Kidding and Neonatal Care

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Parturition or Kidding

- Dystocia or kidding problems is not common in goats. Only 1-3% of all births
- multiple offspring equals smaller fetuses
- Dystocia can be reduced by adequate nutrition, exercise, and body size.
- Experienced goat producer advice
- Cultivate a Veterinarian relationship
3 Stages of Parturition (Labor)

- Stage 1  dilation of the cervix
- Stage 2  Delivery of the fetus or fetuses
- Stage 3  Expelling the placenta (fetal membranes and fluid)
Stage 1 of Labor

The first stage many times goes unnoticed

Initially the doe may not come up to eat or isolate herself from the herd

Signs seen might include the doe getting up and down often, looking at her tail, arching her back and tail flagging

The vulva is swollen, the tail head is sunken, and the udder fills with milk and appears shiny

After 24hrs in stage 1 she may need assistance
Stage 2 of Labor

• Stage 2 begins with abdominal contractions or hard labor which present a water bag or kid through the birth canal
• A kid should be delivered within 1 hour of stage 2 or assistance may be needed
• Kids may be delivered earlier by hand
• All kids should be born within 2 hours
Stage 3 of Labor

• Stage 3 of labor is expelling the placenta which should happen within 4 hours
• This may happen as fast as 30 minutes
• Triplets and quads may take longer
• Vaginal discharge is normal for 7-10 days
• Discharge should be dark brown and not have a bad odor
• Retained placentas are not common
Assisting delivery

- Only after 1 hour of hard labor or progression of delivery has stopped
- Always use sleeves and lube
- Assistant with small arms and hands
- Reposition multiple kids
- Help pull the large single kid
- Advise and help from experienced producers may be all you need
- C-sections in goats are < 1/1,000 births
Neonatal Care

- Mother Nature knows best, don’t disrupt the kidding / bonding process
- Dip navels (unless dried) with mild iodine
- If assistance is needed always observe colostrum intake or drench kids
- Colostrum intake should occur shortly after birth and must happen in 24hrs
- Immunity is acquired from colostrum only
Colostrum sources

- Timely, colostrum intake is the single most important event in a newborn kid's life
- Fresh milked colostrum is best
- Frozen colostrum is good for 1 year
- Powdered colostrum is OK
- Homemade if nothing else is available
  1 pint of milk, ½ t cod liver oil
  1 beaten egg, 1 T pectin (Sure Jel) all fed to one kid until gone
Questions ??

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