



AGRI MAGAZINE

(International E-Magazine for Agricultural Articles)

Volume: 03, Issue: 10 (October, 2026)

Available online at <http://www.agrimagazine.in>

©Agri Magazine, ISSN: 3048-8656

Management of Regular Activities in a Goat Farm

*Mote Sujit and Shreya Kerketta

Livestock Production and Management Section, Indian Veterinary Research Institute,
Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh, India

*Corresponding Author's email: sujitmote0@gmail.com

Goat farming is an important livestock enterprise that provides milk, meat, skin and additional income to farmers, particularly small and marginal households. Successful goat production depends on the systematic implementation of routine farm management practices that maintain animal health, welfare and productivity. This article describes the essential activities required for the efficient management of a goat farm, including animal identification through tattooing and ear tagging, provision of adequate exercise, castration of male kids, shed cleaning and disinfection, and health and disease management. Proper identification facilitates individual animal monitoring, performance recording and breeding management. Appropriate castration practices may improve handling and help manage unwanted breeding. Regular cleaning, effective sanitation and suitable housing conditions reduce exposure to infectious agents and support a healthy rearing environment. Preventive healthcare measures, including strategic deworming, vaccination and early identification of sick animals, are essential for reducing mortality and economic losses. A structured daily work schedule helps ensure timely feeding, watering, grazing, health observation and shed maintenance. The adoption of scientifically sound management practices improves animal welfare, supports sustainable productivity and enhances the profitability of goat farming enterprises.

Keywords: Goat farming; Farm management; Animal health; Biosecurity; Preventive healthcare

Introduction

Goat farming is an important component of livestock production, particularly for small and marginal farmers, as it requires comparatively modest initial investment and provides opportunities for income generation through the production of milk, meat and other animal products. However, the success of a goat farming enterprise depends not only on feeding and breeding but also on the effective implementation of routine management practices. Proper animal identification, adequate exercise, appropriate castration, regular cleaning and disinfection of housing facilities, and systematic health management are essential for maintaining herd productivity. Identification facilitates individual animal records and performance monitoring, while suitable exercise and hygienic housing contribute to animal welfare. Preventive healthcare measures, including strategic deworming, vaccination and early detection of diseases, help reduce mortality and treatment costs. Furthermore, a well-organized daily work schedule ensures timely feeding, watering, grazing and observation of animals. Therefore, adopting scientific and locally appropriate management practices is crucial for improving productivity, maintaining animal health and welfare, and ensuring the long-term sustainability and profitability of goat farming.

Identification of Goats: Tattooing and Ear Tagging

The first step in goat farming is the accurate identification of individual goats. This helps farmers monitor the health, growth, performance, and management of each animal accurately.

A. Tattooing: Tattooing involves using a special ink or tattoo paste to mark the inside of a goat's ear. A tattoo number or code is assigned to each goat for identification. It is commonly performed in newborn kids.

Procedure:

1. Clean the inner surface of the ear with surgical spirit.
2. Set the selected identification number in the tattooing instrument.
3. Apply the tattoo ink after checking the correct arrangement of the numbers.
4. Press the tattooing instrument firmly against the inner surface of the ear to make a permanent mark.

B. Ear Tagging: Ear tagging is performed using plastic or metal tags. A suitable site is selected on the ear, avoiding the major blood vessels. The tag is applied so that the identification number can be read easily. Self-piercing plastic tags, which carry numbers on both sides, are also commonly used.

Exercise-Related Practices

Exercise keeps animals active, supports normal physiological functions, and helps maintain good health. Prolonged standing in one place may weaken the leg muscles, increase the risk of hoof overgrowth, and place abnormal stress on the legs. Goats reared under extensive or semi-intensive systems generally receive sufficient exercise through grazing and movement. However, stall-fed goats should be allowed to move around in an open yard once or twice daily. Pregnant goats should be provided with suitable opportunities for movement, as exercise helps maintain physical fitness. Exercise is also important for breeding bucks.

Castration of Goats

Castration is performed in goats for two major reasons:

1. Improved and manageable behaviour: Castrated bucks generally exhibit more manageable behaviour, making their handling and management easier.
2. Improved meat quality and growth: Castration may improve meat quality and growth performance under certain production systems, thereby enhancing meat production.

Castration of male kids should be performed before they are separated from their mothers. It can be carried out using surgical castration or the Burdizzo method.

A. Surgical Method

Castration should preferably be performed during the cooler season, after the peak fly season. Castrated animals should be kept in a clean, dry area and monitored for several days. The surgical wound should be inspected regularly, and dressings should be changed when necessary.

B. Burdizzo Method

The Burdizzo method involves crushing the spermatic cords without making an incision in the scrotum.

Procedure:

1. Restrain the animal securely and hold its legs firmly.
2. Locate the spermatic cords by palpating the scrotum.
3. Place the Burdizzo castrator approximately 3–5 cm above the scrotum, over one spermatic cord.
4. Apply pressure for several seconds to crush the cord.
5. Repeat the procedure on the other spermatic cord at a separate site.

Castration should be performed by a trained veterinarian or qualified professional, with appropriate attention to animal welfare and pain management.

Cleaning and Disinfection of the Goat Shed

The goat shed should be cleaned daily. Disinfection should be carried out at least once every two weeks, or more frequently when required. These practices help maintain animal health and ensure a clean and hygienic environment.

Table 1. Common Disinfectants Used in Goat Sheds

Disinfectant	Method of use
Potassium permanganate	mixing 1 g of potassium permanganate with 1 litre of water and using the solution to clean water containers, floors and animal enclosures.
Sodium hypochlorite	mixing 1 tablespoon with 1 litre of water for cleaning drinking-water containers and public areas. Actual dilution must follow the product label and intended use.
Formaldehyde	Spray in the required areas. Formaldehyde is hazardous and should only be handled by trained personnel under appropriate safety precautions.
Lime	Use for cleaning and sanitation of the premises, as appropriate.

Disinfectants must be diluted according to their actual formulation, label instructions and intended application. Never apply surface disinfectants directly to goats.

Health and Disease Management

Health and disease management are essential components of goat farming because unhealthy animals can adversely affect farm profitability. Sick goats grow slowly, show reduced performance despite adequate feed availability, increase treatment costs and may expose the entire herd to infectious diseases.

A. Deworming

Young kids are generally more susceptible to parasitic infections than adult animals. Therefore, regular parasite monitoring and appropriate deworming are important components of farm management.

Table 2. Deworming Schedule for Goats

Age group	Frequency
Kids (1–3 months)	Every month
Young goats (4–12 months)	Once every 6 weeks
Breeding-age goats (12 months and above)	Once every 8 weeks

The actual deworming schedule should be determined by a veterinarian according to local parasite prevalence, faecal examination, animal age, body condition and drug resistance. Routine treatment at fixed intervals may not be appropriate for every farm.

B. Prevention of Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is a common cause of diarrhoea in goat kids, particularly between 3 weeks and 5 months of age. Good management practices, regular cleaning and disinfection play important roles in reducing the risk of infection.

C. Vaccination

Vaccination is essential for preventing important infectious diseases that can cause mortality and economic losses in goats.

Table 3. Vaccination Schedule for Goats

Disease	Age at vaccination	Revaccination
Goat plague (PPR — Peste des Petits Ruminants)	3 months	Once every 3 years
Goat pox	4 months	Once annually
Enterotoxaemia	4 months	Once annually
Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)	6 months	Once every 6 months

Vaccine schedules vary with vaccine type, maternal antibodies, local disease risk and government veterinary recommendations. Confirm the schedule with the local veterinary authority before implementation.

Daily Work Schedule in a Goat Shed

Table 4. Daily Management Activities in a Goat Farm

Time	Activities
7:00 AM	Take goats to grazing areas during summer. In winter, the timing may be shifted to 9:00 AM. Observe sick animals and separate them before taking the herd outside. During the breeding season, allow marked breeding bucks to remain with the doe herd.
8:00 AM	Provide the daily concentrate ration to lactating and marketable goats. Arrange for water to be available to goats in the grazing area.
8:30 AM	Provide cut green fodder or dry fodder to goats kept in the shed. Clean all sheds and remove manure.
9:00 AM– 3:00 PM	Carry out special activities, including examination, identification and treatment of sick animals.
4:00 PM	Bring the goat herd back to the shed. Provide the remaining half of the concentrate ration and offer dry fodder to all animals.

Conclusion

Regular farm activities such as identification, exercise, castration where appropriate, shed sanitation, parasite control, vaccination and adherence to a daily work schedule are essential for successful goat farming. Proper implementation of these practices improves animal welfare, herd health, productivity and farm profitability. All veterinary procedures and preventive health measures should be adapted to local conditions and carried out under appropriate professional guidance.

References

1. ICAR–Central Institute for Research on Goats (ICAR-CIRG). Scientific Goat Farming. Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India.
2. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Handbook of Animal Husbandry. New Delhi, India: ICAR.
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Goat Health Management – Vaccination and Deworming. FAO India.
4. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Goat Shelter Management and Hygiene. FAO India.
5. Thedford, T. R. (1983). Goat Health Handbook: A Field Guide for Producers with Limited Veterinary Services. Morrilton, Arkansas, USA: Winrock International.