



Special Edition
May 2012

Special Edition... All Joking Aside, Let the kidding begin...

Up all night checking your does, nope, no kids—wait, what’s that I hear, the sound of a little squeak—Yep! They’re here! The kids have arrived. So now that they’re here, what do you do!

This Special Edition of the ANDDA Newsletter contains many different ways of raising and caring for your new arrivals that have worked for various farms around the country. These articles are for information only, they are not intended to replace the care of a veterinarian and medical advice should be sought when necessary.



Brianna Hays of Diji Farm getting ready to help feed the babies.
Photo by Eye Catching Photos, Steven Smith

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Hand Raising Kids...

By Shelene Costello, *Promessa Dairy Goats*

Around kidding season the conversation often turns to bottle feeding goat kids. Or pan feeding. Whichever it is, hand raising goat kids generates much discussion.

I hand raised my kids for 10 years, and in the years since, I still find myself raising the odd kid or two each year for varying reasons.

I've heard many different ways of raising the kids, and am often amused at the lengths people go to, and how well the kids train their humans when given the chance. Goats are opportunists and use it well.

I've fallen for their tricks over the years, giving them too much food, too often and answering all of their demands.

What I've learned is that it's easy once I made up my mind that the little darlings weren't going to keel over if I took a much more balanced approach at raising them, since as much as I love the little darlings, I really want a life outside of goats too.

What I ended up with and what I see works best for most goat raisers is to make a simple balanced schedule of feeding kids two to three times a day once kids are past the early hours of needing colostrum and frequent stimulation to get them up and going. Sick, preemies and other weak kids may well need more intense care and frequent feedings, but the majority of kids will do just fine on this simple plan.

I normally go with 3 times a day (even though many only feed twice), and let the kids go all night long to sleep. I feel

if they get hungry a bit between milk feedings, they will be more likely to nibble on solid food faster, and the faster I get that rumen up and going, the better the goat kid is going to grow.

If kids are being fed replacers, typically they need at least 6 hours between meals to digest the non milk solids in the replacer. More frequent feedings may result in the stomach dumping undigested replacer farther into the digestive tract and causing scours.

There are a number of people who use self-feeders for their kids to nurse on, letting the kids eat all they want at any time of cold milk or replacer. These kids tend to not eat near as much in each trip to the nipple, more like they would nurse from their dam. I've found that they do however, eat more overall than if rationed in their amounts in bottle or pan feeding at set times each day.

I've used both pan and bottle feeding, including the lambar in bottle feeding. The lambar is simply a bucket with multiple nipples so that more kids can eat at one time. Pan feeding teaches the kid to suck up from a bowl or pan or trough without the use of a bottle or bucket. Each method has pros and cons to it.

Pan feeding takes less time and less cleanup of equipment, as a trough or bowls wash so much easier than bottles, buckets and nipples. But, I've had kids stick their heads in the milk and aspirate the milk doing it. Not often but occasionally.

Buckets and bottles tend to encourage

kids to nurse more like they would if they were nursing from their dam and many think that it helps strengthen their neck and jaw muscles. Personal choice though, I feel.

What works for each may not be the most comfortable for others.

I find it's much easier to get kids to take a bottle or a pan when pulled at birth. They never know the difference that way. But if needed any kid who needs milk can be switched to a bottle or pan with a little effort.

For bottles it may help to hold the nipple between the legs so the kid can root around under the knee as it would on the dam. Or if laying the kid in the lap, it helps to cover the eyes sometimes to mimic the underneath of the dam. Making sucky noises with my mouth, while holding the bottle in the kid's mouth, or while dipping its face lightly into the bowl of milk, often spurs them to suck it up. I may massage the throat to encourage the kid to swallow as well.

If a kid is used to the nipple (or its dam) and I want to switch to a pan, I simply let the kid suck on my finger, or a nipple not attached to a bottle, and slowly lower it into the milk. Most will get the hang of it pretty quickly. Many kids, who are already drinking water with their dams, often take to drinking milk from a pan pretty easily.

The first few feedings may be a bit messy till the kid gets the hang of it, but then it gets much easier.

Hand raising kids can be simple and easy to do!



Raising Weak or Premie Newborns...

Dianea Fay, [Beards & Tales Farm](#), Emporia, Kansas

WE all have all encountered a very small kid at birth and thought oh my, what am I suppose to do with this. You can ask any other breeder and will get different ways of treating these small precious bundles. I for one will go over the top to try and save but that is just my nature I hate to loose. So I thought I would share with you a few things I have used over the last few years. I am not a vet so what I do is not approved by a vet.

A couple of years ago I got very well acquainted with saving premies, but these were of the Boer goat variety for my neighbors. Seems they were having kids in the dreadful cold January weather and my neighbor had just had surgery and they were new to goats. All though she had raised sheep all her life, goats were new a new venture and they were not feeding them so well all they were getting was hay and a little bit of milo no mineral no nothing. Thus, they had many premies being born and needing help. After many phone calls I came up with my plan of attack.

First and foremost is get them warm. Get your heating pad out and cover with plastic bag and place towel over it and then lay kid on the towel and cover kid with towel. Turn on low heat. I will turn on high to get it warm while I am drying kid off and holding it for mom to help clean up. Once the heating pad warm put to low heat and put the kid on and help mom finish kidding. It is best to get the kid warm first before trying to get something in them. I do turn the kids on the heating pad often so they do not get too warm.

Once I feel they are warm enough I get mom on the milk stand and help my self to some colostrum, please take time to wash mom up a bit also so we don't introduce anything else to this weak kid. And mom will feel better too.

