

BREEDING.

Goats should not be bred until 15 to 18 months of age. Early breeding stunts the growth of the doe. Kids will be born in a weakened condition, which increases the mortality at kidding time.

PROLIFICACY.

Pure bred Angoras drop a single kid, but twins and triplets often appear. The tendency to produce more than one kid is said to be a relic of the blood of the common goat, and Schreiner states that it is not inherent with the original Angora.

CARE OF BUCK.

Bucks, unlike rams, will usually mate for only a portion of the year. Their heat period or breeding season, which signifies the time they are most rabidly inclined toward the other sex, begins about the middle of July and continues for a term of approximately 6 months. The time of mating will entirely depend upon the most favourable season for kidding. The period of gestation is 147 to 150 days, or, roughly speaking, 5 months. The buck should not serve over fifty does and should be in the best possible condition when put to service. He should be fed a liberal grain ration for some time before being placed with the does, and be well eared for during the entire mating period.

CARE OF DOES.

Does born in the spring seldom reach the period of oestrus or heat until the latter part of August or first of September. No bucks should be allowed with the does until the desired breeding season arrives.

During the period of pregnancy the doe should be provided with an abundance of nourishing food until within a few weeks of kidding time, when great care must be taken not to overfeed, as this may prove a source of serious trouble at parturition. The kids are apt to be born in a goitred or weakened condition, and large losses from these causes will inevitably result. To avoid this, the rations should be reduced and only foods of a laxative nature allowed. Roots may be fed with moderation. Frozen roots, however, should never be supplied to pregnant does as they may cause abortion.

WINTER FEEDING.

Goats will not subsist and produce the best results, particularly in northern climates, upon browse alone. In localities where the winters are severe it will be necessary to feed them in stormy weather. If rough fodder is fed, it may be necessary to supplement it with a little grain. Oats are the most preferable. Cow peas, clover and alfalfa are excellent feeds and no grain is necessary when these are used.

Angoras are very fastidious and will not eat food unless it is clean and wholesome. Soiled food of any kind is objectionable to them. Feeding racks should be used, that will prevent the feed being pulled out upon the ground. If it becomes once trampled upon, they are unlikely to touch it and it is thereafter unfit for their use.

WATER.

Pure water is essential. A running stream that affords an abundant supply is a valuable asset to the goat ranch.