

Popular Article

Broiler kid farming

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Introduction

Broiler kid production system is an intensive system of rearing goats to provide energy, protein and other nutrients in required proportions by feeding semisolid concentrate up to three months of age. This production system is highly suitable in areas where green fodder is not available or due to lack of grazing land. Broiler kid production is just for meat production and for breeding purposes. This system of rearing improves the economy of rural farming communities.

Broiler goat kids

For this production system any breed of goats can be used but kids used should have good birth and body weight with good average daily gain. Both male and female can be used for broiler kid production. Farmers having goat rearing experience, goat business plan that include construction of shed to marketing is enough to manage broiler goat rearing.

Selection of kids

Goat kids about 15 days to 1 month old i.e., before starting to eat green leaves and are having higher birth weight and not used for further breeding can be selected for broiler goat rearing. The selected kids should not be allowed to feed on green fodder/grazing green grasses in open field. Deworming should be done on 45th day of rearing and repeated every month till goats are sold.

Method of rearing

The selected kids are reared intensively by providing concentrate feed (goat feed) @ 5 g mixed with equal quantity of rice gruel (broken boiled rice) initially i.e., at start (15-30 days). Then gradually increase the amount day by day as per feed intake (eg. 7g, 10 g, 15 g like that). Apart from this addition of coconut cake, rice bran or ground cake with minimum level (1-2 g/day/kid to maximum of 150-200/day) can also be done. Pure water also should be available at all times.

Feed supplement

Liver tonic (Tefroli/Livol etc.) and Fish oil should be given twice in a week @ 2.5 ml/animal per day initially and increase upto 5-10ml/kid/day. The young kids should be allowed for mother's milk twice or thrice in a day.

Feed mixing

Goat feed available in market or prepare feed mix by using following ingredients:

Deoiled groundnut cake	12 parts
Horse gram	30 parts
Wheat/ maize/ jowar (grain)	30 parts
Rice polish/wheat bran	15 parts
Dried unsalted fish	10 parts
Mineral mixture	1.5 parts
Sodium chloride	1.5 parts
Vitamin AB ₂ D ₃	25grams/100Kg feed mix

Housing

Low-cost housing should be constructed in such a way in a raised platform (about 1 meter height from ground level) by using bamboo/wooden poles or 'pakka' building by establishing concrete pillars. Floor and side walls may be made of wooden material. Roof may be thatched with coconut leaves, grass or asbestos sheets. Average floor space per kid is 0.75 to 1 sq. metre. Floor should have atleast 1 cm space between bamboos/wooden planks to allow passage of dung and urine down to the ground.

In a large herd, synchronization of estrus by using PGF2 alpha injection and timely breeding by using good quality frozen semen or natural service by superior male will enhance not only conception rate but also the farmer can bring all the animals to deliver (kidding) at a specified period.

Advantages

- No need to observe estrus signs.
- Fixed time breeding at 72hr. and 96 hr. following PGF2 alpha injection.
- Delivery of all mated animals at a particular time reduces inter-kidding interval.
- Effective feed management.
- Gain weight at faster rate which help in doubling farmers income.
- Minimum chances of getting infection and diseases.
- Easy monitoring and record keeping.
- Easy manure collection.
- Well protected from heat and cold stress with less risk of predator attack.
- Easy to manage and produce tender goat meat.

Conclusion

A farm woman can manage about 10-20 kids at a time without any extra labor. It is highly profitable to the farmers who is already involved in goat rearing. The kids should be sold off at about 3-4 months or at the attainment of 25-30 kgs whichever is earlier. A farm woman/farmer can produce a greater number of broiler kids in short period of time. Apart from these the reproductive efficiency of female goats can also be highly exploited by proper planning of breeding.