

*Associated*  
FEED & SUPPLY CO.<sup>®</sup>

*Goat*  
LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT  
HANDBOOK



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# Selection + Evaluation

*The road to winning is paved by  
making the earliest decisions  
in full sight of your  
final goal.*

## SIZING BY DATE

You need to know the exact weigh in date for your fair.

- + You need to match frame size and age of the goat to the desired endpoint.
- + Smaller framed goats will reach their terminal endpoint in fewer days than larger framed goats.

A simple way to figure out what size your goat should be is to know the date of your fair and the desired end weight for your goat. Figure an average daily gain of 0.3–0.5 lbs. and back figure what the correct weight should be at purchase time.

Sale Date	Sale Weight	Show Date	Show Weight	Total Gain	Days to Show	Avg. Gain (Per Day)
Mar. 1	40 lbs.	Jul. 15	95 lbs.	55 lbs.	137	0.40 lbs.

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### MUSCLE

- + A goat's ability to be muscular is determined by its skeletal foundation. Goats should be wide chested, round bodied and wide pinned. This will give them the proper foundation to achieve the muscularity that we demand in the show ring.
- + Goats should have a large, square rack and loin (highest priced cuts).
- + Goats should have a big, muscular hip that extends into a full, thick leg.
- + The forearm can be an excellent indicator of muscle in goats. A goat with a large, expressive forearm will usually be muscular everywhere else.

### STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

- + Sound when on the move taking long, fluid and effortless strides off of all four legs.
- + Heavy boned and clean jointed.
- + As level as possible down their top and out their hip.
- + Strong and short on their pasterns.
- + Rule of thumb, bad structured animals never get better!

### BALANCE, DESIGN AND EYE APPEAL

- + Elevated, wide and shallow through their chest floor.
- + Smooth at the point of their shoulder.
- + Correct length of body—looks proportional when viewed from the side.
- + Level designed from shoulder blade to hip.
- + Long and nearly level hip.
- + Rib cage needs to be round and flank-line needs to be more shallow in the fore-rib than the rear flank.
- + Wide based and tracking off both front and rear.

# Feeding + Nutrition

Show animals  
eat show  
feed!

## FEEDING

As we ask our show animals to perform at the very highest level, it is critical that we give them the ability to do that through a high quality show feed that is formulated for the specific species we are feeding and designed to help our project be successful in the show ring.

- † Keep your show goat on an excellent diet that is correctly balanced in amino acids, proteins and fat to assure he can reach his genetic potential.
- † Make sure you are feeding a show goat feed that contains ammonium chloride to help reduce the risk of urinary calculi.

## FEEDING ROUTINE

*The single most important thing you can do to ensure success with your goat*

- † Feed your goat at the same time every morning and every night. This is crucial for getting the most efficiency and performance possible out of your project.
- † Being ruminant animals, the microbes in the stomach of the goat play a very important role in digestion of the feed that you are providing them. Those microbes learn to expect feed at a certain time each day and they will be at their most efficient point if they are fed on a strict schedule.
- † Feed goats separately so you can monitor feed intake for each one in the pen. This will allow you to not only make the necessary changes in diet as your goat grows and matures but will also allow you to notice if your goat changes his eating patterns. Often changes in appetite are an early sign that your goat might be getting sick.

## MANIPULATING MUSCLE DESIGN & FAT COVER

*Every goat, even full siblings, looks different in terms of muscle design & fat cover.*

- † There are the two main things that you can change and adjust with feed and supplementation.

### PROTEIN

- † The amount of protein that you feed your goat depends on life stage, muscle design or type, and existing fat cover.
- † Increasing or decreasing protein DOES NOT necessarily affect how much weight your animal will gain.
- † Protein mainly affects how much and what type of muscle your animal will develop as well as helping you burn or regulate fat cover.

### FAT

- † Fat cover is another main area that you can change with feed or supplements. Some goats get fatter easier than others and some have to be fed a lot more energy to be successful.

