



Deidrägo Dairy Goats  
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## Deidrägo Management

Thank you for choosing a Deidrägo animal to add to your herd and breeding program! We have developed management guidelines over the years that work well for us. Our husbandry routines not only provide top quality care for our animals, but also are as streamline as possible for our time and sanity. Our mature animals maintain healthy and appropriate body condition, and our kids are always comparable in size and vigor to kids managed by other herds. Our management guidelines are outlined here to provide you with complete information on how your animal has been raised, and what recommendations we have regarding their care.

### Birth

All of our animals are raised on strict CAE prevention. Most recent CAE tests are uploaded on our website. We attend every birth and kids are promptly removed from their dam. We choose to implement an induction-based kidding routine so all of our animals are born on our work weekends. Kids are generally born between 143-150 days gestation. We monitor our expectant does through several cameras above our kidding pens. This allows us to monitor the does continuously while they are in labor, and we always assist in the birth of all of the kids.

Our kids receive 15oz of heat treated colostrum. They are fed 3 times per day for the first 2 days. They receive their colostrum from a bottle with a grey caprine nipple, and are transitioned to a lamb bar pail around 24 hours of age. We have a 'training lamb bar' we use while the kids are in the house for the first few days. Although they aren't very stable on their feet yet, they train onto the lamb bar easily because they are still learning how to eat. After they finish their 15oz of colostrum, we feed them heat treated 2<sup>nd</sup> milking "colostrum" from their dam pooled with other does that kid that weekend. We prefer to do this because this 2<sup>nd</sup> milking is fresh and not frozen (but still heat treated).



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**Training lamb bar**

## **0-4 weeks**

Our feeding program is based on the principle that a very generous amount of milk is required for the kids to reach their full potential. When a kid is very young, we believe they will grow the best and be the healthiest when they are allowed to eat many small meals continuously throughout the day.

Our kids receive free choice pasteurized milk from lamb bars they have 24/7 access to until at least 4 weeks of age. Our kids at this age will be accustomed to eating 2-4 quarts of milk per day, with no limit on their consumption. Because they have constant access to their milk, they will pace themselves and consume what they are comfortable with. Our kids always have access to high quality alfalfa hay and a small amount of Purina Noble Goat feed (now called Goat Grower). They start nibbling their hay at this age.

When you receive your Deidrägo baby, you must have the grey caprine nipples on hand. Your baby will be accustomed to eating on a lamb bar, but most can transition to a bottle with a grey caprine nipple. You must also give your kid access to high quality alfalfa hay at this age.



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Coccidia prevention is extremely important. There are many successful prevention programs out there. We are using a new product, Pro-Bac-C, starting in 2020, due to the availability issue of other products like Dimethox. Generally we start daily coccidi prevention in mid-March, when most kids are around 2 weeks of age. Prevention is extremely important to manage coccidiosis, and that includes feeding your kids in feeders they cannot get their feet into. We feed our growing kids hay and grain through stock panels that they have to reach through to minimize this. At this age, our babies are in pens that are located in our shop. It has a cement floor that is cleaned and sanitized regularly, decreasing the exposure they have to organisms in the earth (including coccidia).

Our babies are normally disbudded at 9-10 days of age. They are tattooed a week later and they receive their first CD/T vaccine at that time. We use Boehringer Ingelheim Bar Vac CD/T and recommend this brand. **Reminder: Our Oberhasli and Experimental animals are *tail tattooed*.**

## 4 to 8 weeks

At this time, we transition our kids to eating two meals per day. They still get access to as much milk as they want, and will generally eat about 3 quarts of milk per day. They will also begin to intake a fair amount of alfalfa hay at this time.

Our kids receive their second CD/T and first Pasteurella vaccines at this age. We will update you with their vaccination dates when you receive your kid. They will be on the coccidia prevention program mentioned earlier. Our kids have access to free choice clean water and trace mineral salt at all times. We generally deworm our kids with Panacur once a day for three days at this age.



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## **8 to 12 weeks**

After 8 weeks of age, our kids begin to receive a rationed amount of milk. They receive 1 quart twice a day (or a half gallon of milk per kid per day). Their consumption of alfalfa should be significant and their interest in grain (Purina Noble Goat) should be increasing. Physiologically, their rumens are developing and they are able to eat a good quantity of solid food. Rationing their milk encourages them to intake solid food. At 8 weeks of age, they only have access to a small amount of grain. Around 10 weeks of age, they will become more interested in eating grain and will be given access to more (up to 0.5-0.7 pounds per kid per day). Remember to make all feed transitions slowly.

