



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIVESTOCK RESEARCH SECTION

GUIDELINES FOR GOAT / SHEEP KEEPING



The applicant should be a registered farmer, having no less than a 1000 metre square of land.

LOCATION

The chosen site should:

- not be in a flood-prone area
- be more than 15m away from any water source (flowing river, seasonal stream)
- be 30m away from any dwelling house other than a designated agricultural area
- have enough space for the requested project
- not have too many boulders (big stones) on the project area
- not in a valley
- have tall bushy plants at the boundary
- be able to accommodate:
 - a goat/sheep pen with its necessary compartments (buck/ram pen, doe/ewe pen, kidding/lambing pen, weaners pen, replacement pen, fattening pen & sick/quarantine pen)
 - a standard manure shed
 - a feed store
 - a forage storage area
 - a water storage facility
 - a tools' store
 - a staff toilet & shower
 - if staff is to reside on farm, a staff accommodation or a watchman shed
 - sewage system facilities
 - an animal exercise area
 - a fence
- have 30m from each type of animal pens (poultry/pig/others) on the land for a better hygiene & biosecurity system.

N.B: It's advisable to consider extra acreage for any possible future expansion, SAA should be informed prior to the goat/sheep project in case there are other plans by the applicant for other types of projects in the future on the same parcel number or adjacent to it.

HOUSING FACILITIES

ROOFING

The roof cover must be connected with a rain gutter to discharge the rain water in a safe place. Rain water harvesting can be done by connecting the rain gutter to a water tank/reservoir.

- Should be of corrugated iron sheets or an approved material
- Must have adequate overlap to protect from rain and sun
- Overhang should not be less than 2.5m from ground level to allow for adequate ventilation
- Rain gutter should be installed with the roof to collect rain water for cleaning.

FLOORS

- To be constructed with concrete
- Must be designed to allow for proper drainage and cleaning
- The surface should be coarse enough to prevent slipping but must not be pitted
- There should be a corridor of 1.3m in the middle for movement
- Floor area for adult goat/sheep 1.8 metre square
- Kidding/lambing pens, 2 metre square per animal, are recommended. One pen is sufficient for a herd of 30 goats/sheep; 2 pens for herd size 30 - 60, and so on in the same ratio
- At least one isolation pen shall be provided, preferably in a separate building from that which houses the herd. The pen should be self-contained and have a floor area of 2.5 metre square. It is recommended that at least one isolation pen shall be provided per 50 goats/sheep. Isolation pen may be used as kidding/lambing pens provided they are constructed to the isolation pen standard.
- Kid/lamb rearing pen is recommended. A pen of floor area 2 metre square will accommodate 12 kids for about the first 4 weeks - thereafter pen size of 4 metre

square is required. Kidding/lambing pens may be used as rearing pens and isolation pens

- Buck/ram pen, if required, shall be located well away (at least 15m) from the milking/dairy facility to avoid the risk of tainting milk. Floor area shall be at least 2.5 metre square.

WALLS

- Must be constructed with expanded metal or pipe railing which have smooth surface and not injurious to the animals
- Wooden walls/barriers are not advisable as with time the goat might destroyed it
- The wall should be at least 1.50m high.

DOORS

- Pens must have proper doors to allow easy access for movement of goat and cleaning purposes
- The doors must be made of non-wooden materials.

FEEDERS

- Proper and adequate feeding system must be provided for hygiene and disease prevention.

FEED

Goat/sheep must have access to forrage and concentrated feed

WATER

Clean and adequate drinking water from appropriate drinking systems must be made available at all times especially at the delivery pen.

DRAINAGE

- All pens must be constructed to ensure adequate outflow of urine, excreta and wash water when necessary
- All external drains must be properly connected to a slurry disposal system.

SEPTIC TANKS AND SOAK AWAY PIT

The size of septic tank and soak away pit will depend on the total number of goats/sheep being reared.

MANURE SHED

A small shed with concrete flooring and surrounded on 3 sides by well plastered retaining walls (not less than 120cm in height) that houses all manure.

RECORD KEEPING

A register must be kept to account for all goats/sheep purchased, sales, and other forms of disposal for the benefit of the business.

Dead goat/sheep, especially any suspected case of diseases, should be promptly reported to the Veterinary Services and a decision will be made regarding the necessity of post-mortem examination.

VETERINARY TREATMENTS

No animals should be treated with any drugs without the interventions or authorization of the Veterinary Services.

BIOSECURITY

This is a series of measures necessary to prevent diseases from entering the farm. It is often neglected but vital to avoid farm production losses and danger to human health.

- Fence the farm and restricting access to authorized personal only
- Place a vehicle dip at the entrance of the farm (the disinfectant used should be broad spectrum antibacterial/antifungal/virucidal and should be changed daily)
- Place a footbath at the entrance of each goat pen
- Maintaining an effective rodent eradication program
- Maintaining an effective fly control program using baits or insecticide sprays
- All pens must be kept dry and in clean state at all times
- Careful daily (especially every morning) visualization of the entire stock should be able to detect any unthrifty (unwell) animals

- Prompt notification of the Veterinary Services should be done upon detection of any suspicious sickness or deaths
- All pens must be kept dry and in clean state at all times
- All pens must be kept in a good state of repair and do not pose a risk of injury to the goats/sheep
- The perimeter of the farm building must be kept clean at all times (3m width minimum)
- Feed stores should be rat /bird proofed with proper ceiling
- Feed should be stored on pallet and not directly on floor and arrangement of feed should be such that will be rotated on a first come first serve basis
- Manure must be stored in a properly covered manure shed with a concrete floor slopping to an outside drain that is connected to the waste water disposal system or soak away pit depending on accessibility of either. Must be stacked at least 10 meters from the main pen
- All drains must be kept in a good state of repair and cleaned out regularly
- Slurry disposal system must be kept functional at all times
- Excess feed must not be allowed to decompose in the feed troughs
- The tool store should be kept clean & tidy with shelves to store pesticides and disinfectant
- All medications should be stored in a fridge in a secure safe place under lock and key
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of tools and equipment's
- Do a proper cleaning of the pen with water and disinfectant every two weeks depending on the amount of unwanted solid accumulated in the pen
- Keep the water tanks clean
- Workers should start working with younger goats/sheep before going to older goats/sheep
- All goat/sheep should be de-worm and give extra supplements under the guidance of the Veterinary Services every two month

- Sick goat/sheep should be isolated from the rest and the entire area and be disinfected with broad spectrum disinfectant
- Disposal of dead goat/sheep should be done by deep burying
- For human own safety and to prevent any spread of animal diseases, it is always advisable to wear a separate set of protective clothing on the farm
- The farm house or watchman room should consist of toilet, shower, small cooking area, resting room and a place to store their personal belonging like bags, overalls and boots.

N.B: If any abnormal deaths occur, Veterinary Services should be contacted prior to disposal of the goats/sheep as there might need to conduct further examinations and sampling of infectious tissues from these goats/sheep.

BACK YARD

Keeping of goat/sheep in the back yard is not advisable, especially goats need a fence as they walk around a lot and eat all sorts of things, and their bleating and smell might also disturb the neighbours.

For More Information

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