# Management Tips

*Common Sense & good management are keys to getting your goat project off to a successful start.*

## BRINGING YOUR GOAT HOME

- † Make sure that your pen is set up and has a dry, warm and draft free area for the goat to escape from the weather prior to the goat coming home with you. Be prepared before you get your goat!
- † Have your feed purchased and ready to go when your goat arrives home.
- † Ask the breeder or person you get your goat from what kind of feed they've been using. If possible, locate some of that feed and transition your goat over to your new feed, if different. A transition period of 2 weeks is ideal to allow the rumen microbes to adjust to the new feed.
- † Provide limitless fresh, clean and cool water at all times.
- † Water is the most overlooked nutrient that we provide our goats. A good, clean source of water is vitally important for your goat to most efficiently use the feed that you are providing.
- † Water your goats in something that can be changed and cleaned easily and often.

*Rule of Thumb: If you wouldn't drink it, don't expect your goats to!*

## DAILY ROUTINE FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

- † Spend lots of time with your new project. Goats are very social and the bond you form with them in the first couple weeks will pay off.
- † Check your goat two or three times per day to make sure they are not getting sick and that they are secure in their pen.
- † Watch the stool condition, coughing and runny noses during the first few weeks.

## DAILY ROUTINE AFTER THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

- † You still need to check the goat two or three times per day and make sure there is always clean, cool, and fresh water available at all times.
- † While you continue checking your goat, you are also allowing your goat to get more and more comfortable with you, your voice and your actions.
- † Depending on your target show, you will need to start training your goat to work in a show ring. That will include teaching them to walk with a show collar and to brace effectively.

## EXERCISE PROGRAM

*Having a proper exercise program is essential and provides the following benefits:*

- † Increases appetite.
- † Keeps show animals mobile.
- † Builds a relationship between the animal and the exhibitor.
- † Can increase muscle tone and mass and decrease fat deposition.

# Management Tips

*Common Sense & good management are keys to getting your goat project off to a successful start.*

## ENDURANCE

*Endurance is one of the most important factors when selecting and training your champion showman and even your champion market goat at most fairs.*

- † When working your goat, make sure that the outside temperature is not going to harm the goat.
- † Start your goat out with short sessions, showing him exactly as you will in the show ring. Gradually work up to 30 minute sessions at minimum.
- † If you're unfamiliar with goat showmanship, the easiest way to learn is watch someone who is very good and try to mimic their every move and mannerisms in the show ring.
- † Practice and repetition are extremely important when trying to improve on your showmanship skills.
- † Don't get beat because you didn't spend enough time conditioning your goat and practicing showmanship.

*This means endurance of the goat as well as the showman!*

## TRACKING PROGRESS

*It is very important to look at your goat every time you feed! Look at his eyes, ears, nose, hair coat, feet and legs, and manure.*

- † Beyond what your goat looks like, what they weigh and the number of days to your target show can affect what type of feed ration your goat needs to be eating.
- † Weigh your goat once a week at the same day and time, ideally before you feed to achieve the most accurate actual weight. Feed and water consumed after feeding can have a drastic affect on your weights and average daily gain.
- † Accurate records of your goat's weight, average daily gain, days to show, and the amount of feed and supplements fed are extremely important.
- † Knowing the exact weight of your goat will enable you to feed to the type and look that you desire.
- † De-worm once per month (not within the last 30 days prior to your terminal show date). A great way to remember de-worming dates is to de-worm on the first Saturday of every month.
- † Goats are ruminant animals and require fiber in their diet to keep their digestive tracts healthy. Most show goat feeds are formulated with the desired fiber level, but roughage may need to be added. A small amount of alfalfa hay may be necessary to keep your goat at top performance.
- † A good rule of thumb is that a goat will consume 2.0%-3.0% of its body weight on a daily basis.
- † Keep feeders and water buckets clean and free from dirt and manure. An animal will never perform at the highest level if they have to combat less than ideal feed and water conditions.