Once I have my colostrum then I decide if I need a little stimulant also. If the kid is not real active then I will make a bit of coffee and put in to help stimulate. You know those instant packages of coffee at restaurants great for small amounts if you don't drink the stuff. I know many tube the kids but when they are tiny and frail I use the eye dropper method so that I know what is going in and just where. Better in the tummy than in the lungs. I start out giving just about 5-7cc and increasing as they respond. But if they are taking this without trouble you can give more but would not give over 30cc the first time. I also take them to mom if she is close and you do not have to go outside to do this so she can bathe and mother up to kid. Especially after feeding as the colostrums is on the kids face so she knows it is hers. You will be doing this quiet frequently in the first day. If I only give less than 10cc then I am going to be giving some more in about an hour.

I also learned from another breeder to take Vitamin E capsule poke hole in the end and squeeze the Vitamin E in kids mouth and do this 3-4 times day for 3 days. By the 3rd day the kid is usually up and going, but not all ways. I also give some probiotics and a small shot of Nutri- Drench. You can put the small amount of Nutri-Drench in the colostrum for ease. And depending on what I am feeling I might just give 0.1cc of Thiamine to kid just for support.

One clue that I have found helpful to know if I am gaining ground is when a kid begins to shake its head and ears I feel like this is a sign that I am winning. In my experience if they are shaking their head they usually survive.

One thing to remember if you are dam raising then keep this kid connected to mom so she can bathe frequently and mother up. Once the kid is standing I

take it to mom to see if can suck but they tire so easily you may need to give a bottle for a couple days in addition to trying to let nurse. I would encourage all to try the human baby bottles with nipples for colic as they are about the same size as a Does teat and does not choke the kid like Pritchard nipple does. You will need to make the holes in the cross cut nipple a bit bigger but you can do that with pair of scissors, just don't make it too big of opening. That milk runs in and drowns the kid.

Once the kid is able to maintain its own heat I take off the heating pad. I keep a cardboard box just to put kids in on the heating pad. Makes for cozy hotel room for them, and allows me to check on the quickly. It is also a barrier for my dogs and cats, who all think they have to get in the act to help save this baby. They all want to bathe the kid and my Shih Tzu thinks he is on this earth to tend to all babies and he has to attend all births in the garage. I do monitor kid's heat and if I do not think they are maintaining well enough they get a coat or a fleece blanket. You can make the fleece blanket easy enough buy going to fabric store and checking out remnant rack and then cutting to size you want they wash easy and do not fray. I have stack of them. You can keep the kids covered and believe it or not the does will allow this usually laying there head on the blanket with the kid. If this is a multiple birth then lay the siblings with the kid and they all bond.

I wish you all the best. Don't forget the greatest help is having a mentor who you can call for some extra help, or to bounce ideas off. But be respectful as to time when you are calling.

Good luck and I hope that this may help at least one person. We do not all ways win but I sure give it a good hard try.

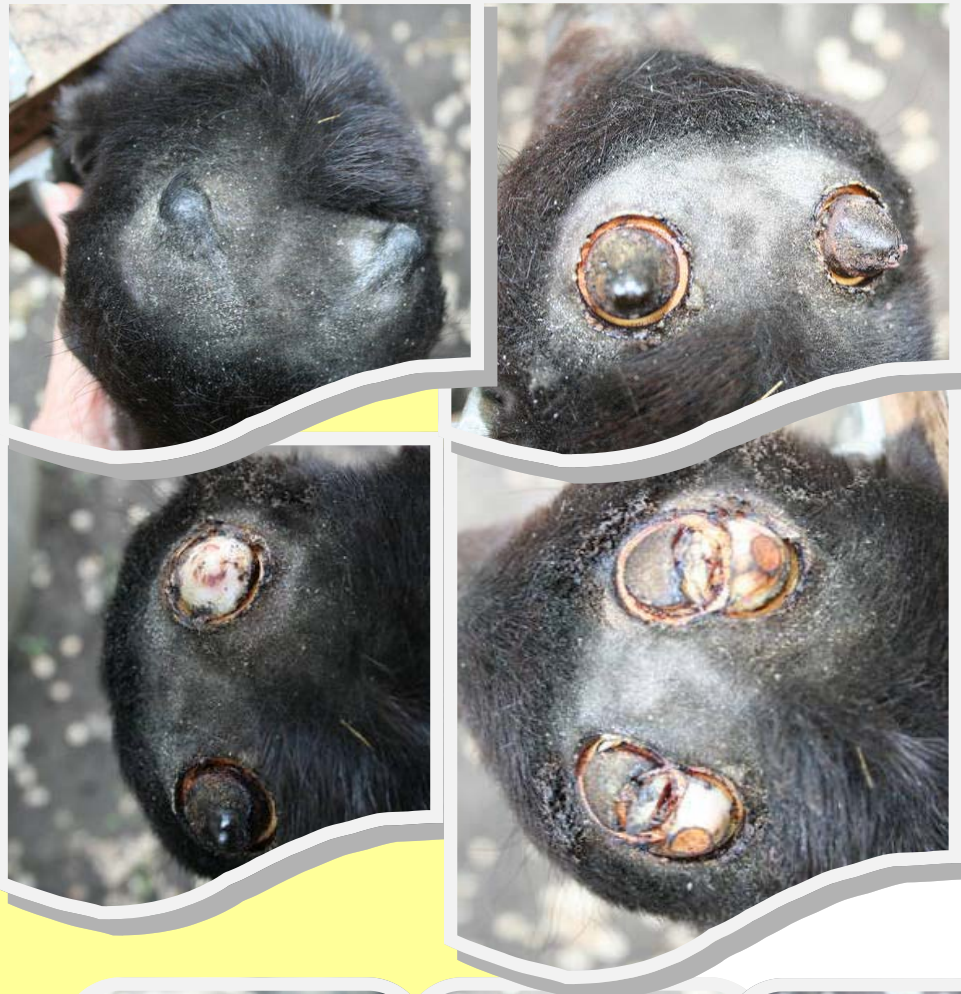
Disbudding With Ellen & Shelene

Ellen Dorsey & Shelene Costello



Disbudding At With Ellen & Shelene

Ellen Dorsey & Shelene Costello



- 1) shaved/clipped head
- 2) the first burn
- 3) then the cap popped off and the white of the horn actually showing
- 4) finally the full figure 8 burn catching the whole hornbud growth in it.

