

Developing a Breeding Program to Fit Your Operation

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Why do you need a Breeding Program?

When you have a well-established breeding program, the chances are high that you will be able to breed high-quality goats with top pedigrees and with strong bloodlines. A breeding program is a great way to highlight all the areas where your goats are superior to other goats.

Professional goat breeders have a visionary approach.
Small operations or Large operations need a breeding program.

Starting a Performance Program

- Set goals for your farm
 - Short and long terms goals are important
 - Be realistic in your goals
- Discuss these with others involved with your farm.
- Write down the goals.
- Start collecting the necessary data to measure your progress

Importance of Records

- Cannot Manage what you don't Measure!!
- Selection on performance is required to improve performance
- Records give you the ability to measure long term trends and change directions as needed.
- They provide information needed to better market your animals.
- Show you where you are as well as where you are headed.

What traits can we Improve?

- Production
 - Multiple birth rate
 - Growth-birth to weaning/market/yearling
 - Mothering ability
 - Carcass traits, live grade.
- Health Traits
 - Parasite resistance
 - Foot health issues
- Feed conversion, type traits, structure, etc.

What are the most important traits?

- Reproduction: most important in all livestock enterprises except feedlots and stocker operations.
- Growth
- Health:
 - Should be a part of your goals.
- Carcass:
 - Live grade plays some part

Data Needed for Program

- Birth Data:
 - Kid and dam ID
 - Birth date and weight
 - Sex
 - Type of birth
- Weaning Data:
 - Weaning date and weight
- Other Information:
 - Breed or cross
 - Sire ID
 - Age of dam in years
- Can still use data if birth weight is not available, not as accurate but still useful.
- Other data is used for adjustments.

Why Bother?

- ❖ To increase the genetic worth of the herd
- ❖ To increase herd productivity via improved kidding rates and kid growth rates
- ❖ To increase herd profitability via increased productivity and higher-prices sales of replacement stock
- ❖ If you don't care about profitability, there is no need to evaluate your herd.

QUESTION?

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