

SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR GOAT RAISING SKIT

Chapter 1—Introduction to Goat Care and Management

Feel free to modify according to your context (change names, etc.)

Carmen meets Maria coming down the street with three goats.

Maria: “Look at those three lumpy old goats, Carmen. I didn’t know you raised goats! Where are you going, to the vet?”

Carmen looks irritated: “No way, I just got a great deal at the livestock market - these are the start of my new herd. I decided yesterday that I want to raise dairy goats so I can send my daughter to school in the fall.”

Maria: “So you think you got a good deal! Look at how that old buck is limping and look at the lumps on the front of that old doe’s shoulders.”

Carmen: “They aren’t old! The lady who sold them said this one is three years old, and is a great breeder.”

Maria: Looks at the goat’s teeth and says – “She deceived you – these two goats are at least seven years old, and he’s missing teeth and is as thin as a rail.”

Carmen: “How can you tell? Are you a dentist? They are three quarter pure Landrace breed.”

Maria: “Landrace? Anyway, Carmen, didn’t you say you wanted to raise dairy goats?” Maria feels the muscles over the loin of one of the goats. “Hmmm, score of 2. Why did you get these skinny, short meat goats instead of some nice tall, Nubians with large udders from Sonia? And Carmen, what are you going to feed them?”

Carmen: “Sonia’s goats eat too much feed. I plan to ask Mr. Julio if I can pasture them in that green grass next to the swamp across the street. No one uses that. Pablo can bring them over every morning before school.”

Maria: “Pablo? He’s only seven years old! And that’s not grass, its just reeds, and full of snails. They’re going to get liver flukes! Besides, there is no fence and if they get into Julio’s vegetable garden, he’ll be making goat stew. By the way, I never see you at the goat class that the extension service is sponsoring.”

Carmen: “I plan to take the course next fall. We’ve raised hogs already, you know.”

Marie: “Better teach those old goats how to go to the grocery store to buy food because there will be no milk from that doe.”

The end. Goats and ladies take a bow.

FARM INFORMATION FORM

- A pregnant goat needs a diet that is 12 percent protein and provides carbohydrates for energy. Consider the protein in the forage you are feeding and supplement with concentrate, minerals and plenty of fresh water.
- Kids, at one hour to three days of age, need: colostrum and milk from the dam.
- Kids, from three days to three weeks, need: milk, access to forage and concentrate, water.
- Weaned market kids need good quality forage fed *ad lib*, water, minerals and may need extra protein and energy from concentrate.
- A milking doe needs forages, concentrate, minerals and 6 to 8 liters (1 to 2 gallons) of clean, fresh water. The diet should be 14-16 percent protein.

Having this information, please complete the sentences below:

On my farm I can produce these feeds _____,
_____ , _____

I have access to these cut-and-carry forages _____

I can also provide these grains _____

I must buy _____ , _____
(here list things like concentrates)

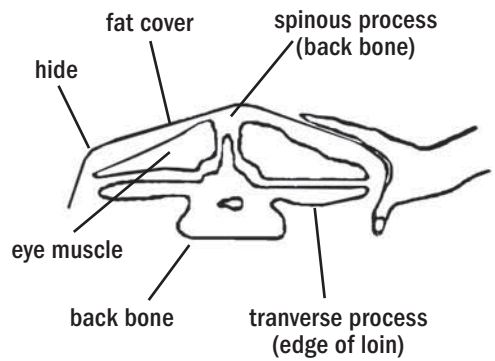
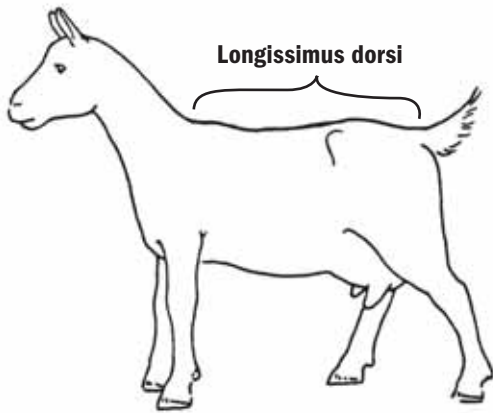
They will cost _____

I need _____ , _____ , _____
to produce additional feeds. (*Perhaps it is more land – or additional income – or extra labor*)

Other Comments

BODY SCORING CONDITION CHART

BCS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Extremely thin ■ Emaciated 	Extremely thin and weak, near death. Outline of ribs visible and spinal processes distinct and prominent with severe depressions, physically weak; shoulder, loin and hindquarters atrophied in appearance, skin adhered to bone.
BCS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Extremely thin 	Extremely thin but not as weak or emaciated as BCS 1. Skin in direct contact with bone; prominent “V” shaped cavity under tail, outline of spine and ribs visible, bony surface of the sternum protruding.
BCS 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Very thin ■ Frame visible 	Wasting in appearance. All ribs visible. Spinous processes prominent and depressions obvious (rib, hips); sunken between pins and hooks; sternum is prominent. No fat cover felt with some muscle wasting.
BCS 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moderate ■ Slightly thin 	Some ribs visible. Spinous processes and sharp. Individual processes can be easily felt. Thin flesh covering hooks and pins. Definite depression between hooks.
BCS 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moderate ■ Frame covered ■ Balanced 	Spinous processes felt but are smooth; transverse processes have smooth concave curve; hooks and pins smooth; muscle becoming obvious, Sternum can be palpated.
BCS 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Good ■ Slightly fleshy ■ Smooth cover 	Smooth look with ribs not very visible. Spinous processes smooth and round. Spinous to transverse processes smooth sloped. Individual processes very smooth, felt with considerable pressure. Slight depression between hooks and pins.
BCS 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fat ■ Frame not visible ■ Fleshy 	No spinous processes noticeable; ribs not visible, spinous process felt under firm pressure. Hooks and pins rounded with some cover; flat between hooks; palpation of sternum difficult.
BCS 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fat ■ Obese 	Animal is very fat with spinous processes difficult to feel. Ribs can not be felt. Animal has blocky obese appearance; tail-head cavity filling with fat.
BCS 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fat ■ Extremely obese 	Severely over-condition. Spinous processes buried in fat. Similar to an eight but more exaggerated. Animal has deep patchy fat over entire body. Tail-head cavity exhibits fat filled folds.



SUMMARY-BODY CONDITION SCORING

Body Condition Scoring Chart

Objectives

- To monitor the nutrition program
- To minimize internal parasite problem (in addition to fecal checks)

Areas to be monitored

- Tail head
- Ribs
- Pins
- Hooks
- Edge of loin
- Shoulder
- Backbone – transverse and spinous processes of vertebrae
- Longissimus dorsi muscle
- Sternum

Scale

- Thin: 1 to 3
- Moderate: 4 to 6
- Fat: 7 to 9

Appropriate BCS

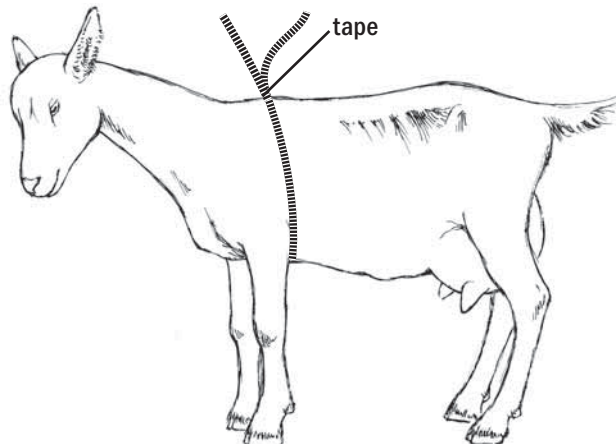
- End of pregnancy: 5 to 6
- Start of breeding season: 5 to 6

Recommendations

- Animals should never have a body condition score below 4
- Pregnant does should not have a BCS of 7 or above at end of pregnancy due to risk of pregnancy toxemia. A BCS of 5 to 6 at kidding should not drop off too quickly
- Maintain a moderate BCS at all times: 4 to 6

ESTIMATING THE BODY WEIGHT OF GOATS

To determine the weight of a goat, measure the goat around the heart girth. Pull the tape tightly.



CENTIMETERS (cm)		INCHES (")	→	KILOGRAMS (kg)		POUNDS (lb)
27	=	10 ³ / ₄	→	2.3	=	5
29	=	11 ¹ / ₄	→	2.5	=	5 ¹ / ₂
30	=	11 ³ / ₄	→	2.7	=	6
31	=	12 ¹ / ₄	→	3.0	=	6 ¹ / ₂
32	=	12 ³ / ₄	→	3.2	=	7
34	=	13 ¹ / ₄	→	3.6	=	8
35	=	13 ³ / ₄	→	4.1	=	9
36	=	14 ¹ / ₄	→	4.5	=	10
38	=	14 ³ / ₄	→	5.0	=	11
39	=	15 ¹ / ₄	→	5.4	=	12
40	=	15 ³ / ₄	→	5.9	=	13
41	=	16 ¹ / ₄	→	6.8	=	15
43	=	16 ³ / ₄	→	7.7	=	17
44	=	17 ¹ / ₄	→	8.6	=	19
45	=	17 ³ / ₄	→	9.5	=	21
46	=	18 ¹ / ₄	→	10.4	=	23
48	=	18 ³ / ₄	→	11.3	=	25
49	=	19 ¹ / ₄	→	12.2	=	27
50	=	19 ³ / ₄	→	13.2	=	29
51	=	20 ¹ / ₄	→	14.1	=	31
53	=	20 ³ / ₄	→	15.0	=	33
54	=	21 ¹ / ₄	→	15.9	=	35
55	=	21 ³ / ₄	→	16.8	=	37

CENTIMETERS (cm)		INCHES (")	→	KILOGRAMS (kg)		POUNDS (lb)
57	=	22 ¼	→	17.7	=	39
58	=	22 ¾	→	19.1	=	42
59	=	23 ¼	→	20.4	=	45
60	=	23 ¾	→	21.8	=	48
62	=	24 ¼	→	23.1	=	51
63	=	24 ¾	→	24.5	=	54
64	=	25 ¼	→	25.9	=	57
66	=	25 ¾	→	27.2	=	60
67	=	26 ¼	→	28.6	=	63
68	=	26 ¾	→	29.9	=	66
69	=	27 ¼	→	31.3	=	69
71	=	27 ¾	→	32.7	=	72
72	=	28 ¼	→	34.0	=	75
73	=	28 ¾	→	35.4	=	78
74	=	29 ¼	→	36.7	=	81
76	=	29 ¾	→	38.1	=	84
77	=	30 ¼	→	39.5	=	87
78	=	30 ¾	→	40.8	=	90
79	=	31 ¼	→	42.2	=	93
81	=	31 ¾	→	44.0	=	97
82	=	32 ¼	→	45.8	=	101
83	=	32 ¾	→	47.6	=	105
85	=	33 ¼	→	49.9	=	110
86	=	33 ¾	→	52.2	=	115
87	=	34 ¼	→	54.4	=	120
88	=	34 ¾	→	56.7	=	125
90	=	35 ¼	→	59.0	=	130
91	=	35 ¾	→	61.2	=	135
92	=	36 ¼	→	63.5	=	140
93	=	36 ¾	→	65.8	=	145
95	=	37 ¼	→	68.1	=	150
96	=	37 ¾	→	70.3	=	155
97	=	38 ¼	→	72.6	=	160
98	=	38 ¾	→	74.8	=	165
100	=	39 ¼	→	77.1	=	170
101	=	39 ¾	→	79.4	=	175
102	=	40 ¼	→	81.6	=	180
104	=	40 ¾	→	83.9	=	185
105	=	41 ¼	→	86.2	=	190
106	=	41 ¾	→	88.4	=	195

OBSERVATION SHEET

Name of Observer: _____ Observation Date: _____

Goat's Name: _____ Tag #: _____

Breed: _____ Age: _____

Tattoo: _____ Sex: Male Female

Weight: _____ Female: Bred Open

Last Parasite Treatment: Internal ____/____/____ External ____/____/____

Feeding Plan: _____

Observe your goats each day. Record the data at least twice a month. More often if a goat is ill, not thrifty or off feed. Train yourself to evaluate your animals. It is an important step toward herd health and productivity.

