

Automatic milk feeder

Need: There is a need in a dairy goat and dairy sheep farm to wean lambs earlier so that their mothers can be milked for milk production. Even in larger meat sheep farms, it may be necessary to use milk feeder to feed the lambs with milk replacer if their mothers have low milk yield or they have too many lambs or they reject their lambs.

Aim: To ensure easily accessible *ad lib* feeding of weaned goat kids/lambs with milk replacer.

Offer the lambs freshly mixed milk made from a milk replacer at an desired temperature

Description:

- Milk feeder that mixes and refills automatically goat/sheep milk powder and water
- Warms and maintains milk at the desired temperature (30-40 ° C) that can be determined regulated by the farmer
- Eight pipes lead from this unit to eight teats that the kids can suckle *ad lib* 24 hours a day up the 2 months of age or longer

How to Implement:

The goat kids are removed from their dams on the second day of life. From that time until the age of around two months the kids/lambs are kept in two age groups (4 + 4 teats) and offered milk replacer's milk *ad lib* from the teats. They are also offered clean hay, concentrates and clean water. The kids may need some training to use the teats, but normally they learn soon. The kids should also be observed to check that they are feeding, alongside regular observation for their well being

This tech works for me because it reducing labour costs and time for rearing kids

FARMER FROM
ESTONIA



Country:

Estonia



Production System (dairy or/and meat sheep/goat):

Dairy sheep and goat (also possible in meat sheep indoor farms)

Category of Animal (ewe, goat, replacement, lamb, kid):

Kids, lambs

Source of Information:

Attachment/links:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve5gvDqdbuo>



Expected Benefits:

Consistent quality of milk replacer offered and the means of access.

Higher intakes of the kids, less scouring, less disease and mortality.

Reduced aggression.

Reduced labour costs and time.



Costs and Challenges

Availability of necessary space and suitability of housing to fit requirements.

The kids may show preference for one teat, and queue up to use this preferred teat rather than suckling on the other teats.

The device needs maintenance twice a week.
Availability of water and electricity supply



- Set up costs ~ 3500 Euro
- Subscription required: No
- Ease of use? Scale 1 (Complicated) – 10 (Simple)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- Value for money (for this type of benchmark farm)? Yes
- Recommend this tool/technology for use on other types of farm? Yes

Link:

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It would take xx years for xx adoption.



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