

Standard Operating Procedures
Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Goat Unit

I. TAMUK goat unit overview.

The TAMUK Goat Unit is a teaching, research and production operation. Our breeding herd consists of an average of 100 Boer and Spanish goats. Kids and culled animals are sold preferably through surrounding livestock auctions although sometimes animals are sold by private treaty.

II. Biosecurity.

1.-Visitors entering the goat unit must report to the main office. There are no exceptions to this rule, even if only for a brief visit. Individuals who have worked with farm animals at other locations must have taken a shower before entering the unit.

III. Herd management.

1.-Identification

All animal must have individually identifiable numbered ear tags. Ear tag numbers are maintained in the inventory log in the Farm Manager's office.

B. Vaccination

1.-All animals are vaccinated with Bar Vac C and D Toxoid once a year. Young kids are given a booster 21 days after initial vaccination.

2.-Tetanus vaccine is given to males at the time of banding and then give Bar Vac C and D Toxoid vaccines are given 21 days later.

C. Parasite Control: De-worm with one of the following every 3 months:

1. - De-worm with Safeguard
2. - De-worm with Cytectin
3. - De-worm with Ivomec
4. - De-worm with Valbazen

D Feeding Procedure:

All the animals are provided hay when they are not grazing and are supplemented with grain or pellets.

G. Hoof Management

1. - Hooves are trimmed as needed. Trimming is done 2-4 times a year depending on rainfall and condition of hooves.

H. Castration of Kids

1. - Kids are banded around 21 days of age and also given a tetanus shot.

IV. Breeding.

Billies are let out to naturally breed with nannies.

V. Treating sick goats.

Treatment of sick animals is performed with the assistance and advice of the TAMUK Farm Attending Veterinarian. Records of treated animals are maintained in a treatment log in the Farm Manager's office.

VI. Sale of animals' policy.

1. - The Farm manager determines which animals are to be sold.
2. - The preferred way to sell goats is to take them to one of the surrounding livestock auctions.
3. - According to the TAMUK business office policy animals sold by private treaty can be paid for with cash, personal check or money order made payable to "TAMUK".

VI. Purchase of animals.

Purchases are at the discretion of the Farm manager following the rules dictated by the TAMUK procurement office.

X. Animal Carcass Disposal

1. All deceased animals are to be transported and discarded into a death pit following USDA and TAMUK IACUC rules and procedures.