

Livestock purchasing guide

GOATS

New animals coming onto your farm may bring unwanted diseases with them. Disease outbreaks can be costly to a farm's bottom line, so to minimize your risk, here's what to look for when buying new livestock.



Ontario
Goat 

BUYING

- Try to limit the introduction of new replacement stock and bucks to those where you know their disease status.
- Know the health status and biosecurity protocols of farms where you buy your replacement stock.
- When purchasing bred animals, raise their offspring in an area separate from other kids. Assume these offspring are carrying disease until they test negative.
- Artificial insemination and embryo transfer can be ways to introduce new genetics into your herd without bringing in live animals.

MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

- If possible, avoid commingling animals during transport or sale.
- Do not transport unfit animals.
- Consider contamination risks when moving healthy and sick animals through common alleyways in the barn. Move healthy animals first to avoid disease transmission.
- Clean and disinfect transport trucks and trailers in between loads or ensure that your transporter has an appropriate protocol in place.
- Know the disease status of other herds in your area.

ISOLATION AND INTRODUCTION

- Treat and vaccinate goats of unknown health status when they arrive.
- Keep new goats separate from the rest of your herd when they first arrive to ensure you're not transmitting diseases.
- Observe new animals and their response to the new farm site closely.
- Separate newborns from does immediately following birth to avoid transfer of pathogens from mother to offspring.
- Quarantine or isolate new additions or animals returning to the farm from other locations, like shows, events etc.



HEALTH AND HOUSING

- Keep your production areas clean and dry to avoid spread of disease.
- Feed kids commercial colostrum and milk replacer or pasteurized milk to avoid any disease transmission through milk from the dam.
- Implement a rodent control program to keep mice, rats, insects and other pests away.
- Isolate sick animals and avoid direct contact between them.
- Implement enhanced biosecurity between sick pens and/or quarantine areas and the rest of your herd.
- Properly sanitize equipment, especially when moving between healthy and sick animals.
- Ensure healthy and sick goats do not eat or drink from the same feed or water sources.

Ontario Goat

For more information, visit

www.agbiosecurity.ca or contact

Ontario Goat at info@livestockalliance.ca

or 519-824-2942.

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