SPRING/SUMMER 2015

KINDER QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Kinder Goat Breeders Association

Doe Care and Kidding

by Kathrin Bateman

Raising great kids begins, of course, long before the kids arrive. A doe should be dried off two months before kidding and fed appropriate amounts of good quality feed for growing healthy babies and maintaining her own body condition. As a result, she will have lots of resilience for the demands of the birth process and a long and productive lactation. See https://fiascofarm.com/goats/prenatalcare.html for tips on prenatal care and preparation for kidding, including your kidding kit.

Although 9 out of 10 times does give birth just fine without assistance, it is helpful to be there in case a doe needs help. Be sure to sort out in advance what your options are for care in case of an emergency, even if that emergency occurs in the middle of the night.

When you do have a doe whose labor is not progressing, you'll have to determine why. First, kids may not be in a position that makes it possible for the birth(s) to proceed. Many goat owners will suggest checking internally for kid positions if the doe has been pushing for 20 minutes without a kid's appearing; however, a doe with a kid in a position that prevents advancement will sometimes never push.

If you determine that it's time to check kid positions, use disinfectant wash to help prevent introducing infection into the birth canal and uterus, and be sure to remove rings and other jewelry before you go in. You will need to know the

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KGBA Corner

President's Letter

Hello, KGBA Members!

It's almost summer, and things are heating up! In keeping with the season, our newsletter committee has made this issue all about kids. Covering everything from labor to weaning, it promises to be a great resource for all of our members. A huge thank you to our newsletter committee for continuing its great work!

This winter has been a busy one for the KGBA board, as well. We have given our website a facelift and added a new online pedigree database, redone our brochure and other promotional material, and continued efforts to streamline the registration process (don't forget to print out new forms with the new mailing address). We are currently holding an online Kinder show and have a few live shows scheduled this summer (check out the kgba website for details on shows and events). We have a number of other exciting things in the works as well, so watch for upcoming announcements on the website and in newsletters. We have a great team, and it shows!

And of course, thank you to all of our members for their continued feedback and support. We would be nothing without you and your goats!

Best Regards,

Sue Beck
KGBA President

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Well, we're not goat busters, but we are here to help! KGBA Board Members are happy to assist you in any way that we can, but knowing who to contact isn't always clear. If in doubt, you can always send a mass email to all board members or contact me directly. Contact information for board members can be found on the KGBA website. Below is a list of who to contact for common questions or issues:

Registrations & Membership:
Ashley Kennedy or Sue Beck

Registration Document Issues:
Jan Hodges

Breeders List:
Lisa LaRose

Promotional Material:
Brenda Lee Shelt

Online Pedigrees:
Jan Hodges & Sue Beck

Newsletter:
Kathrin Bateman, Elizabeth Sweet, Simone Smith

Show Information:
Ashley Kennedy

Chevon Information:
Jean Jajan

Website, general issues or to volunteer:
Sue Beck

We are continuously trying to improve, so feedback and suggestions are always appreciated!

Shows and Events

KGBA Virtual Show

Have you ever wanted to show your Kinder goat, but been constrained by time? Now you can show your Kinder goats from the comfort and safety of your own farm!

Introducing the KGBA's first Virtual Kinder Goat Show!!!

Judge: Joe Pilotte (Illinois)

Entries: April 1 - June 30, 2015

Results: Late July / Early of August

Get a professional opinion of your goat. Show your goat without the stress of travel. Keep your doe's milk production up by not upsetting her schedule. Get publicity for your herd. Learn more about conformation.

Only $5 per goat!

The KGBA V-Show is offered as a benefit to our members. Only current members of KGBA can show their registered Kinders.

So, how do you get started? All you need is a few high quality pictures of your registered Kinder goats. Go to the Virtual Show Guidelines page for an entry form and helpful tips on how to enter your goat. http://www.kindergoatbreeders.com/shows.html

Missouri State Fair

Held August 20–23, 2015, in Sedalia, MO. Please go to mostatefair.com for rules, regulations, and more info. Entry forms should be available. Please contact Leah Rennick with further questions: leah@harmonyhillgoatfarm.com or 573-239-2360.

Mother Earth News Fair

River Birch Farms exhibited at the Mother Earth News Fair June 6–7, 2015, in Albany, Oregon, representing the Kinder breed. Thank you, Kirstin Simmons!

Fair Photos

Above: A crowd watches as Kirsten Isaksen Simons demonstrates hand milking using the double teat Henry Milker at Kinder Breeder Association booth at the Mother Earth News Fair in Albany, OR - June 6-7, 2015

Above: From the 2013 Missouri State Fair; Leah Rennick showing off Harmony Hill Farm Chorus Girl (left) and Ashena Harrison with 4H Farm Lollipop (right)

Rkght: Zachary Weaver of Zachary's Champion Goats with ZCG Moonstone and a gate full of ribbons.

Welcome!

Welcome to Our New Members

Karen Taft
Faith Adrian
Monica Miller
Charles & Alicia Dyer
Michael Pitman
Holly Heyer
Kalyn Padlina
Kimberly Davis
Leslie Brush
Erin Smith
Bethany Glaspell
Hannah Rudy
Shannon Smith
JoLynn Leal
Mary Jackson
Rae & Amy Ackroyd
Kim Shunney
Ann Sam
Nyssa Gripp & Leilani Austen
Wendy Lang
Annette Walton
Lydia Macfadden
Catherine Cates & Garrett Greenwalt
Nicole Reddick
Randi Stuart
Lorie Wood
Patricia Krull

kidding positions you may encounter and how to deal with the difficult ones. These resources can help:

"Kidding with Confidence" (This mentoring guide for meat goat breeders from Cornell Cooperative Extension has thorough information about kidding and doe care. (One Kinder caveat: several Kinder breeders have found that a kid puller tool is oversized for Kinders. Clean nylon twine would probably work better.) http://albany.cce.cornell.edu/resources/kidding-with-confidence

"You're Kidding: Don't Panic" (Gryphon Tor Farm offers especially nice illustrations of kidding positions you may encounter.) http://www.gryphontor.com/youre-kidding---dont-panic.html

A Veterinary Guide for Animal Owners, by C.E. Spaulding and Jackie Clay, is available as a print book or online as a Google book and has a useful, easy-to-understand section on kidding: https://books.google.com/books?id=FfV-XmmQ9fMC&pg.

If labor is not progressing despite the fact that kids are in position for an uncomplicated birth, a doe may be too calcium-deficient to have effective uterine contractions (the uterus is a muscle and needs calcium in order to function). A doe with a calcium deficiency will not push, and she can look like she's just in pre-labor. Thus it's prudent to keep a source of emergency calcium such as a CMKP, Calcium Drench, or MFO on hand. Use your judgment to decide when to administer some calcium to get a labor moving. A doe's going off her grain and lying around more than usual during the last part of gestation, etc., may point to a calcium issue. Extreme fatigue, exhaustion, and shaking during labor are also likely signs of a calcium deficiency. Delaying action can result in kid fatalities. For that reason, my vet says she gives calcium to any doe or ewe in labor that she thinks might need it.

