

to treat it, particularly if the entire herd is affected. Diseases can cause severe animal weight loss, delayed marketing of surplus males, and can also lead to reduced fertility of your does, resulting in smaller kid crops. See Table 7.4.

### Internal Parasites

Internal parasites can cause a reduction in feed intake and decreased efficiency of feed utilization. A severe parasitic load can result in weight loss, slow growth rates of animals, and ultimately a loss in potential profits. In extreme conditions heavy parasite infestation can lead to death.

Parasitism can become a primary constraint to animal production particularly when pastures are overstocked and land is limited for rotational grazing. Farms with a high concentration of animals per acre will require more frequent dewormings than farms with a low concentration. The practice of rotational grazing (relative to fixed or set stocking) and adequate resting of pastures can facilitate a reduced parasite load.

The most common effect of parasites is to increase the animal's need for protein. Farmers should also remember that weak and underfed animals lack the correct balance of essential nutrients.

**Table 7.4.** Calendar of herd health and related activities

Category	State of Development/Age	Health and Related Practices
Kid	Birth	Dip navel with iodine; record birth weight, ensure early colostrum intake, tag animal for I.D.
	Day 30	Deworm, vaccinate; dehorning and castration optional, record live weight.
	Day 60	Deworm, vaccinate, record live weight.
	Weaning	Administer coccidiostat, record weaning weight and ages.
Adult Breeding Female	Prior to Breeding	Vaccinate-clostridium types C+D, tetanus. Deworm, Vit E/Se optional; check feet; flush animals and record breeding weight.
	Early to Mid Pregnancy	Vit E/Se optional, reduce or stop supplementation if forage availability is good.
	Last 6 weeks of Pregnancy	Observe animals closely for abortion signs, increase supplement as young developing fetus is growing rapidly.
	At Kidding	Record kidding weight of mothers and ensure adequate grazing and supplementation. At FAMU, animals with a history of multiple births and with very large abdomens are given oxygen to ensure complete evacuation of uterus, particularly if single births are recorded.
Adult Breeding Buck	1 Year and Older	Deworm quarterly or as directed by the results of routine fecal samples. Vaccinate once per year with Clostridium perfringens C+D tetanus; check for hoof trimming. Increase supplement 1 month prior to breeding.