

Fair Skies' Starter List of Suggested Supplies for Keeping Dairy Goats in Alaska

<http://FairSkiesAlaska.com> - fairskies@allisawfarm.com

907.232.5414 or 907.441.1851 – ALWAYS leave a voicemail so we can call you back!

Dietary must haves:

Good quality grass hay (this is all most wethers need in the way of hay)

Free of mold, dust, poisonous plants, pests, and debris

Alfalfa for pregnant or lactating animals

May also help add weight to growing animals, but watch calcium: phosphorus ratio and consider adding some grain for this reason)

Free-choice fresh water

Loose mineral

Avoid “red minerals” (too much iron), avoid blocks (too hard for goats to use)

Disregard warnings of feeding excessive copper & selenium to sheep & goats, it's very difficult to overdose them!

We currently use Alaska Mill & Feed Lact-O-Min Mineral Concentrate (if salt is added to limit consumption, it can be given free-choice) 12:12 for alfalfa-based diets, 18:3 for grass-based diets (buy the cheaper of the two)

Copper Oxide boluses – 1g per 22# body weight every 5 months to maintain

Bo-Se for injection– Rx only selenium & vitamin e, should have every 5 months to maintain proper selenium levels in blood (may also try feeding small amounts of Brewer's Yeast – available in bulk from Alaska Mill & Feed)

Dietary favorites:

Browse (start slow – avoid lupine, foxtail, bracken fern, among others, also avoid mushrooms and moldy leaves) – I love birch, aspen, willow, alder, and other woody stems

Dietary stand-bys:

Small amounts of **whole oats** from Bill Krostek (less than ½ pound per day, start slow)

Small amounts of **whole barley** (less than ½ pound per day, start slow)

Dried raspberry leaves

Dried birch leaves/bark

Brewer's Yeast (available in bulk from Alaska Mill & Feed, start very slow, good source of selenium)

Kelp (start very slow, sometimes helpful as a source of iodine and other trace minerals)

Maintenance must haves:

Baking soda – can be fed free-choice, added to grain rations, or administered as a drench in warm water

Needles

18g, 20g, and 22g needles (can be used for giving injections or drawing blood). We usually have 1” and ¾” on-hand but sometimes ½” are my favorite for subcutaneous injections, especially on kids. You need at least ¾” to do easy blood draws. I don't like 1.5” and larger.

Syringes

1ml, 3ml, 6ml, 12ml, and 25ml syringes (can be used for giving injections, drawing blood, or drenching)

Epinephrine (Rx only)

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C&D Anti-Toxin (have at least two bottles (at least one unopened) in refrigerator and check dates often)

ALWAYS keep a bottle of this on-hand and a back-up bottle in case the first one is old and doesn't work well. You may need quite a lot. You can buy it in two sizes: 50ml or 250ml. The bottle says to use it all or throw it away after you open it, but many people keep an open bottle as back-up and always have a new bottle on-hand for the next round of treatment.

YOU CANNOT OVERDOSE THIS MEDICINE

You can give it orally or inject it. Many people do BOTH. This is the first line of defense for upset digestive systems and is often given in very heavy doses to ward off secondary issues caused by enterotoxemia.

Tetanus anti-toxin (NOT vaccine)

Have several, un-opened vials in refrigerator and check dates often

You may wish to use CD&T Toxoid, which combines the C&D and the Tetanus, however, you will have to vaccinate and provide boosters, and you should still have the anti-toxins ready to use, even on vaccinated goats

Ammonium Chloride

Especially for bucks and wethers in case of stones/crystals in urinary tract
2-pound bags available here:

<http://hoeggergoatsupply.com/xcart/product.php?productid=3485&cat=0&page=1>

Larger quantities may be available from: <http://pipevet.com> or 507-825-4211

Frothy Bloat Release

Mineral Oil

for bloat or for moving excessive grain through system without allowing much absorption

Dawn dish soap (for bloat)

Betadine

Chlorhexadine to treat staph infections on udders (we like Fight Bac spray)

Alcohol/alcohol wipes

Penicillin G Procaine

LA200 (for goats over 6 months)

Disposable gloves (LOTS)

K-Y or other lubricating gel (especially for kidding)

Shop towels

Bottles & Nipples (Pritchard teats, soft gum teats, or the pop-bottle teats)

CAGED Heat Lamp

Use it only if tied and secured with wire so it cannot fall/be knocked down and start a fire (we like the 60-watt reptile lamps you can get at Wal-Mart for about \$5 each or the 125-watt heat lamps, but the bigger ones run a little too hot and have to be raised higher away from the goats so they don't get too close and burn themselves)

Fortified B-Complex by subcutaneous injection and oral administration as needed for immune support (may also inquire with vet for **Rx strength thiamine** for treating polio)

Sulfa Di-Methox 40% injectible

for treatment of coccidiosis (you may also wish to try **Corrid** or **Amprolium** oral solution or other coccidiostats, but we recommend drenching instead of putting it in their water).

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Some feeds are medicated, but we do not generally recommend them and they may be toxic to other livestock.

Lidocaine and sterile water to dilute for local anesthesia

Stitching materials

VetWrap (several rolls)

Sterile gauze or sterile pads for bandaging

Bandaging tape & supplies (there is “sticky gauze” that we like to when wrapping a limb)

Sterile scalpels

Iodine and film canisters or Dixie cups for dipping navels on newborns

Triple anti-biotic ointment

Ophthalmic ointment (for scratched or irritated eyes)

Disbudding iron

Basket or other **safe feeder** to keep hay and feed off the floor

Water buckets that can be scrubbed and cleaned – flexible rubber is nice for breaking out ice, but they are harder to keep clean or to sanitize

Clean, mold-free, dust-free bedding (shavings and/or oat straw)

Shelter

a **Dogloo** works really well to help create a small snuggle space for two goats within a larger building that may not heat up enough for them to be comfortable (take the floor off before using)

Helpful supplies:

Apple Cider Vinegar – may help transitions when water sources change

Non-iodized salt

May encourage increased water consumption or may help regulate intake of loose minerals fed free-choice

Clippers

We like the Oster A5 Turbo with #5, #7, and #10 blades

Hoof trimmers

Blood stop powder

Leash

Break-away safety collar

We like Lupine collars – they are guaranteed for life, even if chewed and they are safe and attractive

Hangers for buckets

GasX/Simethicone (check expiration date on box) gas release for bloat

Milk of Magnesia

Kaopectate for diarrhea (there is a goat version)

VetRx Goat & Sheep – for respiratory irritations (it's like Vicks)

Anti-bacterial hand gel

Baby monitor

Old bath towels

Old sweatshirts for making goat coats

Laundry basket for carrying hay for containing a small kid or two that needs care

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Hanging scale – a fish scale works well, but they also have dairy scales

Milking bucket - NO ears, 1qt or 2qt is popular size, stainless steel for sanitizing

Milking strainer and gauze filters

Non-dairy probiotics (only helpful for single-stomached animals – kids under 4 weeks)

Hoegger's Dairy Sanitation Kit

<http://hoeggergoatsupply.com/xcart/product.php?productid=3838&cat=15&page=1> for cleaning milking supplies, avoid teat dips

Wide-mouth Mason jars (we like quart and ½-gallon sizes with plastic screw-on lids)

Tattoo kit

if you plan to register kids, register your herd name and tattoo with ADGA & AGS, also consider NDGA

Milk stand with locking head gate

Portable/removable grain feeder that can hang on milk stand

Headlamp

Supplemental light (full-spectrum greenhouse or plant lights work well)