

# Goats 101 : What should I consider before raising goats?

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# Overview

- Breeds
- Housing
- Fencing
- Animal Husbandry
- Management through the year
- References



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# Breeds

- Meat Goats
  - Dairy Goats
  - Dual Purpose
  - Fiber
  - Companion Animals
- <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/goats/>



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# Meat Goats

- Boer
- Spanish
- Kiko
- Myotonic



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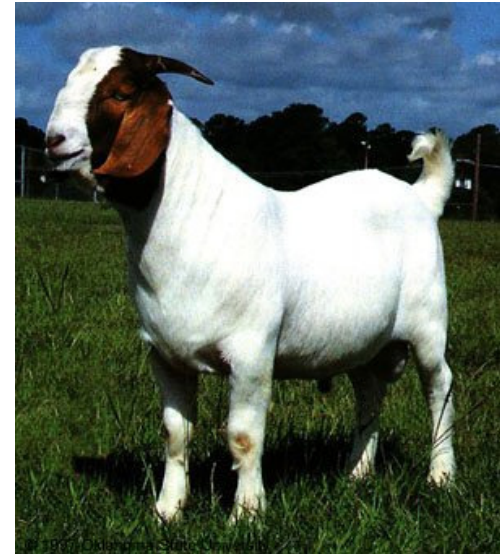


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# Boer

- Does are not good mothers, but are low maintenance.
- Kidding can be 200%
- Extended breeding season making possible 3 kiddings every 2 years.
- Weaning rates of 160%
- Excellent Carcass traits
- High growth rates :gains of 0.3-0.4 lbs/day.
- Does 200-225 lbs; Bucks 240-300 lbs.



# Spanish

- Spanish explorers brought goats as a meat source.
- The trend for smaller, more agile goats was dominant in the wild.
- Size varies greatly due to climate, terrain and available breeding stock.
- Body shape, ear shape, horns, hair and color are not consistent.
- Low productivity
- Less kids per doe
- Does 130 lbs; Bucks 200lbs



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# Kiko

- “kiko” means flesh or meat.
- Crossbreeding feral does with Anglo-Nubian, Toggenburg and Saanen bucks, with further cross-breeding in the second and third generations.
- Good on pastures
- Hardy
- Lean Carcass
- Good mothers
- Resistant to parasites
- Does 107 lbs; Bucks 220lbs



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# Myotonic Goats

- Tennessee Fainting Goats or Wooden Leg goats
- Indigenous to the U.S.
- Selected for meat production are heavy rumped, deep chested animals.
- Good for crossing with Boer or Kiko
- Can produce two kiddings a year.
- Good mothers .
- Not good climbers or jumpers .
- Does and bucks medium size



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# Fiber Goats - Angora

- Mohair Production : 5.3 lbs per shearing twice a year.
- Good browsers
- “Delicate” animals
  - Susceptible to internal parasites
  - More care for newborns
- Does not good mothers
- Kidding rate of 60-70%, well managed 100%
- Does 70 to 110 lbs; Bucks 180 to 225 lbs.



# Companion Goats - Pygmy

- Small breed
- Short legs, large torso, broad head
- Can be used for meat
- Main color is grizzled, all colors acceptable for breed.
- Bucks have beards



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# Management Practices

- Housing
- Fencing
- Husbandry Practices
- Breeding
- Kidding
- Weaning



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# Housing



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# Housing



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# Fencing



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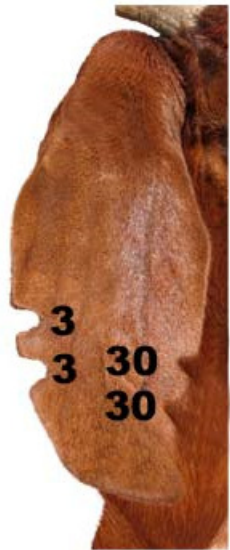
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# Animal Identification



