

GOATS



DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY

PORT MORESBY

Revised 1976

This is one of a series of booklets written for Papua New Guinea schools and community farming groups.

This series was designed by a committee formed from representatives of the Department of Primary Industry and the Department of Education of Papua New Guinea.

Mr T. Brockhall convened the committee and co-ordinated the project. The other members of the committee were -

*Mr G. Gale (Chairman), Mr B. Deutrom, Mr C. Heaton, Mr L. Sewell,
Mr D. MacAuley, Mr K. Newton, Mr S. Hoare, Mr B. Rankin, Mrs B. Hudson,
Mr N. Kwapena, Miss M. Wright, Miss C. Fowler, Mr A. Charles, Mr M. Downes,
Mr A. Kimber and Mr P. Vance.*

Further issues will be added to the series by the Department of Primary Industry, as required.

To obtain copies of these booklets, ask your agricultural officer, or write to -

*Secretary
Department of Primary Industry
P.O. Box 417
Konedobu
Papua New Guinea*

GOATS

INTRODUCTION

Goats have been in Papua New Guinea since the early 1900s, but they have never become popular. There are still only a few goats in Papua New Guinea and they are only found in a few places.

This is rather strange because in the rest of the warm countries of the world the goat population is about 300 million.

Most goats in Papua New Guinea are kept in the coastal grassland areas, although there are about 1000 in the highlands.

The goat is a very adaptable animal and it can be kept in all parts of the highlands and lowlands. One reason goats are not very popular is because they destroy so many things. They do eat all pasture grasses and legumes, but goats often like to eat leaves from bushes and small trees and often damage gardens, food trees and crops.

MANAGEMENT

Goats are best kept in the *herding system*. That is, they are shut up at night, and allowed to move around freely during the day looking for food. A herdsman watches them to keep them out of trouble. An ordinary fence will not keep goats in, because goats can climb or jump over fences easily.

In the village, it is best for as many people as possible to have a share in the goat herd, so that if the goats cause any damage to food crops the need for compensation payments will be reduced.

BREEDING

A good herd has 1 male for every 15 to 20 females. The male goat is called a *buck* and the female is called a *doe*. Sometimes the male goat is known as a billy goat and the female is called a nanny goat.

The fastest growing goats are best for breeding. Goats which were born as twins are good for breeding because they are more likely to have twin babies.

The young doe wants to mate, or "comes on heat", for the first time in 6 months old. If possible a doe should not be mated before it is 11 months old. The doe is in heat for 36 hours. If the doe is not mated at this time, it will come on heat again after 18 to 21 days. The baby goat, called a "kid", will be born 21 weeks after mating. So the doe should have her first kid when she is 16 months old. Usually there are 3 kiddings every 2 years, although some goats only breed once every year.

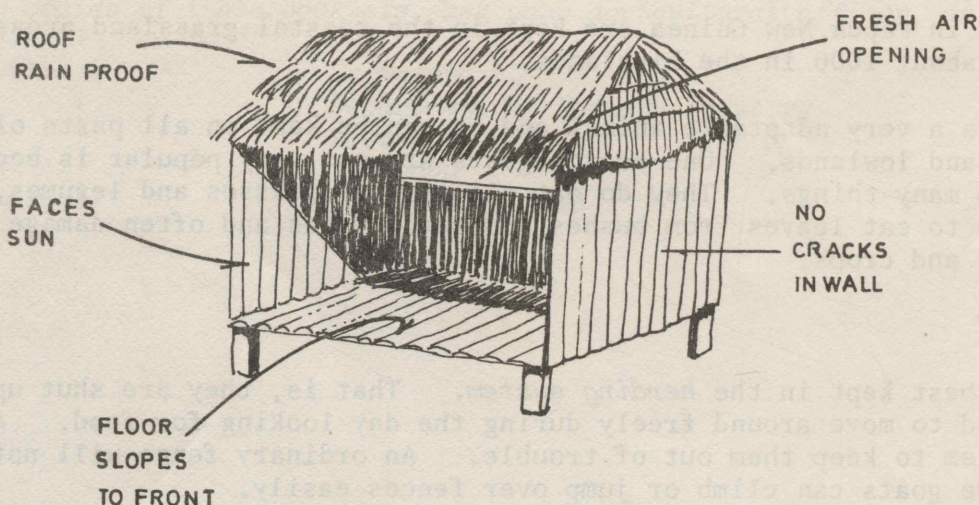
A doe should breed seven times and then be sold or killed. Extra males should be castrated at 4 to 6 months old, and then killed when they are big enough.

YARD AND HOUSE

You must build a yard to put the goats in at night. This yard should have water for the goats to drink. It will need a strong fence at least 2 metres high.

There should be a good house to keep out the wind and rain, preferably with a raised floor for sleeping. Goats do not like cold wind and rain.

After about 2 weeks of training goats will learn to go to their house every evening.