Once the first kid is born, the second, if there is one, should make an appearance within 15 minutes or so. If that doesn't happen, it may be necessary to check to see if there is indeed another kid and if so, what position that kid is in. You can gently "bounce" a doe to see whether other kids are waiting to be born. Breeder Molly Nolte explains:

> *Stand behind the doe (facing her butt). This can be a little messy, but at this point you're probably covered with birth glop anyway, so don't worry about it. Bend down and reach around her belly, like you're gonna give her a big hug, and place you hands, palms against the doe's belly, right in front of her udder. Now pull up gently and "bounce" her belly. If there is a kid still in there, you will feel some hard, knobby, solid stuff (a goat baby). If there are no more kids left, you will feel just soft, squishy, goat guts. Move you hands closer to her rib cage and try it again. Try it a few times to make sure what you are feeling.*
>
> *Practice is key here. Try this on all your does as they kid and once you've felt what it feels like "with" a kid and "without" you will always know.*

(See https://fiascofarm.com/goats/bouncing.html for more details.)

Care of Dam Post-Birthing

I offer the new mother a bucket of warm water with molasses immediately after the kids are born. (We do ¼ cup of molasses to about 2 gallons of water and offer it partway through birth if the birth is a difficult one.) If the doe is not interested, I make sure she has plain warm water available also and leave both in the stall, though I take care that kids cannot somehow tumble into a bucket.

After the kids come, watch the doe to make sure the afterbirth is expelled. This may happen within an hour or so, but it's still normal if it takes a bit longer. If you don't see the placenta within 8-12 hours, contact your vet. Never pull on the afterbirth because you would risk causing hemorrhage.

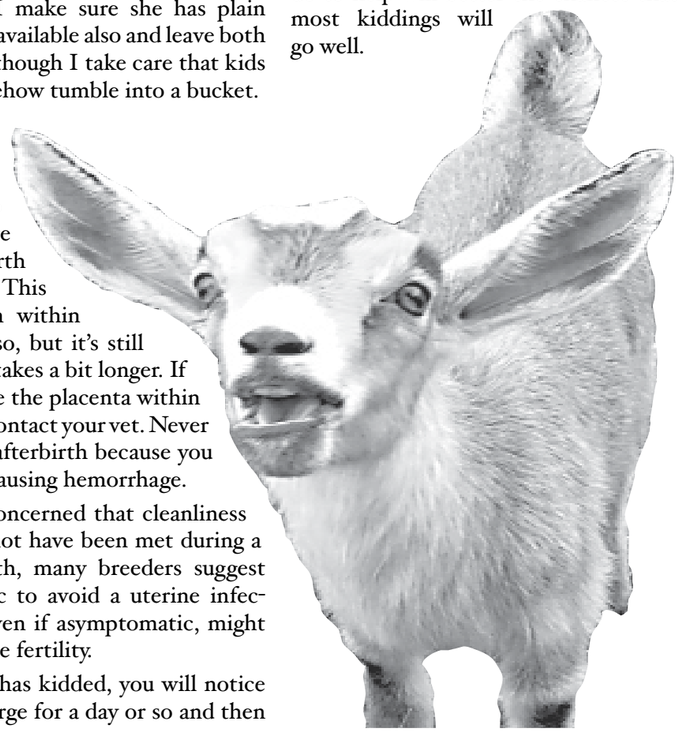
If you are concerned that cleanliness needs may not have been met during a difficult birth, many breeders suggest an antibiotic to avoid a uterine infection that, even if asymptomatic, might inhibit future fertility.

After a doe has kidded, you will notice some discharge for a day or so and then perhaps very little discharge for a few days and then a starting up of discharge again. This is normal. Foul-smelling discharge is cause for concern, as are signs that the dam is unwell.

Some breeders recommend milking the doe completely out after the babies have had their first colostrum. This practice helps prevent painful udder engorgement that can also make it harder for the kids to nurse because teats are engorged and the doe doesn't want to be touched. Extra colostrum should be frozen for emergencies. Once you have a backup supply on hand for future kiddings, try out the colostrum ice cream recipe on page 16.

A doe with fat teats can be milked out a little in the early days to help very young kids latch on to nurse. If kids nurse only on one side of the doe's udder, milk out the other side consistently to keep the doe's udder balanced. (Kids will usually begin to nurse on both sides as they get older and their appetite grows.)

Kidding is always an exciting, demanding time. Everything we have done as breeders to keep our does healthy, to prepare our kidding kits, to have backup help lined up, and to learn what we can do to help will better the chances that most kiddings will go well.



Raising Terrific Kids

by Kathrin Bateman, Sue Beck, Ashley Kennedy, and Elizabeth Sweet

At Birth

When a kid is born, your first job is to check to be sure the baby's airways are clear of mucus so that breathing starts soon after birth. If you hear the baby gurgling as it tries to breathe, use a bulb syringe to clear its nasal passages. A baby that is limp or unresponsive should be vigorously rubbed with a towel and its airway, including its mouth, cleared of any fluid.

As soon as the kid is breathing well, you can watch and let the mother clean it off or help her out. If your doe is a first freshener especially, you can help her tune in to her new baby and get with the program by dabbing some of the wet from her new baby on her nose. The doe's licking and cleaning her kid is a part of the bonding process, so if you're planning on the doe's raising the kids, it's best to make sure she is part of the cleanup process. If the doe starts to deliver the next baby right away, you may do much of the cleanup of the already born babies. If you are bottle-feeding, say for CAE prevention, remove the baby before the doe has a chance to clean it and bond with it.

It's a good idea to be present during every labor and delivery if at all possible. Does often give birth to healthy babies without any assistance, but on the occasions that help is needed, time is of the essence. Kids can be tangled, positioned incorrectly for birth, or dead and thus cause numerous problems if not assisted. Have a birthing kit and contact information for a veterinarian and a knowledgeable goat friend handy. Ideally, the dam will give birth easily, and you can simply observe quietly or help dry babies and ensure that everyone is comfortable, healthy, and eating well before you leave. If you are helping to dry off kids, this is a good chance to talk to them and have them imprint upon your voice. The oxytocin in the doe's system makes it an opportunity to forge a stronger bond with her as well.

First Colostrum

For a short period after giving birth, a doe produces colostrum rather than milk.

Colostrum contains an abundance of nutrients and proteins that promote growth and a strong immune system. It is very important that a newborn kid get colostrum or colostrum replacer shortly after birth. Some breeders let kids find the teat themselves, and some give assistance, helping to steady them and/or encouraging the dam to stand still. Kids slow to gain enough coordination can be held to the udder sometimes, but a kid who is weak and cold needs to have its body temperature raised before it eats. A chilled core temperature makes it impossible for it to digest anything, and undigested milk causes more problems. A cold kid can be warmed quickly with a hairdryer, in a bucket of warm water and then dried off, or put in a plastic bag up to the neck and then submerged in a bucket of warm water to raise body temp without the need for drying off afterwards. A kid who is warm enough (use a rectal thermometer and look for a temp of 102°–103°F) but who is too weak to drink can be tube fed. A kid tube-feeding syringe is a good thing to have in a birthing kit. Hopefully you'll never need it, but when you do need it, you need it right away. When attempting to tube feed, be very careful—misplacing the feeding tube can cause liquid to end up in the lungs and cause death. Feed warmed colostrum. Often a weak kid will need to be tube fed only once.

Dam versus Bottle Raising

There are people on both sides of this choice, and there are pros and cons to each approach.

Dam-Raising

One perk of dam-raising kids is that you don't have any bottles to prepare and feed. This can be a huge boon if you have a lot of kids. The babies will have many small meals, as nature designed their systems to accommodate. Dam-raised kids will grow up with the herd and learn herd manners. Many folks say that, given enough interactions with people, they can be as friendly as bottle-fed kids are. There are, however, some caveats. You have to watch dam-raised kids to make sure that they are nursing successfully and to be sure that one kid doesn't consistently get pushed away by an

inexperienced mother or more aggressive siblings. Overly eager kids occasionally damage an udder. Kids sometimes prefer one side, making it necessary for you to milk out the other side regularly to maintain their mother's balanced udder. When kids are raised with their dams, solid food is available to them at a very young age, as mom will introduce them to her food as soon as they are able to start eating it. If you grain kids, it's not uncommon to use a creep-type feeder, or to separate the kids to give them the appropriate amount for their size.

