

Beginner Dairy Goat Fact Sheet

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Goat Information – Visit with goat producers; ISU Extension Goat website can be located at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/goats>

Goat Housing – Minimum space required is 15-20 square feet/doe. Goats need ample bedding along with adequate feeding space that minimizes hay waste. Water and ventilation is pertinent.

Milking Parlor – swing 12-14 parlor with 6-7 units will milk about 100 does per person per hour.

Kid Management – average 2 kids per doe; highly labor intensive; dip navel with iodine; feed colostrum (CAE free) within hour if possible; may need to stomach tube. Wean at 4-6 weeks from milk or replacer (lamb or good calf replacer 20% protein, 20% fat w/o vegetable sources); get on dry feed (hay and 18%+ starter) within 1-2 weeks. Be ready for scours--can spell disaster. After 4 months feed good hay and .5 lbs. grain or poor hay and 1 to 1.5 lbs. grain per day.

Kid Milk Feeding Schedule: (from Barry Stevens, Missouri)

Age	Amount of Milk	Times per day (ideal)
1-3 days	4 ounces	4
4-14 days	8-12 ounces	3
2 weeks on	16 ounces	2

For the milking herd, feed free choice good quality hay or pasture (18%+ protein) with grain at 1 lb for 3 lbs milk in early/mid lactation. Basic Grain Rations for a Milking Herd:

(U of Missouri)	Level of protein in finished mix (pounds)			
Ingredient	14%	16%	18%	20%
Coarse corn	38 (lbs)	33 (lbs)	27 (lbs)	22 (lbs)
Rolled oats	20	20	20	20
Soybean Meal (44%)	19	24	30	35
Beet pulp	10	10	10	10
Molasses	10	10	10	10
Trace mineral salt	1	1	1	1
Dical Phosphate	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Magnesium oxide	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Add a vitamin premix to provide 1,000 units vitamin A; 500 units of vitamin D; and 3 units of vitamin E per lb. of grain.

Dry does, if not thin, grain at 1/2 to 1 pound per day with all forage she will eat. It is important to keep in good condition in dry period for healthy kids and good milk production.

Vaccinations (prior to kidding) 2cc Perfringens CD & Tetanus toxoid; 1cc BoSe; deworm as needed; respiratory and other diseases according to veterinarian recommendations.

Goat Breeds and Breeding (Estimated Milk Production for well managed herds)
Saanen (2,154); Alpine (2,134); Toggenburg (2,026); LaMancha (1,837); Nubian (1,797)

Milk Production: Ranges of 1,200-2,600 pounds per doe per year depending on feeding, genetics and other management. Lactation average is 284 days. Puberty: 4 months of age. Breeding: 70-80 pounds or 7-10 months of age. Rebreeding: natural season late-August to mid-March (mostly Sept-Jan) unless altered. Gestation: 145-155 days. Kidding Rate: 2-2.3 kids/doe/year.

ISU Extension Dairy Goat Budget

<u>Cash Incomes</u>	<u>Price Unit</u>		<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Per Doe</u>	<u>Does in Herd</u>
					<u>1</u>	<u>150</u>
Milk Sales	\$39.00	cwt	17.00	cwts	\$663.00	\$99,450
Buck Kids	\$8.00	head	0.90	head	\$7.20	\$1,080
Cull Does	\$75.00	head	0.25	head	\$18.75	\$2,813
Doe Kids	\$30.00	head	0.40	head	\$12.00	\$1,800
Other Income					\$2.00	\$300
Total Incomes					\$702.95	\$105,442.50
Cash Costs						
Forage dry matter	\$150.00	ton	0.90	tons	\$135.00	\$20,250.00
Grain Mixture	\$0.160	lb	1350.0	lbs	\$216.00	\$32,400.00
Milk Replacer	\$2.40	lb	12.5	lbs	\$30.00	\$4,500.00
Supplies					\$45.00	\$6,750.00
Vet Fees/Medicine					\$10.00	\$1,500.00
Bedding	\$100.00	ton	0.15	tons	\$15.00	\$2,250.00
Fuel	\$3.00	gallon	2.00	gallons	\$6.00	\$900.00
Custom Hire					\$2.00	\$300.00
Utilities					\$17.00	\$2,550.00
Repairs					\$12.00	\$1,800.00
Other Expenses					\$12.00	\$1,800.00
Total Cash Costs					\$500.00	\$75,000.00
Investment Costs						
	\$ FM Value		Depreciation Interest			
Equipment/Parlor	\$40,000		5.0%	4.0%	\$24.00	\$3,600.00
Building/Housing	\$30,000		7.5%	4.0%	\$23.00	\$3,450.00
Machinery/Other	\$10,000		5.0%	4.0%	\$6.00	\$900.00
Livestock	\$63,000					
Does	\$350	head	0.0%	4.0%	\$14.00	\$2,100.00
Kids	\$200	head	0.0%	4.0%	\$2.00	\$300.00
Bucks (20 does/buck)	\$400	head	33.0%	4.0%	\$7.40	\$1,110.00
Total Investment	\$143,000		Investments Costs		\$76.40	\$11,460.00
Total Cost					\$576.40	\$86,460.00
Net Return to Labor					\$126.55	\$18,982.50
Labor Costs	\$8.00	hour	17	hours	\$136.00	\$20,400.00
Net Return Over Total Cost:					-\$9.45	-\$1,417.50
Approximate Rate of Return on Assets					3.0%	

prepared by Melissa O'Rourke, Farm Management Field Specialist, Kristen Schulte, Farm Management Field Specialist and Larry F. Tranel, Dairy Field Specialist, Iowa State University Extension, 2012

1) This budget is a general estimate for educational purposes only.

2) Producers are encouraged to determine their own budget for their particular operation.

3) Costs on dairy goat farms vary considerably due to genetics, production levels, feed costs, management, labor efficiency with numbers of does milked with equipment and parlor investment, etc.