

Sand and Sage Round-Up Market Goat Study Guide

GENERAL

Most shows require that goats have their milk teeth

Most goats lose their milk teeth after 10-12 months of age

Goats can gain approximately 2-3 pounds per week

Indicators i.e. frame size, growth of head, neck, cannon bone and body will help you in determining at what weight a goat will be correctly finished

Market Goat weight limits for the County Fair-Read your Fair Book

FACILITIES

Barns & Sheds

You should have 15 square feet of space for each goat

Structures should be well ventilated but should be made so that the goats can be protected from _____ the winter cold

Fences

Should be at least 42 inches high

Should be predator proof

12-inch mesh should be used instead of 6-inch mesh to keep the goats from hanging their heads on the wire

The most desirable pens are made from galvanized livestock panels that are 5 feet tall with 4-inch squares

Feeders

Self-feeders should be blocked at least 6-inches off the ground

If hand fed, make sure that the troughs are movable and hung at the appropriate height

Troughs should be hung at the same height as the top of the shoulder of the goat being fed

Movable troughs need to be cleaned regularly

Goats should never be able to stand in their feed troughs

Water Containers

Water should be checked daily

Containers should be small in size so that they can be cleaned and drained regularly

Containers should be located in the shade so that the water stays cool

Water should never be totally removed from the goat; rationing water can be done prior to a show to reduce the signs of a bell so that the goat looks better in the show ring

SELECTION OF A GOAT

General things to know

Know the animals' age
Be aware of fat thickness
Know some things about bloodlines

Structural correctness

Refers to the skeletal system
Goat should hold its head erect and the neck should extend straight from the top of the shoulders
Goat should travel and stand wide and straight on both front and rear legs and legs should be placed squarely under the body
Goat should have a strong level top
Goat should have a long rump with a slight slope from the hooks to the pins
Goat should be heavy boned and be strong on its pasterns
AVOID goats that are:
Open shouldered
Weak topped
Weak pasterns
Steep rumped

Muscle

A goat that walks and stands wide is going to be heavier muscled
Goat should have a deep, heavy muscled leg and rump
Looking from behind, the widest part of the leg should be the stifle
Goat should have a broad, thick back and loin that is naturally firm and hard handling
Goat should be wide through its chest floor with bold shoulders and prominent forearm muscle

Volume & Capacity

Refers to relationship of body length to body depth and body width
Goats should be long bodied with adequate depth and spring of rib

NUTRITION

General Information

Some goats can be on a self-feeding method; however some don't do well, and across the board hand fed twice per day can be just as effective
All livestock require five basic nutrients: water, protein, fats and carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins

Water

Composes 70% of lean tissue
Water will regulate the amount of feed that a goat will consume
SOMETIMES reduced water will reduce feed intake, shrinking the size of the rumen and making for a better appearance

Protein

Primary constituent of the animal body

Dietary protein

Maintains or replaces protein in the body tissues

Provides for carriers of other nutrients

Major component of various products; such as meat, milk, and fiber

Requirements vary with the size of the goat, but it is needed daily

Rations that contain 16-18% protein are generally useful

Remember that if total feed intake is reduced, you must provide protein supplementation to make up the difference

Fats & Carbohydrates

These are the most common limiting nutrients (energy producing fats/carbohydrates)

Inadequate energy intake will result in slow growth and weight loss

These are necessary for efficient nutrient utilization

Grains and protein supplements are high in energy

Remember that too much energy intake can be just as bad as not enough

Minerals

Minerals of major concern are: salt, calcium, and phosphorus

Salt can be fed free choice, however many rations contain ½ - 1% salt

Calcium/Phosphorus are necessary for proper growth and development and should be fed in the ration at the rate of 2 parts calcium to 1 part phosphorus

Rations that contain high levels of phosphorus in relation to calcium may cause urinary calculi

The addition of ammonium chloride at the rate of 10-15 pounds per ton of feed will help prevent urinary calculi