Bottle-Feeding

Benefits of bottle-rearing kids abound, too. The most obvious benefit to bottle-raising is CAE prevention. Many proponents feel that bottle-fed kids grow up friendlier and easier to manage, and that herd management is easier because the dams never have to leave the herd for birth and bonding only to be re-integrated a week or so later. They cite the peace of mind that comes from knowing exactly how much each kid is eating (unless kids are being fed with one of the multi-nipple feeding options) and from knowing immediately if one kid is a bit off its feed. Some people choose to bottle-feed using milk replacer in order to save the dam's milk for their own use or for sale, and many vets recommend that, although some breeders contend that milk replacer stunts the growth rate of the kids. Homemade replacer formula recipes are a third option preferred by many.

Bottle-feeding has its benefits, but it does add another set of chores to your day: heating the milk, feeding babies, and cleaning up the bottles and nipples, often several times per day (particularly when the kids are very young).

Regardless of the feeding method you choose, feed and water should be made available within a week or two after birth. Kids can often be seen "trying" hay and browse as soon as a day after they are born; and while they are not really eating it yet, it is important for their development that it be available. Hay and grain should be kept off the ground to avoid contamination, and water buckets should be low enough to avoid the risk of drowning. (If they tumble in, they should be able to get out.) You will need to have hay available to kids as soon as they start nibbling on grass and leaves. They will naturally gravitate to solid food and will quickly learn to eat it on their own. Grain can be offered, too, once they are eating hay well, usually once they are several weeks old. They will need water available at this time as well, as their needs aren't being fully met by the bottle anymore.

Enjoying Your Kids

Socialize your kids—touch them everywhere and get them used to a variety of experiences can make management easier as they grow. Invite friends over to play with them (with appropriate biosecurity precautions); fiddle with their hooves to get them ready for hoof-trimming later; touch their udders and scrotal areas so that they allow that easily; and spend a bit of time leash training in order to make them as friendly and amicable as possible before they go to their new homes.

Keeping Kids Healthy

As they grow, watch out for scours/diarrhea, lack of appetite, listless behavior, constipation, frostbite and indications of pain/discomfort such as having their eyes half-closed, being standoffish, standing with their backs hunched or their legs stiff, moving slowly, or being agitated. If you observe any of these symptoms, act promptly because kids can go downhill fast. Having access to a goat vet is invaluable, but in some areas, a vet who treats goats is hard to find. Having knowledgeable, experienced goat mentors and joining helpful online groups can be of great benefit, but it's also very helpful to know what problems kids may be susceptible to and how to deal with them. Keeping some key items on hand in your goat medicine chest can enable you to save a kid who falls ill and declines rapidly. Onion Creek Ranch offers an overview of the health problems kids can face: http://www.tennesseemeatgoats.com/articles2/healthproblemsKids06.html.

If learning deeply about goat medicine intrigues you, you may want to invest in a serious reference book or two. Breeders Jean Jajan and Alicia Weaver rely on John Matthews' Diseases of the Goat and Mary Smith and David Sherman's Goat Medicine. These are pricey texts that vets use—definitely not light reading, especially for goat owners who don't have a medical background. A less expensive but still recommended option is Peter Dunn's The Goatkeeper's Veterinary Book.

Weaning

Whether kids are bottle-raised or dam-raised, if you leave intact bucklings with the doe herd too long, you run the risk of their gaining sexual maturity and impregnating someone. It's not uncommon to wean dam-raised bucklings as early as 8-10 weeks. Doelings, on the other hand, can be left on their dams longer. Bottle-raised kids can stay on milk for as long as you want. Many aren't weaned until they are 3 months old. Weaning can be a gradual process or cold turkey, depending on your style. (For dam-raised bucklings, it is necessarily cold turkey.) Both approaches work well.

Health Care

Week 1

Consider dosing kids with a probiotic at around 4 days old, to help get their rumens off to a good start.

Feed bottle babies 4x/day.

As soon as horn buds are a discernible bump, disbud. That's usually at 5-9 days old for Kinders. Bucklings tend to be ready earlier than doelings, but timing is all about the size of the horn buds, not the number of days, so don't procrastinate. If you haven't disbudded before, find someone who can teach you how or do the job for you if possible. The school of YouTube might not be enough.

Week 3

Begin coccidiosis prevention. If you use an herbal wormer regimen, week 3 is the time to start. See https://fiascofarm.com/goats/coccidiosis.htm for more information about coccidiosis and prevention.

Bottle babies can cut back from 4 feedings per day to 3.

Week 4

If you vaccinate, give the first CDT shot at around 4 weeks old and the second 4 weeks later. If you give this subcutaneous injection yourself (after learning how), be sure to rub the vaccination site fairly hard for about a minute after the injection, to reduce the likelihood of a long-lasting knot at the injection site.

Discuss wethering with your veterinarian: decide on the age at which you will wether and how it will be done. Some breeders band their bucklings with an elastrator; others use a burdizzo or Side Crusher to crush the spermatic cords. Observable discomfort from wethering with a burdizzo seems to last only about a day, and most times the skin is not broken, so there's not a risk of infection. A third option is taking your buckling to the vet to be wethered surgically, but incurring that expense year after year may make less sense than buying a tool and mastering a skill.

Weeks 6-8

Kids should be tattooed. Tattoo the right ear with the herd prefix and the left ear with the year (indicated by a letter—F, for 2015) and the birth number of the kid: 1, 2, etc. It's helpful to have two tattoo pliers for this job, one for the herd prefix, which doesn't change, and one for the year and birth order, which do. Tattoo in time for ears to heal before kids go to new homes. Microchipping is an option, but a new owner may not have the required reader, so tattooing is the better bet. Use green ink on black ears.

Kids will need their first hoof trim at around 8 weeks old.

Bottle babies can be transitioned to from 3 bottles per day to 2 bottles per day.

If kids are not on medicated feed, consider giving a long-acting coccidiosis preventative a week or so before kids will endure the stress of transport and transition to their new homes.

Weeks 8-10

Separate intact bucklings from their mothers and from doelings.

Registration

We encourage you to register all kids within the first year or before they leave your farm to go to their new home. By doing this, you will ensure that the buyer, who may procrastinate, will not be contacting you to ask for another form, dates, information, etc., that by now may not be so easy to find, depending upon your record-keeping system. Registering kids before you sell them finishes your part of the process and prevents future problems for the registrar, who might otherwise be expected to untangle a mess when there is more than one generation of goats to register should your buyer delay registering past breeding age.

For the forms you will need, see http://www.kindergoatbreeders.com/forms.html. Below the hyperlinked forms are lists of which forms you'll need depending on what you want to do—these make it easy! Be sure to print new forms rather than using hard copies of old ones from your files; the address to mail them to does occasionally change.

Selling Kids

When you sell goats of any age, you can help ease their transition to a new home if you make sure you share certain information with the buyers.

Don't sell a kid who isn't well. The transition will add more stress to a kid who already isn't doing well, and you risk problems and a sick or dead kid.

Make sure kids are tattooed and their hooves are freshly trimmed.

Send with the buyer a few days' worth of the feed that the kid is used to eating unless you've already told the buyer what that feed regimen is, and the buyer has that feed ready and waiting. Feed includes grain, milk or milk replacer if the kid is bottle fed, hay, or whatever roughages you feed.