This kid was 16 days old, a bit old, but it really shows the horn growth on a buckling.

Doeling done the same day as the buckling. She is also 16 days old.

I shaved the one side for comparison and disbudded the other side. Note that the doeling's hornbud is way smaller and



rounder than the buckling. Then I popped off the cap, did the other side and dusted the top with herbiotic powder. She immediately took her bottle and was back in the pen with the other kids



HEALTH PROBLEMS OF YOUNG KIDS

Keith Harrell, NC Promisedland...

Pneumonia is the common term for a range of respiratory infections that kills goats quickly -- especially kids. There are many types of pneumonia: bacterial, mycoplasmal, viral, and inhalation pneumonia to name a few. Common symptoms include fever, labored breathing, runny nose discharging yellowish-green mucous, and sometimes a hacking cough -- along with generalized listlessness and *off feed* behavior. Pneumonia kills so quickly that the producer doesn't have the luxury of time to determine its type. Prompt treatment should be the focus. The same medications and treatment regimen are used for most forms of pneumonia.

Interstitial pneumonia appears with rapid-onset high fever, no nasal discharge, and foaming at the mouth as it quickly progresses. Diarrhea is not present. Interstitial pneumonia can easily kill in less than 12 hours; contraction of illness at night and death by morning is not uncommon. The goat's temperature can rise and fall so quickly that the producer never sees it in the fevered state. When a goat with interstitial pneumonia reaches the point that its body temperature is below 100°F, its breathing is labored, its kidneys are shutting down, its lungs are filling with fluids, it finds sitting uncomfortable due to fluid build-up inside the body so it remains standing in a depressed condition and cries out in pain -- it is going to die and the producer won't be able to save it. The producer must treat the goat with interstitial pneumonia when it is still in the fever stage to have any chance of saving it. Remember that fever is much easier to bring down than sub-normal body temperature is to bring up.

Dust pneumonia is a type of inhalation pneumonia that occurs in periods of dry windy weather when environmental irritants are inhaled. Do not move goats -- especially does with kids -- down dusty alleys or through dusty pens without first wetting the ground. Goats live close to the ground -- particularly kids -- making them subject to inhaling far greater amounts of respiratory

irritants than taller species.

Warm and wet weather is usually when pneumonia occurs, though it can happen year round. The first task with any sick goat is to take its rectal temperature. If fever exists (above 103.5°F), administer Banamine or generic equivalent into the muscle (IM); a young kid would minimally need 2/10's of a cc for a medium-sized breed. If Banamine is not available, one-half of a baby aspirin may be given. Keep the kid hydrated, using ReSorb electrolytes orally and Lactated Ringers Solution SQ. The best antibiotics are both veterinary prescriptions: Excenel RTU and Nuflor. (This writer no longer uses Naxcel; Excenel RTU is the shelf-stable version of Naxcel and much easier to store.) Over-the-counter products such as penicillin, oxytetracycline 200 mg/mL (LA200), and tylosin 200 (Tylan 200) are poor second choices but must be used if prescription medications aren't available. Dosages for Nuflor, Excenel RTU, and Naxcel start at one-half (1/2) cc for newborns and should be given for five consecutive days. These medications are not labelled for goats and the species dosage on the labels are too low for them. Excenel RTU should be dosed twice in the first 24 hours, then once a day for four more days -- a total of five days. Because Nuflor is very thick, requiring dosing with an 18-gauge needle, this writer prefers to use Excenel RTU on kids. Poly Serum injectable is recommended to boost the kid's immune system against respiratory diseases. Producers should always have Poly Serum on hand; Jeffers' livestock catalog carries it on the cattle vaccines page.

In conjunction with these injections, give Expectahist oral decongestant/antihistamine/expectorant orally twice a day dosed at up to three (3) cc's. If time does not permit obtaining Expectahist, use a children's cough medication (Robitussin or generic equivalent) that treats congestion, coughing, and nasal allergies and give a child's dose. Keep the kid hydrated with ReSorb electrolytes orally, and if needed, Lactated Ringers Solution given SQ. It may be

necessary to stomach tube the sick kid if it is completely off-feed. The kid is not going to eat until its body temperature has been stabilized in the normal range (101.5°F to 103.5°F).

One of the few vaccines made specifically for goats is Colorado Serum's pasteurized vaccine. Mannheimia Haemolytica-Pasteurella Multocida Bacterin is currently available from some suppliers. A number of cattle vaccines have been effective in helping prevent pneumonia in goats. Nasalgen IP is an intranasal vaccine that is available over the counter. Super Poly-Bac is an injectable cattle vaccine that has been helpful to some producers in reducing the occurrence of pneumonia in their kids

Note: The treatments described above are what has worked for this author.

Certain areas may have types of pneumonia that are resistant or non-responsive to the medications cited. Consult a veterinarian experienced with goats in your area for advice on local strains.

NOTE: NEVER use the medication Micotil on goats; it causes heart failure almost instantly.

Coccidiosis is probably the biggest killer of young kids raised in wet climates and/or in over-crowded conditions. This intestinal parasite is transmitted via oral ingestion of fecal material. Coccidiosis normally occurs after the kid begins to eat solid foods at about three weeks of age. When kids begin *mouthing* everything around them, they pick up and swallow infected goat pills. Diarrhea is usually the first symptom but is not always observed by the producer. As a rule of thumb, diarrhea that is blackish or the color of dried blood is indicative of Coccidiosis. In very young kids, this diarrhea can start out as greenish in color.

