



Bottle Feeding

HOW TO CALCULATE TOTAL MILK PER DAY:

There are 3 options for how much milk to feed, 10% being the least amount, 15% being right in the middle, and 20% being the greatest amount.

Every goat is different - It is important NOT TO OVERFEED. Overfeeding is worse than underfeeding.

Watch the goat's tummy, poop, pee, and behavior. Start with the 10% option, and if the kid's sides are soft and sunken after feeding, you are underfeeding.

If the kid's sides are very round and hard, or if the kid becomes full before finishing a bottle, you are overfeeding.

You want a firm and flat stomach.

If the kid becomes constipated, you are not feeding them correctly.

Kids will cry for bottles, this does not mean they are starving. **GO BY HOW THE STOMACH LOOKS AND FEELS!**

The kid should gain weight daily. If the kid is not gaining weight or is losing weight, you are underfeeding.

This chart below will help give you a starting idea on how much to feed. The math used to calculate the chart is as follows:

Kid's weight (in lb) x 16 x .10 = 10% option

Kid's weight (in lb) x 16 x .15 = 15% option

Kid's weight (in lb) x 16 x .20 = 20% option

If you measure the kid's weight in oz, just skip the "x 16" part.

These numbers are for TOTAL MILK PER DAY:

Weight	10% Option	15% Option	20% Option
1lb	1.6oz	2.4oz	3.2oz
2lb	3.2oz	4.8oz	6.4oz
3lb	4.8oz	7.2oz	9.6oz
4lb	6.4oz	9.6oz	12.8oz
5lb	8oz	12oz	16oz

Weight	10% Option	15% Option	20% Option
6lb	9.6oz	14.4oz	19.2oz
7lb	11.2oz	16.8oz	22.4oz
8lb	12.8oz	19.2oz	25.6oz
9lb	14.4oz	21.6oz	28.8oz
10lb	16oz	24oz	32oz
11lb	17.6oz	26.4oz	35.2oz
12lb	19.2oz	28.8oz	38.4oz
13lb	20.8oz	31.2oz	41.6oz
14lb	22.4oz	33.6oz	44.6oz
15lb	24oz	36oz	48oz
16lb	25.6oz	38.4oz	51.2oz
17lb	27.2oz	40.8oz	54.4oz
18lb	28.8oz	43.2oz	57.6oz
19lb	30.4oz	45.6oz	60.6oz
20lb	32oz	48oz	64oz

AMOUNT OF FEEDINGS PER DAY:

Once you figure out your total amount of milk, use this chart to determine how many feedings that number must be split into.

Each kid is different, this chart is simply a guide and it should be adjusted based on the kid's needs.

Age	Amount of Feedings
0-24 hours old	Every 2 hours (COLOSTRUM REQUIRED)
24 hours-3 days old	Every 3-4 hours (Colostrum can be mixed into milk to to slowly wean off it)
3 days-2 weeks	4 bottles a day
2-4 weeks	3 or 4 bottles a day

Age	Amount of Feedings
4-8 weeks	3 bottles a day
8-11 weeks	2 bottles a day
11-12 weeks	1-2 bottles a day
12 weeks+	1 until ready to wean

Allowing kids to sleep through the night without a bottle is okay, but don't let them sleep over 8 hours

WHAT TO FEED:

1. If you can, always milk the kid's mother. The only case you shouldn't be able to do this is in a situation of a congested udder, or orphan kid.
2. If you cannot milk the mother, try to get milk from another goat in milk, or whole goat's milk from the store.
3. If you cannot buy goat's milk, choose whole cow's milk from the store.
4. Do not use milk replacers.

A note on colostrum:

Kid's need colostrum in the first 24 hours - 3 days of age. If you are milking the kid's mom, she will have produced colostrum. If the kid is an orphan or the doe was unable to produce milk, you should try and get frozen colostrum (vets and goat owners may have this, and you can save it every time a goat kids and freeze it for these situations; good when kept frozen for 1 year). If all else fails, a powdered colostrum replacer, NOT a colostrum "supplement," should be used. If none of those can be accessed, there is a last-ditch option of homemade colostrum.

Homemade Colostrum (only for emergencies when there are no other options)

*1 pint whole milk
1 farm fresh egg (beaten)
1 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp cod liver oil*

Heat ingredients until sugar is dissolved. Do not boil ingredients. Feed at 101 degrees. Can store in an airtight glass jar for up to a week.

HOW MUCH COLOSTRUM:

A kid should get a minimum of 5% of their body weight in oz (multiply body weight in lb by 16 to get weight in oz) in the first 6 hours, and at least of 10% body weight in oz of colostrum in the remainder of the 24 hours. Larger kids may need more than 10%.

KID POOPS:

Newborn kids will have yellow-pasty stools from milk. This is normal. Their poop may start very sticky, due to colostrum—and since there is no doe to lick their bottom's clean, you will need to wipe it off so it doesn't create an external blockage. As kid's get older, their stool texture should harden and begin to form balls, but it will always be lighter in color than other goats until they eat solid foods.

DIRECTIONS:

Heat bottles to 101 degrees F. **DO NOT MICROWAVE** to heat.

Add a pinch of baking soda to the first bottle of the day to help digestion of milk.

If the kid stops drinking the bottle mid-feeding, offer one more time, if they still do not want more, you are feeding too much and you should reduce the amount by a few oz for the next feedings.

TIPS:

TROUBLE GETTING KID TO TAKE A BOTTLE?

Use a Pritchard Nipple.

Put honey on your finger, and honey on the nipple of the bottle, place your finger far back in the kid's mouth on their tongue, do this until the kid starts sucking. Then tilt the kid's head up slightly while slipping the nipple of the bottle in.

Place cayenne and raw honey on the gums and tongues and honey on the nipple.

Cover kid's eyes with a towel or your arm to simulate the kid being under a doe.

DISCLAIMER: I am not a vet, nor am I a licensed professional. I am in no way a "goat expert" and my opinions are only that of personal experiences, and my insights shared are not medical treatment suggestions, care suggestions, or any directions for raising goats at all. I am simply sharing my own personal opinions. Any and all changes to your goats' health regimen, care, etc. should be approved by a veterinary professional or licensed professional.