

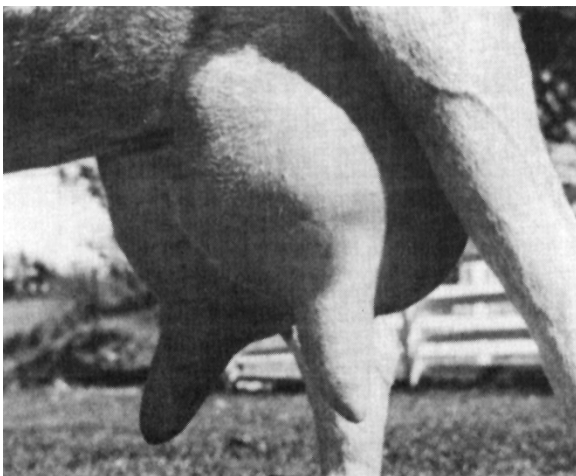
## FEEDING YOUR GOAT



**UNDESIRABLE UDDER, TEATS TOO LARGE**



**UNBALANCED UDDER DUE TO MASTITIS**



**GOOD UDDER**

When you have chosen your doe and provided her with good housing and yard facilities, your job has just begun. She needs the right kind of feeding to make her a top milk producer.

Give your kid a good start. She needs at least two feedings of her mother's milk, colostrum, as soon as possible after birth. It provides vitamin A and helps prevent disease. This first thick, yellow milk is not suitable for humans.

You can let her nurse her dam at birth or feed her by bottle. You can let her nurse for three days, then hand feed her. Soft-drink bottles with nipples are satisfactory for feeding kids. But, whatever method you use, all utensils must be thoroughly clean. Wash and scald utensils after each feeding. All milk must be warmed to about 100°F; the kid will not drink it cold.

### CHANGE FEED SLOWLY

Whole goat's milk is the best feed for kids, but whole cow's milk can be used instead. A dairy calf milk replacer can be substituted for part of the milk. All kids start nibbling leafy hay when they are a few days old. A high-protein calf starter should be fed as soon as the kid will accept it. She probably will not eat much of this until she is about 3 weeks old. When she is 2 or 3 weeks old she will start drinking water by herself from a pan or pail, even if she is nursed or bottle fed; she will also begin to eat leaves from green plants, briars, and so on. If she is eating grain and hay well at the end of eight weeks, milk feeding can be stopped. Your dairy goat will like roots, silage, and alfalfa, and probably will not tire of such a diet.

## PASTURE FEEDING

Pasturing is the ideal way to feed your goat, but keep in mind that irrigated pasture is an excellent breeding ground for worms, flukes, and other parasites. Goats do well both on alfalfa pasture and on some of the native grasses. Because a goat enjoys variety, provide your goat with as large a pasture as possible. Always check to be sure her feed and drink are clean. She will do her best when you provide clean feed, drink, and pasture.

## READY-MIX FEED

You may buy your grain and mix it at home. However, several commercial feed companies produce ready-mix feed. Ready-mixed dairy feeds are fine and may be less expensive, de-

pending upon how much you buy. Have fresh clean water, trace minerals, and salt for your goat at all times.

A doe that produces less than 1 quart of milk per day gets all the nutrients she needs from a good quality alfalfa. A doe that produces more milk needs more than alfalfa. She needs a quart measure of concentrate mixture for each 4 pints of milk produced daily. Give half of the concentrate at the morning milking and the other half at the evening milking.

A pregnant doe should have a dry period of 2 months just before kidding; during this period she should receive a good grass hay rather than alfalfa. Increases or changes in feed should always be gradual. (For method of drying up, refer to page 9.)

## FEEDING GUIDE

AGE	FEED	AMOUNT EACH DAY
Birth to 3 days	Colostrum	All the kid wants
3 days to 3 weeks	Whole milk (cow or goat) Water, salt	2 to 3 pints All the kid wants
3 weeks to 4 months	Whole milk Creep feed (1) Alfalfa hay (2) Water, salt	2 to 3 pints, up to 8 weeks All the kid will eat, up to 1 pound per day All the kid will eat All the kid wants
4 months to freshening	Grain mixture (3b) Alfalfa hay or pasture (2) Water, salt	Up to 1 pound of high protein feed All the doe will eat All the doe wants
Dry pregnant	Grain mixture (3b) Grass hay or pasture (2)	Up to 1 pound mix for a dry animal All the doe will eat
Milking doe	Grain mixture (3a)  Alfalfa hay (2) Water, salt	Minimum of 1 pound up to 2 quarts of milk per day. Add 1 pound grain mixture for each additional 2 quarts of milk. All the doe will eat All the doe wants

- (1) Creep feed may be a commercially mixed milk supplement or calf starter.
- (2) Alfalfa hay of extremely high quality, fine stemmed, leafy, and green.
- (3) Suggested grain mixtures
  - (a) For a lactating doe
    - 55 pounds barley or oats
    - 15 pounds beet pulp
    - 20 pounds wheat, mixed feed, or mill run
    - 10 pounds linseed, cottonseed, or soybean oil meal

- (b) For a growing or a dry doe
  - 15 pounds beet pulp
  - 50 pounds barley or oats
  - 15 pounds wheat, mixed feed, or mill run
  - 20 pounds linseed, cottonseed, or soybean oil meal

If you use commercial dairy cow or dairy goat feed, use it according to your goat's stage of growth—growing, drying, or lactating.