
Browsing Academy
AN OVERVIEW OF FACTORS
AFFECTING REPRODUCTIVE
PERFORMANCE



Major Performance Traits

- Reproductive fertility (twinning), breeding and rebreeding on first estrus
- Survivability (motherability and milkability)
- Growth rate of kids from birth to weaning (then weaning to yearling weight)
- Efficiency of gain (growth rate) of kids (on grass or in the brush/browse)
- Longevity of breeding stock (the doe mob)
- Carcass merit (quality, yield and consistency)
- Conformation and stature – breeding stock and carcass
- Ability to maintain a body condition score of 5 to 6

Improve Reproductive Efficiency

- Maintain a high energy level and high digestibility of feed (vegetation) on offer
- Balanced protein, vitamin and mineral composition of feed on offer
- Do not breed too soon after parturition
- Shorten the kidding season
- Cull – NOW, don't put more feed/labor into cull goats
- Pregnancy check (ultrasound) and semen test
- Observe heat detection, breeding and kidding
- Breed yearlings at 75% of mature body weight and a body condition score of 5 to 6
- Buck:Doe ratio - buck libido should be high with mature does and yearling does cycling consecutively
- Body condition score of '6' at breeding for yearling and mature does and bucks
- Buck should be ready to breed three weeks before breeding season commences
- Stress Reduction

Causes of Reproductive Failure

- **Diseases**
- Vibriosis – embryonic mortality, early abortion
- Leptospirosis – abortion last trimester, weak kids, infertility
- Brucellosis (melitensis) – abortion
- Listeriosis – late abortion, retained placenta, metritis
- Toxoplasmosis – late abortions, weak young, stillbirths, retained placenta
- Bovine viral diarrhea (Border Disease) – abortion, abnormal fetus
- Akabane virus – abortion, stillborns, death soon after birth
- Chlamydiosis – abortion 2 days to last 2 months of pregnancy
- Q-fever – brought on by stress, poor nutrition and then doe aborts

Nutritional

- energy, protein, vitamins and minerals (all balanced)
- deficiencies in last trimester can cause abortion
- delayed maturation of spermatozoa and low fertility semen

Environmental – shelter, supplemental nutrition, temperature

Stress and Trauma

Toxic plants, estrogenic compounds, nitrates

Dewormers – Levamisole, Phenothiazine, Valbazen

Drugs - corticosteroids (dexamethasone), prostaglandin

Immunological factors

Heritable congenital anomalies and genetic components of fertility