



agriculture & rural development

Department:

Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Let's grow North West together"

www.nwpg.gov.za



Goat management

S.K. Kgaswane

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Research Support Services,
Northwest Province, South Africa

☎ 018-295 6500/6798

✉ smashala@nwpg.gov.za

15 September 2022
Tseoge



**agriculture &
rural development**

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Let's grow North West together"

www.nwpg.gov.za



What is management?

- ✓ The act of conducting something or
- ✓ The supervising or directing of an enterprise/business
- ✓ Effective utilization and coordination of resources such as capital, plant, fodder, feed, materials, and labour to achieve defined objectives with maximum efficiency
- ✓ Your management practices will be dictated largely by the goals and objectives of your goat enterprise.
 - 1) Why are you raising goats?
Business (profit), hobby, shows, pets, brush control
 - 2) What product are you producing?
Meat, dairy products, fiber, pets, breeding stock, wethers, show animals, land management.
 - 3) What and who is your market?
Other breeders, community members, restaurant owners, meat processors,



Goat management covers many different aspects of raising and caring for goats

- ✓ Feeding (fodder and Supplements)
- ✓ Health management
- ✓ Breeding
- ✓ Processing kids (identification)
- ✓ Facilities – Kraals, fencing



What is the best type of goat?

- The one that fits your system, matches your resources, and makes you the most money.
- There is as much difference within breeds as between breeds.
- There are relatively few reasons not to crossbreed goats . . . and fewer reasons to inbreed goats.
- From a commercial standpoint, the best goat is one that **performs the best**, not necessarily looks the best
- A Boer goat . . . no.
- A purebred goat . . . no.
- A registered goat . . . no.
- An expensive goat . . . no.
- A free or cheap goat . . . no.

– especially for does and the bucks used to produce replacement females.



Breeding- Why breed?



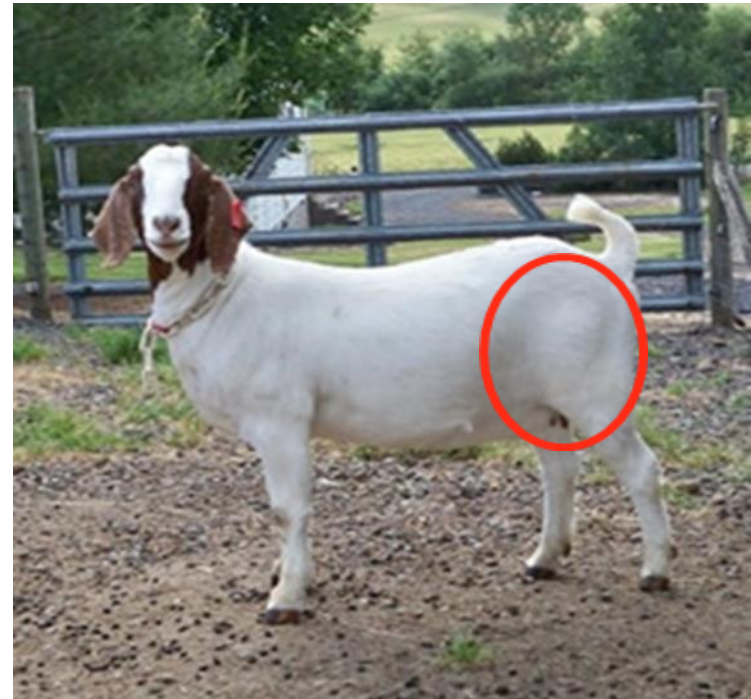
- To ensure continuous improvement of animals
- Know the trait you will like to improve (main objective)



Breeding- Why breed?



- To ensure continuous improvement of animals
- Know the trait you will like to improve (main objective)



Breeding throughout the year

Advantage:

- No buck management

Disadvantage:

- A high **plane of nutrition** is necessary all the time, management tasks e.g. kids processing, hoof trimmings, vaccinations, castration, must be undertaken continuously throughout the year.

Restricted breeding season

Advantages:

- **Herd management** and fodder flow planning is simplified.
- It is easier to monitor **conception rates** and to devise a simple system to detect does that fail to reconceive.
- Be able to do **performance testing**. So to provide 10 bucks to make a group comparison
- Animals can be **marketed in uniform** groups when prices are favourable.
- Where artificial insemination is used, heat spotting is only necessary for a short period



When & how often should I breed my goats?



- ✓ Age of puberty averages 7 to 10 months (affected by breed, season, and nutrition).
- ✓ Can breed doelings when they reach 18 months or 35kg
- ✓ Goats are seasonal in their breeding habits.
 - ✓ Seasonality is affected by breed and individual.
 - ✓ There are pros and cons to different kidding seasons: winter, spring, and autumn.



When & how often should I breed my goats



Accelerated kidding.

Pregnancy lasts approximately 5 months, so more than one kid crop per year is possible.

Is it practical, profitable?

- ✗ Twice per year
- ✓ 3 times in 2 years
- Star system (Cornell)
5 times in 3 years
- ✗ Opportunistic/continuous
(keep buck in all the time)



Breeding, breeding, breeding

- The buck is accountable for half of the genetic makeup of the total kids crop.
- The last three sires used in the operation will represent up to 87% of the genetic makeup of a crop, especially in a herd where replacement does are retained.
- Selecting sires is an important decision and one of the first requirements is to: **Determine your herd's present level of production and decide what traits need improvement! = Record Keeping**
- Let the doe herd and your previous crop tell you what needs to be improved!**

Buck to-doe ratio (1:15 – 1:35)

- Higher buck-to-doe ratios depends on mating ability, semen quality, and libido of individual and the environment under which they are to perform.

