



# Training Module No 12

## Theory

1. Ear tagging
2. Tattooing
3. Castration
4. Record keeping
5. Treatment calendar



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# Ear tagging

## Herd identification

### *Obtaining an identification mark (KZN diptank mark or personal mark)*

According to the Animal Identification Act, Act No.6 of 2002, all livestock must be marked or identified. While cattle are generally branded, goats are tattooed in the ear with the owner's identification mark.

Each livestock owner must have their own identification mark. This is obtained by applying to the National Department of Agriculture in Pretoria. An identification mark certificate is then issued and it carries a unique identification code for each livestock owner. This is the same mark that will also be used when tattooing your goats.

Diptanks can have an identification mark registered by the Department of Agriculture which can be used by all members belonging to the particular diptank, however problems of confirming ownership of livestock cannot be excluded. Therefore, the safest and legal way of identifying livestock is for each farmer to have their own identification mark.



## Tattooing

Tattooing is a way of identifying goats. Tattooing equipment includes tattoo pliers, tattoo characters (letters and numbers) for the pliers and tattoo ink. These can be ordered and purchased through the local farmer co-operative.

### Method of tattooing:

Clean the inside of the ear (ears that have dirt and oil on them will prevent the ink from filling the holes made by the tattoo pliers). Ensure that the sequence of the tattooing characters is correct according to the certificate of registration. Apply the tattoo ink on the area to be tattooed. Press the tattooing pliers until holes appear on the skin and then release. Apply ink to the pliers, hold for a few seconds and then rub more ink into the holes. The excess ink can be cleaned. The characters should be easily readable as black dots in the ear.



## Castration

Castrate male kids at 3 months of age, using a Burdizzo.

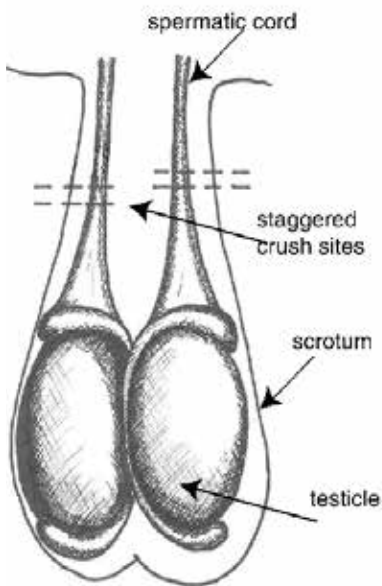


### WARNING:

**If you are using rubber rings to castrate, the kid must be less than 7 days of age. Using rubber rings on older goats can lead to death.**

When using a Burdizzo: feel for the cord, hold it and apply the Burdizzo, close the Burdizzo and hold it in place for a few seconds. Crush the cords from the two testicles separately and do them at slightly different distances from the body to ensure that there is continued blood flow to the testicles. Do not crush the 'false' teats when castrating the ram. After a month the testicles will shrink; if they do not, or if only one shrinks, then redo.

It is advised that the ewe is vaccinated 4 weeks before kidding with **Multivax P**, which helps prevent infections from the castration.



## Record keeping

To be able to manage your goats, you need some basic system of record keeping. Your system should be able to give you the following information:

- The exact number of goats that you have (broken down into different age categories)
- The dates when your ewes give birth and the number of kids born

- The number of goats that die (and the age when they die and cause of death)
- The exact goats that have been treated (for what and with what)
- Who the mother of any particular kid is
- When a particular ram was brought into the herd
- The age of any particular goat (the year it was born)
- The number of goats sold, time when they were sold and prices obtained.

See examples of record sheets in the Resources section (19.11).

## Treatment calendar (including vaccination)

This programme needs to be tried and adapted where necessary because of the unique conditions of any particular site.

### 1. General animal health programme according to age

AGE	TREATMENT	COMMENTS
1 day	Iodine	On tongue
3 months	Castrate	Burdizzo method
4-5 months	<b>Multivax P</b>	
5-6 months	<b>Multivax P</b>	Booster

### 2. General animal health programme according to season

SEASON	TREATMENT	COMMENTS
Spring (September)	<b>Multivax P</b>	All goats and repeat after 4 weeks
Spring (before mating)	Enzootic abortion vaccine	All females (do as maidens)
All year	Foot bath (copper sulphate)	Monthly
All year	Check hooves	Monthly
Summer	Control ticks	Monthly in summer
All year	Do 5-point check for worms	Monthly

Source: Cedara Goats Vet Programme Document