If your buyers are new to goats, point them to informational resources they can use to ensure that they are taking good care of their new kids

Consider a policy of always selling at least two kids together so they have a buddy to help minimize transition stress, especially if new stock will be quarantined at their new home.

Consider preventing a stress-induced coccidia issue by treating with long-acting coccidia preventative a week before kids go to their new home. See the coccidia article in this issue. Otherwise, be sure that buyers know what symptoms to be on the lookout for and how to treat problems that might occur.

Give the buyer a folder with all necessary registration and/or transfer paperwork, properly filled out.

Include in that folder a written health log that details any vaccinations, medications, etc., by date given.

Also include a copy of your farm sale policy or sales contract, if you have one.

Assessing Your Kid Crop

by Kathrin Bateman

Each kidding season brings a mix of excitement, challenges and joys. Hopefully by the end of kidding season you've got a batch of healthy and happy kids. As they settle in to life outside the womb we start to watch and assess them. You may know you are selling all your kids or perhaps you are keeping a few for replacement does and bucks. No matter which one I suspect you'll be eyeing them carefully and assessing which ones fit your breeding goals and standards. Because the Kinder goat breed is still a relatively young breed with smaller numbers than most breeds, every breeding and culling decision has more impact on the breed as a whole. While there is room for variation in all breeds of livestock every breed registry encourages their members to breed carefully and cull offspring that don't meet breed standards.

Since Kinder goats are dual purpose, experienced Kinder breeders encourage us to pay close attention to making sure we don't lose the meat end of that dual-purpose conformation. We want stocky, meaty goats with width throughout and well-attached udders that have the ability to produce good quantities of rich, tasty milk over a long life span. We want to avoid narrow, angular goats with a lot of what is termed "dairy type".

Assessing your kid crop starts first with assessing the parents to get a sense of what is possible. Some breeders suggest not registering any kids out of parents that are too dairy/fine/narrow because they are not going to embody the dual purpose qualities of the Kinder goat standard. Only you (with or without the help of an experienced breeder if you are new to Kinders) can decide whether each doe is likely to birth kids that have an appropriate amount of body width to be a good potential for registering. Kids deemed too narrow to contribute further to the Kinder gene pool are still good candidates for sale to people interested in a non-registered milk goat or pets and are also valuable as meat for the table. If a doe has freshened for the first time this is also your first opportunity to see her udder and assess it's quality. This will help you decide whether her doe kids are worthy of registration. Remember though that a dam with poor rear udder attachments who was bred to a buck who brings excellent rear udder attachments may give birth to a doeling who will be much improved in this area.

So, you've got does that are good solid Kinder type does and you bred them to bucks that you hope will balance out their weak points and now you've got kids on the ground. How do you go about assessing their conformation?

All the breeders I talked to mentioned sizing the kids up at birth. Are they good solid kids with some thickness of bone and width between their front legs. Of course it takes a few days for some kids to "unfurl" from their time in the womb so expect to see some changes as they get used to a little more room to spread out in.

Overall assessment:

As they stretch out watch for kids that stand square and look like solid chunks. Are they thriving, gaining well, and bouncing all over? When you look at them do you see wide stance, muscling and thickness of body and legs? As they grow do you note a propensity to pack on the pounds? Although they'll go through gangly stages as they grow, there will be times when it's possible to notice that they are solid, balanced, smoothly blended, and thick.

A large, stocky Kinder buckling with a straight top line that could be a keeper as a buck if he develops well.

From the side:

Look to assess whether they've got brisket extension.

From the side you can also assess their top line and length of body. Is their top line pretty level with a close-to-level or gentle slope to their rump?

Are their pasterns strong and straight?

From above:

Do they have spring of rib, or are they slab-sided? Goats should have well sprung ribs to allow enough capacity for their digestive organs and, in the case of females, room to carry multiple kids to full term. You judge spring of rib by seeing how far their ribs curve out to give them round little barrels. Because they won't start digesting solid feeds in any quantity for a while, this will all be relative. You'll notice that some kids show more spring than others.

From this viewpoint you can also assess width of shoulders and rump. Again, you're looking for comparative structural width here, a solid foundation for a meaty body.

From the front:

Look for width between their front legs in the chest area.

Look for straight front legs with hooves facing forward rather than toeing out or toeing in.

From the back:

Do you see width between their back legs?

Do you see a wide rump?

A leggy, hip high, Kinder buckling, showing heavy dairy character in his hips, that should be wethered.

Are their hind legs straight rather than toeing out, possibly making them a bit cow-hocked?

Do you notice a flatness and width from thurl to thurl?

Scrotum and Teats:

For bucklings, check to be sure that both testicles have descended and continue to develop normally.

For both doelings and bucklings, inspect teats at birth and again at two months old. A kid with a teat defect such as a split teat or a double teat should not be registered; instead it should be culled (removed from the breeding pool).

Assess from all these angles in the first few days following birth, then again at one or one and a half weeks old, and then expect some gangly stages where their proportions don't really balance as they go through growth spurt after growth spurt. Expect about 10 pounds of gain each month. A breeder I talked with for this article recommended culling any kids who are still runty at a month old. An exception to that would be if you had an easily identifiable non-genetic reason for slow growth, such as coccidia, that could be treated.

As you assess over the first two to three months of a kid's life, consider which kids reflect the breed standard closely enough to make them promising breeding stock, and which kids might best be wethered or sold as unregistered stock because they don't reflect Kinders' dual purpose. Also consider the parents. If the dam of a buckling has a poor udder, no matter how nice the buckling looks, he should not be sold intact to serve as someone's herd sire.