**“Number 87”**



**Goat's right ear**



**Goat's left ear**



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# Hoof Trimming



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# Disbudding



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# Castration



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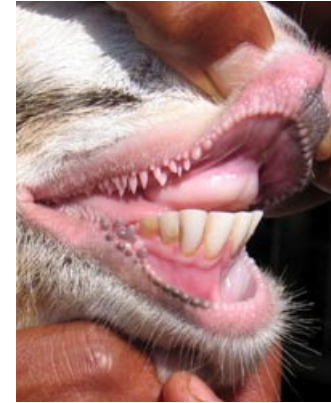
# Teeth



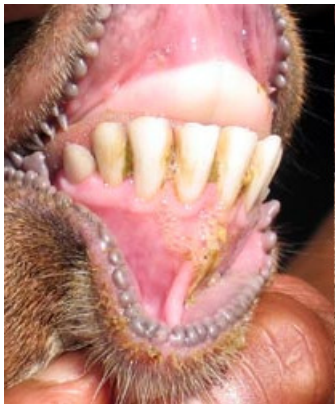
Kid <1 yr old



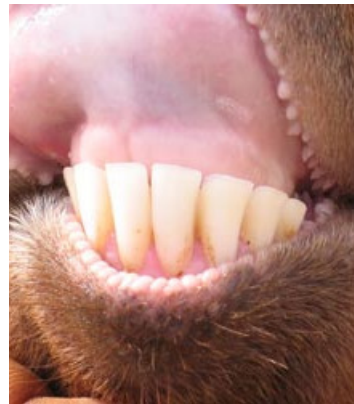
One yr old



Two yr old



Three yr old



Four yr old



8 1/2 yr old

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# Body Condition Score

- Ranking from 1 (thin) to 5 (obese)
- Feel along spine, rib cage, and loin
- BCS of 3 would be ideal



# Body Condition Score



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# Breeding and Reproduction



- Goats are seasonal in their breeding habits.
- Goats are most fertile in the fall.
- Seasonality varies by breed and goat.
- Estrus cycle lasts ~21 days.
- Pregnancy lasts about five months.
- Goats usually give birth to 2 to 3 kids.
- Litter size is affected by breed, age, season, and nutrition.
- Doe determines number of offspring; buck determines sex of offspring.

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# Kidding

- Most does kid on their own without the need for help.
- Most kids nurse on their own without the need for help.
- It's best to leave doe and kids alone unless there is a problem.
- Check doe if no progress 1 hour after water bag breaks.
- After 30 minutes of trying to help with a difficult birth, seek qualified help.
- Make sure kids get adequate colostrum within 24 hours.
- Feed week kids via esophageal tube



# Weaning

- Health Issues
  - Dry-off does
  - Coccidia
  - Internal parasites
  - Overeating Disease
- Facilities
  - Ensure secure fences
- Nutrition
  - Good quality pasture
  - Possibly supplement for energy
- Post-Weaning
  - Use records to help select kids to keep, does and bucks to cull
  - Attempt to market kids at least before next breeding season starts



# Records

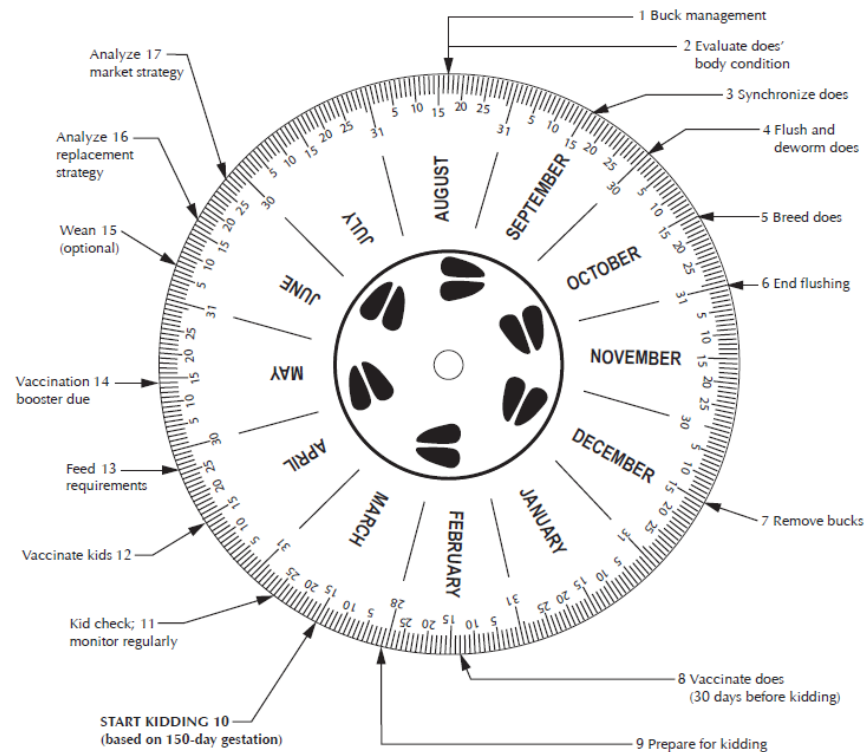
- Calendar
- Paper
- Computer
  - Excel file available at eXtension
    - Kid Data Sheet, Post Weaning, Inventory, Treatment Sheet, Breeding Sheet
- Important thing – KEEP RECORDS!

