist
- Create a nutrition plan for feeding baby goats
- Build a colostrum feeding strategy
- Identify important items for your kidding kit



<https://www.augustacoop.com/land-o-lakes-kid-prepping-guide/>



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CREEP FEEDING LAMBS

Getting young lambs off to a good start sets the table for the potential for a healthy, fast growing, profitable lamb. Creep feeding young lambs provides an opportunity to get lambs started on feed at a much younger age. These lambs then have the potential for optimal weaning weights and can have added bloom and finish.

Lambs that have been fed lamb creep feed rations often experience less stress at weaning as they are used to being fed. Minimizing stress at weaning can positively impact health and performance.

Here are some tips for successfully creep feeding your lambs:

LAMB CREEP PEN

A creep pen is designed for young lambs to have access to additional feed concentrates separate from their mothers and other mature sheep.

A lamb creep pen should be set up to allow the lambs continuous access to fresh creep feed and a clean and dry environment. The creep gate should be adjusted to ensure access for the lambs but prevent the ewes from gaining access to the creep pen and lamb creep feeder. The creep area should be large enough for several lambs to eat at one time.

A heat lamp or light is often used in colder climates to encourage lambs to find the creep pen. The creep pen and feeder should be setup and available shortly after the ewes and lambs are let out of the lambing pens. The young lambs will soon find that the clean, dry, well-lit creep pen is good place to find feed. Lambs will often explore the creep pen or even nibble on hay or grain in the creep pen as early as 5-7 days of age. However, most lambs will not eat much creep feed until 4-5 weeks of age.

LAMB CREEP FEEDERS

Whether using a self-feeder or a handfeeding, the lamb creep feeders need to be clean. Lambs won't eat out of a feeder that is dirty or wet. Make sure the lamb creep feeder is free from manure, dirt, straw and excessive moisture. Most sheep breeders will keep feed in the creep feeder at all times. This ensures every lamb will have access to feed every time it goes in the creep pen. Many producers also like to keep good fine stemmed hay available in the creep pen.

CHOOSING THE BEST CREEP FEED FOR LAMBS

A lamb creep feed ration should be between 15-20 percent crude protein, 2-5.5 percent fat and a 2:1 calcium-to-phosphorus ratio. The specific feed that works best will be determined by the genetic make-up of the sheep and the intended market. For example, purebred breeders may like a 20 percent creep pellet for added growth. Club Lamb producers like added fat to produce bloomier lambs at sale time. Some producers like the consistency of feeding a 16 percent to both the ewes and lambs and through the lambs' grower phase.

Lamb creep feeds need to contain something to help control or prevent coccidiosis in lambs. Both Decoquinolate (trade name, Deccox) and lasalocid (trade name, Bovatec) are approved for prevention of coccidia in sheep. A Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is not required for these products.

A smaller pellet is currently the most popular choice for creep feeding lambs. The smaller pellet is preferred by the younger lambs and prevents the sorting that is often found in a texturized or mixed feed. Some producers will make their own lamb creep feed rations on farm. The correct sheep feed pellets, maintaining consistent particle size and too many fines are all challenges with on-farm mixing.

Mark Johnson

Augusta Co-op Solutions

Augusta, 16% Lamb Creep Pellets, 50 lbs.

A starter feed for lambs, including those that are consuming lamb milk replacer. Designed for young lambs that may have been orphaned by the mother, are not getting enough milk from their mother or that you simply want to get off to a faster start.



SKU - 40101

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GOAT FEED			
SHOWGOAT	16.5	4.0	10.0
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HOG FEED			
SHOWPIG	19.5	6.0	40
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AUGUSTA CO-OP SPRAYING SERVICES

Focusing on small agricultural pasture applications.

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