

Diseases and problems commonly seen in Kentucky Goat Herds

Dr. Ken Andries
Kentucky State University
Land Grant Program



Goat Production Philosophy

- A cull is a cull no matter what the papers say!!
- Sale barns are for selling – not buying!!
- To make progress you must subtract as well as add.
- Reduce herd to fit feed supply – goats don't live by acres alone.
- One or more goats requires a catch pen and chute.
- Long hooves and high parasite loads are best treated by a trailer

Prevention

- Purchase animals from a reputable source.
- Biosecurity program for your farm
 - Quarantine, sanitation - including shoes and trailers, clean out parasites.
 - Work with a Veterinarian.
- Observe animals often and treat as early as possible.

Nutrition and Health

- Proper nutrition is critical for good health.
 - Energy and protein
 - Water
- Mineral nutrition is extremely Important
 - Se – associated with reproduction
 - Cu – important in many enzymes
 - Zn – critical for hoof health
- Fiber is critical for ruminant function

LDDC Caprine Necropsy Diagnoses

<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Parasitism	56 (22%)	44 (19%)
Pneumonia	44 (17%)	41 (18%)
Coccidia	26 (10%)	24 (10%)
Enteritis	17 (7%)	14 (6%)
Myodegeneration	12 (5%)	12 (5%)
Listeria ***	16 (6%)	11 (5%)
No Diagnosis	<u>13 (5%)</u>	<u>18 (8%)</u>
Total	251	231

Goats made up 6% of LDDC submissions in 2005

Concerns

- Diseases in Goats
 - Respiratory
 - CL
 - Q-Fever
- Reproductive Issues
 - Abortions
 - Nutrition issues
- Foot Issues

Pneumonia Issues

- Pasteurella is the major form
- Problem is increasing in many herds.
- Cattle vaccines are being tested, some benefit is being observed.
- Treatment of respiratory problems with Nuflor is generally successful but expensive.

CL or CLA Issue

- Abscess disease
- It is contagious and Zoonotic so use gloves when dealing with this problem.
- Can be located at any lymph node, but most common near the jaw or shoulder.
- Isolate, lance and drain, flush with Iodine or betadine.
- Do not use formaldehyde due to health and safety regulations.

CL Vaccinations

- 2 vaccines are potentially available
- Commercial vaccine available from Colorado Serum
- Dr. Beth Johnson, Double Doc vet clinic has an vaccine available to vets.
- Need two shots and booster, **do not vaccinate heavy bred does.**
- Studies indicate that they provide some protection but are not 100%.

Q-Fever

- Zoonotic disease
- Causes abortions and respiratory issues in goats.
- Goats will develop immunity to it.
- Will survive in the soil
- Treat with to help reduce losses, may not be able to totally eliminate from a herd
- Sanitation is critical, use caution

Reproductive Problems

- Nutrition – Se deficiency is major issues in goats
- Campylobacter
 - Vibrio – often cause of “abortion storms”
- Chlamydiosis
 - *Chlamydia psittact* – bacteria, spread by body fluid
- Toxoplasmosis
 - protozoan disease that may be the most common cause for abortions. Cats serve as a definitive host.

Pregnancy Toxemia

- Caused by nutritional issues in last 6 weeks of pregnancy.
- Most common in high producing does.
- Treat with propylene glycol or fast energy liquid supplements.
- Prevent by increasing energy density of diet
- Keep does in proper condition score

Foot Problems in Goats

- Overgrown hoof wall
 - Hoof wall can lap and seal off the space between the toes.
 - Long toes result in improper foot placement
- Foot Scald (most common problem)
 - External infection of the inter-digital space (between the toes).
 - Generally moist, swollen and may be red.
- Foot Rot (less common)
 - Infection that erodes the sole of the hoof and is internal.
 - Generally follows foot scald and can cause severe damage.

Prevention of Foot Problems

- Check goats at least monthly and treat as needed.
- Trim feet every other month or more often.
- Use rocks, metal grates, or other rough surfaces to wear down the hoof wall
- Keep goats out of the mud and muck as much as possible.
- Keep good quality minerals available and feed all animals properly, don't over or under feed.
- Cull animals with chronic foot problems.

Questions?

