

# Basic Goat Production



## Goat Basics

## Basic Goat Production



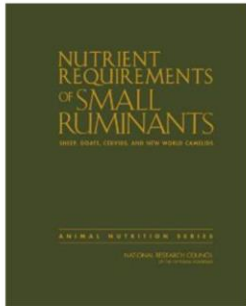
# Nutrition



It all starts with grazing and allowing the animal to harvest its own feed.

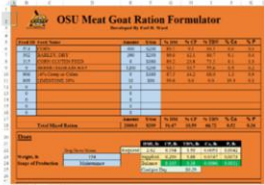
# Nutrient Requirements

Basic Goat Production



## Nutrient Requirements of meat goats

Source: *Nutrient Requirements of Small Ruminants: sheep, goats, cervids, and new order camelids*, National Research Council (2007)




### Nutrient Requirements for mature non-dairy does (lb per day)


Stage of Production	BW, lb	DMI, lb	% BW	TDN, lb	CP, lb	Ca, lb	P, lb	Ca:P
Maintenance	44	1.10	2.50	0.57	0.077	0.0026	0.0018	1.50
	66	1.50	2.26	0.79	0.103	0.0031	0.0022	1.40
	88	1.85	2.10	0.99	0.128	0.0037	0.0029	1.31
	110	2.18	1.99	1.17	0.150	0.0042	0.0033	1.27
	132	2.51	1.90	1.32	0.172	0.0046	0.0037	1.24
	154	2.82	1.83	1.50	0.194	0.0051	0.0042	1.21
176	3.10	1.77	1.65	0.213	0.0055	0.0044	1.25	
Breeding	44	1.21	2.75	0.64	0.084	0.0029	0.0020	1.44
	66	1.65	2.48	0.88	0.112	0.0033	0.0024	1.36
	88	2.02	2.31	1.08	0.141	0.0040	0.0031	1.29
	110	2.40	2.19	1.28	0.165	0.0044	0.0035	1.25
	132	2.75	2.09	1.45	0.189	0.0048	0.0040	1.22
	154	3.10	2.01	1.65	0.211	0.0055	0.0044	1.25
176	3.41	1.94	1.80	0.233	0.0059	0.0048	1.23	

# Body Condition Score

Basic Goat Production




1




TOO THIN

2




THIN

3




SATISFACTORY

4





SATISFACTORY  
BUT TENDING  
TOWARDS FAT

5



TOO FAT





The National Center for  
Appropriate Technology

Local solutions for a sustainable future

**Keys to maintaining good body condition: proper nutrition and health.**

Heavy-milking does and ewes will be thinner and this is not cause for concern. Body condition will vary throughout the year due to production stages and diet; the goal should be to maintain near a score of 3. Animals that are too fat or too thin may not breed or will have difficulty lambing or kidding or lactating. Other health problems can result from extremes of condition as well.

Goals for body condition are the same for sheep, but to assess condition you **MUST** handle the animals as the wool camouflages true condition.

**Score 1 Very poor body condition**

Deep cavity under tail and around tail head. Skin drawn tight over pelvis with no muscle tissue detectable in between.

No fatty tissue felt at loin. Pins, hooks, and short ribs can be seen; edges feel sharp.

**Score 2 Poor body condition**

Cavity around tail head is evident, but less prominent. No fatty tissue felt between skin and pelvis, but skin is supple.

Ends of short ribs are sharp to the touch, but individual ribs can no longer be seen. While bones are less prominent, they are still angular and can be easily distinguished by touch.

### **Score 3 Good body condition**

Slight cavity lined with fatty tissue apparent at tail head. Area between pins has smoothed out.

Ends of short ribs can be felt with moderate pressure. Slight depression visible in loin area. Hooks and pins can be felt but have some covering of flesh. Hook, pin, and back bones appear smooth.

### **Score 4 Fatty body condition**

Depression between pins and tail head filling in. Patches of fat apparent under the skin. Pelvis felt only with firm pressure.

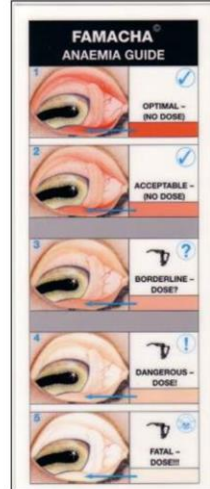
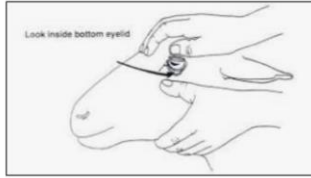
Short ribs cannot be felt even with firm pressure. No depression visible in loin between backbone and hip bones. Back and area between hooks and pins appear flat.

### **Score 5 Grossly fatty body condition**

Tail head buried in fatty tissue. Area between pins and tailbone rounded, skin distended. No part of pelvis felt, even with firm pressure.

# The FAMACHA<sup>®</sup> System

for assessing anemia and barber pole worm infection in small ruminants



	Clinical Category	Color	PCV (hematocrit)	Deworming recommendation	
sheep	1	Red	≥ 28	No	goats
	2	Red-Pink	23-27	No	
	3	Pink	18-22	?	
	4	Pink-White	13-17	Yes	
	5	White	≤ 12	Yes	

*The FAMACHA<sup>®</sup> system should be used as part of an integrated parasite management program that employs other best management practices.*

# Basic Goat Production



# Herd Health



# Management Plan



- Includes your visions, goals, and objectives for your goat operation
- What is your vision?
  - Income
  - Family experience
  - Quality of life
- What level of risk can the business tolerate?





