

Breeding Management

Deworming

Deworming breeding does and buck(s) before the start of the breeding season is an important management tool. If flushing is planned, it is advisable to deworm prior to flushing. Wormy does will not increase their body condition during the flushing period and therefore flushing may not increase ovulation rate. In addition, wormy does will not breed well, or may not breed at all, or may conceive and abort later. Bred does need to be dewormed 30 days prior to expected delivery (a heavy worm load tends to decrease milk production) and 1-2 days after delivery (stress factor).

Vaccination

Although some producers have had no problems so far without implementing a vaccination program, it is recommended that goats be vaccinated against overeating disease (enterotoxemia) and tetanus. For twice a year vaccination, breeding does should be vaccinated before the start of the breeding season and 4 to 6 weeks before kidding. If vaccinated once a year, it is preferable to vaccinate breeding does prior to kidding because some immunity will be passed on to the newborns. The choice of vaccines is the following:

- A. *Clostridium Perfringens* Types C and D+Tetanus Toxoid in one vaccine, against overeating disease and tetanus. This vaccine is labeled for goats.
- B. *Multivalent* clostridial vaccine (8-way vaccine). One example of a multiway clostridial vaccine, labeled for sheep, is Covexin8. Covexin8 is more reactive and may cause a higher incidence of adverse reaction at the injection site. Covexin8 may be used in herds which have had problems with blackleg and malignant edema (gas gangrene). Although blackleg and malignant edema are common and costly infections in sheep and cattle, they are uncommon in goats.

<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/preparing-meat-goats-for-the-breeding-season/>