General Appearance: _____

Activity Level: _____

Legs and Hooves: _____

Any external problems such as abscesses, parasites, etc.: _____

Condition of eyes, nose, and mouth: _____

Condition of feces (droppings): pellet-like ploppy loose diarrhea _____

Milk Production – if lactating: _____ pounds _____ kilos or _____ liters per day

Any signs of mastitis: Yes No

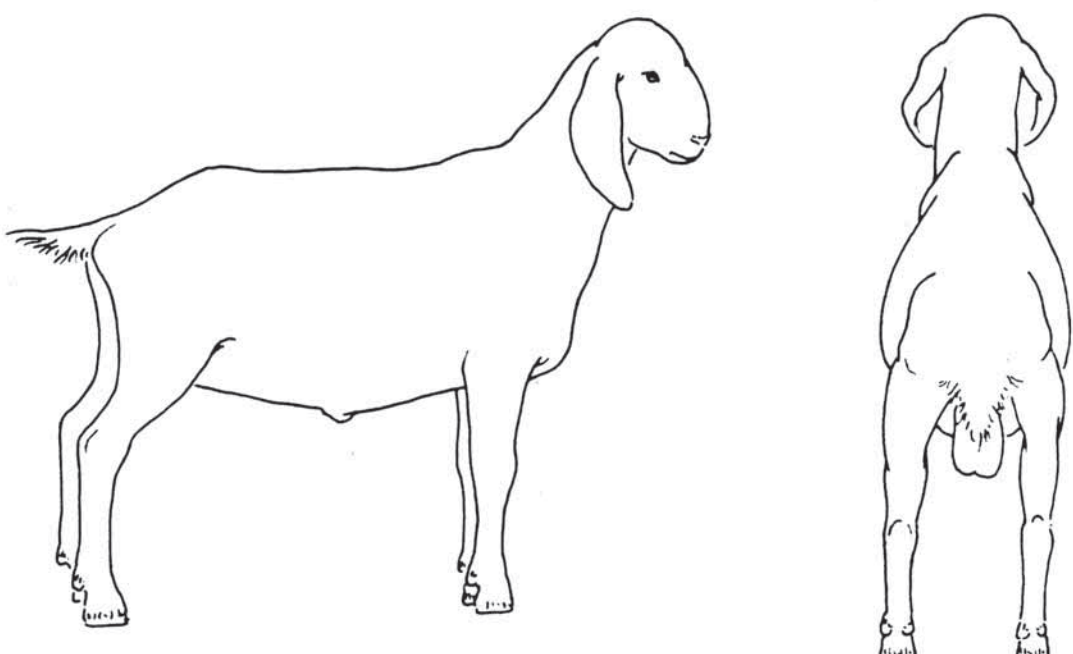
Eating habits: Eats well Water available Range fed Zero grazing

Check any of the following signs of illness:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off feed | <input type="checkbox"/> Standing off from group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dehydration | <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal temperature _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limping | <input type="checkbox"/> Pale mucosa around eyes and in mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blindness | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy mucous in nose or mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea | <input type="checkbox"/> No sign of cud chewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Runny eyes | <input type="checkbox"/> Swelling at any point of body |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Circling movements | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair falling out or rough in appearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clots or bloody milk | |

Refer to the health charts for diagnosis and suggested treatment.

BUCK RECORD SHEET

BUCK RECORD SHEET		
Breed:	Reg #:	Born:
Name:	Tattoo #:	Disbudded:
Color:		
		
Sire:	Reg #:	Sire:
Dam:	Reg #:	Reg #:
Dam:	Reg #:	Sire:
Dam:	Reg #:	Reg #:

ORIGIN
Farm Reared:
Purchased From:
Date:
Cost:
Date Died:

BUDGETING

BUDGETING

First list the overall goals for the goat enterprise. Then use the chart to list your resources, where you will get them and at what cost. The second column is for benefits, such as the price you can sell each liter of milk. The value for the household is the cost that milk consumed would have cost, plus other “intangible” benefits such as healthier children from better nutrition. Include all benefits from the goats, including manure and sale of kids for meat.

YEARLY FARM BUDGET FOR GOAT ENTERPRISE

Item	Where Available	At What Cost (Expense)	For What Benefit	Value for Household (Income)
Goats How many?				
Zero grazing unit and fencing				
Forages				
Concentrates and mineral salt				
Milking equipment				
Health care				
Sale of milk and milk products				
Sale of meat or meat products				
Sale of kids				
Exchange of milk and manure for labor				
Manure for garden				
Milk and meat for family				
Hired labor				

SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR GOAT MARKETING AND DECISION MAKING

Feel free to modify according to your context (change names, etc.)

Actors: Four people are gathered sitting on the ground or in chairs.

Surya: I called our meeting today because as officers of our goat group I think we have to look again at what we are trying to do. We all thought we wanted dairy goats. But what have they brought to us?

Sita: Well, I have milk for the family, but the concentrate I have to buy almost equals the value of the milk. And the other thing is that I am spending more and more time with my four goats and less time with my children and husband. If only I did not have to milk twice a day!

Mahendra: I tried to sell milk and cheese at the farmer's market, but people here are not accustomed to goat milk and they certainly have not developed a taste for goat cheese. So I usually take it all back home. Of course we use it, even the soured milk for cooking—but it is not what we expected. What people want is goat meat, not goat milk.

Dilip: Can we be courageous enough to change our direction and to start again with a meat-type goat? Even the cross-breeds we are using can be adapted to this.

Surya: It will be difficult, but I am ready to try it. If goat meat is the niche market, then we should go that way.

Sita: I agree.

One of the actors holds up a sign that says: "One year later." The four people are gathered and are counting money.

Mahendra: Can you believe it was only a year ago when we were complaining about no income from our goats? Now look at us we even have money to give micro-credit loans to other farmers and get them started with meat goats.