For coccidia prevention, they will still be receiving treatment in their milk. Purina Noble Goat is medicated with a coccidiostat, and at 12 weeks of age is generally all the prevention they need. Our kids will receive their final CD/T and Pasteurella vaccines at this time.

## **12 weeks and older**

We strongly believe that in a non-dairy setting, no kid should be weaned before 12 weeks old, and only if they are consuming a significant amount of solid food. We routinely wean our bucklings at this age, but choose to feed our doelings milk until the fall. At 12 weeks old, we will start feeding our kids their rationed amount of 1 quart of milk only once per day. We maintain our doelings on this feeding regiment until the beginning of September. We feed our bucklings once per day for at least one week before fully weaning them. As we wean the 12 week old buck kids, we will dilute the milk in their lamb bars 50/50 with water for a few days, and then just give them water in their lamb bars for a few days.

We also slowly increase the amount of grain they are receiving during this time, never offering them more than 1-1.25 pounds of grain per kid per day. Now that our kids are eating a significant amount of Noble Goat, it should be adequate coccidia prevention. Our kids will generally be dewormed again (Valbazen) at 12 weeks of age.



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## **Kid Raising Overview**

We have had a strict CAE prevention program since we started our herd and highly recommend that unpasteurized goat milk NEVER be fed to replacement stock. We continue to pasteurize even though our whole herd tests negative for CAE annually (in the winter). Even though our animals test negative, we feel this strict program is necessary because we expose our goats to outside animals when we go to shows.

If you don't have a source of pasteurized goat milk to raise your kid, we strongly recommend using pasteurized whole cow milk from the grocery store. We successfully supplement our kids with calf milk replacer, but always have it mixed at 50% strength and only up to half of what they consume. Again, you must have grey caprine nipples to feed your kids with.

We also strongly believe in vaccinating for CD/T and Pasteurella. CD/T is important to protect them from metabolic disorders. Having a steady, regular feeding program and avoiding drastic changes in feed is also extremely important to raise healthy animals. We recommend having a bottle of C & D Antitoxin on hand just in case. Pasteurella is a pneumonia (bacterial) vaccine, and is especially important for animals that travel and go to shows. We strongly recommend you maintain a biannual or at least annual vaccination program for CD/T and Pasteurella.

## **Air Transport Recommendations**

If you choose to have your Deidrągo baby flown to you, we recommend having a 20oz bottle of milk with you when you pick them up from the airport. Because of the stress of transport, we recommend feeding them a rationed amount of milk for the next 24 hours or so. (20 oz every 6-8 hours). Diluting their milk with electrolytes (50/50) may be a good idea for extended transport.



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## **6 months and beyond**

Our animals always receive free choice access to high quality alfalfa hay, clean water, and trace mineral salt. We exclusively feed Purina Noble Goat to our kids and all of our bucks. In addition to a coccidiostat, Noble Goat contains ammonium chloride, a urinary acidifier. Our does receive a 12% protein all stock feed year round. In September, we transition our doelings off of Purina Noble Goat and onto the all stock feed. Our does (doelings and mature does) receive 1-1.25 lbs of all stock feed once per day year round. In the fall, our mature does will gain body condition, generally getting slightly fat. We have found they cope much better with late pregnancy and lactation in the spring when their body condition score reaches 3.5-4 out of 5 during their dry period. In the winter, we will supplement our does with free choice grass hay (generally through a round bale in their pasture).

The day after a doe kids, they receive a CD/T vaccine, a Lysigin vaccine (Staph Aureus) and are dewormed. We use an injectable mineral supplementation, Multimin 90, which is a chelated source of copper, selenium, zinc, and manganese. The first time we clip our does in May, we vaccinate for Pasteurella and will deworm them again with Valbazen. Multimin may be repeated at this time, on an individual basis, with a minimum of 30 days between injections. In August, we update everything on all of the animals at the same time (generally when we are clipping for the fall shows). We vaccinate all of the animals (CD/T, Pasteurella, Lysigin), deworm them, and give copper and selenium supplementation (with a copper bolus and Muse). Good management is important at this time to ensure animals are entering breeding season healthy and thriving.

All of our mature animals have access to large grass pastures. Having pasture access does mean we have to be vigilant with our deworming program. However, the health and happiness our animals have with all that room is extremely important to us. We also routinely provide our animals with enrichment. They receive small amount of treats (animal crackers on the milk stand) and veggies in their pens.



