

drop in milk yield, continuous bleating, and swelling and redness of the vulva. The period of oestrus at the beginning of the breeding season may be short, sometimes only a few hours. Does coming in heat in the off season may show only one of the usual signs.

Pregnancy: The best indication that the doe is in kid is the cessation of the oestrus or heat periods, but a temporary increase in milk yield is also considered to be a sign of successful mating. During the first 3 months of pregnancy there is little alteration in the shape of the in-kid does. The head of the foetus can sometimes be felt at from 6 to 8 weeks. The appearance may be deceptive in an old goat or in a young goat that is going to have only one kid.

Milk goats are very prolific, the usual number of kids for mature goats being two, but frequently there are three, and four is not rare. The tendency to produce four kids is hereditary. It is not desirable and should be guarded against when access to breeding records is possible.

The care of the doe during pregnancy will have a big influence on the vigour of the kids at birth. Does need to be well fed, allowed plenty of exercise, and to be protected from rain and cold weather.

Parturition or kidding: At this time the doe should be segregated, preferably in a clean stall thinly bedded down with straw. A day or two before kidding a change in the shape of the doe will be noticed. The flanks become more hollow and the swollen area shifts to a lower position. At the same time the udder will begin to swell. A few hours before kidding there is a marked softening of the ligaments at the base of the tail. A white or colourless discharge may now be seen together with restlessness and swelling of the vulva. Straining now starts, followed by appearance and bursting of the water bag and birth of the first kid usually within half an hour. The usual presentation is with the head between the fore feet, but kids are sometimes born hindquarters first, and this is quite normal. Goats seldom require assistance when kidding and it is advisable to avoid interference if possible. The afterbirth, a separate one for each kid, is usually expelled within a few hours. Steps to be taken in a case of retained afterbirth will be discussed in the second portion of this article, in next month's "Journal".

The doe may now be given a drink of a pint of oatmeal gruel to which a dessertspoon of treacle or molasses has been added, followed in 2 or 3 hours with a bran mash. To prepare the mash take $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bran and 1 teaspoon of salt; over this pour $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of boiling water, cover the mixture with dry bran, and then cover the whole with a lid or cloth cover. The mash is fed when cool and should be made fresh as required.

Hermaphroditism: A hermaphrodite is an animal whose genital organs have the characters of both male and female. There is a hereditary factor for this condition, which appears to be intensified by close breeding. It is also closely associated with polled or hornless animals and horned goats are not affected.

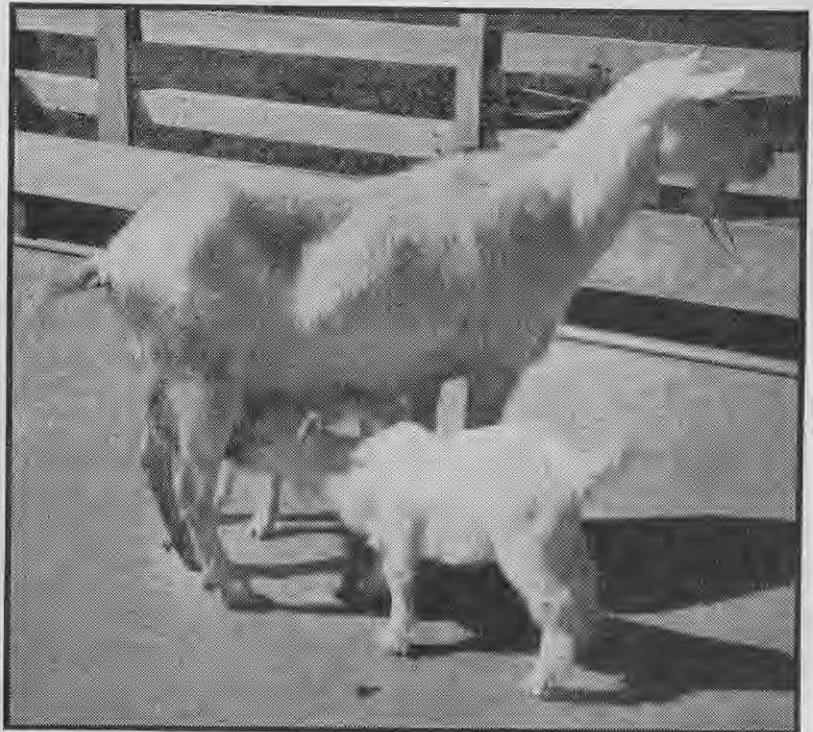
Feeding and Management

As goats are browsing, not grazing, animals, good pasture by itself is not



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Above—These Saanen goats are rapidly clearing gorse and broom on this property. There is a good sole of grass in the cleared areas. Below—Kids may be reared on the doe, though hand feeding is recommended.



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