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CLUB GOAT 101
THE MARKET MEAT GOAT PROJECT

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
THINK AHEAD

- What shows will you attend?
  - Know the rules for each show!
    - Number of goats you can enter, weight limits, ownership dates, and entry deadlines!
Why are show dates important?

- Potential weight
- Frame size
- Age
Facilities and Equipment

- Construct pens first!
- Use 4” X 4” wire or small mesh fencing
- Minimum of 42” high
  - Keep goats in!
  - Keep predators out!
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

- Allow 15 sq. feet of space per goat for exercise
- Eliminate sharp objects or corners
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

- Barns/Sheds must protect goats
  + Heat/sun in summer
  + Well drained/ventilated
  + Cold/drafts in winter
  + Open to south or east
  + Provide 5 sq. feet per head inside
**Facilities and Equipment**

- **Feeders and Feeding**
  - Self feeders 6 inches off the ground
  - Hanging feeders at shoulder height
  - Troughs should be cleaned regularly to prevent disease
Use a 16-18% pelleted ration!

Young goats may not know how to eat feed.
Start with a leafy alfalfa and top dress with your chosen feed.
Reduce the alfalfa and increase the feed.
If hand feeding, goats should be fed at least twice per day.
FEEDS AND FEEDING

There is no magic ration!
There is no magic formula!
There is no magic dust!
There is only good Management!
Water is the most important nutrient in any feeding program!

“If you wouldn’t drink it, don’t clean it!”
Water makes up 70% of muscle fiber! Water directly effects the amount of feed an animal will consume!

- Check water daily
- Clean buckets regularly
- Keep water in the shade
EQUIPMENT

- Water bucket & feed pan
  - Cleaning brush
- Clippers/Blades
  - Cover coat
  - Fine or medium
- Goat blankets
- Socks/Tights
- Muzzles
- Hoof trimmers
EQUIPMENT

- Halters, collars or chains
- Extension cords
- Clipping stand
- Drench gun
- Scales
- Show box
- Fans
PROSPECT SELECTION!

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS YOU WILL MAKE IN THE PROJECT!
PROSPECT SELECTION

Structural Correctness

+ Erect Head and Neck
  - Extends out top of the shoulders
+ Travels Sound
  - Straight/Square
+ Strong/Level Top
+ Long/Level Rump
Prospect Selection

Structural Correctness

- Heavy Bone
- Strong Pasterns
- Correct Pin Set
PROSPECT SELECTION

Avoid

- Open shoulders
- Weak tops
- Light bone
- Weak pasterns
- Short and steep rumps
PROSPECT SELECTION

Muscle

+ Walks Wide
  × Heavier Inner Leg Muscle
+ Deep/Heavily Muscled Leg
  × Wide Stifled
+ Broad and Thick Back
  × Firm/Hard Handle
PROSPECT SELECTION

Muscle

+ Deep/Long Loin
  × High % Hindsaddle
+ Prominent Forearm
  × Directly Relates to Muscle
PROSPECT SELECTION

Length and Extension---

Volume and Capacity

- Body length to body depth
  - Long bodied
  - Long necked
  - Adequate depth
  - Spring of rib
PROSPECT SELECTION

Length and Extension---

Volume and Capacity

- Body width
  - Wide Tracking
    - Front and Rear
  - Deep bodied
PROSPECT SELECTION

Length and Extension---
Volume and Capacity

Avoid
- Short bodied
- Shallow bodied
- Narrow based
- Flat ribbed
Style and Balance

- Parts blend together
- Neck to shoulder
- Shoulder into rib
- Rib cage into the loin
- Loin into the rump
- A smooth shoulder, level top, trim middle and straight legs
**PROSPECT SELECTION**

Growth Potential

- Ability to grow
- Be competitive

A moderate framed goat with length and extension throughout, correct in structure, is heavily muscled, and combines these traits in a stylish package is more competitive!
THE NEW GOAT!

Let the goat become familiar with his new surroundings...then...

