

Beginner Dairy Goat Fact Sheet

Larry Tranel, Dairy Field Specialist, Iowa State University Extension

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

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</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Per Doe</u>	<u>Does in Herd</u>
					<u>1</u>	<u>100</u>
Milk Sales	\$31.00	cwt	16.00	cwts	\$496.00	\$49,600
Billy Kids	\$2.00	head	0.80	head	\$1.60	\$160
Cull Does	\$60.00	head	0.30	head	\$18.00	\$1,800
Doe Kids	\$50.00	head	0.50	head	\$25.00	\$2,500
Other Income					\$0.00	\$0
Total Incomes					\$540.60	\$54,060.00
Cash Costs						
Forage dry matter	\$100.00	ton	0.90	tons	\$90.00	\$9,000.00
Grain Mixture	\$0.09	lb	1350.0	lbs	\$114.75	\$11,475.00
Milk Replacer	\$1.80	lb	25.0	lbs	\$45.00	\$4,500.00
Supplies					\$12.00	\$1,200.00
Vet Fees/Medicine					\$15.00	\$1,500.00
Bedding	\$70.00	ton	0.15	tons	\$10.50	\$1,050.00
Fuel	\$2.49	gallon	2.00	gallons	\$4.98	\$498.00
Custom Hire					\$7.00	\$700.00
Utilities					\$14.00	\$1,400.00
Repairs/Other					\$10.00	\$1,000.00
Total Cash Costs					\$323.23	\$32,323.00
Investment Costs						
	<u>\$FMValue</u>		<u>Depreciation</u>		<u>Interest</u>	
Equipment/Parlor	\$12,000		7.00%	8.00%	\$18.00	\$1,800.00
Building/Housing	\$3,000		10.00%	8.00%	\$5.40	\$540.00
Machinery/Other	\$2,500		5.00%	8.00%	\$3.25	\$325.00
Livestock	\$27,250					
Does	\$225	head	0.00%	8.00%	\$18.00	\$1,800.00
Kids(-from cull does %)	\$125	head	0.00%	8.00%	\$3.00	\$300.00
Bucks (20 does/buck)	\$200	head	40.00%	8.00%	\$4.80	\$480.00
Total Investment	\$44,750		Investments Costs		\$52.45	\$5,245.00
Total Costs					\$375.68	\$37,568.00
Net Return to Labor					\$164.92	\$16,492.00
Labor Costs	\$9.00	hour	15	hours	\$135.00	\$13,500.00
14.7%	-Return on Assets	Net Return Over Total Costs			\$29.92	\$2,992.00

prepared by Larry F. Tranel, Dairy Field Specialist, Iowa State University Extension, 2006

This budget is a general estimate for educational purposes only. Producers are encouraged to determine their own budget for their particular operation. 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.