Dairy Goat Identification, Record Keeping and Registration
DAIRY GOAT IDENTIFICATION

Dairy goat identification is the process of uniquely identifying a dairy goat using a marking on the body of the dairy goat.

a) Reasons for goat Identification

- Is the basis for keeping accurate pedigree and performance records of the flock.
- It enables registration and performance recording of goat with Kenya Stud Book through breed societies.
- It enhances traceability (ownership and flock of origin) and helps to mitigate stock theft.
- It is useful for surveillance of dairy goat diseases.
- Proper goat identification enables producers to meet market requirements.
- Proper goat identification is the basis for effective genetic evaluation, selection and conservation.

b) Important considerations during goat identification

- Accurate identification and recording must start at birth to establish pedigree connections.
- Immediate temporary identification (eg, by collars) is better than none
- Methods used to apply the identification should be simple, safe and affordable
- Readability of the identification - should be visible from a distance of at least 2-3 meters
- Durability or permanence of the identification
- Avoid duplication or re-use of identifiers to reduce confusion
c) **Methods of Identification**

i. **Temporary Method**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of identification</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Tool/material used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ear Tagging</td>
<td>Numbered ear tags are applied on the ear using a plier. Can be plastic or metallic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii. **Permanent Method**

| Tattooing | done on the ear or under the tail using a tattooing machine | |

**DAIRY GOAT RECORD KEEPING**

a) **Importance of records in dairy goat farming**

- Tracking performance of dairy goats
- Evaluation of dairy goat for selection through use of breeding, financial, and production records.
- Taking control of inbreeding and aid in breeding planning through use of breeding records
- Required by breed societies during official registration and performance recording with Kenya Livestock Breeders Association (KLBA).
• Selecting dairy goats with the right characteristics for breeding through use of production, health, feed efficiency) to improve the flock
• Rationalizing labour
• Feed planning and management
• Disease management; keeping track of treatment and disease control through use of health records.
• Assessing profitability/losses through use of financial records
• Improving bargaining power on products, because you can see the investment and the cost of the production.
• Access to credit services through use of production and financial records

b) Type of goat records to be kept

i) Identification, Pedigree and Breeding records

Identification records include information on flock ownership, location, and individual goat identification, while pedigree records include the goat’s parentage information (sire and dam). Breeding records show individual phenotypic performance, reproduction information (mating history, and progenies (offspring).
**Health and Production records**

Health records comprise disease and treatment information that helps to keep track of the disease events for each dairy goat during its lifetime, while production records indicate the performance of the flock and individual goat, such as daily milk yield and quantity of milk consumed e.t.c.
DAIRY GOAT REGISTRATION AND PERFORMANCE RECORDING

Dairy goat registration involves the systematic recording and maintaining of accurate and authentic ancestral and identification information of the goat with due regard to dates of births and extended pedigree details. Livestock registration in Kenya is carried out by the Kenya Livestock Breeders Association that is mandated by the breed societies.

a) Importance of dairy goat registration

i. Provides legitimacy to the pedigree lineage and performance hence increase of value of goat.

ii. Provide a chance to benefit from the contract mating and progeny testing schemes.

iii. Helps in selection of better animals for parents and compare performance variations among animals.

b) Dairy goat registration process

During registration of the goats, the goats are inspected and classified into various classes (as listed in the table below) following the national dairy goat upgrading scheme.
Dairy goat upgrading scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Doe lacks any identifiable characteristics particular to any specific breed. Does from pedigree males do not automatically qualify for foundation registration. They must be inspected for breed conformation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>It is the doe in milk or in-kid, typical of the breed by inspection and identifiable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>It is the female progeny of foundation dairy goat, by a pedigree-registered sire, automatically with proof of service by registered sire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>It is the female progeny of intermediate, which is officially milk recorded by the KLBA, automatically with proof of service by a pedigree registered sire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedigree</td>
<td>It is the female progeny of Appendix, which is officially milk recorded with proof of service by pedigree registered sire and conforming to the breed standards of excellence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Any offspring that is born off-type is automatically disqualified from registration despite the level /Grade of the parents.

c) Importance of dairy goat milk recording
   i. Enables selection of sires of higher merit to ensure genetic improvement in a flock
   ii. Enables selection of better dairy goats for parents and compare performance variations among dairy goats
   iii. For individual dairy goat management (e.g. determine proper feed rations, administer proper dosage of a medication, monitor growth and, feed utilization).
iv. Measure traits of economic importance for dairy objectively - because using the eye will not accurately determine their value.

d) Procedure of milk recording

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At Kidding</th>
<th>Monthly Milk Recording</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kid allowed to suckle for 5 days</td>
<td>5th Day after kidding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kid separated from doe and fed artificially</td>
<td>14th PM and 15th AM monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milk on the date of drying</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issuance of Lactation Certificates</th>
<th>Processing of Data</th>
<th>Submission of Milk records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collect processed lactation certificate at a fee</td>
<td>Checking/Validation of data</td>
<td>Filling KLBA milk recording forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete lactation records</td>
<td>Submit milk records to KLBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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