Build a relationship by halter breaking and training the goat to lead.

Once accomplished, move to the finer points—Showmanship!
WHAT YOUR GOAT NEEDS TO BE SUCCESSFUL!

HEALTH

- Vaccinate for Enterotoxaemia and Tetanus with a good CD&T vaccine
  - Booster every 1-2 months
- Treat internal parasites when you first bring the goat home
  - Treat every month
WHAT YOUR GOAT NEEDS TO BE SUCCESSFUL!

EXERCISE!

- Very important in the development
- Exercise helps to:
  - Develop muscle
  - Tone muscle
  - Regulate condition
  - Increase the overall health of the goat
Observe your goats on a daily basis! Make mental notes of how they act when you walk into the pen at feeding time and when you work with them.
THE HEALTHY GOAT

Know what is normal

- Observe/Learn habits
  - Eating
  - Urinating

- Check temperature
  - 102.5-103.5 is normal

- Catch problems early
KEYS TO KEEPING GOATS HEALTHY

- Fresh Feed
  - At least twice daily
- Fresh/Clean Water
  - Every day
  - Small bucket
KEYS TO KEEPING GOATS HEALTHY

- Provide free choice mineral
  - Formulated for goats
- Detect and treat problems early
  - First 8 hours is the most important time to provide treatment!
COMMON PROBLEMS

- Pneumonia
- Urinary Calculi
- Coccidia
- Fungus
- Ringworm
PNEUMONIA

CAUSE

- Wet, dirty pens
- Poor circulation
- Dry, dusty pens
- Stress
PNEUMONIA

SYMPTOMS

- Elevated temperature
- Runny nose
- Rapid, rough sounding breathing
- Off feed
- or poor appetite
URINARY CALCULI

CAUSES

- Diet, water, genetics
- Improper Ca:P ratio (2:1 recommended)
  - Stones usually lodge in the bend of the urinary tract known as the sigmoid flexure, or at the tip of the tract called the filiform; either situation prevents urination
URINARY CALCULI

SYMPTOMS

- Restlessness, getting up and down
- Straining to urinate
- Pawing the ground
- Tail twitching
- Looking at abdomen
- Vocalizations of pain and discomfort
- Final stages; grinding of teeth
Treatment for Urinary Calculi should be done by experienced veterinarians

- In most cases the tip of the urinary tract must be removed
- Blockage must be removed with a catheter
URINARY CALCULI

PREVENTION

- Proper, balanced feed ration
- Ration containing ammonium chloride or ammonium sulfate
- Free choice mineral
- Provide clean, fresh water

Know your water source!
Coccidia

- Parasite in the small intestine
- Damages lining of small intestine
- Encouraged by wet, unsanitary conditions
- Can cause death
COCCIDIA

PREVENTION

- Clean your feed bunks and water buckets daily
- Coccidiastat in the feed (lasalosid)
- Coccidiastat in water (Corid) during times of stress
Coccidia

Treatment

- Utilize coccidiostats
  - Albon/Corid in water
  - Decox in feed
- Use scour products
  - Scour Halt, Bisol, etc.
**FUNGUS, RING WORM**

**CAUSE**

- Bacteria or fungus
- Excessive washing
- Excessive shearing
- Exposure at shows
  - Handling or equipment
- Weakened immune system
FUNGUS, RING WORM
FUNGUS, RING WORM PREVENTION

- Wash or spray animals and equipment with a disinfectant or fungicide
FUNGUS, RING WORM

TREATMENT

- Penicillin or other antibiotics
- Sulfur products
- IV Sodium Iodide
  - Need experience
  - Follow directions
INTERNAL PARASITES

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- Keep water buckets clean
- Keep feed bunks clean
- Deworm every 30 days
- Keep pens clean
A market goat project is a job that must be done every day!
The Club Goat Project is not about going to the show and showing. It begins long before you ever purchase your first goat!
REMEMBER!
AT LEAST 90% OF YOUR SUCCESS IN THE SHOWRING DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DO AT HOME!!