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We also have lots of toys for our animals, from jumping platforms to dirt piles and rubber balls. Our herd is also protected by a loving pair of Great Pyrenees. Our LGDs have access to all of our mature goat pens, and often are relaxing with their goats.

## Buck Management

Bucks receive their vaccines twice per year, copper and selenium twice per year, and are dewormed two-three times per year. We do their management similarly to the does as is outlined above, with the “day after kidding” and “May” things generally done at the same time sometime in the spring. Although our bucks are never shown, keeping management consistent across the herd protects the overall herd health. Doing the bucks’ fall management in August optimizes their health for breeding season, and mineral supplementation is very important for semen quality (especially for collection).

Prevention of urinary calculi is extremely important in management of bucks. As bucklings, our kids receive Noble Goat up to 1-1.25 lbs per day. During breeding season, we will increase their access to 2-2.5 lbs of grain per day as they go into rut. Losing body condition is a normal part of the physiological changes bucks go through during rut, but with proper feeding this stress can be minimized. Our bucks will regain their body condition in winter, once again approaching a body condition score of 3 out of 5. We normally move our bucklings (now yearlings) into the pen with our mature bucks in the spring. Once all of the bucks are adjusted (generally by April) we start to reduce their grain consumption. By May, our bucks are taken completely off grain.

Urinary calculi (stone formation in the bladder) is caused by a low calcium: phosphorus ratio in the diet as well as being over conditioned. Alfalfa is high in calcium, and grass and grain are high in phosphorus. The key is to first manage your buck’s body condition by adding in alfalfa, and then adding in grain. A buck should NEVER be fed only grass hay, or grass hay and grain. The physiological and behavioral changes a buck goes through during rut causes him to expend a lot of extra calorie. We begin feeding our bucks grain again in August, slowly increasing their consumption up to 2-2.5 lbs per animal per day.



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## Thank You

We hope this information will help prepare you for your new Deidrągo animal. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to reach out. You can reach Megan the best by texting her at (785) 319-9244.

Any information provided by Deidrągo Dairy Goats is a recommendation, and should never take the place of a professional consult. We are not veterinarians, and make no implication that we have the authority to make decisions for your animals. This information is provided to inform you on our management practices and our recommendations, but does not imply any guarantee. When we sell an animal, we can only guarantee that, to the best of our knowledge, they are healthy, happy, and free of defects when they leave the farm. We cannot guarantee any animal's CAE status, longevity, health, or competitive success when they move to a new herd. We cannot also guarantee that a Nubian kid will be born a specific color. If a kid is rejected based on color, it is considered a cancelled order and your deposit will be forfeit.

If you have any concerns or would like testing to be done on the animal before they leave our farm, we will be more than happy to discuss this with you (all testing, CVIs, and shipping expenses are always the responsibility of the buyer).

**Terms of Sale:** We require a \$100 deposit to reserve a kid, and will let you know where you stand on the reservation list. Please send a first and second choice with your deposit. We reserve the right to retain any kid to maintain our own breeding program, as well as breeder's right of purchasing 20 straws at cost of collection from any buck sold. We ask that you refrain from marketing semen on any buck sold until several daughters have been evaluated in milk. Deposits determine reservation order, and are non-refundable on cancelled orders.

If the kid of your choosing is not born, we will happily refund your deposit, transfer it to another kid, or hold it for the following year. An animal is not considered reserved until a deposit has been received. Deposits received on mature animals will hold the animal for 2 weeks. Sending a deposit on a mature animal is a guarantee you will buy the animal, and is non-refundable.

Prices quoted are for kids reserved before they are born, and picked up or shipped by four weeks of age. We require full payment to be received by 2 weeks from notification of birth. If payment is not received, the reservation and deposit is forfeited. Shipping expenses off of the farm are the responsibility of the buyer, and include airfare, transport, shipping crate, CVI, and any additional testing required. When a shipping or pick-up date has been agreed upon by both parties, all monies received will be non-refundable if the sale is canceled within 7 days of the agreed upon date. We try to attend the ADGA National Show every summer, and are normally willing to transport kids to the show for a fair boarding fee for their extra stay. Contact us for more information.

Any semen sold must be paid for in full before the semen is considered reserved. All semen must be picked up by December 31st of that year or the ownership reverts back to Deidrągo. Transport for semen to ADGA Nationals every summer and any show we attend is normally available, with advanced notice. Contact us for more information.

By making a reservation with a deposit, you accept and agree to our Terms of Sale in its entirety. Thank you for your interest in our herd.