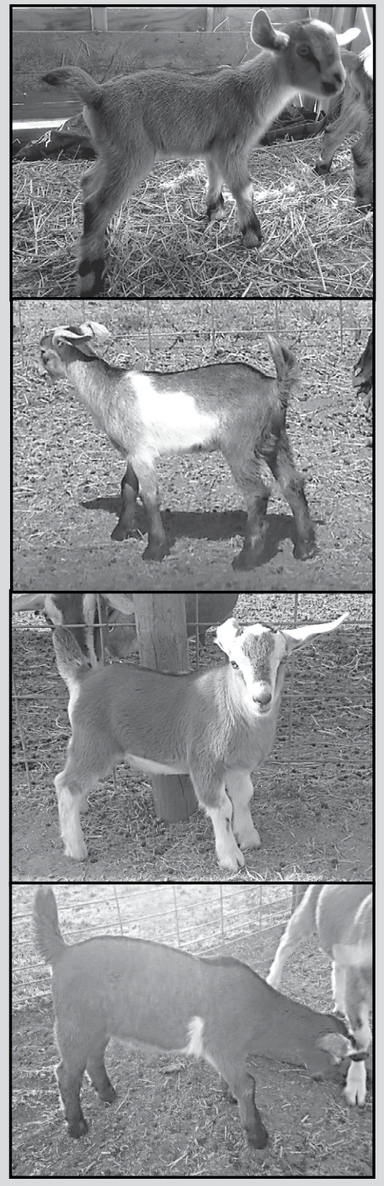
Kid Evaluations

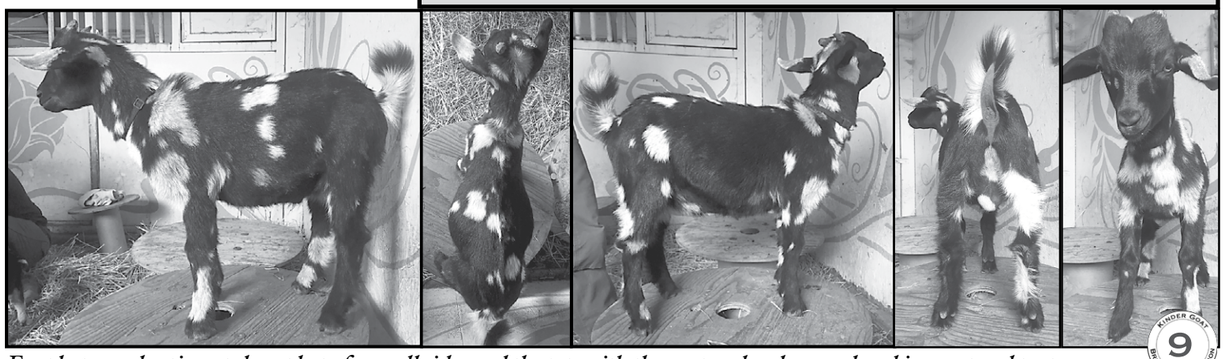
byAshley Kennedy

Here are pictures of kids showing a range in "early kid meatiness." Though a kid that's fairly scrawny may grow out of it, you do want to try to choose the meatiest kids you can to be in line with Kinders' dual-purpose nature. The first two kids pictured turned out very nicely. But they're much leaner, leggier, and less fleshed out. This doesn't mean they're bad. But the next two are much nicer. They're smoothly blended and are very thick, with a full covering of flesh everywhere. The kids are all within a similar age range. I keep kids like these last two. From day one you can see their meat goat body developing.

Continuing Evaluation:

Young kids can be very hard to evaluate accurately because they change so much as they grow. I have a doe that looked fantastic as a kid, has great breeding, and somehow still developed a steeper rump than I expected and is slightly cowhocked. These minor flaws became apparent only after quite some time. Some important qualities only show themselves after kids reach adulthood, such as udder quality and milk production or the ability to pass on good genetics. Evaluation is an ongoing process, but choosing the best kids you can and learning to develop an eye for the sliding scale from better to worse will set you up for the best success.





For photo evaluations, take a photo from all sides and the top with the goat on level ground and in a natural posture.

Buying Kinders?

by Kathrin Bateman

It's spring kidding season, and you may be thinking of buying some Kinder kids. Maybe you've never had goats but like what you have read about Kinders, or you have had another breed, or you just want to add to your Kinder herd.

Let's assume that if you are new to goats that you have done your homework about what is involved with owning goats. You've read a few books or have friends with goats and are clear that you have the ability, finances, and willingness to take to commit to the ongoing work of caring for goats. You aren't buying baby goats on a whim just because they are cute (and, oh, they are!); instead, you've taken into account that they will grow, eat more, need care, etc., and you've conscientiously solved for their shelter, secure fencing, feeders, feed sourcing, and potential veterinary care. If you haven't done that homework yet, that's a first step—give yourself a year or so to prepare and to learn about Kinders and Kinder breeders. That way you will ensure that bringing your new kids home will be a terrific experience for both you and for them.

Choosing which farm(s) to buy your stock from is an important decision. Ideally you've joined the Kinder Facebook groups (the Kinder Goat Classifieds and Kinder Folks), found some farm websites, and gotten to know some breeders and the goats in their herds.

So now that you know some buying options, how do you narrow the list down?

1) Biosecurity

Start here first. Does the farm whose stock you are considering have a biosecurity policy? What is their testing policy and have they brought any untested new stock into their herd? It is well worth paying attention to these details to optimize your chances of starting with healthy stock and to avoid contaminating your soil with disease organisms that may linger for decades. You will want to see documentation of herd testing results. The Winter 2014 Kinder Quarterly issue contained information on biosecurity and is a good resource to read again. Any goats traveling over state lines will need a health certificate. Check out the requirements for the states the goat(s) will be traveling through. Make sure both you and the breeder agree upon who is paying for the health certificate.

2) Quality and Cost

I recommend you always buy the best quality goats you can find even if that means you'll buy fewer goats than you had originally hoped (but at least two who can be companions) or even wait a year to start your herd. If your budget is limited, it might be best to buy one good quality doe (of any age) and a castrated male to keep her company. If you can find local stud service for the doe, you will shortly have a larger herd when she kids. Keeping doelings and continuing to use local stud service for breeding is a great way to have small herd of Kinder goats, especially if you start with quality. Buying lower quality goats because they are cheaper can put you in the position of needing to sell them and any offspring they have had if you get to a point of wanting Kinders that better represent the Kinder breed standard.

Already own some Kinders that don't embody the breed standard to the degree that you'd like? Consider finding the right buck to bring genetic strengths to the areas where your does are weakest so that you can improve your herd.

(If you are considering buck service, make sure you understand the biosecurity policies of the breeder offering stud service, to be sure that these requirements will adequately protect both the breeder's buck and your does.)

So you are considering a strategy for growing your herd that enables you to focus on bringing home quality Kinders. How can you define quality and learn to recognize it? Go the www.kindergoatbreeders.com and read the breed standard. Follow along when people post pictures of their goats on the Kinder Folks Facebook group for others to assess. Look at as many photos of goats as possible and ask questions of breeders. When you are considering buying from a particular breeder, look at the adult goats and assess how they compare to the breed standard. Now that you've joined the KGBA, really study the newsletter articles that discuss conformation, body condition, assessing kids, etc. Ask questions!

If you are used to dairy goats, remember that your eyes will need to adjust to what a dual-purpose breed should look like. Goats that may look fine to you could be considered too dairy (narrow, lean, and lanky) by many experienced Kinder breeders who are working to keep the breed true to its dual-purpose balance of dairy and meat qualities. Avoid the temptation to choose a goat for its color or markings. Conformation is more important every time.

3) Good Breeding Practices

As you assess breeders, consider several key questions. Is the breeder up front about the attributes of goats in their herd, and is that breeder making careful breeding decisions to improve their goats? Even a doe with famous farm names in her pedigree can produce mediocre kids if she is bred to a buck that shares her weak points instead of one that improves upon them. Will the breeder go over the pedigrees of the goats in his or her herd and talk about the strengths and weaknesses of each line to help give you an overview of what you might expect from their offspring? Does the breeder cull goats that don't meet the breed standard criteria? (Culling from the Kinder breeding pool can be by slaughter for meat or by selling as animals as unregistered milk goats, pets, or companion goats. Males who are not of breeding quality should be wethered, of course.) Breeders who engage in critical assessment of their herd, make careful breeding decisions, and cull those offspring who don't measure up to the breed standard are helping the Kinder breed improve and can be a valuable asset to you as you start or add to your Kinder herd.

4) Status of Registration

Make sure the dam and sire of any goat you buy are already registered with the KGBA. It's not good enough to be assured that they "can" be registered. Avoid headaches and/or heartaches by making sure you can register your Kinders before you buy them. When you pick up your goats, do not leave without copies of the dam's and sire's registrations and a registration application that has been filled out and signed by the breeder OR the registration certificate for your goat(s) and the transfer of ownership application. You will also need a copy of the breeding memo if you are registering a kid yourself. DO make sure you have made your needs for this paperwork clear with enough lead time for the breeder to make photocopies, get paperwork filled out, etc. Most breeders will conscientiously have these forms ready for you when you pick up the goats you are buying, along with a copy of herd testing results, but check to make sure. Some buyers choose to tell the breeder ahead of time that they will withhold a portion of the purchase price until the paperwork has been completed.