Prevention is the best way to handle Coccidiosis. Albon or its generic equivalent Sulfadimethoxine 12.5% oral solution (Dimethox) has both preventative and curative abilities at dosage levels shown on



HEALTH PROBLEMS OF YOUNG KIDS *continued...*

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the packaging. Both products are sulfa-based antibiotics that also treat secondary infections. This writer prefers using the one-gallon jug of Dimethox and dosing five (5) cc's undiluted directly into each kid's mouth for five consecutive days to insure adequate delivery of needed medication. CoRid (amprolium) is no longer recommended because it is a thiamine (Vitamin B-1) inhibitor; low thiamine levels can lead to goat polio in kids. One-half of an over-the-counter Tagamet 200 tablet (or generic equivalent) can be given to a kid to soothe the gut. Endosorb Oral Suspension can be used to soothe the gut and bind toxins, making it a superior product. Use of oral electrolytes (ReSorb or equivalent) is essential in a kid suffering from diarrhea; diarrhea dehydrates the goat quickly. If ReSorb is not available, Pedialyte or Gatorade can be substituted until the proper ruminant electrolyte is obtained.

Coccidiosis left untreated causes permanent intestinal-wall damage that prevents absorption of nutrients from food. At best, the damage will stunt the kid's growth; at worst, Coccidiosis will kill the kid. Kids with Coccidiosis eat continually and still lose weight. Such kids should have fecals done for both worms and coccidia oocysts. Dewormers do not kill coccidia. This author's website has an in-depth article on Coccidiosis.

Neonatal Diarrhea Complex is the name applied to hard-to-identify or unidentified causes of diarrhea in newborns and very young kids. Usually thought to be E.coli or Cryptosporidiosis, these are infections commonly occurring in young kids in cold and/or wet weather but are not limited to these climatic conditions. Without laboratory analysis (culturing the organism), exact diagnosis is not possible. However, a very young kid who is inactive, whose head is drooping and whose tail is turned down, who is not eating, who is dehydrated, who is feverish, who has no respiratory distress, and who may have (generally) grayish or whitish diarrhea with a very distinctive smell. . . all of these symptoms point to E.coli or similar

infection. Reduce fever to normal body temperature with Banamine injectably or baby aspirin orally. Hydrate the kid with oral electrolytes. Use PeptoBismol orally every six hours dosed at six (6) to ten (10) cc's to calm the stomach. Give over-the-counter neomycin sulfate orally (Biosol). If that is not effective, switch to prescription Sulfadimethoxazine with Trimethoprim.

E.coli can be confused with Weak Kid Syndrome because it can occur in newborns and kids that are only a few days old. The most obvious difference is that kids with E. coli or similar infections usually have fever accompanying their other symptoms, while weak kids have sub-normal body temperatures. This illustrates the importance of always taking the rectal temperature of a sick kid. Additionally, while weak kid syndrome occurs at birth or immediately thereafter, bacterial infections can occur at any time.

Caution: Use antibiotics only when fever or inflammation is present.

Overuse of antibiotics in both livestock and humans has resulted in the emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. Penicillin is a good example of abuse of an antibiotic; its overuse/improper use has rendered penicillin ineffective against some bacterial infections.

Floppy Kid Syndrome has only recently been recognized by meat-goat producers in the United States. The introduction of intensive management of goats with the importation of Boers into the USA in the early 1990's brought FKS to producers' attention. Producers understandably tend to confine expensive goats in small areas, creating conditions under which kids can demand and receive more milk from their dams than their mothers would normally feed them. Unconfined dams allow their kids to nurse for frequent but short periods of time. When a doe cannot control and limit the amount of milk that her kids receive at each feeding, Floppy Kid Syndrome can occur.

FKS usually doesn't occur until the kid is seven to ten days old. (An exception to

this time frame -- bottle babies -- is cited later in this article.) The kid literally overeats on milk on a repeated basis and is unable to fully digest the milk before it refills its stomach by nursing again, creating a toxic condition like Enterotoxemia (Overeating Disease). Untreated, a painful and rapid death occurs. Treatment must be swift to save the kid.

The solution is startlingly simple -- and usually the precise opposite of what producers probably think should be done. Take the kid off milk completely for at least 36 hours. Substitute ReSorb or equivalent electrolytes in place of milk and add baking soda to neutralize the conditions in the kid's stomach. Administer C&D anti-toxin (*not* the toxoid) immediately. Use Milk of Magnesia to push the partially-digested milk through the kid's system and out of the kid's body. Prescription Banamine, given injectably, will calm the gut; dosage is 2/10th's of a cc given IM for a young kid of a medium-sized breed. Because most FKS kids are wobbly-legged and stagger like they are drunk, tube feeding may be necessary.

Dissolve one teaspoon of ordinary baking soda in eight (8) ounces of warmed ReSorb electrolytes and mix thoroughly. If the kid will not suck a bottle, stomach tube two ounces (60 cc's) of this solution into the kid's stomach. Wait about an hour and tube feed another two ounces. Don't bloat the kid's stomach; use common sense about how much it can hold. Administer a SQ injection of six (6) to eight (8) cc's of C&D anti-toxin wherever loose skin can be found. SQ injection over the ribs is a good location. C&D anti-toxin helps counteract the toxic effect of the undigested milk in the kid's stomach and can be used every twelve (12) hours. If the kid is old enough to have already had its two-injection series of CD/T vaccinations, the producer will have to wait at least five days and start the CD/T series over again. However, a very young kid should not have received its first and second CD/T injections before one month and two months of age respectively. The dam's immunities passed to the kid via mother's



HEALTH PROBLEMS OF YOUNG KIDS *continued...*

Keith Harrell, NC Promisedland...

milk are supposed to protect the kid during its first month of life, at which time the kid's own immune system starts developing.

