

Nutrition Excellence!

June 2011

DIET AND DIGESTION

Goats are related to other ruminant cud-chewing animals such as cattle and sheep. For this reason, it was once believed that goats could be fed the same as their ruminant cousins. But goats are primarily browsers, selectively eating a wide variety of shrubs, woody plants, weeds, and briars. Unfortunately many goats, especially does (female goats), are unable to get enough nutrients from browse alone to meet their needs all the time. It is also important to realize that certain types of browse pose a danger including: wild cherry, hemlock, azaleas and species of the laurel family are all poisonous to goats. To provide the nutrition goats need to reach their full potential, supplemental feeding is needed.

SUPPLEMENTING A FORAGE DIET

The nutrient quality of forage can vary from season to season or even field to field. So, when you want your goats to thrive, you should consider adding a supplemental feed to their forage diet. Supplemental feeds, like Purina® Goat Chow® feed, provide the consistent nutrients not found in forage to ensure optimum nutrition. Supplemental feeds come in coarse grain mixtures or pelleted forms. Purina® Goat Chow® is a coarse grain mixture.

USING A COMPLETE FEED

Roughage is an essential part of good goat nutrition. But many times good quality forage is not available to provide roughage. Complete feeds not only contain the built-in roughage goats need, but other important nutrients as well. So with a complete feed, like Purina® Meat Goat 16% or Purina® Show Chow® Goat formula, you know your goats are consistently receiving total nutrition in every bite. Complete feeds are convenient too, minimizing clean-up from wasted or uneaten forage.

SELECTING A FEED FORM

In addition to choosing a supplemental or complete feed, you also have a choice of feed form. One choice is a sweet feed, a highly palatable, coarse grain mix that contains molasses.

Almost all goats will eat sweet feeds, making it an excellent choice for even the most finicky eater. You may choose a

pelleted feed. While many goat owners feel their goats may not prefer pelleted rations, they readily eat it when it is the only source of feed available and it offers several advantages. Pelleted feeds contain all the nutritious grains, vitamins and minerals your goat needs. Pellets eliminate sorting and help prevent waste that commonly occurs with coarse grain rations, making them very efficient in commercial operations. Convenient for you and good for your goat, Purina® goat diets are available as either a complete or supplemental feed form.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NUTRITIONAL BALANCE

The productivity and well-being of your goats depends largely on the quality and quantity of the feeding program you provide. Balancing your goat's feeding program and providing the correct diet ensures your goats are receiving the total sum of the daily nutrients they need for optimal health.

Nutrient needs will vary depending on the goat's life stage and activity level. A feeding program balanced for maintenance, for example, will not be sufficient to meet the nutritional needs of growth, pregnancy, lactation, wool production or for developing body conditioning and coat quality for showing. As nutritional demands rise with increased production demands, it will be important to readjust your goat's diet and feeding program accordingly.

NUTRITIONAL CONFIDENCE BASED ON RESEARCH AND TESTING

The Purina® brand has invested years of research and field-testing to produce a full line of feeds designed specifically for the unique nutritional requirements of goats. Purina® brand goat rations provide the proper balance of high quality proteins, vitamins, minerals and other nutrients goats need to reach their full potential. Purina® brand goat products are developed as highly palatable supplemental and complete feeds in both sweet coarse and pelleted rations.

A PROUD SUPPLIER OF PURINA FEEDS

WFS • PO Box 68 • Truman, MN 56088

507.776.2831 • www.wfsag.com

Find us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/WFS.COOP](https://www.facebook.com/WFS.COOP)



Purina Mills