Pre- & Post-Fresh Doe Care

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Dry Off

• 60 days before due date
  ▫ Make sure date is correct!
    • ~150 days
  ▫ Regain body condition
    • If in low condition from high production
  ▫ Prepare for next lactation
    • Cows: increased milk production
  ▫ Make colostrum
Dry Cow Tubes???

• Not generally recommended
  ▫ Mastitis while lactating?
  ▫ Use DHI records
• Make sure teat is sterile if use!
• Partial insertion
• 1 tube per 1/2
• Post-dip
Vaccination

• CDT
  ▫ Cavalry 9
• 8 weeks before kidding is critical!
  ▫ Move antibodies into udder ~5 weeks beforehand
  ▫ Takes 2-3 weeks for antibody levels to reach max
    • 5 + 3 = 8 weeks
• More than 1 year since last CDT
  ▫ Give initial dose 12 weeks BEFORE kidding
Deworming

• 2-3 weeks before due date
• Parasites looking for new “hosts”
• Oral dewormers only
  ▫ Withhold hay 12 hours
  ▫ SafeGuard & Rumatel labeled for goats 😊
• Avoid Valbazen during first 2 months pregnancy
• No levamisole
• Wormx.info is a great site!
  ▫ Topics -> Dewormers -> Charts
• Don’t forget about external parasites!
  ▫ UltraBoss
Other Care

• BoSe or Multimin
  ▫ ~1 month before due
  ▫ Boost selenium/vitamin E levels
  ▫ Multimin
    • Zn: Great for skin conditions!
    • Cu: no toxicity issues in WI
  ▫ Both “extralabel” so consult vet

• “Milking clip”
  ▫ ~2 weeks before due
Feet

- Perfect time to trim!

HOOF TRIMMING
A badly overgrown hoof

1. Dig out dirt from toes
2. Trim away excess nail, try to trim parallel to lines of growth
3. Pare heels to the same level as soles of toes.
4. Take away all the excess nail tissue, all around each toe.
5. Finish the job by using a wood rasp or paring thin slices from sole of foot, make flat.
6. A good trim

Trim feet every six weeks or more often in wet weather.

TOOLS

Be careful you do not trim too much off feet, when they look pink the blood is just below the surface, it is time to STOP.
Dry Doe Diet Considerations

• Feed to body condition
• Goal in dry period: **Maintain**
  ▫ Underconditioned: increase gradually
• No fat goats!
  ▫ Don’t “put on diet” during last month
• Ammonium chloride
  ▫ Minimize MF
• No bicarb!
Body Condition Scoring

- Hands-on process!
  - Same person every time
- Multiple areas to look at
  - Ribs
  - Backbone/loin area
  - Chest pad
- Scale 1-5
  - Typically lose 1-2 scores in early lactation
  - Regain 1-2 scores in second ½ lactation
Score 1

- Prominent space between ribs
- Spine prominent and sharp
- Loin concave
- No fat roll on edges of chest pad
- Need more energy in diet
Score 2

- Fingers fall between ribs
- Spine prominent but smooth
- Loin somewhat concave
- Slight fat covering of chest pad
- Early lactation, heavy milker
Score 3

- No depression between ribs
- Spine rounded and smooth
- Loin level
- Easily palpable fat roll on chest pad
- Ideal during late lactation
Score 4

• Can feel ribs when you push on them gently
• Can only feel spine with pressure
• Large fat roll on chest pad
• No fatter when dry
Score 5

- Can’t feel ribs
- Can’t feel spine and forms dimple
- Loin is convex
- Very large fat roll on chest pad
- Obese
Dry Goat Diet

- **1-2 months prefresh**
  - *Free choice hay*
    - Doesn’t have to be alfalfa as long as maintain body condition
  - *Minimal grain*
    - Unless needed to maintain body condition

- **1 month prefresh**
  - *Slowly increase grain*
    - Especially if multiple fetuses
  - *Free choice loose trace mineral*
  - *NO BICARB!*
Why Grain?

