

## Introduction

Gayle Prunhuber was our presenter today, at her home on Loon Lake Road. Her goats are tagenbergs. At this time she has 5: grandmother, two mothers, and two kids.

## GENERAL CARE



### Shelter

Summer: Gayle has a summer pen near the house, with a feeding trough and several 'benches' for them to jump upon. Has covered area under a second story deck, with straw for bedding, but is not good place when raining. Can be locked to keep them in at night; during the day they are allowed to browse on their 20 acres.

Winter/bad weather: Enclosed barn with mix of straw and hay on floor. Has separate 'room' where the babies can be isolated (because bottle-fed). Barn is locked at night, but open during day for browsing.

Feeding troughs are available in both shelters, to keep feed off ground (minimizes worms). Small feeders are available for baking soda and kelp; a salt block is also available.

Need minimum of 3/4 acre, if keep goats penned. Because they are herd animals, it's best to have at least 2. Goats are comfortable around horses, chickens and cats (see notes on toxoplasmosis). Gayle's goats are afraid of dogs.

### Feed

General feed:

- Summer: first cutting of hay, and browse
- Winter: second cutting of hay and alfalfa
- Feeder designed to discourage them from pulling feed to the ground, to prevent worms. Gayle adds 'waste' from her gardens to their feed. They love sunflowers.



Feed grain while milking; can also add sunflowers or sunflower seeds. Gayle uses barley, but could use oats.

Don Roberge sprouts the grain to increase nutrient value (vitamins, absorbable minerals, and predigested protein). For instructions, refer to ESP handouts from Robben's sprouting demonstration, or any sprouting instruction. Overnight is good; use warm water, and rinse to wash off sprouting wastes.



Bottle-feed kids: eliminates need for weaning. Three times a day at first, then two times a day. Important to milk the colostrum (first milk) from the mother, and bottle feed to the kids after birth. Gayle pasteurizes milk fed to the babies, and heat-treats the colostrum.

Goats can wreak havoc on a garden, if free ranged. Sunflowers along edge of the garden make a good break to keep them from the rest of the garden. Don't feed cherry leaves--they are toxic to goats.

## Supplements, etc.

Doesn't regularly use antibiotics or vaccines, but will to save a life. Most common vaccine is for overeating disease. Instead of using vaccine, she keeps the anti-toxin on hand to use if needed. This disease is most common in babies.

Suggests the following supplements:

- Probiotic for general health and to jump start rumen. Uses "ProBios for Cows" from Cenex (CHS), about 5cc per dose.
- Baking soda: free-feed to settle tummy. They will roll if they have a belly ache. Will seek free-fed baking soda when they need it.
- Kelp: free-feed. Provides vitamins and minerals including iodine.
- Salt block: free-feed; she uses salt with cobalt (makes it blue). Cobalt is necessary for proper function of B vitamins. Doesn't use salt with copper because had a problem.
- Vitamin mix for goats, from Crystal Creek catalogue.
- Activated charcoal to stop violent diarrhea.
- Garlic added to grain bucket, but not within 1 hour of milking (so won't affect flavor of milk).

## Milking



1. Distract with grain at milking stand. They readily come to the stand.

2. Wash udder to avoid passing mastitis. Gayle uses warm water mixed with:

- 6 drops lavender oil
- 12 drops eucalyptus oil
- dash liquid soap (not commercial dish soap)

3. Milk into pail. To milk, close and squeeze the teat. You close near the top of the nipple, then squeeze below (towards the tip). Alternate between teats.

Does will continue to give milk if you don't stop. If you do stop, you need to breed them again to get them to give milk. If milk continuously without breeding, the amount of milk will decrease with time. Also decreases as length of daylight decreases.

Get about 3/4 - 1 gallon milk per goat.

Gayle uses milk to make cheese: chevre, and a cross between feta and mozzarella. Takes 48 hours. She makes both pasteurized and raw.

## Trim Hooves

Best done while the goat is in the milking stand, about once a month. Gayle uses a Sur Form rasp, until the hoof is flat. Nipper used only when necessary.

## Breeding

Gayle sends her does to the billy when she wants to breed them; only breeds one at a time. Gestation is 5 months.

They go into heat about every 3 weeks, starting around labor day. Signs of heat:

- goat screams
- gives discharge
- eats less

Don't dry up before breeding. But do dry up 8 - 12 weeks before birthing, to build up energy. To dry up: reduce milking to once a day, then every other day, then stop. Or can stop abruptly.

## DISEASE TREATMENT

Vets who treat goats are hard to find. Gayle calls her vet to treat her horses, then talks him into treating her goats.

Someone suggested Barbara Calm in Kila, who is a naturopathic vet.

## Mastitis

This is an infection of the teats (mammarys), and can be passed on to female kids. Treats with grapefruit seed extract: rub about 15 drops on teats; keeps this up for 2 months, but can use less when they start to get better.

Cenex (CHS) sells test papers (like litmus) for mastitis.

If Mom has mastitis, need to pasteurize milk fed to babies, or will pass it on (to female kids).

## Worming

Symptoms of worms: runny stool

Uses herbal mix from Veronica Honthaas (892-0280);

- Kids: add to milk bottle. Treat 3 days in a row, then repeat in a week or every other week. Watch poop to determine how they are doing.
- Adults: Treat regularly every month: 5-6 days at full moon. Sprinkle on grain.

## Toxoplasmosis (Cat Scratch Fever)

Not good for pregnant goats to be around cats, because this parasite lives in cat poop, and can cause problems for the kid, including abortions, weakness, and still births. Can also infect humans. Blood-test for this disease.

Excellent web article on this disease in goats:

<http://www.tennesseeatgoats.com/articles2/toxoplasmosis.html>

