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Important goat management tips / package of practices for Small holder Goat keepers.

Goat Health

- 1) Regularly vaccinate goats with available vaccines against various diseases.
- 2) Deworm goats before and after the rainy season and after kidding. Calculate and use dewormer dose as per body weight of goat.
- 3) Regularly undertake tick and flea eradication for goats and the goat shed when there is ecto-parasite infestation.
- 4) Examine eye mucus membrane of goats periodically and if you find it white instead of red or pink, treat such goats as per veterinarian's advice. Eye mucus membrane becomes white due to low haemoglobin level (Anaemia). This is mainly caused by worm infestation.
- 5) Do not use methods that will cause wounds, harm or pain to goats such as burning with hot iron. Avoid superstitions and follow scientific methods.

Goat Nutrition

- 1) Feed sufficient and nutritious fodder to goats every day. Give them tree loppings and crop residues seasonally as per availability.
- 2) Feed additional maize grain along with nutritious fodder to goats one month before and three months after kidding. This will increase their milk yield and their kids will grow faster.
- 3) Kids should be offered soft, tender and nutritious fodder along with a handful of commercially available concentrate feed mixture during their growth period of one year from birth.
- 4) Give purified water (with Chlorine/Mediclor/Sodium hypochlorite added) to goats. This will reduce the incidence of enteric diseases. Water purifying drops are available for free at every village Grampanchayat.
- 5) Do not give stale household food such as rice or bhakri/chappatis to goats in large quantities at a time as it can lead to tympany and sudden death.

Goat Management

- 1) Tie goat/s in a clean, dry and well-drained place.
- 2) Give a bath to your goats once in six months on a bright sunny day.
- 3) Weigh kids before selling. This will give you an idea of the selling price you should receive. The meat derived from a kid is roughly 55 to 60% of the body weight.
- 4) Keep records of goat breeding/mating date, kidding date, number of kids born, date of sale of kids, kid weight and sale earnings.

Goat Reproduction Management.

- 1) Do not breed goats and take care that no buck mates with them until they are fully grown which is at about 9 to 12 months age.
- 2) Bucks that are not required for breeding should be castrated at a young age. This will ensure higher growth rates and higher price. This will also help to avoid accidental mating with younger females.
- 3) Sell infertile goats.
- 4) Apply vaseline/ paraffin on the rear of a goat's udder before kidding. This will help to avoid the birth discharges from sticking to the udder and help to keep the udder clean.
- 5) Feed sufficient quantity of colostrum to kid/s as soon as possible after birth.