

HOW TO MILK

Step 1: Restrain the doe on a milking, fitting or trimming stand, or by collaring her and tying her up short with her head high in a corner of the pen or barn.

Step 2: Wash your hands with soap, rinse and dry.

Step 3: Wash the doe's udder with warm soapy water to stimulate milk letdown (like the warm, wet mouth of a baby kid). Rinse and dry her udder thoroughly (a wet udder can spread bacteria).

Step 4: Kneel or stand alongside the doe facing her rump. Massage her udder. If the doe becomes upset, use your shoulder to press her against the wall of the pen or stand, or an assistant can firmly restrain her by holding both her hind legs and pressing **down** on them to keep them on the ground.

Step 5: Trap milk in one of the doe's teats by locking your thumb and forefinger together high up on the teat against the udder floor. Visualize a water balloon that you are tying off at the top.



Step 6: Keep your thumb and forefinger locked tightly to keep the milk from back-flushing into the udder while progressively pressing in on the teat with your middle, ring and little fingers to push the milk down and out the teat end.

Step 7: The very first few squirts of colostrum may be hard to get out of the teat (there may be a wax plug at the end of the teat) and also help to clear bacteria from the end of the teat. Squirt two or three squirts unto the floor or into a test cup (preferable) to clear the bacteria and check that the colostrum appears normal. It may be thicker and yellower than regular milk but should be free of clots or blood. After that, use one hand to hold a clean container while you milk the doe with the other hand until you have enough colostrum for her kids. If you have "teat dip", dip each teat in a small container of it to disinfect them when you are done. Otherwise, wash and dry the doe's udder.

Step 8: Strain hair and dirt from the colostrum with a strainer, cheesecloth or paper towel. Store the colostrum in a refrigerator for immediate use or freeze in an ice cube tray for future needs.

STEPS TO BOTTLE FEEDING

Step 1: Warm clean milk or colostrum to roughly 105° F. Colostrum will coagulate and turn into cheese if heated too fast. It is best to use a double boiler or water bath to slowly heat colostrum and stir it constantly.

Step 2: Pour milk or colostrum into a small bottle (beer, soda pop or baby bottle). Attach a small, soft nipple (check opening and "X" the opening if needed).

Step 3: Check temperature of the milk by dribbling it on the inside of your wrist. It should feel just a little warmer than your body temperature. Wrap the bottle in a towel or insulated sleeve.

Step 4: Drape the kid across your lap or over your knees. Rub the kid's flank and tail to stimulate the kid to suck. You can also loosely cover the kid's eyes with your arm to simulate the kid being under his dam's belly to encourage the kid's instinct for nursing.

Step 5: Pry open the kid's mouth gently and put the nipple in. Stroke the kid's throat to get the kid to swallow. Jiggle the bottle without tilting it too high to try to get some milk to flow into the kid's mouth. If the milk gets too cold, reheat it and keep trying until the kid gets the hang of drinking from a bottle.

A SAMPLE FEEDING SCHEDULE FOR ORPHAN KIDS

Day 1-2 = about 2.5 to 3 fluid oz of colostrum per lb live weight broken into multiple small meals (i.e. an 8 lb kid should be offered about 3 x 8 = 24 oz in the first 24 hrs. For example, 3 feedings of 8 oz each or 4 feedings of 6 oz each. One cup = 8 oz. Very small kids generally require more frequent feedings and smaller amounts of milk per feeding than large, strong kids. For example, 6 feedings of 2 oz every 4 hours.

Day 3-7 = 1 ½ pints to 1 quart of milk broken into two or preferably three feedings daily. Very small kids may drink less per feeding. Do not force the kid to drink more than he/she wants. One **milk recipe** some producers use at this young age if short on goat milk is 1 gallon of pasteurized whole cow milk with 2 cups removed and replaced with 1 cup of buttermilk and 1 cup of evaporated (not condensed) milk.

Day 8-14 = 1 quart of milk (can gradually increase up to 1 ½ quarts) broken into 2 or preferably 3 feedings daily. Gradually switch kids to a "lambar" if you are bottle feeding several kids at one time.

Week 2-10 = 1 to 2 quarts of milk broken into 2 to 3 feedings. The amount depends on quality of the concentrate and forage offered, and availability and cost of milk. Kids exposed to cold weather usually require more frequent feedings and more milk in total than kids reared under warm or moderate conditions.

Please note – If feeding milk replacer, follow mixing directions on label. If feeding milk, keep in mind that pasteurization will kill the organism that causes Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis but will not kill the organism that causes Johnes disease. Avoid using milk from carrier animals for doe or buck kids being reared as breeding stock.

When to stop? Ideally, kid should weigh ≥ 30 lbs and consume $\geq \frac{1}{4}$ lbs of concentrate/day before weaning.