Roughages are generally high in calcium and low in phosphorus

Grains are generally low in calcium and intermediate in phosphorus

Most protein supplements are high in phosphorus and intermediate in calcium

A mineral supplement with a 25-30% protein content can be beneficial when used to top dress the ration unless the ration is pelleted

Mineral supplements must be used in proper amounts because excess will deplete the muscle mass of the goat

Vitamins

Essential for proper body function

Required only in small amounts

Only vitamin A is ever likely to be deficient

Serving alfalfa hay or pellets with the ration should counteract any deficiency problems

It would be a good idea to inoculate your goats with a good vitamin B complex occasionally since it promotes their health and keeps them well

HEALTH

General Information

The key is to develop a good preventative health program

Diseases/Illnesses

Enterotoxemia – overeating disease

There are seldom symptoms and rapid death is the normal result
Caused by a clostridial organism normally present in the intestine of most goats
Goats that have had their feeding schedule abruptly changed or consume large amounts of rain are subject to this disease

Internal parasites

Newly purchased goats should be drenched immediately for internal parasites and a second drenching should follow about 3 weeks later
You should only get a drench that has been approved by your vet and you should rotate the drenches because parasites can become resistant to drenches over time

Urinary calculi

Metabolic disease in male goats is characterized by the formation of calculi or stones in the urinary tract
The first sign is the inability to pass urine, and then they will become restless, kick at their bellies, stretch, and attempt to urinate
Common cause is feed rations high in phosphorus and an imbalance of phosphorus and calcium (e.g. grains are high in phosphorus and low in calcium; high concentrate rations may cause urinary calculi)
Successful preventative is to provide a 2:1 calcium phosphorus ratio in the ration and by adding 10-15 pounds of ammonium chloride per ton of feed and provide plenty of water

Coccidiosis

Causes weight loss and continued inefficiency in goats
Characterized by bloody diarrhea, dehydration, weight loss and weakness
Sick goats should be separated and given individual treatments by a vet
Most rations have a coccidiostat that should help with control

Soremouth

Contagious, viral disease that causes the formation of scabs on the lips and around the mouths of goats
The virus can affect humans, so you should be careful when handling infected goats
Iodine can be rubbed into the lesions after the scabs are removed to help dry the area out and reduce the infection

Ringworm

Contagious and can be passed from goat to goat, goat to human, or infected equipment to goat or human
Traditionally it's a problem in lambs, but since lambs and goats are often shown in the same rings, it could be a problem in goats as well
Some treatments include:
Fulvicin-powder given as bolus or used as a top dress on feed
Novasan-3 ounces per gallon of water sprayed on goats, premises, and equipment
Bleach-10% solution sprayed on goats, premises, and equipment

Pinkeye

Highly contagious
Excessive watering of the eye and clouding over of the pupil
Goats are susceptible especially after they have been transported to a new location

Dry, dusty pens and constant exposure to sunlight can also contribute

Other health related issues

Illegal drugs

Always prohibited and will disqualify an animal if used

Hoof Trimming

Long hooves should be trimmed about every 6 weeks and always 1-2 weeks before a show

Dehorning or tipping

You should dehorn around 10-14 days of age

You should tip 4-6 weeks prior to a show

MANAGEMENT AND FEEDING

Pelleted ration is recommended over others because goats are picky eaters and pellets seem to work the best

You should select a ration, learn how to feed it, and then watch to see how the goat responds to the ration

Many young goats won't know how to eat pellets right away, so they should be started on a leafy alfalfa that is top dressed with the pellets, then 3-4 days later a ration should be introduced, then slowly work to feeding only pellets

Most goats can be self-fed, but some can become fat and need to be hand fed

Fat deposits must be monitored throughout the feeding program and the feeding program can be adjusted accordingly to modify gain and body composition

You should allow your goat a good feeding program, and this will maximize its potential

Allow for room for the goat to get exercise because this will make the goat handle harder and firmer and give you an advantage in the show ring

