Grain-based Feed Rations

Many types of grain mixtures will be readily available for purchase at feed supply stores. What is most important to know is the nutritional content of that ration and how it will affect the health of your animals. You should know that animals need to be fed according to the amount of “work” that they are expected to complete. Just as people need the proper food to stay healthy, animals have the same needs. A pregnant female, growing kid, or working buck or wether all have special nutritional needs.

Feed rations containing about 16% protein can be used to start most feeding programs. The protein content needed is also dependent on the quality of hay being fed. Dry (non-milking) adult females and adult wethers require less protein than milking, pregnant, or growing animals.

Top quality alfalfa hay should be fed only to those animals pregnant, growing rapidly, or milking. Bucks, wethers, and dry stock should receive a grass hay mixture. Too much calcium (found in alfalfa and grain) can cause kidney stones or excess deposits in bones leading to lameness when fed to animals not using that calcium for conversion to milk or bone growth.

This grain formula is intended for milking does, kids, and bucks under one year of age. It contains about 16% protein and weighs about 1 pound per quart.

150 pounds cracked or rolled corn
125 pounds crimped or rolled oats
90 pounds soybean oil meal
75 pounds natural protein pellet supplement (non urea, vegetable based)
50 pounds wheat bran
50 pounds molasses
5 pounds calcium
5 pounds salt (NaCl)
5 pounds vitamin supplement

Please consult the book “Dairy Goats for Pleasure and Profit” by Harvey Considine for additional information and valuable tips on goat nutrition. It is in our 4-H project library.