

CRITERIA FOR GOAT BREEDER FARMS IN SRI LANKA.

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WHAT IS A GOAT BREEDER FARM?

- Goat breeder farm is the place where male and female goats are produced for next generation or for other goat farming units.

CATEGORIES OF GOAT BREEDER FARMS

- Goat breeder farms may be categorized into many types based on different criteria.
- Based on the size of operation, goat breeder farms can be classified into the following categories;
 1. Small scale.
 2. Medium scale.
 3. Large scale.

OUR OBJECTIVE

To develop the criteria for selection of goat breeder farms in Sri Lanka to produce and supply quality breeding materials to the field.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GOAT BREEDER FARMS

- Registration of the farm at the relevant Government Veterinary Surgeon's office.
- Animal identification and registration under the relevant Government Veterinary Surgeon's office.
- Proper record-keeping system (Records on breeding, kidding, body weight, sales, cull, and budget etc.).
- Regular Veterinary advice and guidance for essential health care management (regarding diagnoses, treatment, vaccination and other medical emergencies etc.), feeding and breeding.
- Housing facilities, general management, feeding, breeding and disease control to be followed according to the DAPH standards(Refer DAPH Goat Manual).
- Infrastructure facilities according to the DAPH standards for goat breeder farm. (Availability of 24 hour clean water supply, continuous supply of green forages and concentrates as requirement, electricity and road access).
- Strictly follow the current environmental rules and regulations.
- Location should be at least 100 meters away from the residential area and should be apart from the cattle sheds.
- Proper waste disposal system.
- Breeding program (SOP for a specific breeding program such as selection of parents, methods of breeding, management steps of does (during pregnancy and lactation) and of bucks and kids).
- Intensive management system is recommended.

Table1. Animal Composition in Different Categories of Goat Breeder Farms.

Category	Small scale Goat Breeder Farm	Medium scale Goat Breeder Farm	Large scale Goat Breeder Farm
Number of breedable bucks	02	03	>3 (Male to Female ratio should be 1:15)
Number of breedable females	6-10	11-24	>25
Number of followers	15-30	30-60	>60

Table2. Average Space Requirement.

Category	Space requirement (square meters)
For one breedable male	04
For one breedable female	02
For one follower	01

Table3. Land Requirement in Different Categories.

Category	Herd composition	Total number of animals at the farm	Land requirement (perches)
Small scale Goat Breeder Farm	Bucks -01, Does- 06, Follower- 15	22	60 - 75
	Bucks -01, Does- 10, Follower- 30	41	100 - 140
Medium scale Goat Breeder Farm	Bucks -02, Does- 11, Follower- 31	44	106 - 140
	Bucks -02, Does- 24, Follower- 60	86	210 - 280
Large scale Goat Breeder Farm	Bucks -02, Does- >25, Follower- >62	100	320

- Exercise area should be equal to double the amount of housing area.

Other Factors to be Considered.

Water supply-

- 24 hour clean potable water supply.
- Elevated waterers (waterers with the same level as the head level or 1-2 feet above the ground level) preferable according to the stage of production and size of the animal.
- Daily water requirement is more over or less equal to 5 time of the feed quantity.

Feed supply.

- Feeding should be practiced with standards (Technical knowledge from Veterinary office)
-Daily feed requirement – dry matter – 3-5% of body weight.

- fresh matter – 12-15% of body weight.

- Better to chop the grass and add mineral mixtures to increase the palatability.
- Concentrate feed should be used according to the age group and stage of production.
- Mineral Blocks should be available for 24 hour (If used).
- Colostrum feeding must be started within first 30-45 minutes from birth of new born kid at the rate of 10% of birth weight.
- Milk replacer could be used according to the necessity and also better to wean the kids at about 10-12 weeks of age.

Table4.Body Condition Status of the Goats.

Category	BCS
Buck	3
Female goat	. >2.5 (generally) (depend on the stage of production)
Follower	>3.5

Information Regarding Breeding Program.

- Breeding program should be well planned to obtain maximum benefits from the genetic diversity (3 crops for 2 years is the best).
- Goat breeding programs should be – pure line to be maintained.
- Breeding method could be Artificial Insemination (AI) or Natural breeding.
- Inbreeding should be prevented by buck replacement (either buck rotation or purchasing new buck/s) at correct time.
- Male and female goats should be used for breeding only after 14-15 months of age and preferably weight of the animal should be 60% of their adult body weight.
- Breeder male: female ratio recommended as 1:20.
- Annual selection and culling of the breeding stock should be essential (goats which are not suitable for breeding purpose should culled from the herd).
- Physical characters and health conditions should be evaluated while selecting breedable animals.
- Replacement stock of females should be maintained at the farm.
- Breedable goats of male and female should be supplied to the field at the age above 10 months as the breeding materials.
- Female goats could be culled at 4-5 years of age.

Annual Health Testing

Test reports on Brucellosis, TB, Blue Tongue and Camphylobacteriosis to be negative.

Vaccination

Bi-annual vaccination of FMD to be done.

Deworming

Regular deworming to be done and change the drug as recommended by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon.

Waste disposal

Proper waste disposal system to be adopted. Remove dung and urine twice a week and composting is preferable.