

Feeding of Goat

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**Livestock Production
Management**

Feeding of Goat

1. Goats have **fastidious eating habits**. They will **accept a wide variety of feed**, appreciate it and thrive on it, but what is acceptable to one goat is not always acceptable to others.
2. **Mobile upper lips** and very **prehensile, tongues**, goats are able to graze on very short grass and to **browse on foliage** not normally eaten by other domestic livestock.

3. Goats consumes wide varieties of feeds and vegetation than either sheep or cattle.
4. It has been shown that goat can distinguish between bitter, sweet, salty and sour tastes and that goats have higher tolerance for bitter tastes than cattle.

5. Unlike sheep, goats relish eating **aromatic herbs** in areas of sparse food supply, and hence can penetrate deep into the desert.

6. **Browse** (by browsing is meant the eating of leaves of bush and trees) forms an important part of the diet of goats.

7. The exceptionally efficient at **digesting crude fibre (cellulose)**.
8. They have also observed that excepting ether extract, goat and sheep utilized the nutrients in the feed better than cattle or buffaloes.
9. There is evidence that basal metabolic rate and **thyroxin** production of goats **higher** than in sheep and cattle.

10. Meat goats have a **DM** intake of **3 - 4%** of their live weight. For dairy goats it has been considered that they should have a DM intake **about 5 – 7%** of their live weight.
11. A goat generally produces more milk than cow from the same quantity of nutrients. The nutrients conversion efficiency for milk production of a dairy cow is on an average **38%**, where's for goat it ranges between **45-71%**. It has been observed that goats were **4.04%** superior to sheep, **7.9%** to buffaloes and **8.6 %** to cows in **crude fibre utilization**.

Feeding kids

- Kids must receive colostrums from the doe within **one** hours after birth and should continue for **3** days as
 - (i) The total energy reserves of new born kids
 - (ii) Colostrums is rich in all essential nutrients
 - (iii) It provides antibodies for protection of many diseases
 - (iv) it has got laxative properties, clean from its intestine the accumulated fecal matter known as **meconium**, which is often of a dry, putty-like nature.

Creep Feeding

- Creep feed is that normal feed, given to **suckling kid behind a barrier** (or creep) which allows them access to the feed but excludes the goat.

Creep feeding



Start kids on creep feed at 15 days of age:

Advantages:

- Encourages early consumption of solid food
- provides supplemental nutrients for rapid gain
- promotes early weaning
- Contains a coccidiostat
- Maintains a 2:1 Ca to P ratio
- Keep fresh water available in smaller containers that kids can reach at all times!



Flushing ration

- Feeding the Ewe/Nanny so she is gaining about 2 weeks before breeding is called flushing. Flushing may increase lambing percentage by increasing the number of eggs that the ewes and doe ovulate.
- Feeding extra protein and energy just prior to breeding to increase ovulation.

Steaming up

- Feeding of supplementary concentrate during the **last 2 months** of pregnancy is steaming up because more nutrients are required for developing lambs.

Challenge feeding

- System of feeding dairy goat which provides **more feed** than is justified by the level of the individual goat's **milk production**.
- Challenge feeding is an accepted concentrate feeding system to stimulate **increased milk production** from high producing animals

Finisher ration

- Since **goats are slaughtered** mostly for lean meat, the ration should be planned to include **30–40%** of the dry matter from roughage source and the balance amount from concentrate portion having **12 – 14% protein** and **60 – 65% TDN**.
- Goat attains slaughtering age by 10 – 12 months having variable body weights (20 to 30 kg) as specific for various breeds.

Feeding of pregnant goat

- High quality roughages provide the basic nutrients needed during the last 6 to 8 weeks of gestation when **70 – 80%** gain in fetal mass is made. Therefore, liberal feeding of quality leguminous fodder and concentrate having **25%** protein should be offered between 400 – 500 gm depending upon the condition of doe should be fed.
- A **free** choice lick of mineral mixture will take care for the calcium and phosphorus requirement of dam and fetus.

Feeding of lactating goat

- Nutrient requirements are higher
- To more energy, cereal grains at the rate of 350 gm for each liter of milk must be provided.
- The protein 14 to 16 % the feed may be fed in two lots, at the time of morning and evening milking.
- Add 1% trace mineralized salt and 1% calcium-phosphorus mineral mixture to concentrate mixture.
- Molasses (5 to 7% of concentrate mixture).

Feeding breeding bucks

- During the breeding season, the same concentrate mixture fed to the does may be fed at the rate of 450–900 g (depending on the body weight) daily.
- Care must be taken not to allow the buck to get too fat.
- Make sure the buck gets plenty of exercise.

Feeding of Breeding Goat

Flushing:

Feed breeding age goats extra ration (25% of maintenance) 2 - 3 weeks before & after introduction of bucks

- Increase ovulation rate
- Improves fertility
- Increases conception
- Increase Multiple births



Dependent on quantity and quality of available forage and condition of does

SUPPLEMENTS

- Supplements are extras that supply the body with additional nutrients.
- Some of the supplements are minerals, salt, vitamins



Salt



Copper



Iron

Care and Management of Fattening Stock

- Dewormed and vaccinated
- Poor quality roughage should be supplemented with concentrate mixture (DCP 12-14%, TDN 63-65%) fed @ 340-400 gm daily.
- In our country castrated male kids are raised for chevon production.
- 10-12 months of age they may achieve 20, 25 and 30 kg of live weight.
- The dressing percentage of goats normally varies between 44-55%