

# GOAT BREEDING CHECKLIST

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Are you ready to breed your goats? Consult this checklist for a healthy kidding season.

## DOES

- Body condition score is between 2.5 and 4.0. Goats that are too lean or too obese may suffer nutritional issues such as pregnancy toxemia.
- FAMACHA score is A(1) or B(2). Lower scores indicate anemia and parasite loads. If necessary, deworm and provide iron supplements.
- Doe is at least 70% of her adult weight. Many breeders wait until after does reach one year old.
- Doe meets breed standards and is clear of genetic issues that could be passed down\*.
- Doe has recently been tested clean of diseases.
- Doe is current on necessary vaccinations.
- Doe is otherwise in good health and is not recovering from injuries, illness, or surgeries.
- Doe is in standing heat, or has already experienced a heat cycle and will be in heat again soon.

## BUCKS

- If borrowing/renting a buck, has he recently been tested clean of diseases, including STDs?
- Buck is the same breed, or a smaller breed, than the doe. Breeding a larger buck to a smaller doe can result in kidding issues.
- Buck has a good body condition score and enough energy for breeding.
- Buck meets breed standards and is clear of genetic issues that could be passed down\*.
- Optional: Buck wears a marking harness to indicate which does he bred.

## ON THE FARM

- Count five months ahead. Is that a good time to be on baby watch?
- Is your area low in selenium or copper? If so, you may need additional supplements for does.
- Has your area been plagued with abortive diseases such as chlamydia, leptospirosis, or Q fever? If so, consult a veterinarian about risks and prevention.

### \*GENETIC ISSUES

Examples of issues that could be passed from either the doe or the buck:

- Genetic zinc deficiency
- Polled/intersex
- G6-S gene in Nubian goats and Nubian crosses
- Entropion: Turned-in eyelids that soon cause blindness
- Udder conditions such as bad attachment or poor production
- Teat deformities such as supernumeraries or fish teat
- Testicle deformities such as cryptorchidism or hypoplasia
- Musculoskeletal issues such as cow-hocked legs, wry-nose, and parrot mouth
- Poor parasite resistance
- Bad temperaments and mothering instincts
- Ability to keep body condition when nursing kids