**REMEMBER TO BUY A BUCK
FOR THE DOES...**



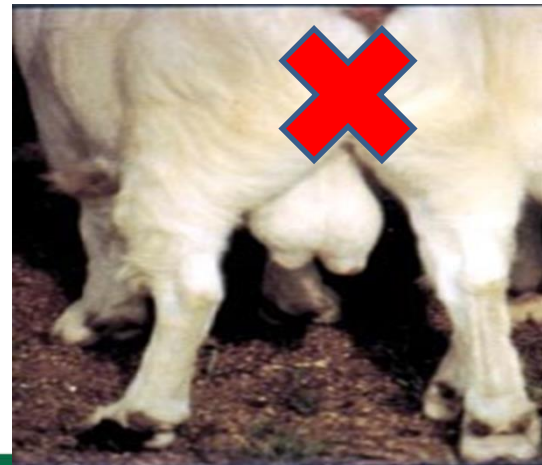




Select the best buck



The engine capacity



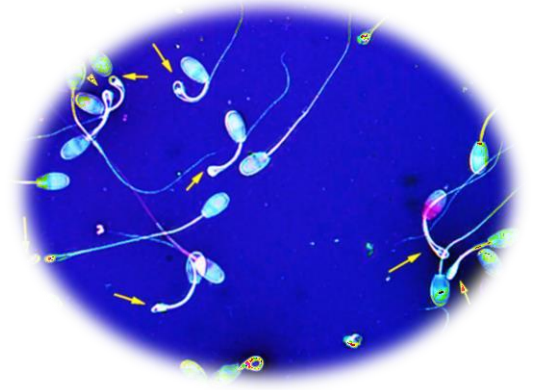
agriculture &
rural development
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Let's grow North West together"

www.nwpg.gov.za



Engine capacity = Fertility



**THE BIGGER THE BETTER = Quicker maturity of does
& trait tranfered to young bucks**



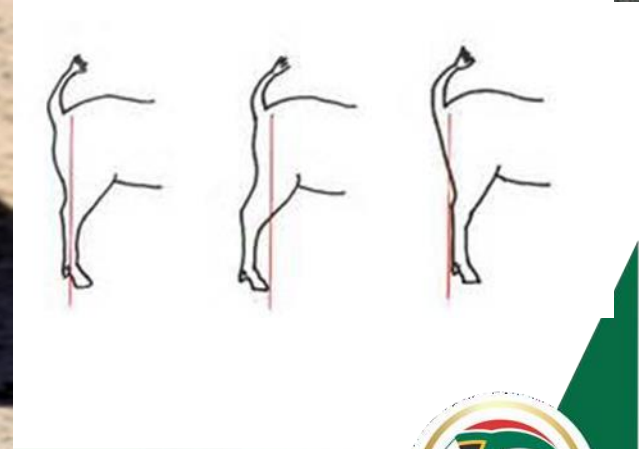
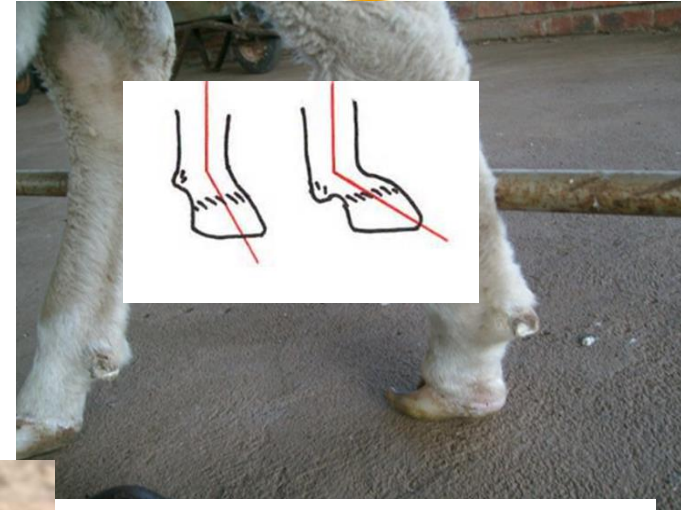
agriculture &
rural development
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Let's grow North West together"

www.nwpg.gov.za



Select the best buck



agriculture &
rural development
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Let's grow North West together"

www.nwpg.gov.za



FEEDING



- Provide supplemental feed when the forage is **deficient** in nutrients and/or it is **economically justified**.
 - Last 1/3 of pregnancy
 - First 6-8 weeks of lactation
 - **Creep feeding** and/or supplemental feeding of kids to increase growth, condition, and worm tolerance.
 - **Flush** does in poor condition for breeding.
 - Poor quality pasture
 - During drought or wet conditions.



CREEP FEEDING



Maybe, if . . .

- Milk production is a limiting factor.
 - You have lots of multiple births.
 - To go along with an **early weaning program**.
 - Pasture is a limited resource.
 - To get kids to grow faster.
 - To improve fleshing and body condition of goats (grade and price).
- ➔ **Only if it's economical.**



**LETS NOT GET
DISCOURAGED!**

**KE A
LEBOGA!**



**agriculture &
rural development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Let's grow North West together"

www.nwpg.gov.za