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	<b>KIDDING DATA SHEET</b>															
2	KID	DAM	SIRE	Age of	BREED	BIRTH		LIV	KID	BIRTH	BIRTH	WEAN	WEAN	REAR	Doe WT	
3	ID	ID	ID	Dam	CODE	DATE	SEX	CODE	EASE	TYPE	WT	DATE	WT	CODE	At Wean	COMMENTS
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																

# Management through the year

## Meat Goat Management Wheel

Instructions: Set date of kidding time (step 10) first to determine approximate dates of other management steps.



Additional meat goat information is available online at [extension.missouri.edu/mp913](http://extension.missouri.edu/mp913).

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# References

Penn State Cooperative Extension, Bedford County

Home | Agriculture | Meat Goat Home Study Course - Lessons Page ← you are here

## Meat Goat Home Study Course

Welcome to the Penn State Cooperative Extension Meat Goat Home Study Course! Lesson materials are available any time, although the course is run during the winter. Simply click on the topic title under each lesson and you will go directly to the material to read. You may read the material on screen or print it out for future reference.



The next course is scheduled to begin on February 2, 2011. Click here for [more information](#) about the course. To sign up for the course, complete the [registration form](#) and mail to the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office in Bedford County. Registration deadline is January 24, 2011.

### Lesson 1: Basic Production Information

- [General Overview of Meat Goat Production](#)
- [Selecting Meat Goats](#)
- [Determining The Age of an Animal](#)
- [Tattooing Goat](#)

### Lesson 4: Health

• [The Normal Goat](#)

## Goat Research

- Research & Ext. Home
- Extension Activities
- Research Activities
- Other Activities
- Library
- Quiz
- Search
- About Us
- Contact Us
- Faculty & Staff
- Nutrient Calculators
- International Activities

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[Return to QA Table of Contents](#)

PDF version of this module

## Meat Goat Management Robert Swize American Boer Goat Association

### Unit Objective

After completion of this module of instruction, the producer should be able to identify the two general categories to follow when selecting goats and to use common selection tools when making decision for doe purchase and/or replacement into the herd. The producer should be able to evaluate the body condition of the goat herd. The producer should know procedures to tattoo, trim hooves, disbud and castrate with knife, elastrator and burdizzo. The producer should be able to estimate a goat's age by looking at its teeth. The producer should be able to score 85% on the module test.

### Specific Objectives

After completion of this instructional module the producer should be able to:

1. Identify the two general categories for use with proper goat selection.
2. Identify common selection tools that goat producers should use.
3. Identify desirable traits of a meat goat.
4. Distinguish between good and bad reproductive traits of the breeding meat goat doe and buck.
5. Identify the different kinds of records that a meat goat producer should keep on his/her animals.

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Goats

Here are some of our featured articles and activities...

Reproductive Biology Goat Reproductive Physiology  
 What controls the estrous cycle of the female goat?  
 More...

This resource area was created by the Goats community

In The News

March 08, 2011  
 Production Calendars for Sheep and Goats Decrease Errors, Save Time and Improve Management Practices

February 25, 2011  
 Know Your Cost of Production: Develop an Enterprise Budget

23, 2011  
 Planning is Focus of a Small Ruminant Symposium

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# Questions???



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