Because Floppy Kid Syndrome is accompanied by a bacterial infection in the kid's gut, antibiotic therapy is advisable. Obtain a vet prescription for Primor or Sulfadimethoxazine with Trimethoprim and orally medicate for five consecutive days. Dose the kid with Milk of Magnesia orally (five cc's per 20 pounds bodyweight) to speed the elimination of the undigested milk from its body. Mineral oil can be effective but must be stomach-tubed into the goat. Because mineral oil has no taste, the goat may not identify it as a substance to be swallowed and it can be aspirated into the lungs instead. A warm soapy enema can be given to remove hard-packed feces from the lower intestinal tract via the anus; however, an enema will not move undigested milk from the stomach.

Diarrhea sometimes occurs with FKS. This is good; the kid's body is trying to eliminate toxic substances. Do not use diarrhea medication unless the scouring is a liquid of watery consistency, threatening dehydration, and be very careful how much anti-diarrheal is given under such conditions. Diarrhea is a symptom of an illness -- not the illness itself. See this writer's article on Diarrhea on the Articles page. Never give Immodium AD to a goat. Immodium AD slows and sometimes stops the peristaltic action of the gut, immobilizing the undigested milk in the kid's stomach, making the situation worse. The producer's goal is to get the offending milk out of the kid's system quickly. If diarrhea becomes watery, orally dose the kid with up to six (6) to ten (10) cc's of PeptoBismol up to three times a day and use injectable Banamine to quiet the gut.

The ReSorb/baking soda solution will both rehydrate the kid and soothe its gut. A kid can survive on the Resorb/baking soda solution for several days if that time is needed to get its system cleaned out. Do not start feeding milk again until the kid's feces have returned to normal pill form, it can

stand and nurse, and the kid has been rehydrated. Then ease the kid back onto milk by feeding equal parts milk and electrolytes.

Bottle babies require special comments. During the first two weeks of life, bottle babies should be fed with individual bottles to control the amount of milk that they receive. Producers should mimic the dam, who feeds small amounts of milk very frequently to her kids to avoid stomach upset. Folks new to bottle babies can cause Floppy Kid Syndrome by overfeeding milk. A kid will drink as much as you will let it drink; the sucking response makes it feel safe. Multiple bottle babies can be fed on a Lambar available from goat-supply companies like Jeffers. This is a three-and-one-half gallon bucket with lid and holes around it into which nipples attached to feeding tubes are placed. Training kids to use a Lambar is easy and your workload can be lightened IF you can keep kids from drinking too much, overturning the bucket, and knocking the lid off. Build a frame and secure it to the floor, then place the bucket inside it. In all cases (Lambar or individual bottles), proper cleaning of equipment both before and after use is essential.

Joint Ill (aka Navel Ill) occurs when bacteria travels up a newborn kid's wet navel cord and migrates to its (usually) leg joints. Over a period of days or weeks, the kid begins to limp as joints swell. Antibiotic treatment is required, is usually long term (weeks rather than days), and the kid may have life-long residual effects from the infection. Arthritis may develop as the kid gets older. Avoid Joint Ill by dipping the kid's wet navel cord immediately after birth in 7% iodine solution -- all the way up to its body. Baytril 100 injectable is an excellent antibiotic with which to treat Joint Ill. This antibiotic kills organisms that other antibiotics don't affect. Baytril 100 usage is restricted in food animals in some locales. However, your vet can prescribe it.

Selenium Deficiency (aka White Muscle Disease) can cause weak rear legs in newborn and young kids and can keep the kid from swallowing. Walking on one's

pasterns can also be a sign of selenium deficiency. Your county extension service agent or feed company nutritionist should be able to tell you if you are in a selenium-deficient area. Prescription BoSe should be injected into newborns and young kids in selenium-deficient areas at a dosage rate of 1/2 cc given IM. Dosage for adult dams is 2-1/2 cc's, also given IM. Do not use MuSe; it is too strong for goats. BoSe has selenium and vitamin E in it.

Mineral and Vitamin Deficiencies can affect newborns and young kids in ways similar to selenium deficiency. Copper is essential to the goat's body. Loss of hair color and inability to breed or ability to carry fetuses to term are indicators of copper deficiency. Vitamin A deficiency can cause night blindness, poor hair coat, loss of appetite, and can predispose the kid to diarrhea, parasites, and respiratory diseases. Vitamin D is essential to the body's calcium and phosphorus absorption processes. Vitamin E deficiency contributes to White Muscle Disease (selenium deficiency) aka nutritional muscular dystrophy, which affects the kid's ability to stand and use its muscles properly. All of the B vitamins are important to proper rumen function. Vitamin B-1 (thiamine) deficiency can result in goat polio. Cobalt deficiency prevents synthesis of Vitamin B-12. Some minerals work together well and some minerals prevent absorption of other minerals. The form in which the mineral is used (oxide, sulfide, sulfate, etc) makes a difference in how the goat's body can utilize it. Nutrition, including vitamins and minerals, is the most complex part of raising goats. Check with your goat vet or livestock feed nutritionist for known vitamin and mineral deficiencies in your area.

Good management practices go a long way towards preventing illnesses. Sufficient space to avoid over-crowding, clean and dry pens, fresh water, quality hay, and sanitary conditions are minimum requirements. Filth and crowding breed sickness. If you can learn to think like a goat, you can reduce the frequency of illnesses, injuries, and deaths.



HEALTH PROBLEMS OF YOUNG KIDS *continued...*

Keith Harrell, NC Promisedland...

Maintenance Schedule

This information is offered for reference purposes only.