Dilip: The demand is greater than we thought. Our cooperative is growing and the local abattoir is so grateful for all the extra customers he has since we have been selling goats for meat.

The End

ACTIVITY AND LABOR PROFILE

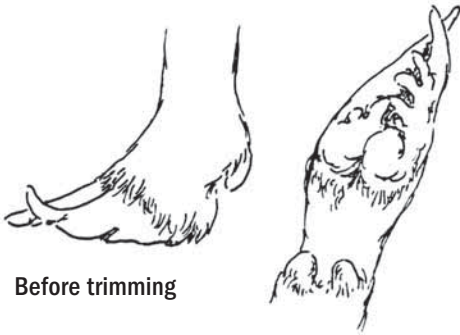
Person	Child Care	Cooking Cleaning	Feeding Animals	Milking	Processing Milk Products	Marketing	Training Meetings	Care of Household Garden	Total Hours Per Day
Adult-male									
Adult-female Senior									
Adult-female Junior									
Child-male									
Child-female									
Elderly-male									
Elderly-female									
Hired-male									
Hired-female									
Neighbors-male									
Neighbors-female									

ACCESS AND DECISION TABLE

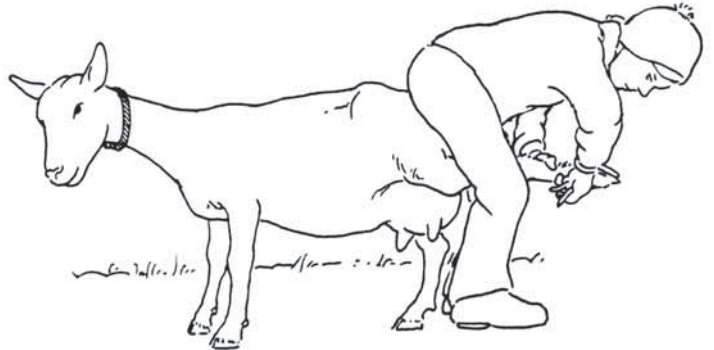
Person	Meat	Milk	Manure	Cash	Hides	Gifts	Other Benefits <i>Training, Public recognition, Personal satisfaction</i>
Put A for Access and D for Decision							
Adult-male							
Adult-female Senior							
Adult-female Junior							
Child-male							
Child-female							
Elderly-male							
Elderly-female							
Hired-male							
Hired-female							

HOOF TRIMMING

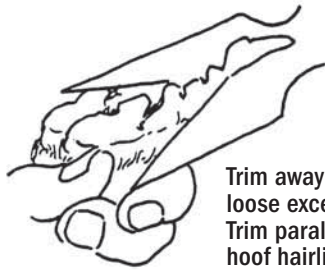
While it is possible for goats on a rough terrain to wear down their hooves, most will need trimming at regular intervals. The diagrams below show the proper trimming method. Use either the Burdizzo Hoof Trimming Shear, a garden pruning shear or a sharp knife. If hooves are trimmed too close by mistake and blood appears, use an antiseptic.



Before trimming



Dig dirt out from toes



Trim away all loose excess nail. Trim parallel to hoof hairline.

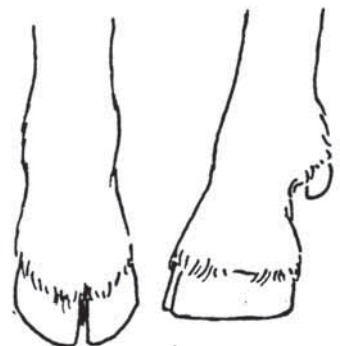


Pare heels to same level as toes

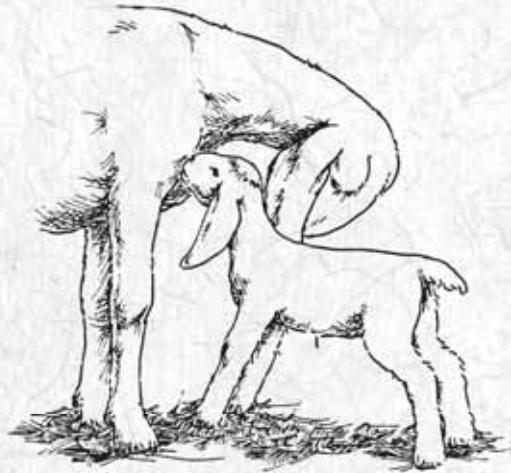
Snip away the little flap that grows between toes



Finish the trim by paring the soft heel tissue till hoof surface is smooth and flat.



After trimming



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