

- Strip: “Stripping” the doe’s teats is milking the first couple squirts of milk out. This dislodges a wax plug most does have and makes sure the milk is flowing, as well as making sure the milk is clean and is colostrum.
- Sip: Make sure the kid gets his first sip of milk before the hour is up! He needs colostrum to stay alive, warm, and healthy.
 - If your doe has extra milk, milk out some colostrum and freeze it after her kids have nursed. That way if you have any orphan babies later on, they can still get their necessary colostrum.

Remember: Colostrum is ruined if you microwave it! Thaw it by putting the jar of colostrum near hot water bottles or submerging it in hot water.

Tube-feeding

It’s necessary to tube feed premature or very weak kids who haven’t nursed or accepted a bottle within an hour and a half of birth. Make sure the kid is dry and warm before feeding him. Use colostrum or a colostrum replacer heated to about 104°F (see above for heating tips).

Supplies:

- 60 cc dose syringe, plunger removed (and no needle!)
- A tube for tube-feeding lambs or kids (available from farm store) or 20 in of 6mm soft plastic tubing
- Disinfectant if you use non-sterile tubing
- Colostrum or colostrum replacer
- A baby goat

1. Place the tube along the kid’s body as shown in Fig. 1, with the end of the tube at the kid’s last rib. Mark the tube where it’s at the kid’s mouth with a sharpie (that’s how far the tube must be inserted)



Figure 1

2. Sit in a chair and restrain the kid by facing it away from you and holding his shoulders between your knees so his body hangs between your legs (Fig. 2)



Figure 2

3. Dip the end of the tube in clean water and slowly insert the tube into the kid's mouth gently, without force (Fig. 3 & 4). You should be able to see and feel the tube advance along the left side of the baby's throat. The baby should swallow the tube readily, without coughing (Fig. 5). Coughing indicates that you've got the tube inserted in the trachea; take it out and re-insert. Also, you will only be able to reach your mark on the tube if you are in the stomach and not the lungs.

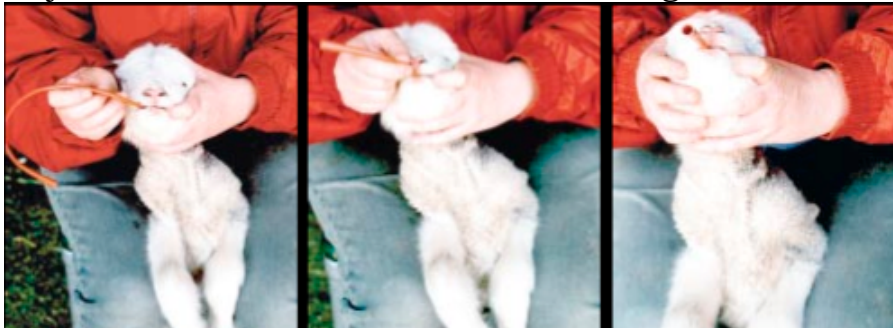


Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

4. Attach the 60-cc syringe (Fig 6). To double check to make sure the tube is in the stomach, add a couple cc's of clean water to the syringe. If the baby coughs and sputters, you are in the lungs. If the baby does not, you are in the stomach. Take the tube out and re-insert, following steps 1 to 3, if you are in the lungs.



Figure 6

5. Add the proper amount of colostrum (about 2-3 ounces) to the 60-cc syringe and gravity feed the kid (Fig 7) **Gravity feeding** is letting the colostrum trickle into the kid without forcing it down.

If the colostrum is too thick and doesn't flow freely, try thinning it out with thinner colostrum (from a doe who has couple-day-old kids) or, if that isn't available, goat milk. Just DO NOT force the fluid into the kid by the using syringe's plunger or any other way.



Figure 7

6. After the kid is fed, detach the syringe from the tube and crimp or plug the end of the tube as you withdraw it from the kid (Fig 8). This prevents the fluid from escaping the tube on its way out and falling into his lungs.



Figure 8

How much colostrum?

The amount of colostrum fed to the kid on its first day should be 10% of his bodyweight, an average about 2 to 3 ounces per feeding.

For example, a rather large kid at 10 lbs needs 1 lb of colostrum, or 16 ounces, that day. Kids need to be fed every 4 hours for their first 2 days of life, so that 10 lb kid should get a little less than 3 oz per feeding.

Most kids will only need to be jump started with a single tubed meal of colostrum, and then they can either be fed by their dam or by bottle. If the kid needs to be tube-fed because he has no sucking reflex, but is *not* premature (premies sometimes need to be tube fed a couple times before they can suckle), then he should be given a thorough physical examination to check for any illness or defect that could cause weakness.

If you use colostrum from another herd, make sure that their goats are disease-free. C.A.E. and Johne's Disease are especially infectious if you feed your kid infected colostrum or milk.

Sources:

<http://www.FiasCoFarm.com>

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1998/eb1998.pdf>

Storey's Guide to Raising Meat Goats

Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep