

# Hawks Mountain Ranch

## Pygora Goats



Lisa Roskopf

P.O. Box 130 Gaston, OR 97119

Phone: (503) 985-3331 E-Mail: [lisa@hmrpygoras.com](mailto:lisa@hmrpygoras.com)

Web Site: [www.hmrpygoras.com](http://www.hmrpygoras.com)

I thought I'd share my ideas on my kidding practices here at Hawks Mountain Ranch. This is what I found to be useful but you may find a practice that is better for you. You should consult your Veterinarian to help you with your individual herd and kidding management practices.

Happy kidding!!!

Lisa

### What to do 4-6 weeks before kidding

- Condition score Does (handout is available on how to do this)
- Vaccine Does:
  - C & D/T (Clostridium Types C & D and Tetanus shot)
  - Deworm
- Trim hooves
- Crutch Does (trim back end, tail, and teat area for ease of kidding)
- Start graining Does
- Prepare kidding pens, check supplies and equipment

### What to do 2 weeks before kidding

- Condition score Doe
- Have kidding pens set up
- Have kidding supplies together
- Feed higher quality hay
- Up the grain per Doe

### A few days before kidding time

Signs of Doe getting ready to kid:

- The Doe usually starts nesting (ie: pawing at ground) 3 days to 12 hours before kidding.
- Mucous discharge might be noticed at back end.
- Change in Does disposition. The Doe may become restless and vocal up to 12 hours before kidding or, The Doe may become unusually quite.
- The Doe usually withdraws from the herd to be alone.
- Light contractions may begin about 12 hours before kidding.

### At kidding time

- Watch Does closely. Provide assistance or call vet if needed.
- Hard contractions begin. Kid is now in birth canal. BIRTH IS IMMINENT!!!
  - The key to successful kidding is to always see progress.
  - As a general rule, at the time of hard contractions to kidding is about 1 hour.
  - Call the Vet if you don't see progress at this time!!!
- Be ready for first kids 145-150 days after turning Buck with Does. (See Gestation Calendar). (I've averaged 147 days gestation period.)
- Place Does that kid in kidding pens.

## At kidding time continued...

- Clip, Dip, Strip and Sip:
  1. Clip the navel to 1-1/2" length
  2. Dip the navel in 7% tincture of iodine
  3. Strip the teat of the Doe to remove the waxy plug from teat canal
  4. See that the kid gets first Sip of colostrum
- Milk out some colostrum and freeze in ice cube trays to have on hand if problems arise.
- Check Kids and Does in pens several times each day to insure Does are claiming Kids and Kids are getting enough to eat (ie: sides full, gaining weight, stretch when standing).
- Remove Does and Kids from pens (1-3 days) and place in small group of 4-8 Does for further observation and then combine these groups into a workable size unit.
- Watch Kids for signs of pneumonia and scours.
- Give Kids vitamin E-Selenium injection (BOSE) at birth
- Give Kids C & D/T vaccine at birth if Doe was not vaccinated prior to kidding.
- Vaccinate Kids for sore mouth at 1-2 weeks of age if it is a problem in your herd.
- Castrate and disbud Kids as soon as they are up and off to a good start (between 2 days to 2 weeks of age).

## End of kidding

- Continue to feed Does for lactation based on number of kids suckling. Feed at this level until 6 weeks after kidding.
- Disbud Kids between 1 day to 2 weeks of age is ideal.
- Get Kids started on creep feed when 10-14 days old.
- Give Kids C & D/T vaccine at these times:
  - If Doe was vaccinated prior to birth, give Kids first vaccine at 4 to 6 weeks of age, a booster 2 weeks later and the third booster 4 weeks after that.
  - If Doe was not vaccinated prior to birth, give Kids C & D/T vaccine at birth, a booster 2 weeks later, and then a third booster 4 weeks later.
- Observe Does for signs of mastitis and Kids for signs of starvation.
- Tattoo ID Kids before weaning. (Very important as this is the Kids permanent identification)

## Weaning

- Wean Kids at 90 days of age (I will wean the Doelings along with the Bucklings from Does to prevent udder damage from prolonged nursing)
- When weaning kids, separate Doelings from Bucklings. Bucklings can breed as early as 4 months old.
- Make sure Kids are Tattoo ID'ed at this time for future PBA registration.
- Pre-register Kids if planning to show or sell before they are "in fleece" and permanent register them before 1 year of age.
- One week prior to weaning, discontinue grain feeding and reduce quantity and quality of hay to Does.
- At weaning, withhold water from Does for 24 hours to help stop milk production and reduce mastitis problems.
- Continue to feed kids creep feed.