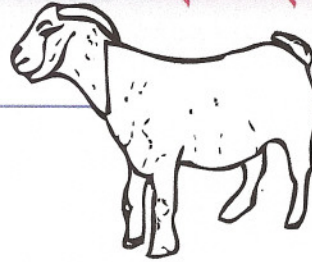


Our Boer Goat Schedule

Typical Goat Management Steps

Clear Creek Farms



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We were recently asked, "What do you do on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis?" While it was an interesting question and one of which we gave much thought, we came to the conclusion there is no one answer. Our goat management depends on a lot of variables such as season, condition of the goats, age of the goats, etc.

On a daily basis, of course, we feed the goats. The amount we feed and what we feed depends on how much forage is available to the goats and the quality of that forage. The amount and mixture we feed also depends on if the goat is growing (up to a year old), if the goat is pregnant or lactating, or if the goat is just maintaining conditioning. We do feed our goats even when ample browse/pasture is available to them; this is to keep them in a routine of coming to the barn and going through the handling system so we can catch them when we need to.

On a daily basis we also spend time simply observing the goats. Do they show signs of diarrhea? Are they standing with their heads down? Is a goat down on its knees eating? Are any holding a foot in the air or seeming to have trouble walking? These are all signs of trouble that would require additional care.

On a weekly basis we go to town to pick up feed. We buy by the ton but don't have the storage capacity for that much. To insure freshness, we only bring home the amount we need to feed each week. At different times of year and at different points in gestation of the goats, we may supplement our feed with yeast, corn, and/or sunflower seeds as well as provide a protein/molasses tub.

At Clear Creek Farms we do not worm on a schedule; instead, we worm only when the goats need to be wormed. At least once a month we will do random fecal examinations to determine excessive parasite loads. Every couple days, as part of our routine observation of the goats, we will check different goats' eyelids and/or gums to assure they are a healthy pink.

Vaccinations are done on a routine basis, but not all goats need the same vaccinations at the same time.

We wether bucklings at 2 months, so the potential wethers get a 3 cc shot of Covexin 8 one week before wethering. Buck kids we are leaving intact, as well as doelings, get their first shots of Covexin 8, Super Poly Bac B Somnus for pneumonia, and Case Bac at 12 weeks with a booster one month later. Bucks get a yearly booster while does get a booster either at a year or before she is scheduled to kid – whichever comes first.

21 to 28 days before a doe is scheduled to kid, we will give

her a shot of 2 cc BoSe (because we are in a selenium deficient area) along with 2 cc of Vitamin A,D,E. We also give a 2 cc booster of Covexin 8 booster, a 0.5cc Super Poly Bac B Somnus booster, and a 2cc Case Bac booster. This is an approximate timetable; we may vaccinate a group at the same time even though their due dates are several days apart.

Hooves are trimmed as needed. When asked how often we trim hooves, our normal answer is, "Not often enough." We have some does who have their hooves trimmed once a year and some trimmed every other month. The hooves tend to grow at different rates. There is a myth that as long as goats are walking on rocks they won't need their hooves trimmed often. At Clear Creek Farms we have not found this to be the case.

Since we have free-flowing spring water at Clear Creek Farms, we do not treat for Coccidiosis on a routine basis. There are many, though, who treat their babies at 6 weeks and 12 weeks – for 5 days – with Albon in their drinking water. On the rare occasions we have to treat for Coccidiosis, we treat individually. Since switching to a feed with rumensin, we have not had to deal with Coccidiosis.

Paperwork is accomplished on a daily/weekly basis:

- We have worksheets at the barn to record when we give medication or when we work on feet. Once a week these daily worksheets are taken to the house so the data can be transferred to our farm animal care program.
- We also have a board at the barn with every goat's name that we may use to make notations of weights or treatments. This information is input in our farm animal care program at a minimum weekly.
- Babies are ear-tagged at birth, and the database update to reflect this identification; but babies may not get their tattoos until we either sell them or submit their paperwork for registration. Note: no registered goat leaves the farm without a tattoo.
- Applications for registration are completed on a weekly basis and put in the herd book. We do not automatically register the animals.
- Paperwork concerning purchases and sales (either animals or supplies) is completed within 24 hours of the transaction – then filed. This is a great time saver come income tax season!