



Bottle Feeding Nigerian Dwarf goat kids

(This information can be used for other breeds but one would continue to increase the amount of milk beyond the 32oz that I stop at for ND kids.)

(info courtesy of 3 Hen Farm - Facebook.com/3henfarmndgoats)

The best milk for baby goats is raw goat milk from CAE, CA + Johnes tested negative herd, heated gently on a stove to about 102-103*

Raw cow milk from a clean tested herd is a great 2nd choice.

Store bought cow milk is fine, add a little probiotic to the first bottle every day. Plain whole milk yogurt, kefir or a goat specific probiotic is fine. Just a tiny bit to add live cultures that are killed when pasteurized.

Least desirable feed is formula. If you use a formula be very, very careful with mixing the feed correctly, fresh every feeding and that you do NOT overfeed. There is much less leeway with dry formula mixes.

Feed 20% of body weight in 24hrs. Dividing the amount of food into multiple feedings. I prefer going by *weight* versus age.

Kids should get 20% of their body weight in colostrum in 24 hrs with emphasis on them getting as much as they can hold in the first 4 hours of life.

1-2# kids need to be fed every 2-4hrs around the clock.

Kid weight	Milk to be fed
1#	3.2oz in 24 hrs so about .5oz (¼- an ounce every 4 hours - 6 feeds)
1#8oz	4.8 oz in 24 hrs, .8oz (½ an ounce every 4 hrs)
2#	6.4 oz in 24 hrs, 1oz every 4 hours
2#8oz	8 oz in 24 hrs, 1 1/3oz every 4 hours

As they grow and can eat more at one time, you can feed more at once and move to 4-6 hour feedings. I do this based on how much they are able to eat. Feel bellies to see how

full they are when they are done to get used to how their bellies should feel.

Kid weight	Milk to be fed
3#	9.6 oz in 24 hrs, 2 oz every 5(ish) hours - 5 feeds
3#8oz	11 oz in 24 hrs, 2.2 oz every 5(ish) hours - 5 feeds
4#	12.8 oz in 24 hrs 2.5 oz every 5(ish) hours - 5 feeds
4#8oz	14.4 oz in 24 hrs 2.8 oz every 5(ish) hours - 5 feeds

As they grow and can eat more at one time you can feed more at once and move to 6 hour feedings. Usually at these weights they can go 8 hrs overnight so you do all 4 feeds during waking hours.

Kid weight	Milk to be fed
5#	16 oz in 24 hrs 4 oz every feed - 4 feeds.
5#8oz	17.6 oz in 24 hrs 4.4 oz every feed - 4 feeds
6#	19.2 oz in 24 hrs 4.8 oz every feed - 4 feeds
6#8oz	20.8 oz in 24 hrs 5.2 oz every feed - 4 feeds
7#	22.4oz in 24 hrs 5.6 oz every feed - 4 feeds
7#8oz	24 oz in 24 hrs 6 oz every feed - 4 feeds

**Usually at 8# they are good to go to 3 feeds if you need to.
Keeping them on 4 feeds is closer to what they would get from a dam but LIFE ;)**

Kid weight	Milk to be fed
8#	25.6 oz in 24 hrs 8.5 oz every feed - 3 feeds
8#8oz	27.2 oz in 24 hrs 9 oz every feed - 3 feeds
9#	28.8 oz in 24 hrs 9.6 oz every feed - 3 feeds
9#9oz	30.4 oz in 24 hrs 10 oz every feed - 3 feeds
10#	32 oz in 24 hrs 10.8 oz every feed - 3 feeds

Usually I stop adding milk to the feedings at 10# so they hold at 10.8 oz milk three times a day until 10 weeks when i drop one bottle and feed twice a day. At 12 weeks, I drop another bottle and they are fed once a day until I am done.

For small kids I will bottle them a couple times a day until 6 months.

I never wean earlier than 10 weeks and rarely before 12 weeks. Only very large, well- grown kids would be weaned at 10 weeks.

Calculate your own example:

Weight of kid in ounces X .20 = what they need in 24 hrs

8# kid = 128oz (16X8)

128X.20 = 25.6 oz in 24 hrs

Divide by number of feeds to figure out how much in each bottle

25.6/3 = 8.5oz

****Information provided courtesy of 3 Hen Farm. Please share credit if you choose to borrow this and share elsewhere. We are happy to help other folks learn how to best manage their crew. Our management does change as we continue to learn and apply new practices. Please make your own informed choices. 3henfarm.net****