• Energy-dense but space-conscious
• Multiples take up more and more space
  ▫ Compresses rumen
• Can’t eat enough hay
  ▫ Mobilize fat stores for energy
• Lose body condition, preg tox!
Pregnancy Toxemia

- Increased blood ketone levels
- Close to kidding
  - ~2 weeks before
  - Multiples
    - No more room in here!
  - Overconditioned does
- Pathogenesis
  - Doe can’t eat enough hay
  - Body uses fat as energy
  - Fat metabolism releases ketones
    - Brain can’t use ketones!
Preg Tox Signs

- Inappropriate body condition
- Decreased appetite
- Depression
- Wobbly
- Shaking
- Circling, stargazing
- Down
- Death
  - Kids first, then dam
Preg Tox Diagnosis

- Ketone test
  - BHB over 0.7 mmol/L
    - NEFA’s should be less than 0.4 mmol/L
  - Blood
  - Milk
    - Can usually get enough even if dry
  - Urine
Treatment

• **Down**
  ▫ **C-section!**
    • Removing kids removes problem
  ▫ **Induce?**

• **Catch early**
  ▫ **Increase grain**
    • Energy dense but space-conscious
  ▫ **Exercise!!!**
    • Walking is fast enough
Other Treatment Considerations

- **Calcium**
  - Oral preferred
    - Goat YMCP
    - More than just Ca!
  - Can give SQ
    - 60 mL usually enough
- **Propylene glycol**
  - 1.5 oz orally in 24 hours
- **Minimize IV dextrose**
  - Blood sugar goes too high, then crashes
Prevention

- Exercise!
  - Water tank
- Maximize feed intake last month
  - Monitor body condition
  - Energy dense
- Decrease stress
  - Stress affects DMI
Doelings

- Growing kid(s) AND themselves
  - Closely monitor BCS
- Need good nutrition
  - Coccidiostat until 1 mo before freshening
  - NO milking goat feed!
    - Too much Ca -> rickets
Kids: Are You Ready?

- Clean, dry kidding area
- Signs
  - Uddering up
  - Separate from herd
  - Restlessness
  - Milk in teats
  - Soft pelvic ligaments
    - 12-18 hours before
  - Mucous cord
  - Straining!
Babies are Coming!

- **When to reach in:**
  - No progress after 15 minutes of straining
  - Feet but no head
  - Head but no feet
  - Tail
  - Yellow staining
- **Be gentle!**
  - Small hands
- **Clean, clean, clean!**
Post-Fresh Care

• Clean, warm water
  ▫ YMCP even better!
  ▫ Molasses

• Milk ASAP
  ▫ Better quality colostrum
  ▫ Natural oxytocin release
    • Helps pass placenta

• Access to hay/grain with minimal competition
Lactating Diet

- Lactation greatest energy demand!
  - Lose body condition rapidly
    - Expected but try to minimize
- Free choice high quality alfalfa hay
  - Soft, leafy
- Grain
  - In parlor, on milk stand
- Free choice loose trace minerals
- Bicarb?
Milk Fever

- Low blood calcium
  - Uncommon
- Signs:
  - No/minimal cud chewing
  - Weakness, wobbly -> down
  - “S” curve to head/neck
- 23% Calcium borogluconate
  - 60 mL SQ in 2 spots
  - Repeat every 2 hours til up and eating
  - Can go IV but have to give VERY, VERY SLOWLY
    - 60 mL max
- Ammonium chloride in grain prevents
Retained Placenta

- Uncommon
- Subclinical milk fever?
  - Decreased selenium/vit E
- Abortion, mummy

Treatment
- YMCP
- BoSe/Multimin
  - If not given in dry period
- Antibiotics?
  - If fever: yes!
  - Ask your vet
Mastitis

• Unlike cows!
  ▫ Light, smaller ½
  ▫ No flakes/chunks
  ▫ Rarely hard, swollen, hot, painful
    • Need more aggressive tx
• Sterile milk sample 1st!
• Cow mastitis tubes
  ▫ 1 full tube per ½
• Dry treat