



Designers of Full Blood  
& Percentage Boer Goats  
The Hobby Family • Bill, Sue & Girls  
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## Vaccinations / Health Work for our Boer Goats

### **Below are guidelines that we have learned from many goat producers and groups nationwide:**

The best prevention of any health problems is to keep your animals in a **stress-free** environment by keeping a balanced diet and good care in general. **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Be consistent & routine in all of your goat practices, but especially feeding without changing feeds often and feeding at the same time and ideally 2x per day.

### As of 2011, here is a list of what we've learned to do at Boers by Hobby to keep the best of health for our herd:

We feed pasture when available, alfalfa hay in the morning, & oat/wheat/forage hay in the evening. During colder weather, the hays high in carbohydrates (oat, wheat, rye, etc.) are more of a necessity to keep them warm!! Goat mineral blocks (i.e. Sweetlix 20% Meatmaker), loose minerals (i.e. Vigortone GoatPro & Bar-Ale Western Sweet Goat Mineral) & iodized salt blocks are free choice. Grain when needed, especially for nursing kids in a creep feeder or just weaned. Our goat pellet grain is from Mountain View Feed called Hobby 1st-to-Finish with special feed additives such as Bio-Mos, Sel-Plex, sea kelp, flax seed oil and more. Of course, it includes ammonium chloride to prevent urinary calculi. We perform hoof trimming as needed, plus we breed for good hard hooves to minimize hoof trimming!

- 1) **CDT:** for prevention of tetnus and overeating disease (Covexin 8). ..... Sub-cu: 2cc / head **annually** & at 30 and 60 days for the youngsters
- 2) **Bo-Se:** for prevention of selenium deficiency ..... Sub-cu: 1cc / 40 lb. **semi-annually** or as needed (selenium deficiency can cause weak pasterns, weak newborns, retained placentas, etc.) We give the above dosage approx. 4 weeks before kidding, 1/2 cc to all newborns, and as needed on mature animals.
- 3) **De-Wormer** (in TX every 3 weeks has been necessary! **4x/yr for us max.**) ..... Injectable Ivermec or Cydectin 1cc/80 lbs or oral Cydectin: 1 cc / 20 lb. as needed. If your animals become thin and/or are itching with a dull hair coat, try worming. Rotate wormers annually is recommended by our vet.
- 4) **External pests** (i.e. lice, mites, ticks, etc.): ..... Cylence, 4 cc/adult, pour-on liquid such as Pro-Late or Synergized Delice, permethrin dust, or other as needed.
- 5) **CL:** we vaccinate our breeding herd to prevent CL abscesses ..... Sub-cu: 2cc / head **semi-annually** 1cc if under 180 days. Stress seems to bring this bacteria on, so keep your goats healthy by having a routine feeding schedule and keep them comfortable. Per UC Davis, this is a very **weak** bacteria. We and many other established breeders nationwide want to eradicate it from the breed through vaccination! If you do get an abscess, revaccinate immediately. When it appears that the abscess is getting soft, isolate animal, clean abscess and discard any discharge in a sealed bag, and clean open wound with gentle iodine (2% or less) or Betadine. Plus 5 cc Penicillin subcutaneously for 4 - 5 days.
- 6) **CAE:** All animals we have had tested for this have been negative. There is currently no vaccine available for CAE.
- 7) Other items such as **Biomycin, Baytril, Naxel, NuFlor, Draxxin** for pneumonia; **Pepto-Bismol** and **sulfa pills** for diarrhea or cocci, **Goat Drench, Revive, Magic**, etc. **Probios (or plain/vanilla yogurt)** is EXCELLENT to keep your goat's stomach happy!

*see next page also*



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## **General Boer Goat Husbandry @ BBH**

### **Here is some additional information regarding how we care for our goats:**

- 1) Breeding: we keep a calendar and note when the buck(s) are introduced to a group of does and when we take them out of their pen. If we see a breeding to a particular doe, we also write that on the calendar. Most commonly, we use marking harnesses on the bucks and you will see marks on the does and record breeding dates.
- 2) Pregnant does: **approximately 1 month prior to kidding** (gestation is about 5 months for goats, so refer to your breeding calendar or watch for a doe starting to get an udder.)
  - a. We give CDT (2 ml), Bo-Se (1 ml/40 lbs. body weight), Wormer (usually Cydectin, Ivermec, or Positive Pellet deworming feed), & CL vaccine. We also trim their hooves with the trimmers that look like rose pruners!
  - b. We also start giving a small amount (1-2 lbs. per day) of grain if they are not fat. **DO NOT** get your pregnant does too fat or you can encounter pregnancy toxemia, birthing difficulties, etc. Good alfalfa hay is also advised.
- 3) Birthing: we let our does kid in the pasture or pen they are used to being in... Our pasture is fairly clean, so they kid there and then we bring them in a smaller maternity pen to bond with their babies for 24-72 hours, especially for first-time moms. Many older moms have it figured out, so we may just leave them out in group housing.
- 4) Newborn babies through 90 days:
  - a. We give 2 ml of "Goat Nutri-Drench". Available at Walco, Crossroads, etc.
  - b. We also give 1/2 ml of Bo-Se to all newborns (Bo-Se is prescription available only from your vet)
  - c. The sooner you can get colostrum into them the better... 1 hour or less is AWESOME!!
  - d. Please refer to page 1 regarding CDT and other shots... 30 and 60 days is when we give most vaccines.
  - e. A "creep" pen where only babies can get in to eat grain and hay is ideal. They'll get more than if only sharing with the moms!
  - f. If your babies are 40-60 lbs at 90 days of age, you're doing great and they can be weaned :)
- 5) Elastrating:
  - a. After making sure that our boys have had at least one of their CDT shots, we elastrate with the green rubber rings at 30-75 days.
- 6) Feed: The ideal calcium to phosphorus ratio for meat goats is 2:1. To achieve this, we feed alfalfa hay in the morning and oat or grass hay at night. We decrease amounts of these when pasture is available. Grain: if 1x per day, we feed in the morning with more time to digest. We feed hay 2x per day just so we can evaluate the herd to check for illness, kidding, etc. Grain with "ammonium chloride" especially for the boys is very important to prevent urinary calculi (calcium stones.)

7) I'm sure there's a ton of other info, but this will get you started!

Good luck to you and we wish you the best! Please email wphobby@aol.com if you have questions.

*Kindly, Sue Hobby*