

Nutrition *of* Bucks (Billies)

Mating places high nutritional demand on bucks. Therefore, bucks should be enrolled in an increased nutrition program similar to flushing the does six weeks before being introduced to the herd. If bucks have been on pasture or brush, the nutritional increments need to be gradual to avoid enterotoxemia. Also, a calcium: phosphorus ratio of 2.0 to 2.5 may be necessary to avoid urinary calculi. Salt and water should always be available to the buck and 0.5 percent ammonium chloride may be added to the concentrate mix of the buck if urinary calculi is a problem.



Male goats must be properly fed to be fertile.



Llamas can protect the goat herd.

Summary

Nutrient requirements for goats vary with the stage of maintenance, growth, pregnancy and lactation. Some goats are used as browsers to clear brush from land, while other goats are fed for maximum growth or lactation. In all cases, goats should be fed in an economical manner to ensure that they do not get too fat or too skinny. Other management practices, such as deworming, should be conducted so that goats can efficiently utilize the feed that they consume.

Additional information concerning goats can be obtained at www.uaex.edu.