# Records



- **Computer or Hand written**
- **Alert producers to production problems that may indicate a underlying disease**
- **Help avoid residue contamination**

# Facilities Management



**Fencing**  
**Working Pens**  
**Shelter**  
**Feeders**  
**Clean water**  
**Predator Control**  
**Adequate Space**



# Nutrition



- **Energy and Protein** are required by the immune system
- **Minerals and Vitamins** are required for proper immune function such as **Copper, Selenium, Zinc, Chromium, Vitamin A, and Vitamin E**

# Biosecurity



**Programs for preventing the  
introduction of pathogens considered  
potentially harmful to the health and  
well-being of the herd.**

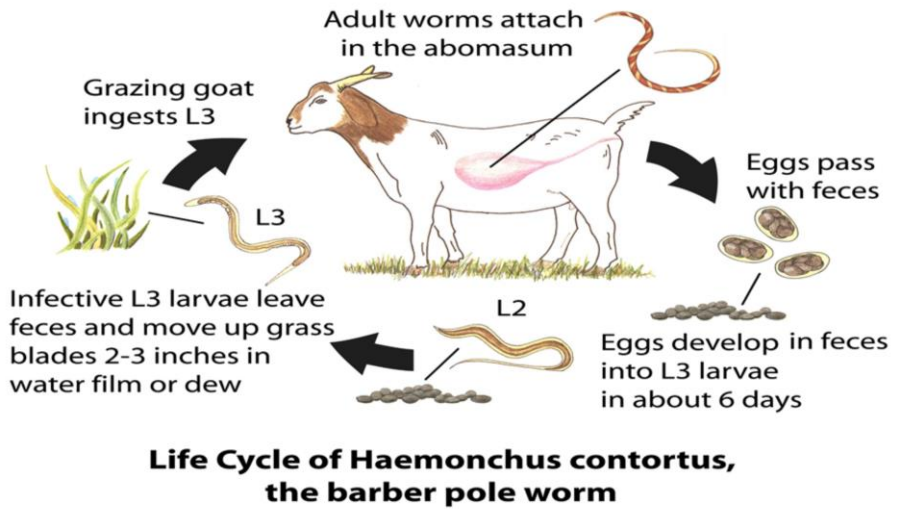
**Beef Cattle Manual**

**It is the cheapest, most effective means  
of disease control.**

**BQA**

National interest. Terrorists have planned attacks. FMD. PEDv.

# Internal Parasites



# Basic Vaccination Program



**Vaccinate does and bucks 30 days before kidding with CDT**

**Vaccinate kids at 30 to 60 days of age with CDT repeat in 21 to 30 days if doe is immunized**

**Vaccinate kids at 7 to 21 days of age with CDT repeat in 21 to 30 days until 12 weeks of age if doe is not immunized**



# Marketing

## 3 W's of Marketing

### 1. What to sell

- Type of goat
- Wethers vs. bucks
- Market vs. Replacements

### 2. Where to sell

- Livestock Auctions
- Off of the Farm
- Directly to Order Buyers
- Special Sales

### 3. When to sell

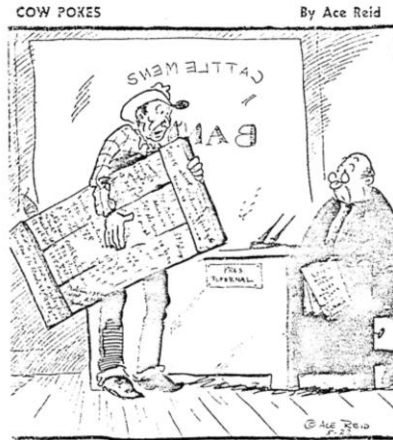
- Seasonal Price Patterns
  - Prices typically highest in the spring and lowest in the fall.
- Holiday price effects
- Matching up your best production system with marketing opportunities.



# Record Keeping



- 2 types of records
  - Financial
  - Production
- 2 methods of keeping records
  - Hand written
    - Ledgers
  - Computer
    - Quicken
    - OSU kidding spreadsheet ([www.meatgoat.okstate.edu](http://www.meatgoat.okstate.edu))



"Banker, you said before you'd loan me anymore money I'd hafta bring in my bookkeepin' system. You jist don't know what heck I had takin' this barn door off!"



# Predator Control



- **Losses due to predators can be one of the biggest cost for a goat producer.**
- **Predators**
  - Coyotes
  - Neighbor's dog
  - Bobcats
- **Predator Control Methods**
  - Large Guardian Dogs
    - Pyrenees
    - Anatolian Shepard
  - Donkeys and Llamas
  - Night Penning



# Herd Management



- Fencing
- Ear Tagging
  - Numbered
  - Scrapie
- Castration
  - Banding
- Hoof Trimming
- Gestation (Pregnancy)
  - Length 150 days
  - Goats forget to read the book
  - Gestation table
- Housing and Corrals
- Mortality Management

# OSU



## Website

[www.meatgoat.okstate.edu](http://www.meatgoat.okstate.edu)



## YouTube Channel OSU Meat Goat