

Advisory for Goat Farming

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- ✓ Select locally available and adaptable breed suited to resource availability for rearing.
- ✓ Use well-grown and high quality males for mating and exchange/replace them once in two years.
- ✓ Allow mating only after young goat's reaches sexual maturity i.e. 1.5 years for larger breeds and 1 year for smaller breeds.
- ✓ Consider body sizes of male and female goats while mating to avoid delivery complications
- ✓ Plan mating cycle for the flock that avoids stress for newborn kids and coincides with festive season at marketing age for premium prices.
- ✓ Maintain male goats separately from female flock for follow-up of proper mating plan.
- ✓ Follow rearing practices specific for targeted production like meat, milk etc.
- ✓ Avoid long distance transport for newly purchased animals.
- ✓ Cultivate fodders preferred by goats like especially tree fodders and shrubs like subabul, sesbania, hedge lucerne, neem etc.
- ✓ Develop perennial fodder base at farm for round the year availability.
- ✓ Use super napier and red napier varieties of grasses, leguminous fodders for higher green fodder yield for getting higher weight gain in kids.
- ✓ Harvest and use tree fodders in lean season for feeding goats.
- ✓ Harvest the multi-cut perennial green fodders at recommended interval for proper regrowth and maintenance of multi-cut perennial fodders.
- ✓ Store locally available surplus green fodders in the dry form like hay as well as crop residues in harvest season to reduce cost of production.
- ✓ Ensure no or minimum wastage while feeding by using proper feeding devices and the trough height should be at shoulder point height of animals.
- ✓ Allow 6-8 hours grazing, if grazing land available. If stall-fed, approximately 0.5 kg dry fodder, 2 kg green fodder and 100-200 gram grains/concentrate mixture is needed for maintenance purpose.
- ✓ Use a balanced concentrate mixture having right amount of grains (35-40%), oil cakes (25-30%), milling by-products (40%), gram chunni (5-10%), supplements (1-2%).
- ✓ Feed recommended area specific mineral mixture for higher growth and disease control in goats.
- ✓ If common property resources are used for grazing, avoid excess grazing and plan reseedling through community approach.
- ✓ Ensure filling of stomach of goats before evening hours, irrespective of rearing systems for higher income/profit.





- ✓ Provide minimum 1.00-1.50 m² floor space under roof for each adult goat, irrespective of age, breed and physiological status and half of space for growing animals.
- ✓ Maintain up to 40 goats in each group in farm for ensuring proper management.
- ✓ Maintain floor clean and dry as far as possible.
- ✓ Spray lime powder in floor after cleaning to remove excess moisture and to kill germs in rainy season.
- ✓ Protect newborn kids and kids up to 3 months age from severe cold weather exposure.
- ✓ Avoid housing young and adult animals in one group.
- ✓ Tie / remove excessively aggressive goats in group.
- ✓ Ensure intake of first milk after delivery within half an hour of birth after cleaning teats and udder for good immunity.
- ✓ Avoid excess milk intake to avoid loose motion and approximately 200-300 ml /day is sufficient for newborn animals. Use milk replacer, if milk is insufficient from delivered female goats.
- ✓ Feed concentrate mixture to kids after 1 hour of milk feeding.
- ✓ Start feeding lush green tree fodder leaves of small sizes like sesbania, moringa, ber, subabul etc at 15 days age onwards to young animals.
- ✓ Watering twice a day is sufficient for goats except for kids and milking goats, and during summer season.
- ✓ Adhere to timings for all routine management practices like feeding, suckling, watering etc as far as possible to avoid development of bad habits in goats like soil-licking, inter-sucking, self-sucking etc.
- ✓ Follow deworming and vaccination schedule as per the advice of local veterinarians, treat sick animals at the earliest for speedy recovery.
- ✓ Do not mix of newly purchased goats with already existing goats and maintain them separately for at least 21 days to reduce chance of introducing new disease.
- ✓ Always sell goats on body weight basis after assessing the market demand and value to avoid distress sale and middlemen interference/malpractices.
- ✓ For higher profit, small scale goat farmers form self-help groups (SHGs) in organized way for better livelihood.
- ✓ For large flocks, numbering of animals, trimming hooves, maintaining farm records, removing weak, poor grown and unproductive animals periodically will increase farm profit.

Invest more on purchase of quality animals followed by fodder development, disease control rather than on constructing shed at initial stage of establishment of farm.

Authors: N Ramachandran, Krishnappa B & G Letha Devi

For more information contact:

Dr N Ramachandran; ramacirg@gmail.com