Goat Husbandry for Extensive Use

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Abstract

Most goats are mainly kept in the Tropics and Subtropics by a poorer population for subsistence reasons.

Marginal locations for goat husbandry are often determined by geographical and climatic location. Arid and semi-arid areas, low feed quality and small supply, areas with increased risk of illness, topographically difficult locations, little know-how and an extensive production orientation characterize these locations.

For successful husbandry choosing suitable stock is important. According to their genetics, the breeds and their capacity should be adapted to the climate and marginal supply of feed.

The aim of this goat breeding programme is to achieve a breed by crossing for extensive production with:

- a good breeding capacity
- robustness, weather hardiness and resilience
- an adequate muscle build
- good, frugal feeding capacity

Three breeds were chosen: German Alpine (good milk capacity), Boer (good meat capacity) and Cashmere goat (robustness and good fibre capacity).

The crossing programme is now in its final phase. One aspect is the surveying of the breeding capacity and robustness of the final breeding group (third generation) to record the current breeding level.

Productivity and robustness are basically the most important quality characteristics.

Endoparasites are one of the most prevalent causes of small ruminant losses. The costs caused by this are immense. Infestation with various Trichostrongylidae cause the main losses.

Parasite resistence and/or other illnesses are important for economic and ecological reasons. Due to reduced or non-use of anthelmintika grazing areas are less burdened or not burdened at all by faecal residual substances.

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