(Every once in a while, if buyers don't make sure they come home with both their goats and necessary paperwork, they may find themselves unable to register their animals. Buyers who have no luck getting paperwork out of a breeder can file a consumer complaint with that state's Attorney General, and the breeder will be contacted by that agency and given an opportunity to make good on his or her promises/responsibilities. This is a simple process that can be done online. I used it in a situation where no end of polite requests by email, voicemail, and postal service were getting me the papers on some sheep I had bought. It worked like a charm. I had my papers within a couple of weeks after trying for a year.)

5) Ongoing Relationship Possible

Sometimes it's possible to find a breeder with great goats and a location close enough that an ongoing mentor relationship can flourish. If you abide by that breeder's biosecurity requests, you may be able to bring your does back for breeding or even sell offspring back to the breeder. The breeder may be glad to help by answering questions, making suggestions for preventative care, feeding, timing of first breedings, etc. Make sure you let the breeder know you appreciate her/his support. A good mentor relationship with a more experienced breeder can be a huge bonus.

In some areas of the country, you'll find that there are not yet enough quality Kinders available to meet the demand for kids. The kids that are arriving were spoken for long ago. Your choices can seem frustrating:

(1) Drive great distances to bring home your first Kinders

(2) Ship kids across country

(3) Work with a breeder (or two) to get on a waiting list and wait, wait, wait.

(4) Breed your own Kinders from a Pygmy buck and a Nubian doe

If Kinders in your part of the country are sparse, traveling or shipping can more than double the cost of acquiring your Kinder kids, so be prepared for that. Still, you are better off shipping or traveling if that is what is required to bring home quality stock. If you're willing to wait, getting on a waiting list with a conscientious breeder in your state or region can make sense, even if you have to wait until the following spring or fall. You'll have time to learn and prepare for your Kinders, especially if you are new to goats. One plan would

be to acquire a couple of spring doelings the first year, and a couple of unrelated bucklings (or a buckling and a

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Picking Up Your New Kinder Kid(s)

Before you pick up your kids, it is helpful to make sure you and the breeder are on the same page about a number of issues.

Registration

Kinders are eligible to be registered if both parents are registered. However, breeders will sometimes sell a kid as unregistered if the breeder feels that the kid does not conform closely enough to the breed standard to be deemed good Kinder breeding stock. Be sure to clarify with the breeder as to whether the kid you are buying can be registered.

Has the breeder already sent in an application for registration? If the breeder already has a certificate of registration in hand, be sure that you receive that, along with a signed transfer of ownership form to send in to the KGBA. If the breeder has sent in the application but the application is still in process, you will want a copy of that application, a breeding memo if the kid's sire belonged to someone other than the seller, and a signed transfer of ownership form. It is also helpful to have a photocopy of the parents' registrations, just in case. (Consider taking a set of papers filled out with as much information as you have to get the seller's signature and the missing pieces right on the spot instead of waiting and hoping they will remember.) All necessary forms are available on the KGBA website.

Health Testing

Are there tests you want done before you commit, and who pays for those? Ask for a copy of herd-testing results for CAE, CL, and Johnes (pronounced yo-knees). It is not recommended that kids be tested for these diseases until the kids are six months old, so it's the herd testing results you will go by.

Health Certificate

A health certificate is often required if you are transporting kids across state lines. Will the breeder be paying for that, or will you?

Health Record

Will the breeder supply you with a health treatment log?

What vaccines, if any, have been done?

Feeding Regimen

Do you know what kind of food the goat(s) are used to eating, and do you have some ready, or is the breeder sending you home with some?

What amounts of what feeds is the goat(s) accustomed to so that you can avoid stressing your new goats with unfamiliar feed balances?

Generation and the Kinder Goat: Part I

BY ASHLEY KENNEDY

There is a lot of confusion about value and importance of generation, and for good reason! First through fourth generation Kinders registered with the KGBA receive a Certificate of Merit, while fifth generation Kinders and up receive a Certificate of Registration. At first glance, it seems obvious that Kinders who are fifth generation or higher are "better" or more valuable. But this is not so.

Why the distinction, then? The idea behind generations is this: in the first several generations of breeding Kinders, there can be quite a bit of variation from generation to generation, with throwbacks to the original cross being common. The further we move away from the original cross, the more consistency is achieved through selective breeding and conscientious culling. Consistency is not valuable or ideal in and of itself; it is simply neutral. It is what it is.

This principle operates in your breeding practices, for better or worse, whether you breed Kinders on a larger scale or whether you just keep a couple of does that you breed for milk and meat and kids to sell. By the fifth generation, you will have a more consistent animal based on your genetics.

If you have narrow, dairy animals that do not conform to the breed standard, with poor conformation, you will produce more of the same. Reaching fifth, sixth or seventh generation does not suddenly make your animals better, nor more valuable; instead, each generation will just be more predictably incorrect. In fact, you may even have a higher generation goat turn out to be less valuable than an earlier generation one, if the animal has faults that have not been addressed and bred out. If the earlier generation goat does not have as many faults, it will then be more valuable because of its quality, not the number of generations noted on its registration certificate.

ZDK Floribunda, a first generation Kinder doe born in 1994, remains one of the finest Kinder does ever bred. Many Kinders carry her genetics, and she's proof positive that a first generation Kinder can be as desirable as a fifth generation Kinder. Quality first generation Kinders enlarge the breed's genetic pool—a vital strategy for ensuring the long-term betterment of the breed.

On the other hand, if you are breeding carefully, paying attention to structural correctness, breeding for the breed standard, and feeding properly and plentifully, you will start producing more consistently and predictably these excellent qualities. Again, being over five generations doesn't necessarily make any particular Kinder better or more valuable, but you should be producing a goat that more consistently adheres to type because of your diligence and hard work!

So why is the distinction necessary? With the KGBA's being responsible for the betterment of the evolving Kinder breed as a whole, it's important for every breeder to be improving the breed and achieving more consistent animals in accordance with our breed standard. Currently there is a quite a bit of variation within the breed and among breeders. We need to start moving together more cohesively and in a progressive way. The distinction between generations is designed to serve as a litmus test for the breeder: you should strive to have most of your kinks worked out of your herd by the fifth gen so that you are bringing into the world only animals that are good ambassadors and representatives of the breed. The distinction between generations should be a personal motivator to objectively assess your herd — to dedicate yourself to truly understanding the breed standard and goals and to making the hard decisions needed to ensure that each new generation will improve upon the last.

The question now is how does generation affect us? And is it something worth giving thought to? If you view generation as a goal for reaching a consistently correct animal, then yes, it is worth giving thought to and can be very helpful in your breeding practices. Since the original cross is made from two very different breeds, you will commonly have a lot of variety pop up in kids of the earlier generations, and they may lean toward one side of the family or another rather than truly encompassing their dual purposes. This is normal, and we should view the first four generations as our chance to eradicate these tendencies. By the fifth generation, when we start achieving more consistency, we need it to be consistency that reflects quality, not just all of our herd's bad qualities and deficits now cropping up with more regularity. We are not talking about faults and bad conformation here. These more serious problems need to addressed immediately through culling. Moderate faults may be worth breeding out if you only have one or two "problems" to work on (perhaps they're on the narrow side, perhaps their hips are higher than their shoulders), but Kinders with more serious faults are usually best culled (severely poor udders, extreme crookedness, or just an abundance of smaller faults that add up to a very poor animal). These kinds of problems should be evaluated and addressed regardless of generation.