Please be sure to check with your own veterinarian for their recommendations and approval.

Although this program works well for us, the needs of animals in different locations is different.

Kids

At birth, give 1/4 cc Bo-Se

Before disbudding and/or castration, give 1 cc Tetanus antitoxin SubQ or IM.

At 3 - 4 weeks, give Albon, for 7 days (give orally with syringe)

At 4 weeks, worm with Panacur or Safeguard

At 6 - 8 weeks, give shot #1 of CD/Tet (2cc I.M. or S.Q.)

At 8 weeks, worm with Panacur or Safeguard

At 9 weeks, give Albon for 7 days

At 10 - 12 weeks, give shot #2 of CD/Tet

At 12 weeks, worm with Ivomec SubQ, Valbazen, Tramisol or Safeguard/Panacur.

Repeat as needed with wormer of choice.

1 - 2 weeks after weaning, give Albon for 7 days

8 -10 months - CD/Tet booster (2cc S.Q. or I.M.)

Feed a Decox feed for the first four months or administer other coccidiostats as recommended by aveterinarian for your area.

We disbud kids when the horn bud is readily palpable.....sometimes as early as 4 days on bucklings, and as late as 2 weeks on doelings. The key to thorough disbudding is to do it at the proper time, which is BEFORE the base of horn bud is larger than the diameter of your disbudding iron. We burn completely through the poll and remove the "cap." The fresh wound is liberally sprayed with Furol.

Bottle Feeding

Before I give you our bottle feeding schedule, let me say that we use pasteurized goat milk to feed our kids, but you can feed whatever works for you. Some people begin to "water down" the milk after a few weeks, but we DO NOT recommend this practice. (It makes NO sense) We use regular 8 oz. baby (human) bottles, as they are readily available and easily replaceable. We prefer

the clear nipples. All you need to do is enlarge the opening in the nipple to allow milk to flow more freely. Pritchard teats work well also.

For the first 2 days, feed every 4 hours, offering as much as they will take.

On days 3, 4, & 5, feed 4 times each day, offering as much as they will take

Starting on day 6, we begin to feed three times each day. At this time they should be taking 4 - 6 oz. at each feeding.

At two weeks, we begin to feed twice each day (Note: at this point, we discontinue using bottles, and teach the kids to drink from a suspended feeder (the pan method).

At six weeks, we feed once each day (in the afternoon). Continue feeding once per day until at least 8 weeks. (We feed bucks for 10 weeks, does for 12 weeks or longer). You can continue this one feeding for as long as you'd like.

We offer a medicated (decox), pelleted goat feed to the kids, starting at one week of age, along with fresh orchard grass hay.

At weaning, we continue to feed the medicated feed to our kids "free choice", by way of a creep feeder, that is sized as to allow the entry of young goats up to around 6 - 8 months of age.

Herbal Cocci Support is possible!

By Kat Drov Dahl MH CR DipHr CEIT

Coccidia is a challenge faced by many goat breeders.

Here at Fir Meadow we use GI Soother as our entire coccidia program. It is a whole herb blend that helps the body rid itself of coccidia and barberpole worms too. It is broad spectrum to help the body in bacterial challenges to the digestive tract, often caused by kids eating dirt, licking walls or sucking on a dirty teat from their dam lying on the ground. Additionally it supports the body to heal itself from any scarring or damage to the GI Tract caused by parasite problems so

is a wonderful support for stunted kids.

There is also some lung support in the product though it shouldn't be relied on for an actual lung challenge. I cover coccidia, parasites, birthings (easy to very difficult), raising babies to their genetic potential, milking stock, herb gardening and much more in my new book "The Accessible Pet, Equine and Livestock Herbal".

Kat and Jerry Drov Dahl are owned by their show and milk herd of LaMancha and Toggenburg dairy goats, their guardian dogs, barn cat, small home poultry flock and

Norwegian Fjord horses. Kat has her Master's degree in Herbology, has degrees in Holistic Iridology for humans and equines, has International Certification in Aromatherapy as well as other alternative degrees and certifications. She also owns Fir Meadow LLC, a whole herb products business for humans and creatures, does consultations, speaks at conferences and is an Author. Her products and book can be viewed at www.firmeadowllc.com.



GENERAL CARE FROM DILL'S-A LITTLE GOAT FARM

Ellen Dorsey

The Basics; Goats need shelter. They do not like to be out in the weather, nor would you! A large dog house is perfect for the Dwarf and Pygmy breeds, as well as for the Minis. For the larger breeds a storage shed or small barn would work nicely. Most importantly it must be dry, clean, and draft free. Your goats need fresh air but they also need to be warm! Goats need feed. After much research we've done a complete feed change here. I have my own personal recipe which includes a whole grain sweet feed mix that is about 16% protein. We also add a 20% "dairy" pellet along with alfalfa pellets to our mix. Our does and kids receive a ration of calf manna or boostem to help boost their vitamins and minerals. We feed plenty of free choice prairie hay daily and alfalfa hay a couple of times a week. A loose mineral mix that we've discovered and absolutely swear by (made by Vita Ferm) completes our feed program. Our goats are healthy and happy! Fresh water must be provided daily! Goats do not like dirty water. I don't believe you would either! Goats need regular hoof trimming. It is unbelievable to me how many people ignore this easy yet necessary task. You will avoid a great deal of hoof problems, leg problems, and foot problems if you follow a careful trimming regimen. Goats need to be wormed on a regular basis. We are beginning to do our own fecals so we know exactly what parasites we're dealing with, and how to treat. Not everyone is able to do that however, so worming on a schedule is a good idea. For most worm medications you must follow the oral directions and double or triple it to achieve a complete kill. Repeat in 10 to 21 days to get the larvae that hatch from the eggs. All does should be wormed right after kidding. Stress causes eggs to hatch. And giving birth is definitely stressful. We choose to vaccinate our animals with CD/T. Much can be prevented by this simple inexpensive task. It is however important to always carry your epinephrine in your pocket while giving these shots. Many animals have died from anaphylactic shock. Epinephrine is cheap and readily available. Don't give ANY type of shot, vaccine, vitamin, antibiotic, anything without your epinephrine!