*If something doesn't look right with your animal, there is probably something wrong.*

# Fitting + Showing

*The more hours and hard work  
you put into your project,  
the more successful  
you will be.*

## SKIN & HAIR CARE

*It is very crucial that care is paid to the skin and hair of your goat.*

- † When the judge handles your goat for muscle and body condition, your goat needs to have a healthy, tight hide and healthy hair coat.
- † Bed your goats in clean shavings to help keep them clean and free of stains that will be hard to remove at fair.
- † Wash and blow out your goat before clipping to remove dirt and debris that will dull your clipper blades.
- † Over washing without using skin conditioning products will do more harm than good and cause the skin and hair to dry out.

*If your goal is to be a champion, then your goat has to look like a champion!*

## CLIPPING YOUR GOAT

*Clipping your goat is a must and gives your goat a more attractive, fresh & youthful look.*

- † When done correctly, clipping can enhance the appearance of your goat, but when done incorrectly, it can make your goat look extremely unattractive.
- † Clipping also helps accentuate a goat's top shape by removing longer hairs that hide the natural muscling expression.
- † Clip body to approx 0.18" (Lister Cover Cote Blade) if clipping a day or two before the show. Shorter blades can be used (i.e. Lister/Premier Medium Blade) if time is given for hair to smooth out & lines to go away. This should be done 7–10 days before your show.
- † Clip against the hair except when blending legs.
- † Do not clip below the knees and hocks. Blend hair at knees and hocks to give a smooth transition from short to long hair.
- † Clip head to the same length as the body.
- † The tail should be clipped to the same length as the body excluding the last 1.5–2" at the tip which should be trimmed but left more natural.
- † To restrain your goat use a sheep/goat fitting stand.
- † After clipping, brush off hair, rinse & brush on a light coat of spray conditioner.

## PACKING THE TACK BOX & TRAILER

### WASHING

- † Short hose, spray nozzle, shampoo, waterless shampoo, large & small towels, blower

### SKIN & HAIR

- † Skin conditioner, small soft brushes, clippers, goat blanket

### SHOWING

- † Show collar, safety pins or belt clip, show clothes

### FEEDING

- † Feed & supplements you were using at home, measuring cup, feeder, water bucket

### PAPERWORK

- † Entry verification from Ag teacher, copy of completed entry form, health papers\*, copy of premium book, project record book\* (\* if required)

### MISCELLANEOUS

- † Wire, pliers, pro-biotic paste, electrolytes, extension cords, plenty of shavings, scissors, halter, tools to clean pens

# Weight Management

*Weight management should start at least two months before your show.*

## FEED CONVERSION

*Proper weight management will only be achieved by weighing your goat every week and knowing where your project is at all times as far as weight and development. A good rule of thumb is to know the feed conversion rates for goats. The following table is a guideline for feed conversion.*

Weight (lbs.)	Estimated feed conversion (lbs.)
35–50	5.0–6.0
50–70	5.5–6.5
70–90	6.0–7.0
90–110	6.0–7.0

By knowing these conversion factors, you can estimate average daily gain by simply knowing the amount of feed your goat is eating daily and dividing it by the estimated feed conversion to predict average daily gain. **NOTHING** replaces actually knowing exactly what your goat weighs at all times.

## WEIGHT & GROWTH

Days to Fair	Weight (Lbs.)	Avg. Daily Gain	Feed/Gain	Feed/Day	Total Feed
120	36.7–51.7	0.3	5.25	1.58	11.06
113	38.8–53.8	0.3	5.25	1.58	22.12
106	40.9–55.9	0.3	5.25	1.58	33.18
99	43–58	0.3	5.5	1.65	44.73
92	45.1–60.1	0.3	5.5	1.65	56.28
85	47.2–62.2	0.35	5.75	2	70.28
78	49.65–64.65	0.35	5.75	2	84.28
71	52.1–67.1	0.4	5.75	2.3	100.38
64	54.9–69.9	0.4	5.75	2.3	116.48
57	57.7–72.7	0.45	6.0	2.7	135.38
50	60.85–75.85	0.45	6.0	2.7	154.28
43	64–79	0.5	6.0	3	175.28
36	67.5–82.5	0.5	6.0	3	196.28
29	71–86	0.5	6.25	3.2	218.68
22	74.5–89.5	0.5	6.25	3.2	241.08
15	78–93	0.5	6.25	3.2	263.48
8	81–96.5	0.5	6.5	3.25	286.23
1	85–100	0.5	6.5	3.25	308.98

