

FEEDING PRACTICES ADOPTED BY GOAT KEEPERS IN GOAT FARMING

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ABSTRACT

Goat rearing can be made a profitable venture for small and marginal farmers with very low investments. Goat is the backbone of economy of small and landless farmers in India. It is an insurance against crop failure and provide alternate source of livelihood to farmers all the year round. Any management practice that can reduce feed cost will significantly improve profit. The present study conducted to find out the feeding practices adopted by goat keepers in goat farming. Data were collected with the help of interview schedule from 100 goat keepers of Dahod district of Gujarat. The study found that majority of the respondents completely adopted the practice providing adequate fresh & clean drinking water (97.00 per cent) and were not giving colostrums to other does kids (90.00 per cent). None of the goat keepers had followed stall feeding system, feeding practice of tying minerals lick blocks for supply of minerals, feeding of concentrate to pregnant does, cultivating green fodder, used chaff cutter and offering 50-80gms of concentrates along with fodder to the kid of 3-6 months of age.

Keywords : goat, farming, goat keepers, feeding practices

INTRODUCTION

Dahod is a tribal dominated district of Gujarat state and their traditional occupation of rearing cattle, buffaloes, goats, and sheep, pig and desi fowls. Evidently, Goat farming is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas. Goat is a multifunctional animal and plays a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in the country. Goat play an important role in income generation, capital storage, employment generation and improving household nutrition. Goat therefore, has been described as a Poor Man's cow. The single most significant variable cost in any livestock operation is feed cost. Any management practice that can reduce feed cost will significantly improve profit. Feeding costs of livestock is about 60 - 70 per cent of the total cost. Hence, the present study was undertaken with the objective to study extent of adoption of scientific feeding management practices by goat keepers in goat farming.

OBJECTIVE

To know the feeding practices adoption by goat keepers in goat farming

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in operational area of PashuVigyan Kendra, Limkheda. Out of eight talukas of Dahod district, two talukas namely Garbada and Dhanpur, (on the basis of highest goat population were selected for the study) 10 villages and from each selected village, 10 livestock keepers having goats were randomly selected making the total sample of 100. Interview schedule was prepared in light of the objectives in consultation with extension experts. The data was collected through personal interview method. The extent of adoption was measured on three point continuum i.e. complete (3 score), partial (2 Score) and no adoption (one score) The data were tabulated, classified, presented and interpreted in systematic manner as per objectives of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data depicted in Table 1, majority of the goat keepers (78.00 per cent) adopted the grazing system in open field/forest while 22.00 per cent livestock keeper adopted semi stall feeding. None of the goat keeper had followed stall feeding system. Vast majority of the respondents (87.00 per cent) individually provide feed to animal while only 10.00 per cent of respondents feed animal in group.

Table 1: Distribution of the livestock keepers according to their feeding management practices in goat farming

