

GOATS: QUICK REFERENCE

TERMINOLOGY

Doe – mature female

Buck – mature intact male

Wether – castrated male

Doeling – young female

Buckling – young male

Chevon – goat meat

FENCING

Although goats are a small species of livestock, they require safe and securely constructed fencing. Adventurous goats use their curiosity to escape from their pens. Insuring your goats are well contained will prevent group mix ups, over consumption of feed or unplanned breeding activity. Never underestimate a goat's ability to free itself from its pen. Construct secure fences using lumber or wire game fencing with an electric strand; barb wire material is not recommended as it can cause injury to the goats. Consideration must be given to horned animals when planning your fencing.

SHELTER

Goats require shelter from elements such as rain, snow and extreme winds. They will weather well in cold temperatures if proper housing and adequate dry bedding is provided. Housing should be well vented, clean and dry and provide adequate space per animal. A minimum of 20 sq. ft. is recommended.

EXERCISE

For the well-being of your herd, it is important to provide exercise space for your goats. Restricted confinement can instigate health issues and disease in goats.

NUTRITION

Contrary to the belief "goats eat anything", goats are in fact particular about their diet. Goats will not eat poor hay or whatever is offered unless forced by starvation. To maintain a healthy and productive herd, goats must be provided good quality hay complete with a grain ration when necessary. Feed should be provided through feeders that are off the ground to prevent contamination with feces and urine. Consult a nutritionist or an experienced breeder in your area to design a feeding program that meets the requirements for the production of your herd. Dairy, Meat and Fibre producing goats all require a unique feeding program to optimize production. Clean water and free-choice mineral must be available at all times.

CARE

Regular deworming and hoof trimming is required. This is generally done twice a year, however each herd's requirements may vary. It is a good management practice to delice your herd regularly or as needed. Vaccinations can be administered to protect your herd from various diseases; your veterinarian should be consulted to identify which diseases your herd may require protection against.

Goats are ... Prolific [a doe's gestation is 5 months, and average production is 1.7 kids/doe. Offspring are generally weaned between 10-14 weeks of age and reach market size very quickly (within one year)]

... Browsers [prefer a variety of grass, brush and weeds]

... Ruminants

... Seasonal Breeders

... Safe, Fun and Profitable



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