So why breed new first generation Kinders at all? Why not just keep building on the work of competent breeders who have already achieved excellent herds? Right now, the Kinder goat is a very small breed. In order to broaden our gene pool and continue to improve our goats, we need new blood! A quality first generation Kinder can be more valuable to a growing herd than a higher generation goat that is closely related to existing stock and can be much more valuable to the breed as a whole. Constantly culling lesser quality goats cannot go on indefinitely without our bringing in new high-quality stock. Currently, the best way to do that is often by starting new lines with quality foundation stock.

Part two will address with more detail how to put these concepts into practice in a realistic way, and how to view and use generations as a tool to work toward a better Kinder!

Colostrum: Not Just for Baby Goats

by Simone Smith

Colostrum is the first milk produced by all mammals. Its purpose is to provide the newborn with maternal antibodies (immunoglobulins) that provide passive immunity for the first two months of life. Thick and yellowish colostrum, aka "liquid gold," is rich in energy, protein, vitamins, and minerals that serve many purposes, including supplying kids the energy they need to keep warm. The antibodies found in colostrum are absorbed through the lining of the newborn's stomach. Interestingly the newborn's ability to absorb colostrum decreases dramatically within 12 hours and after 24 hours virtually is gone.

In order to successfully ensure the proper amount of colostrum a newborn receives, a good rule of thumb is 8 to 10 percent of the kid's body weight. For instance if the birth weight was 5 pounds, then half a pound of colostrum would be needed (5 pounds X 10 percent).

Keeping colostrum on hand during kidding season is an important practice to ensure the health of newborn kids in situations where the dam may not be able to provide. A simple method of preserving colostrum is to freeze it in small portions. Freeze it in ice cube trays, and store the cubes to keep it usable for up to 12 months. Defrosting should be done slowly in a warm water bath so as to not destroy antibodies. Colostrum cannot be refrozen once it has been thawed.

The importance of colostrum is well-known fact the goat breeding community. A lesser-known verity is that this "liquid gold" is also an edible delight for human consumption.

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companion wether) the next. Keeping your own buck(s) can make a lot of sense if you have to travel far for buck service otherwise and don't have the flexibility to do that when your does come into heat. (Your does don't care a fig about your work schedule, the school play, or what you had on your weekend to-do list.)

If you are thinking of working with your own Kinder starter kit, just do be aware that you are not just looking for any Pygmy buck or Nubian doe, and even champions of either breed may not be great choices for starting a Kinder line. And it's not always easy to facilitate breeding between Mr. Studly Short Stuff and his longer-legged love, though experienced breeders can offer you tips. If you go the starter kit route, be prepared for that to take a while and seek the guidance of experienced breeders before you choose your breeding stock.

If Kinders in your part of the country are sparse, traveling or shipping can more than double the cost of acquiring your Kinder kids, so be prepared for that. Still, you are better off shipping or traveling if that is what is required to bring home quality stock. If you're willing to wait, getting on a waiting list with a conscientious breeder in your state or region can make sense, even if you have to wait until the following spring or fall. You'll have time to learn and prepare for your Kinders, especially if you are new to goats. One plan would be to acquire a couple of spring doelings the first year, and a couple of unrelated bucklings (or a buckling and a companion wether) the next. Keeping your own buck(s) can make a lot of sense if you have to travel far for buck service otherwise and don't have the flexibility to do that when your does come into heat. (Your does don't care a fig about your work schedule, the school play, or what you had on your weekend to-do list.)

If you are thinking of working with your own Kinder starter kit, just do be aware that you are not just looking for any Pygmy buck or Nubian doe, and even champions of either breed may not be great choices for starting a Kinder line. And it's not always easy to facilitate breeding between Mr. Studly Short Stuff and his longer-legged love, though experienced breeders can offer you tips. If you go the starter kit route, be prepared for that to take a while and seek the guidance of experienced breeders before you choose your breeding stock.

Conquering Coccidiosis

by Sue Beck

A few years ago, I purchased a goat in New Mexico and brought her to Wisconsin. She went straight into a holding pen while bloodwork was sent off to the lab to test for contagious diseases. All tests came back negative. I also ran a fecal test to check for internal parasites. I was surprised to see that it, too, was negative, because the goats in Wisconsin almost always have at least one parasite egg in their stool at any given time. Apparently the hot, dry climate that she came from made parasites much less of a problem than they are in other parts of the country.

After completing standard biosecurity routine, Fern was introduced to the rest of the doe herd and did very well. She got along with everyone, ate and drank well, and maintained a good weight. It wasn't until a month or two later that I realized she wasn't growing like the other kids her age. She was fat and sassy, had normal stool, and was still eating normally, so I assumed she was just a slow grower or naturally shorter than my other kids. I decided to check for parasites just in case, but I didn't think I would find much of anything. I was shocked to find my poor little doeling's stool sample overrun with coccidia. How could she be so loaded with coccidia and show no signs? Where was the loose stool, the greenish, stinky mess that always gave these single-celled parasites away? How could she be gaining weight?

I knew that coccidia could be hard to detect and treat, but I was surprised that it could affect a kid so greatly without any obvious signs. If I did not do random fecals on my goats, I would not have known that this doe had a problem. I would have assumed she was just a slow grower or smaller than average, which would have put her at the top of my cull list. Knowing that her slow growth was due to environmental issues meant that the problem was mine, not hers, and that it wasn't a genetic flaw. After treating her for coccidia, I found that my assumption proved correct—my little doeling began growing at a normal rate and quickly caught up in size to the other girls her age. I felt that I had dodged a bullet with my doeling and had learned a valuable lesson on fecal testing even asymptomatic kids. But what about the kids that left to go to new farms? I run my own fecals, but many new owners don't have the equipment or experience to do this. So what can owners do to help?

First – know your enemy! Coccidia is species-specific, meaning that it can not be passed from one type of animal to another, nor can humans catch it from animals. Infection occurs when an animal ingests fecal material containing eggs. Coccidia thrives in warm, damp environments. It can live for more than a year in some environments, and normal disinfectants don't kill it. Hot, dry climates generally don't have the same problems with coccidia that more temperate climates face, but it should still be considered if a goat presents with diarrhea. Life cycle of coccidia is 14 days, meaning that kids may not show clinical signs of the disease until weeks after stressors present themselves. Dewormers have no effect on coccidia. There are medications available to treat the disease, but most do not eradicate it completely – the goal with treatment is to decrease numbers to an amount small enough for the goat's natural immunity to control. Natural immunity will reduce, but not eliminate, the number of coccidia living in the gut.

Coccidiosis is most often caused by stress or overcrowding. It is very contagious and affects kids much more often than it does adults. The stress of weaning or transitioning to a new herd puts kids at the highest risk of becoming overrun with coccidia. (Unfortunately, this is also a time when "off" behavior is overlooked or excused as stress.) Making these situations as stress-free as possible will help, but some stress is unavoidable. Reducing the amount of stress, limiting exposure to coccidia, and using a coccidiostat when exposure is imminent are the best ways to minimize the effects of this disease on your herd.

Over the counter medications used to treat coccidia include Albon (sulfadimthoxine 12.5%), CoRid and Baycox. CoRid is no longer recommended by many because it inhibits absorption of thiamine, which is critical to the health of the goat. Feeding medicated feed is sometimes a viable alternative to treating individual goats, but be aware that each kid has to ingest quite a bit of grain each day in order to receive a beneficial amount of the drug. To be most effective, coccidiostats should be give early in the coccidian lifecycle and before massive infections overwhelm the goat. Use of the drugs should begin prior to anticipated susceptible times, meaning that kids should receive treatment shortly before weaning and/or moving to new homes and continue treatment until after stress subsides. In addition to avoiding issues with individual goats, treating prophylactically will decrease environmental contamination and reduce overall risk of recontamination. If the infection is controlled during times of stress, the goat's immunity to coccidia will develop and suppress further development. Resistance will continue unless or until further stressors occur.