Helpful Hints for Kidding Time

I've had lots of people ask questions about kidding out their does. These are some of the things we've learned through experience. Hope you find it helpful.

The secret to live birth kids is BEING there, making sure they get cleaned off, the lungs are clear, and they get their colostrum. Lots of full term kids are lost because no one is there to ensure they get the care they need, how much more those that are a little weak. We bottle raise everything here, however even those who choose to dam raise should be alert and monitor their does just in case. You should have some sort of monitoring system. We use a Playschool baby



GENERAL CARE FROM DILL'S-A LITTLE GOAT FARM *continued...*

Ellen Dorsey

monitoring system so I can hear what's up out there. Lots of folks are using barn cameras nowadays. My barn is too far for most electronics to work well, so I tend to do a lot of trudging back and forth through out the night...and I've been known to set up a cot and just stay with the girls.

You need to learn to read the tail ligaments. That will tell you without a doubt when and if that doe is ready to kid. They get soft and spongy in their back end around the tail head. It's the best and most accurate way, aside from heavy labor...that the doe is about to have babies soon. One of the hardest things for me is explaining where those ligaments are. After so many years, I can find those ligaments or lack thereof with my fingers, however a good method for those who are new is this; flatten out your hands, place them on the flat of the rump one on each side of the tail. Push them together under the tail head...if your hands are touching, your doe is very close. You should see kids in 12 to 24 hours. **A few more "signs" that labor is imminent...** Has the udder bloomed? Meaning gotten rather large, fully extended, rather stiff and firm? Is she waxing? Meaning does she have milk leakage---nothing serious now, but just a little filmy stuff on the ends of her teats. Have her sides dropped? Most of the time, the babies are carried rather high along the back bone. When the doe is a couple of days out...babies will drop, so there looks to be a hollow space on either side of the spine.

Signs of her back end softening.... The flesh sort of falls away from the tail head. The tail is held crooked, looking very much like it's going to fall off the goat. Her vaginal area is swollen and protruding. She pees more than normal, and poops more than normal. These things begin a few days before the ligaments "fall out". All because everything is softening up back there, getting ready for delivery. I always recommend that if at all possible, get to know your breeder and other goat people around you. There is a VAST amount of knowledge out there, and folks are usually more than willing to share.

Birthing Supply List Regardless of whether or not you dam raise your babies, there are times when you'll need to step in and assist, so it's a good idea to have all the supplies on hand and ready. **I like to keep on hand the following items;** Lots of freshly washed towels for drying off babies. A bulb syringe or as I call it "a nose sucker"...that ball syringe that is used to suck junk out of mouths and noses. Lots of clean towels. Stainless steel scissors for clipping umbilical cords. Lots of clean towels. Dental floss for tying off cords, and 7% iodine for dipping cords. Lots of clean towels. Surgical gloves and lubricating jelly in case you have to go inside the doe. As an "old dog" I learned a new trick last year...get some of those plastic sleeves used by vets for cows. You'd be amazed at how much further you can get into your doe with one of those for the extra



GENERAL CARE FROM DILL'S-A LITTLE GOAT FARM *continued...*

Ellen Dorsey

"slippage" they give you. Lots of clean towels. Karo syrup to jump start a weak kid. Worn out moms appreciate a goodly dose of Karo syrup as well! Did I mention clean towels? I use towels to clean the kids, I use towels to give myself additional grip on slippery legs when pulling kids. I use towels to lay newborns on though empty feed sacks work great too! I use towels to wipe my does after an especially messy kidding. Your laundry chores will quadruple, but towels are washable, reusable and a very good thing to have during kidding season!

JUST IN CASE, you should have a bottle or two as well as some colostrum on hand. If you have babies in the middle of the night, nothing will be open in order to get those items. There are times when mom's milk doesn't come down right away! If that should happen there is nothing there to feed babies for several hours! If you can get powdered kid colostrum, do so. It's easy to store, and will keep a LONG time if you store it in your freezer. IF you can't get goat...get cow. I have a packet of colostrum on hand...cost about 10 dollars. I keep bottles of pasteurized colostrum in my freezer.

Feeding Bottle babies; This is the feed schedule that has worked wonderfully for me! I use this for my Dwarves. For Nubians and Alpines---I triple or quadruple the milk amounts as this would starve a large breed dairy goat. Birth to 14 days; 1 1/2 to 3 oz = 5 times a day. 6am, 11am, 3pm, 8pm, 12 midnight 15 days to around 30 days 3 to 5 oz = 4 times a day 7am, 11am, 5pm, 12midnight 31 to 45 days 5 to 7 oz = 3 times a day 6pm, 2pm, 10pm 46 to 75 days 7 to 8 oz = 2 times a day 8am and 8pm After 75 days cut back to 1 bottle a day, in the morning, for about a week. Then 1/2 bottle in the morning for about a week, then take it away completely. All changes in food should be done gradually. A lot of this depends on the thriftiness of the kid. If they aren't eating solid food well or if they start dropping weight then I put them back on the bottle for as long as each animal may need it. Sometimes, in rare cases, I bottle feed them until they are 5 months old(I like my babies).

