

**Table 7.2.** Accelerated kidding schedule

Year	Month											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1											Breeding	
2			Kidding				Breeding					Kidding
3			Breeding				Kidding			Breeding		

**Table 7.3.** The effect of breeding season in the reproductive performance of wood does in North Florida

Parameters Measured	North Florida Season of Breeding		
	Fall '86-87 (October)	Summer '88 (July)	Late Winter '89 (March)
Kidding Percent (%)	185.3	182.2	141.7
Prolificacy Rate (%)	195.9	186.4	181.7
Twinning Rate (%)	77.5	77.3	72.3

Kidding Percent = No. of kids born/No. of does exposed x 100  
Prolificacy Rate = No. of kids born/No. of does kidding x 100  
Twinning Rate = No. of multiple births/Total no. of births x 100

### Doe Housing

The choice of goat housing is often confusing, but a good manager can make any housing system work. It is not the most expensive facilities that give the best returns, but it is how they are managed that really counts. Goat houses, to some extent, should be a compromise between that which is most comfortable and healthy for the goat and that which is most convenient and economical from the point of view of your management skills. It is advisable to use all available resources at hand to construct goat housing, and for providing the necessary facilities.

The basic requirement is a dry, draft-free house. If possible, it should be open to the south to get the most winter sun. The arrangement of the building depends on its size and construction, and what it will be used for -- will it contain an area where hay, water and concentrates are fed as well as serve as housing for the goats, or will it simply house them?

If the house will simply house your goats, you need a floor area of about 12 to 15 square feet per goat. If the house will provide for controlled feeding of concentrates and uncontrolled feeding of other food (hay and water) under the same roof, the floor area per goat should be about 20 to 30 square feet.

Goats should also be provided with a sleeping bench. This, in its simplest form, consists of 5/8 inch boarding, 4 feet long and 2 feet wide for a single goat, set on legs or propped up on what you have, some 9 inches to 2 feet above the ground. This should be set a foot or more away from the walls of the house to avoid wall drafts. When down drafts are a problem, the sleeping bench can be made of a box, 3 to 4 feet long, 2 to 4 feet deep, set on its side and off the raised floor. Wooden wire spools are good for raising platforms and boxes.

### Buck Housing

Housing for the buck may be simple, yet it must be strong and safe. A three-sided shed 10 by 12 feet opening to the south (or away from prevailing winds), is a practical shelter for a buck. Provide a strong stanchion manger in one corner of the shed to allow feeding without entering the pen and to permit fastening and treating in case the veterinarian is needed.

### HERD HEALTH PRACTICES

The saying that "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure" should always be in the minds of a meat goat producer, regardless of the size of his operation. It is generally cheaper to prevent a particular disease from developing in your herd than