Of note, coccidia "eggs" will not show up for two to three days after a goat develops symptoms, so testing at the onset of diarrhea can result in inaccurate results. Coccidia can also be present without being a problem, so if fecal results are positive for coccidia and your goats have symptoms that do not respond to treatment, consider other possible causes such as internal parasites, salmonella, overeating disease, E. coli enteritis, or viral infections.

Making Raw Goat Milk Yogurt

by Elizabeth Sweet

We go through a lot of organic whole milk yogurt at our house. Every morning my husband makes his signature breakfast out of five kinds of cereal, three or four kinds of fruit, and walnuts. There may be something else lurking in there, I don't know. He tops off this tremendous, delicious concoction with yogurt. So now that we have jars of goat milk crowding the refrigerator, it's time to make yogurt and mark that item off our shopping list. (It's always fun to scratch off another item because you're producing your own at home.)

Game to give this experiment a go, I ordered two types of heirloom reusable yogurt starters from Cultures for Health https://www.culturesforhealth.com, the Bulgarian and the Viili. With either, you can use the same culture week in and week out for years. The Bulgarian culture is luscious, but the process for making it involves heating the milk and then cooling it to 110°F, mixing in the starter, and then holding it at that temp for hours (in a Yogotherm canister or other insulated container). That's the yogurt we made at our house last week, and my husband pronounced it perhaps the best he'd ever had. It's somewhat thinner stuff, however, than the yogurt we buy at the store. If we want it to be thicker, we'll need to spring for some organic powdered goat milk to add to it. Thick or thin, though, it's good. The Viili starter is one of several sold by Cultures for Health that can be used to make a room temperature yogurt, though you still have to heat raw milk to activate the starter.

I asked Cultures for Health if we could share how it's done, and they were happy to oblige us. They offer four mesophilic starters: Viili, Filmjolk, Matsoni and Piima.

Mesophilic Raw Milk Yogurt

http://www.culturesforhealth.com/make-mesophilic-raw-milk-yogurt/

When using raw milk to make yogurt, there are several factors to consider. To make yogurt with raw milk and our Heirloom Countertop (mesophilic) Starters requires an extra step, to ensure the culture remains viable for re-culturing indefinitely.

The initial step of activating the starter requires heating the milk to 160°F, to pasteurize it. If preferred, pasteurized store-bought milk may be used instead. In that case, proceed to step 3 of activating the starter. Avoid ultra-pasteurized or UHT milk.

Activating The Starter

If using raw milk, slowly heat 1-2 cups raw milk to 160°F. If using 1-2 cups store-bought pasteurized milk, skip to step 2.

1. Cool the milk to 70-77°F.
2. Transfer to a glass or plastic container.
3. Add 1 packet yogurt starter. Mix thoroughly.
4. Cover with a towel or coffee filter, secured with a rubber band, or put a lid on the container.
5. Place in a warm spot, 70°-77°F, to culture.
6. Check after 24 hours to see if it has set. If it has not set, leave up to 48 hours, checking every few hours.
7. Once it has set, or at the end of 48 hours, cover with a tight lid and refrigerate for at least 6 hours.

This yogurt is the pasteurized mother culture. Always use the pasteurized mother culture as the starter culture for making raw milk yogurt and weekly batches of fresh pasteurized mother culture (see below). Extra pasteurized mother culture can be eaten. Even if the activation batch does not set, it is still cultured and can be used to make subsequent batches of yogurt.

Raw Milk Yogurt

1. Put 1 cup raw milk into a glass or plastic container.
2. Add 1 tablespoon pasteurized mother culture. Mix thoroughly. To make larger batches, use 1 tablespoon pasteurized mother culture per cup of milk, making up to 1/2 gallon per container.
3. Cover with a towel or coffee filter, secured with a rubber band, or put a lid on the container.
4. Place in a warm spot, 70°-77°F, to culture for 12-18 hours.
5. Check every few hours by tilting the jar gently. If the yogurt moves away from the side of the jar in one mass, instead of running up the side, it is finished culturing.
6. Once it has set, cover with a tight lid and refrigerate for at least 6 hours.
7. The raw milk yogurt can now be eaten.

New Pasteurized Mother Culture

Once every 7 days, use the pasteurized mother culture to make a new batch of pasteurized mother culture, to keep the yogurt culture strong.

1. Follow directions for Activating The Starter through step 2.
2. Add 1 tablespoon pasteurized mother culture. Mix thoroughly. To make larger batches, use 1 tablespoon pasteurized mother culture per cup of milk, making up to 1/2 gallon per container.
3. Follow steps 4 and 5 from Activating the starter.
4. Check after 12 hours to see if it has set. If it has not set, leave up to 18 hours, checking every few hours. Once it has set, cover with a tight lid and refrigerate for at least 6 hours.

Always use the pasteurized mother culture as the starter culture for making raw milk yogurt and weekly batches of fresh pasteurized mother culture.

Extra pasteurized mother culture can be eaten.

Advantages

Cultures at room temperature (70°-77°F) leaving the raw milk bacteria fully intact
If the pasteurized-mother-culture procedure is used, the yogurt culture can be perpetuated from batch to batch via the pasteurized mother culture

No need to continually purchase yogurt starter.

Disadvantages

Need to create and maintain a mother culture to preserve the health of the yogurt culture when used with raw milk This type of yogurt culture makes the thinnest consistency yogurt.

Buying Kinders... from pg 13

Would I have ever purposely consumed colostrum without first knowing its benefits? Very unlikely. In fact, the very idea had me scrunching up my face with a look of distaste. However, I have learned to not discredit ideas simply because they are not in vogue in our society. If I stuck to common practice, after all, I would not have chevon in my freezer.

So why would anyone want to consume colostrum? Colostrum may have mood-boosting effects, as it has serotonin, a natural antidepressant, as well as an immune enhancer. Goat colostrum supplements have taken off as a health fad of sorts among many health-conscious folks, especially body builders. In many cultures and countries, the "first milk" is consumed as a beverage, made into butter, steamed into a pudding, or baked into many curd-like recipes.

For Further Reading

Colostrum Is the Key to Raising Healthy Goat Kids and Lambs http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/colostrum_is_the_key_to_raising_healthy_goat_kids_and_lambs

What Are the Uses of Goat Colostrum? http://www.wisegeek.com/what-are-the-uses-of-goat-colostrum.

Vanilla Bean Colostrum Ice Cream

1 pint of goat colostrum

¾ cup of Sugar

1 vanilla bean halved lengthwise, seeds scraped out

1 cup heavy goat cream

1 tsp. of vanilla extract

Add colostrum, sugar, salt, the vanilla bean seeds and pod into a medium saucepan. Bring mixture to a very low boil. Immediately remove from heat source and cover. Allow ingredients to infuse over the next half hour.

While the mixture infuses, place the remaining cream in a medium-sized bowl set over an ice bath. Place a fine mesh strainer over the bowl.

After the half hour is past, slowly reheat the colostrum custard, stirring constantly to dissolve and join the flavors. Once a boiling point is reached, remove from heat and carefully pour the colostrum through the strainer into the chilled cream. Add the vanilla extract and the beans. Stir ice cream mix and chill in the freezer for 15 minutes before churning by following the instructions on your ice cream maker.

Enjoy simply alone or with the addition of Cajeta, maple syrup, or your own favorite topping.

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