n=100

Sr. No.	Feeding management practices	Adoption			Total	Mean Score
		Complete	Partial	No		
A Feeding system						
1	Stall feeding	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (00.00)	000	0.00
2	Semi-stall feeding	0 (0.00)	22.00 (22.00)	0 (0.00)	44	0.44
3	Grazing in open field/forest	78 (78.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	234	2.34
B Feeding of animals						
1	Individual	87 (87.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	261	2.61
2	In group	10 (10.00)	03 (03.00)	0 (0.00)	36	0.36
3	Cultivating green fodder	0 (0.00)	12	88 (88.00)	0	0
4	Feeding of chaffed green & dry fodder	04 (4.00)	16 (16.00)	80 (80.00)	124	1.24
5	Used chaff cutter	0 (0.00)	02 (2.00)	98 (98.00)	102	1.02
6	Special feeding for lactating does	05 (5.00)	18 (18.00)	77 (77.00)	128	1.28
7	Special feeding during pregnancy	02 (2.00)	07 (0.00)	91 (91.00)	111	1.11
8	Feeding of unconventional feeds	74 (74.00)	23 (23.00)	03 (3.00)	271	2.71
9	Feeding of roughages during night time	87 (87.00)	02 (2.00)	11 (11.00)	276	2.76
10	Providing adequate fresh & clean drinking water.	97 (97.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	291	2.91
11	Feeding of colostrums to kids within one hour	21 (21.00)	15 (15.00)	64 (64.00)	157	1.57
12	Offering 10 per cent of milk of body weight of kids upto the age of 15 days	12 (12.00)	55 (55.00)	23 (23.00)	169	1.69
13	Offering 50-80 gms of concentrates along with fodder to the kid of 3-6 months of age	0 (0.00)	02 (2.00)	98 (98.00)	102	1.02
C Feeding adult goats						
1	Feeding 3 to 5 kg green fodder and about 1 kg dry fodder per day/buck	05 (5.00)	50 (50.00)	45 (45.00)	160	1.60
2	Use of mineral lick blocks in sheds	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	100 (100.00)	100	1.00
3	Feeding 350-400 grams of concentrates along with fodder to pregnant does per day	0 (0.00)	12 (12.00)	88 (88.00)	112	1.12
D Feeding of buck						
1	Feeding concentrates to buck	02 (2.00)	04 (4.00)	94 (94.00)	108	1.08
2	During breeding season feeding of sprouted kidney bean 400-500 gram concentrate and egg per day per buck	0 (0.00)	06 (6.00)	94 (94.00)	106	1.06
3	Regular feeding of mineral mixture	0 (0.00)	03 (3.00)	97 (97.00)	103	1.03

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Majority of the respondents completely adopted the practice providing adequate fresh & clean drinking water (97.00 per cent) and feeding of roughages during night time (87.00 per cent).

21.00 per cent respondents adopted the practice of feeding colostrums within one hour to newly born kid, while large majority (90.00 per cent) of them were not giving colostrums to other does kids. Very few goat keepers (12.00 per cent) had adopted the practice of feeding milk to small kids proportionate to 10 per cent of their body weight whereas zero per cent adopted the feeding of concentrates along with fodder to the kids of 3-6 months age.

It was revealed that very few goat keepers (5.00 per cent) were adopting the practice of green fodder feeding and dry fodder feeding to adult goats, while 3.00 per cent goat keepers adopted the feeding, concentrate mixture daily to goats. It was observed that only 0.00 per cent of the goat keepers adopted the practice of tying minerals lick blocks for supply of minerals adopted the feeding of concentrate to pregnant does.

Considerable number of goat keeper feeding of colostrums to kids within one hour (21 per cent) and offering 10 per cent of milk of body weight of kids upto the age of 15 days (12.00 per cent). Very few goat keepers had adopted the practice of feeding 3 to 5 kg green fodder and about 1 kg dry fodder per day/buck (5.00 per cent), special feeding for lactating does (5.00 per cent), feeding of chaffed green & dry fodder (4.00 per cent) and feeding concentrates to buck (2.00 per cent).

Hundred per cent respondents (100 per cent) completely not adopted the feeding practices like cultivating green fodder, used chaff cutter, offering 50-80 gms of concentrates along with fodder to the kid of 3-6 months of age, during breeding season feeding of sprouted kidney bean 400-500 gram concentrate and egg per day per buck, regular feeding of mineral mixture and use of mineral lick blocks in sheds. The reason for low adoption of feeding concentrates and mineral mixture was lack of knowledge.

These findings were in agreement with reports of Lahoti & Chole (2010), Thombare et al. (2010). Lavania et al.(2014), Mandavkar et al.(2015), Vijay Kumar and Singh (2015) and Tiwari et al. (2017).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the study that majority of the goat keepers adopted the grazing system in open field/ forest and individually provide feed to animal. Majority of the respondents completely adopted the practice providing adequate fresh & clean drinking water and feeding of roughages during night time. Hundred per cent respondents completely not adopted the feeding practices like cultivating green fodder, used chaff cutter, offering 50-80 gms of concentrates along with fodder to the kid of 3-6 months of age. From the above findings, could be concluded that goat keepers had low level of adoption of improved feeding practices. The policy makers have to orient their programmes to arrange training programmes, exhibitions and visits to disseminate the improved feeding practices, which will surely increase the yield of goat keepers.

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