Routine Deworming

- Deworm kids and lambs first at the age of weaning (4-5 months)
- Alternate between broad and narrow spectrum dewormers and observe safety dosages according to the manufacturer instructions.
- Deworming before and after rainy season is recommended.

Increasing kids and lambs survival rates implies increased replacement stock, more off-take to markets thus enhanced household income.

Benefits of routine deworming

- Improved body condition.
- Healthy kids and lambs.
- Improved growth rates.

Traditional stony boma, validated to effectively prevent cold and it is environmentally friendly. Frequently clean stony boma and shift from one place to another after every 3-4 weeks. Put a polythene paper or hides on top of the boma when it is raining or in cold seasons.

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Introduction

Among pastoral flocks, kid and lamb mortality is high, ranging from 25-35%. The major factors responsible for high mortality were poor housing, feed gap in the dry season and diseases. The high mortality rate was responsible for limited replacement stock and low off take rates for markets. Management package that comprised of regular deworming, dry season supplementary feeding and improved housing was designed by KARI Marsabit and tested on-farm. The study revealed the following benefits of these interventions: Reduce kids and lambs mortality from a high of 25-40% to 8.4%, increase the live weight gains of kids and lambs, increased productivity, improved livelihoods and reduced impact on the environment.

1. How to make a Mobile house

- Mobile house could be made from locally available woody materials like Grewia bicolor, Grewia villosa, Abutilon mauritium, sterculia Africana and commiphora species.
- Use the twigs and branches to make the house frame and the chicken wire to tie the sticks together and make a good mobile house that takes the shape of half moon.
- Cover the house frame with available materials such as polythene paper, barks of dead logs cow dung or pieces of used cloth.
- Move the house on daily basis to a new site within the household’s boma or turn upside-down to expose parasites (flying and non-flying) to heat of the sun.

Benefits of mobile house

- Labour saving regarding house repairs and cleaning.
- Reduced depletion of woody species around settlement to make young stock bomas.
- The house has life span of up to 3 years.
- Reduced incidence of ecto-parasites.
- Protects kids and lambs against cold, predation and rains.

2. Strategic supplementary feeding

- Collect and conserve Acacia tortilis pods in polythene bags and store under shed.
- Harvest local or grown grasses after the flowers have started falling, dry to reduce the moisture content and store in a good shed.
- Feed one kids or lambs a handful of Acacia tortilis pods(60 grams) and 100 grams of hay per day in the dry season.

Benefits of strategic supplementation

- Improved body condition in the dry season.
- Reduced labour for women in searching for feeds in the dry season.