

How To Breed Goats

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Abstract: This article presents the trends of goat breeding, their selection, breeding and production, as well as the processes of goat breeding and breeding work.

Key words: Down, milk, mohair, wool, goat, ear, fat, chest, back, belly.

Introduction. There are more than 250 breeds of goats in the world with dairy, wool, meat and other productivity directions. In recent years, the main focus in the goat breeding network has been on the direction of dairy and meat productivity. Since many countries of the world have a deficit of these products in food supplies. The goat population in the world is distributed unevenly. In particular, 52,5 percent of the goat population falls on the countries of the Asian continent. The second place is occupied by the countries of the African continent with a share of 41,9 percent. It is to these two continents that 94,4 percent of the goat population in the world is driven.

Goat milk is a highly nutritious dietary product, easily digestible, contains 5,5% fat, has healing and bactericidal properties. Goat milk is recommended for infants as complementary food, and sometimes replaces mother's milk. It is consumed in natural and processed form. Goats are undemanding to feed, adapt well to harsh natural conditions, are immune to plague, smallpox, tuberculosis and use mountain and desert pastures, crop residues more effectively than other domestic animals. Before engaging in goat breeding, it is necessary to outline the direction of productivity in accordance with this, buy goats of one breed or another. The main directions in goat breeding are milk, down and wool.

How to choose a goat

Most hobbyists breed mainly dairy goats. To choose a high-yielding goat, you need to consider the features of its physique, health and age. A good dairy goat is usually large or medium in size.

The goat's chest is wide and deep with convex long ribs

The back is straight, the belly is voluminous

The back is wide, not very pendulous

The legs of high-yielding goats are straight, wide apart, with strong hooves

The body is long, barrel-shaped

The skin is thin, easily stretched

When choosing a goat, you should especially carefully examine the udder of a dairy goat - it should be voluminous, not pendulous, pear-shaped or spherical, elastic, but without hardening. After milking the goat, the udder becomes soft, the skin on it gathers in folds. The teats should be of medium length, well developed, directed slightly forward and to the sides. The skin on the udder is thin, elastic, not very overgrown with hair. A drooping udder, dangling when walking, with short teats or divided into two lobes is considered faulty. A goat with the correct constitution has good health. A healthy animal has a cheerful appearance, shiny hair, and a good appetite. Dairy goats can have different colors. Animals can be polled or horned. Goats get the highest milk yield after the 2nd-3rd lambing. From the age of 6-7 years, productivity decreases.

The age of a goat, like a sheep, can be determined by its teeth. An adult goat has 32 teeth: 12 molars on the upper jaw (6 on each side), 20 on the lower jaw, out of 12 molars (6 on each side) and 8 incisors. At birth, kids have only the rudiments of the

first pair of milk incisors, the so-called catches. By the age of one week, they are formed into incisors, by the age of one month, the rest of the incisor hair grows. At the age of one year, the milk incisors of kids fall out and are replaced by permanent, wider, larger teeth. By one and a half years, the first pair of permanent incisors grows, by two and a half years, the second pair of permanent incisors appears, by three years, the third pair of milk incisors is replaced by permanent ones, and by three and a half to four years, all the incisors are already permanent, shaped like wide spatulas. After four years, it is more difficult to determine the exact age of a goat. By six years, the incisors acquire a rounded shape, and gaps appear between them. By the age of seven, the teeth are noticeably worn down, thinned out, begin to wobble and fall out. In an eight-year-old goat, only stumps remain from some incisors, the teeth wobble even more and fall out easily. Goats with such teeth chew food poorly, so they need to be replaced with young ones. It should be remembered that the safety of teeth depends on the health of the goat and the quality of the food it consumes. Goats that eat soft and high-quality food (grass, fine hay, crushed grain) have teeth that last longer, and their productivity depends on this.

Mating of goats

If you want to have two litters per year, mating of goats should be carried out in two periods: from November to December and from May to July. The strongest heat is observed on the 16-30th day after 1386 lambing. If you miss this time, the milking period will be extended, but there will not be two litters per year. Animals must be prepared for mating of goats. The ewes must be well fed. 1,5 months before mating, milking of goats of all breeds, except for dairy, is stopped. Dairy breeds continue to pester the ewes, but improve feeding. A goat eating 7-8 kg of green mass can give 2,5 kg of milk without additional feeding. If the pasture has dry grass, then 200-400 g of concentrates are added per head per day. By the mating period, the bucks must have above-average fatness. 1-1,5 months before mating, they are fed more - given up to 0,8-1 kg of a mixture of concentrates, the best pastures are allocated. Most often, goats come into heat in the fall, since after grazing on the pasture they are well fed. But the timing of mating and lambing can be different. If mating is carried out in the fall, the hunt will be winter - in January, February. When lambing in the winter, the kids have time to get stronger by spring and use the pasture. If the uterus is mated in late autumn (in November and early December), lambing occurs in the spring (April, May), when warm rooms are no longer required. Goats are mated during the period of hunting, which lasts 24-48 hours. At this time, the following signs are observed: restless behavior, frequent bleating, poor appetite, wagging of the tail, swelling of the outer part of the vagina. If the hunt comes again after 15-22 days, then the goat needs to be mated again. She needs to be mated in a stall. Goats reach sexual maturity at the age of 58 months. But early mating delays the development of females and males, and produces weak and small kids. Therefore, a goat should be mated for the first time at the age of one and a half years, when her body is strong enough. In the second half of pregnancy, a goat requires a large amount of nutrients. Therefore, one and a half months before lambing, milking should be stopped. The goat should be started gradually, reducing the number of milkings while simultaneously reducing the feeding rate. At this time, about 1.5 kg of hay or straw is given per day, the amount of water is reduced, and succulent and coarse feeds are excluded from the diet, since they are lactogenic. When starting a goat, it is necessary to milk the milk well so as not to cause udder disease. 34 days after stopping milking, the goat is gradually, over 4-5 days,

transferred to enhanced feeding so that the fetus develops well. Pregnancy in mothers lasts 5 months. To determine the time of goat lambing, you can use a calendar.

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