

Introduction

In northern Kenya, sheep and goats are the most dominant livestock species that are traded for food and socio-cultural purposes. However, breeding malpractices is among the major factors that reduces flock productivity. Major problems established in pastoral flocks are congenital problems, reduced flock performances that is attributed to inbreeding. In addition, pastoralist do not do timely castration of bucks and rams thus give opportunity for undesired males to breed. Off season breeding have resulted to high mortality rates due



Deformed goat as a result of inbreeding

How to control inbreeding

Avoid mating of closely related animal like sister-and brothers, father and daughters and mother and sons. These can be achieved through breeding ram/buck with no said relatives in the flock, borrow/buy breeding males from neighbours/ Markets, change breeding males after every 1– 1½.

1. Timely castration of undesired males by use burdizzo and rubber bands. Males can attain reproductive maturity as early as five months with good nutrition.

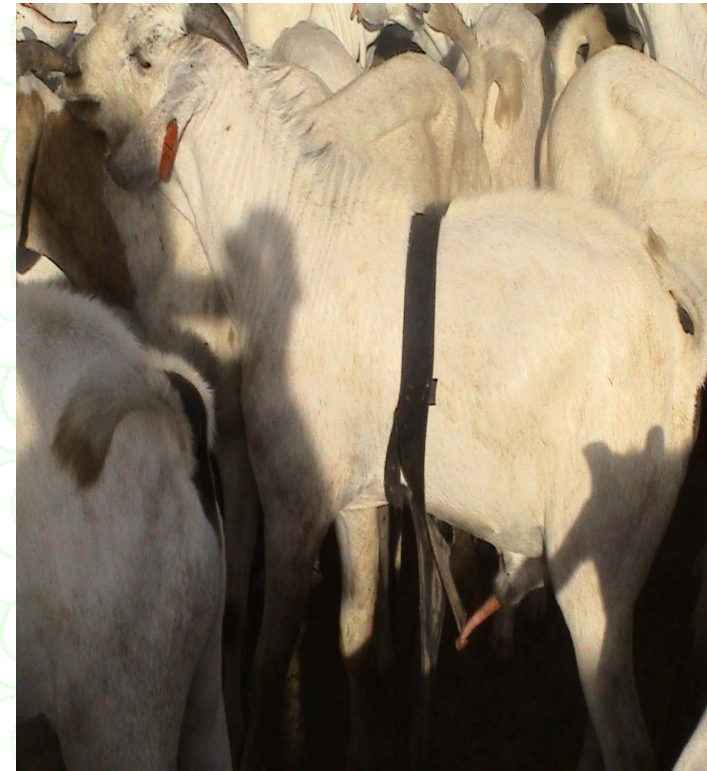


Castration using burdizzo

How to control off-season kidding/lambing.

Off-season kids/lambs are born in the months of February, August and September when feeds are scarce. This could be avoided by:-

1. Separating breeding males from females.
2. Use apron for breeding males



Buck obstructed from breeding by use of apron

1. Physical deformities



Buck with deformed rear left leg

2. Cryptorchidism– Males born with only one testicle and should not be used for breeding.



2.A buck with one testicle

3. malformation of reproductive organ



A Buck with reversed Penis

Compiled by Tura Isako, and Hussein Walaga

For further information contact :

The Centre Director NALRC-Marsabit

P.O. Box 147 Marsabit. Tel.069-2040 Tel/Fax

069-2220

E- mail: karimar@africanonline.co.ke.



Breeding management in sheep and goat for increased and healthy flock

