

Preparing for Kidding Season
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Essentials for your kidding season

1. Towels-plenty of them!
2. OB lube—DO NOT USE MINERAL OIL OR SOAP AS LUBRICANT WHEN DELIVERING KIDS!
3. Hand soap and a clean bucket—this bucket is set aside to use only during kidding—you don't want to be scrubbing a water bucket to put clean warm water in while your doe needs your assistance to give birth.
4. Latex gloves
5. Iodine-to dip the navel.
6. Nutri-drench-to drench the doe, or to put in warm water for her after the birth.
7. Oral calcium drench-CMPK is preferred-to put in warm water for doe to drink.
8. Leg straps
9. Powdered/frozen colostrum-powdered available at many feed stores, or freeze colostrum from one of your older does.
10. Lamb nipple or baby bottle
11. Your emergency first aid kit-should contain banamine, B-vitamins, oxytetracycline and other essentials you may need during and after kidding

Before kidding

1. 30 days prior to kidding
 1. CDT (if your doe has never been vaccinated before, give 2 doses at 60 and 30 days prior to kidding)
 2. Bo-Se (1cc/40# BW, or can use Mu-Se-1cc/200#BW)
 3. Check fecal, deworm if needed--fenbendazole and moxidectin are safe for pregnant goats

Preparing for kidding season

2. Know the due date!
3. Prepare the kidding stall in advance-clean, dry, draft free, with a light source
4. Have your kidding supplies in an easily located place
5. Have your veterinarian's phone number written in a prominent place

What to expect during kidding

There are 3 stages to the birthing process:

1. Stage 1: Pre-labor
 1. Does will be uneasy; kicking, pawing the ground, lying down and getting up frequently. They may be sporadically urinating or attempting to urinate. There may also be some vaginal discharge and obvious uterine contractions.
 2. This stage lasts 1-8 hours and may be longer in first time mothers, regardless of age.
 3. Stage 1 ends with the fetal parts entering the birth canal.

2. Stage 2: Active labor
 1. Visible signs of second stage labor include appearance of the water sac and/ or kid entering the birth canal.
 2. This stage lasts about 1-2 hours (15 to 30 minutes per kid).
 3. Stage 2 ends with birth of the kid.

3. Stage 3:
 1. This stage is where the placenta or fetal membranes are passed. This occurs 15 to 20 minutes after the birth of the kid. Some farmers believe that the dam should be allowed to eat her placenta after it passes-I do not recommend allowing this.

So—when to give help??

1. If an animal is in stage 1 of labor for longer than 8 hours.
2. If in stage 2, any of the following occurs:
 1. The mother has been straining for 30 minutes with no progress.
 2. The water sac is observed for longer than 30 minutes and the animal is not trying to push.
 3. The animal is showing signs of severe distress or fatigue, or the kid is in distress (has a swollen head or tongue).
 4. The placenta is passing before the kid is delivered.
3. If you see that the kid is presenting (coming out) in an abnormal way-head first, 3 legs out, mismatched legs out, tail coming out first, etc.
4. If you decide that your doe needs assistance, follow these rules:
 1. WASH YOUR HANDS!!!
 2. Use plenty of lubricant
 3. •Have a helper ready to work on kids after the birth.
 4. Don't use excessive force when extracting a kid-try to pull during a contraction- work with doe, not against her!

5. If you are making no progress— use more lube, re-assess if you have more than 1 kid, and finally.. call your vet—too soon is better than too late!

Post partum care:

1. When doe is done delivering, offer her warm water with nutra-drench and CMPK. If birth was difficult, give B vitamins and banamine. Offer plenty of high quality hay immediately, with small amount of grain.
2. Placenta should pass within hours of delivering last kid-if not within 12 hours, call vet.
3. Kids should be up and trying to nurse within 30 minutes after birth. If they don't nurse within 1 hour, give them colostrum, either by bottle or tube feeding
 - a. Colostrum-10% of BW within 3-4 hours of birth (a little under a pint for a 10# kid)
 - b. Amount to bottle feed kid-10-20% BW goat milk or milk replacer per day, divided into 3 or 4 equal feedings.
 - c. Do not use cow's milk to feed kids—use goat milk or kid/lamb milk replacer.
4. Give Bo-Se injection-0.25cc/10# BW—don't use Mu-Se!
5. CDT vaccination should be given at 3 and 4 months for kids whose dams were vaccinated properly. For kids of un-vaccinated dams, give CDT at 1, 2, and 3 months of age.