

# Kid Nutrition That Makes A Difference

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# Why Increase Kid Market Weight?

- ▶ Profitability
- ▶ Provide more meat for a hungry market (US only produces 45% of what they consume here)
- ▶ Most of the ways to increase kid selling weight will increase meat quality-move to a better selection grade, more money in some markets
- ▶ Most ways to increase kid selling weight will delay marketing and market in fall increases

# Profitability

- ▶ Goat budgets based on actual expenditures are scarce
- ▶ Just like it costs more than gas to go somewhere, it costs more than out of the pocket costs to raise a goat
- ▶ CPA goat producer (400 hd, 5 years) provided the following data:
- ▶ Fixed costs: Does, Buck, Guard Dog, Fence, Working Facilities
- ▶ \$430./hd spread over 4 years= \$108.
- ▶ Variable costs dogfood, medicine, feed, labor (30.) = \$105.
- ▶ Total production costs \$213/doe/1.5 kids = \$142.
- ▶ Cost to produce 1 kid with twins is \$107.
- ▶ Cost to produce 1 kid with single is \$213.

# Profitability

- ▶ Sell a 50 lb kid    \$290/cwt        \$145                    Profit \$3.
- ▶ Sell a 60 lb kid    \$258/cwt        \$154                    Profit \$12.
- ▶ Sell a 70 lb kid    \$232/cwt        \$162                    Profit \$20.
- ▶ Sell a 80 lb kid    \$220/cwt        \$176                    Profit \$34.
- ▶ San Angelo mkt prices, not sold by selection grade
- ▶ Other markets, heavier animals, more select 1, higher price.
- ▶ Most scenarios to increase weight result in kids being marketed later when market is stronger and prices greater.

# Possible Scenarios to Increase Market Weight

- ▶ Conventional wean at 90 days 50 lbs
- ▶ Conventional wean + creep 90 days 60 lbs
- ▶ Conventional wean + creep 90 days + 60 days feed and past 80 lbs.
- ▶ Late wean 120 days 60 lbs
- ▶ Late wean + 90 days on pasture 80 lbs
- ▶ Assumes animals have growth potential
- ▶ Assumes good pasture

# Conventional Wean 90 days

- ▶ No additional expense
- ▶ \$145/kid
- ▶ Have \$142 fixed and variable costs. Profit only \$3.
- ▶ Doe with single \$213 exp lost \$68.
- ▶ Doe with twin \$107 exp made \$38.
- ▶ Doe with no kid lost \$213.
- ▶ Selection for twins is important

Could increase weaning weight by animal selection and improving pasture

- ▶ Simple

# Conventional Wean + Creep Feeding

- ▶ Additional Expense 1 cwt 16% medicated creep feed \$7.50 +feeding \$1.00 = \$8.50
- ▶ 60 lb kid \$154 - 142.-8.50 = \$3.50
- ▶ Feed efficiency is poor as grain substitutes some for pasture
- ▶ Price/cwt may be greater because of greater body condition ie. more select 1's

# Conventional Wean + Creep+60 days Grain

- ▶ Additional expense creep \$8.50 +\$8.50 feed +\$12.00 past (.20/d)
- ▶ Assume market increases by \$10./cwt
- ▶  $184 - 142 - 29 = \$13.$



# Late Wean 120 days

- ▶ Extra pasture expense 30 days pasture \$6.00
- ▶ Assume market increases by \$7./cwt
- ▶  $\$159. - 142 - 6. = \$11.00$
- ▶ Make sure does gain body condition to breed after weaning

# Late, Low Stress Wean 90 Days Pasture

- ▶ Must have quality pasture late summer and fall
- ▶ Pasture \$18. (.20/day). Could plant sunn hemp, turnips, millet, crabgrass, cowpeas
- ▶  $184 - 142 - 18. = \$24.$

# Daily Nutrient requirements for Kid Gain

▶ Gain	Intake	TDN	TDN%	CP	CP%
▶ 1/6 lb	1.86	1.16	62%	.23	12
▶ ¼	2.05	1.31	64	.29	14
▶ 1/3	2.16	1.41	65	.34	16
▶ ½	2.42	1.67	69	.44	18

# Profitability Factors

- ▶ Profitability is heavily dependent on market
- ▶ Do you get paid more for better condition animals?
- ▶ How much does the market improve as animals are marketed later?
- ▶ Do animals have the growth potential?
- ▶ Have you ever weighed kids before marketing? Get a scale!
- ▶ Do you know what your costs are for your goat production?
- ▶ You can make money on goats, but it takes management.
- ▶ Average returns to labor and management in beef cattle sector over the last 10 years has been negative.

# Conclusion

- ▶ Watch your markets
- ▶ Cull your freeloaders and problem animals
- ▶ Try something simple the first year like late weaning or creep feeding
- ▶ Keep track of costs
- ▶ Weigh animals at weaning and work to improve weaning weights