Assisting Weak Newborns Some years ago, my vet told me one of the most valuable techniques I could learn would be tubing newborns. So, I'm passing that advice on to you! I'm going to give you directions, however if you have to learn by seeing, ask a fellow breeder or your local vet to teach you. In the meantime, here's what we have on hand...and what we do to help the weaker kids along; Feeding tube kit Colostrum mineral oil or vegetable oil Heating pad (necessary!) Karo Syrup Oral syringes Vitamin B12 thiamine tiny diabetic syringes Baby comes into the house! Wrap it well in the warmed heating pad. Give it 1 cc of karo syrup orally. (Give it every 10 minutes for 1 hour.) Prepare your tubing kit by making sure it is CLEAN! dip the tube in mineral oil, or in a pinch use



GENERAL CARE FROM DILL'S-A LITTLE GOAT FARM *continued...*

Ellen Dorsey

vegetable oil. Warm 2 ounces of colostrum. Thread the tube in the kid....you'll be shaking like a leaf, but you CAN do it. Put your ear to the funnel and listen for breathing noises. Blow into it gently and listen...if you're in the stomach you'll hear slight gurgle noises. Once you're sure of your position, pinch off the tube, pour the colostrum into the funnel. slowly allow the colostrum to trickle into the tube and into the kid. The kid will jerk slightly...it's normal. Don't panic. Complete the tubing process by allowing the colostrum to drip into the stomach. Pinch off tube and remove. Often there is liquid left in the tube and you don't want to accidentally choke the kid with the fluid while removing the lifesaving tube! Continue with the karo...this is a sugar shot to the brain which helps the kid pop out of it's comatose type state, or just weakened state. Check kids temp...mouth with your finger and check it's rectal temp with thermometer. You want to pull it up to about 102.5...as quickly as possible with your heating pad. In an emergency, do not be afraid to use a sink full of HOT water. You have to get the kid's temp up, and this will do it quickly.

Once kid has had it's colostrum, we give it B12 to help give it a boost and thiamine to prevent polioencephalomyelitis. We continue with the karo, reducing dosages to every 20 to 30 minutes for the next few hours...the kid will get soft stool...but soft poop is WAY better than a dead kid! Once you have kid revived, put it in a laundry basket lined with soft bedding and the heating pad. I like to tent them in with a flannel cover to ensure it's staying warm. Check it frequently to make sure you don't get it too hot (been there done that!).

We pulled a comatose baby with no heart beat through one year for a friend using this method. The first thing with this particular kid though was give her mouth to mouth and shake her really well to get a heartbeat and get the lungs going. Once I had a heartbeat again, we moved forward with the warming/feeding process. This particular kid was 12 hours old, but had gotten chilled and probably hadn't gotten much colostrum at birth. We worked with her for several hours before I put her in her laundry basket 'nest' to finish cooking. I got this particular kid too hot during the reviving process and caused her to convulse some, which scared the bejeebers out of me! When recounting it to my vet, she laughed! Lesson learned! We're more careful with our temp checks! Some of you will never face this situation, some will face it once or twice in your goat breeding life while others who have lots of kids per year will face it once or twice a kidding season. We go to monumental efforts to ensure our kids survive, leaving nothing to "mother nature". She has a tendency to be a hateful old witch sometimes! I so hope this helps some of you out.

Good luck this kidding season folks!

How do I know which ones to keep?

EVALUATING YOUNG KIDS AS REPLACEMENTS....

Ellen Dorsey

I've been asked this question a number of times. Each time my quick answer is the same, I've been working with my lines for a very long time and I know how the lines cross. Knowledge is power, so to speak. But, where did it all begin? So, this short article will hopefully give you some tips on really looking at your babies to decide if they are worthy herd replacements.

1. **Look for balance.** Look at the length of leg compared to the length of body. If they match, you have a well balanced animal.
2. **Clean escutcheon.** Look at the height of the escutcheon, you don't want to see ANY excess flesh beneath the kid's tinky.
3. **Width between the hocks.** You don't want "fire starters". If the rear legs rub together, don't keep it.
4. **Rump angle.** Look for steep rumps, if you can ski jump off the rump, get rid of it.
5. **Flatness across the thurls.** You don't want extreme teepee shaped thurls...the A-frame rump is a breed trait that we're trying to breed out, you want as much flatness across the thurls as possible...so look for those kids

with the flatter thurls.

6. **Sharpness.** Ideally the withers should be sharp, not flat or mutton shouldered which is often difficult to recognize in a very young kid.
7. **Winged shoulders.** Another fault that I've never seen in a very young kid. Not to say they aren't born that way, but it tends to develop with age, especially in does that are allowed to get too fat.
8. **Elbows.** The elbow should be held flat against the body. Another difficult thing to recognize in a very young kid as many of them seem to fall all to pieces when they're first learning to walk. They need a few days to weeks before this trait truly appears.
9. **Straight toes.** Ideally the toes should point straight. Admittedly, this one doesn't bother me overly much, as long as the feet are not pointing east-west. A slight toe out is a common problem in dairy goats, and for me, is one of those nit picky problems that I will deal with as my animals get better.

That should get you started! One thing I always advise folks is to learn to look at the animal as a whole. If everything else is there but she elbows out, oh well, no one is perfect. If everything else is there but she either wings out at the shoulders or is mutton shouldered (flat), oh well, no one is perfect. If everything else is there and the kid toes out, oh well! You have to learn to take some bad with the good because although we are striving for perfection, none of them are and we take the BEST we can produce! One more thing, always keep doe kids from the absolute BEST mammary systems on the dams. If the dam has a crappy udder, scrap the line! That's the hardest thing ever to correct!

Buck kids? Only the best of the best should be allowed to remain as bucks. Buck kids are a dime a dozen. Your herdsire truly accounts for well over half your herd. If you keep a buck, based on sheer cuteness, (color, blue eyes and polled) and spend no time whatsoever in evaluating his CLOSE female relatives you are doing your herd a disservice. Learn to wether them. You'll be thankful you did in the coming years.