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### **Kidding/At Birth**

- **Breath.** Clear mouth and nose of fetal membranes and fluids. Cause the kid to sneeze by sticking a piece of hay or straw in the nostrils.
- **Warm and dry.** If the temperature in the kidding room is below 40 degrees or if a kid is cold and slow, use towels or a hair dryer to dry and warm up a newborn kid. Some have submerged kids in warm water to increase body temperature and then used a warm air dryer to dry them off.
- **Colostrum** is the most important medication or treatment that the kid could possibly receive. Do not leave the kid unless assured that it is drinking from a teat that is delivering adequate colostrum. One way to determine this is to weigh the kid before and after nursing. If the kid will not nurse or if there is not adequate colostrum available from the dam, then supplement the kid. I suggest tubing the kid with colostrum at approximately 1 oz. (30 ml) per lb. birth weight. Do not use an energy supplement first. This will decrease the kid's ability to absorb maximum immunity from the colostrum. Colostrum quality is in this order:
  1. The dam's own fresh colostrum
  2. Another doe's fresh colostrum
  3. Another doe's frozen colostrum- lacks some of the whole cell immunity of fresh colostrum.
  4. Powdered Goat Colostrum supplement- lacks many of the immune cells needed by the kids in your farm's environment, but is better than regular milk.
- **INForce**- intranasal pneumonia vaccination. Mix one 2cc vial and split between 1, 2, or 3 kids as are presented. This is a new protocol that has been used more recently in some boer goat herds to combat an early pneumonia that kills kids at just a few days

old, possibly cause by Respiratory Syncytial Virus. This is an optional vaccination and should be discussed with the doctors before beginning.

- **Oxytocin** at 1cc IM given to the doe once all kids are delivered in order to ensure the delivery of the placenta and expulsion of fetal fluids.

### **Kid Processing**

Kids should be processed at less than two weeks of age particularly if they are to be dehorned. Actions at processing may include:

- Vaccination for enterotoxemia and tetanus- 2cc CDT vaccine subcutaneously. Repeat approximately 4 weeks later.
- Vitamin E and Selenium supplementation- Bo-Se 1cc/40 lb. subcutaneously
- Dehorning- burn around the exterior of the horn and then remove the cap. Be careful not to leave burner on the head too long. Spray with Alluspray to create a liquid bandage and to cool the head. Dehorning is more successful the younger it is completed. Don't wait until you see the horns to complete dehorning. It is too late then. The horns can be removed as soon as a bump is felt.
- Castration- banding may occur at this time. Be sure sack falls off within 2-3 weeks after banding.
- Consider an antibiotic given at the time of castration.
- Identification. Tags and Tattooing.
- Check teats and mouth alignment for breed-correct conformation.