MEAT GOAT PROBLEMS

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MOST COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR GOATS IN THE SOUTHERN U.S.

Internal Parasites
Barber Pole Worm
Coccidia
Tapeworm
Lung Worm
Liver Fluke
Meningeal Worm
MOST COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR GOATS IN THE SOUTHERN U.S.

Hoof Problems
- Foot Rot
- Foot Scald

Respiratory Problems
- Pneumonia

Digestive Problems
- Scours
- Acidosis
- Bloat

CONTROLLING INTERNAL PARASITES

- Pasture rest/rotation
- Multi-species grazing
- Zero grazing
- Browsing
- Manage grazing height
- Alternative forages
- Genetic selection within/between breeds
CONTROLLING INTERNAL PARASITES

Selective deworming
Not everyone, not every month
Proper drug use
2-3 TIMES CATTLE DOSE!
Fecal testing to determine effectiveness of drugs

DRUG RESISTANCE IS A MAJOR ISSUE!

THE FAMACHA® SYSTEM
For assessing anemia and barber pole worm infection in small ruminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Category</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>PCV (hematocrit)</th>
<th>Deworming recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>&gt; 28</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Red-Pink</td>
<td>23-27</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>18-22</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Pink-White</td>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>&lt; 12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The FAMACHA® system should be used as part of an integrated parasite management program that employs other best management practices.
**TAKE HOME MESSAGE**

Deworming

Establish a program
Check fecal samples
Use FAMACHA
Deworm only when needed
Rotate wormers ONLY when there is no response, then change class of product
Give orally
Use proper rate to avoid resistance

**CONTROLLING INTERNAL PARASITES**

Tapeworm-
Lung Worm-
Liver Fluke-
Meningeal Worm-
Minor problems with good herd health management
COCCIDIA

**Can be a serious problem in kid goats**

Single-cell protozoa that damage lining of small intestines and cause diarrhea in kids.
Species and site-specific.

Prevention
- Good sanitation
- Proper stocking/penning rates
- Use of coccidiostats in water, feed, or mineral.
  - Bovatec®, Rumensin®
  - and Deccox®
  - Corid

Treat with Corid or sulfa drugs

***Rumensin®, Bovatec®, and Deccox® are toxic to horses, donkeys, and mules.***

HOOF PROBLEMS

Frequency of hoof trimming varies among goats, people, and farms.

Restraint: lift hoof while goat is standing on table, platform, or ground.
Harder to tip goats on rump.
There are tilt tables available
Don’t buy goats with foot rot.
Foot scald can occur seasonally when it is wet.
HOOF PROBLEMS

Foot Rot
Damage to the hoof

Foot Scald
Irritation between the toes of the hoof

Foot scald can occur seasonally. Wet conditions. Both foot scald and rot are inherited traits. Cull animals that are regularly infected.

RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS

Pneumonia
• Wet, dirty pens
• Poor circulation
• Dry, dusty pens
• Stress
RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS

Pneumonia
• Elevated temperature
• Runny nose
• Rapid, rough sounding breathing
• Off feed or poor appetite

RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS

Coughing, Nasal Discharge, Congestion, Wheezing, Sneezing, Fever

Infectious
Pneumonia
Often occurs as a secondary infection associated with ketosis, milk fever, bloat, acidosis, etc.
• Viruses
• Bacteria
• Parasites

Non-infectious
Lungworms
Nasal bots
Poor ventilation
Dusty feed
Stress

Normal body temperature is usually 102-103°F.
DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS

There are many different causes of diarrhea (scours) in goats.

Infectious
Bacterial, Viral, Protozoa

Non-infectious
Nutrition, Management, Stress

Most digestive problems (bloat, acidosis) are caused by diet changes, usually sudden.
Know what you’re dealing with and treat symptoms.

TREATING DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS

Scours/Diarrhea
- Pepto-bismol
- Bismuth subsalicylate
- Kapectate
- Kaolin-Perztin
- Probiotics (yogurt)
- Electrolytes (Gatorade®)
- Nutri-drench (corn oil + karo syrup + molasses)

Bloat, Acidosis
- Mylanta
- Vegetable oil
- Mineral oil
- Baking soda
QUICK HITS

URINARY CALCULI
CAUSES

Diet, water, genetics
Improper Ca:P ratio (2:1 recommended)
Stones usually lodge in the bend of the urinary tract known as the sigmoid flexure, or at the tip of the tract called the filiform; either situation prevents urination

URINARY CALCULI
SYMPTOMS

Restlessness, getting up and down
Straining to urinate
Pawing the ground
Tail twitching
Looking at abdomen
Vocalizations of pain and discomfort
Final stages; grinding of teeth
URINARY CALCULI TREATMENT

Treatment for Urinary Calculi should be done by experienced veterinarians

- In most cases the tip of the urinary tract must be removed
- Blockage must be removed with a catheter

URINARY CALCULI PREVENTION

Proper, balanced feed ration
Ration containing ammonium chloride or ammonium sulfate
Free choice mineral
Provide clean, fresh water

Know your water source!
OVEREATING AND TETANUS

Prevention
Vaccinate for clostridium perfringens and tetanus (CD&T)
Give a booster 2 weeks later
Booster young goats every 1-2 months
If you didn’t see the goat vaccinated, do it yourself anyway!

OVEREATING AND TETANUS

TREATMENT?
Usually the first sign of overeating is death.
Possible to inject tetanus antitoxin if diagnosed early, but not likely to help.
If you didn’t see the goat vaccinated, do it yourself anyway!
**DISEASES OF CONCERN**

**Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL)**
- Internal and lymph node abscesses
- Chronic, contagious

**Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis (CAE)**
Arthritis, encephalitis
Colostrum is primary mode of transmission
DISEASES OF CONCERN

Johne’s Disease
More common than we think?
Digestive (Wasting)

Scrapie
Regulatory issue
USDA ID requirements
Neurological, Wasting

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.msucares.com
livestock/goats and sheep