*Remember that not all show feeds will perform the same. Estimated feed conversion is simply that, an estimate. It is very important that you weigh your goat and calculate your average daily gain to make sure that you are on target.*

<b>SHOW GOAT FEED</b>	ShowMaker Dominator Show Goat MP	Start to finish feed designed for the show ring for the competitive showman.
	ShowMaker A.P. Goat 16%	All purpose goat feed can be fed to growing kids to mature adult goats.
	ShowMaker Show Goat	Start to finish feed for the show goat to maximize genetic potential in a textured form.
	ShowMaker Supreme Doe w/Rumensin	Multi-faceted feed for pre-breeding flushing, gestating and lactating does, show and sale does or replacement females.
	ShowMaker Pygmy Goat w/ Rumensin	Provides balanced nutrition for optimal bloom required to hang banners.
	ShowMaker Supreme Performance Goat	Multi stage pelleted feed designed for goat performance. Maximizes muscle & gain while maintaining body condition.
	Show-Rite Glen Martin's Advancer Plus R20	High performance, complete start to finish feed with all the bells and whistles designed to put you in the winners circle.
	Rival Show Goat Elite Loco R20MX	Enhanced with Rule Supplements for cutting edge nutrition, meets your demands to compete at the highest level. +Rumensin to help prevent coccidiosis & give your babies the extra boost for a bloomy, healthy start.
<b>SHOW SUPPLEMENTS</b>	3 Hrs Out	Makes sugar cells explode within the muscle fibers, giving muscle extra "pop" for the show ring.
	Attitude Adjustment	Helps relieve stress & make livestock more manageable in the show ring.
	DuraFerm Concept Aid Goat	Complete vitamin/mineral supplement for goats all breeds & stages with Amaferm advantage.
	Gold Dust	Adds muscle "pop," show day freshness, helps sheep, goats, swine & cattle reach their potential.
	Rule-The Formula	Maximize feed intake & digestive health. In addition to healthy gut, contains Zinpro zinc & manganese to maximize skin, hair & hoof quality.
	Rule-Shredded R	Designed for ruminants to add more natural shape, & muscle. Contains bypass protein and amino acids to keep rumen thriving. All NATURAL!
	Rule-THICC	High energy multi specie top dress designed to add cover, and give more bloom. Very palatable fat source!
	Rule-Race Day	Extra energy, longer term. Helps manage fill, keeping them fresh while maintaining cover and handle. Ideal for the last 14 days
	Show-Rite Muscle-In-Motion (M-N-M) Top Dress	High in omega-3s, builds optimal muscle and fleshiness while maintaining soundness.
	Show-Rite Fat-N-Fluffy	Blend of fat sources in dairy proteins increases palatability for optimal intake, bloom & sheen.
	Show-Rite Rite Factor Goat	All natural, drug free supplement for gut health, muscle volume/shape and overall appearance.
	Show-Rite Rite Flex	Promotes healthy mobility, supports motion, flexibility, healthy bones, joints, cartilage, synovial fluid, skin, and immune system.
	Show-Rite Sculpt	Formulated for all species, designed to trim off unwanted fat while toning and firming muscle shape. Keeps them fresh!
	Show-Rite Stamina	Wheat germ oil supplement with Vitamins A&D and linoleic acid for healthy skin & coat.
	Show-Rite Star Shine	Highly palatable pellet improves performance and body condition in animals of all life stages.
	Show-Rite Stretch	Increases expansion of body. Can be used to add fill day of show or use as a holding ration.
	Show-Rite Swell	Gives show day fill, bulk, & expansion to set animals apart from the rest.
	Sure Champ Extreme with Climate Control	Amaferm for appetite & gut health, Climate Control for extreme temps, and insect repelling garlic
	Vita Charge Liquid Boost	Amaferm, Mos, & Niacin increase gut health & ability to fight off stress.