A goat house

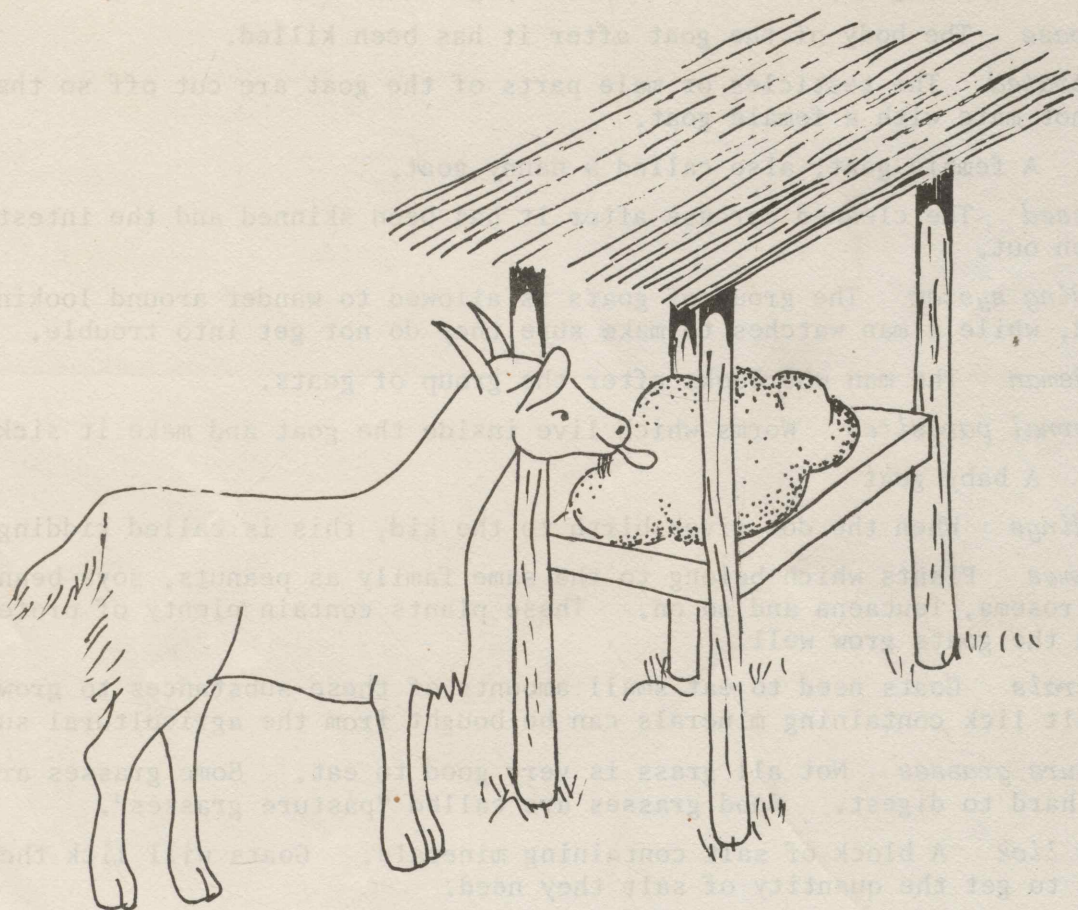
MINERALS

Goats also need minerals, especially iodine and copper. If they do not get these minerals the goats become weak and thin and have breeding problems.

Where the goats do not live beside the sea you must buy *salt licks*, preferably with iodine and copper added. Salt licks can be bought from animal feed supplies stores which sell agricultural supplies. The salt lick is put on a table with a roof over it, as shown in the picture on the next page, so that it will not get the rain on it.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Packs of village dogs are the main nuisance for goats. In areas with a lot of rain, more than 2,500 millimetres of rain a year, internal parasites such as worms can be a problem.



Salt lick

MARKETING

Selling the goats is no problem as people round about will buy them. Most people like goat meat. The carcass or body of the goat does not contain much fat, and weighs from 16 to 27 kilograms dressed. Because the carcasses are not large, they are much more useful in a village than cows which are often too big to be eaten all at once.

WORD LIST

- buck* A male goat, also called a billy goat.
- carcase* The body of the goat after it has been killed.
- castrated* The testicles or male parts of the goat are cut off so that it cannot mate with a female goat.
- doe* A female goat, also called a nanny goat.
- dressed* The cleaned carcase after it has been skinned and the intestines are taken out.
- herding system* The group of goats is allowed to wander around looking for food, while a man watches to make sure they do not get into trouble.
- herdsman* The man who looks after the group of goats.
- internal parasites* Worms which live inside the goat and make it sick and weak.
- kid* A baby goat
- kiddings* When the doe gives birth to the kid, this is called kidding.
- legumes* Plants which belong to the same family as peanuts, soya beans, centrosema, leucaena and so on. These plants contain plenty of protein and make the goats grow well.
- minerals* Goats need to eat small amounts of these substances to grow well. A salt lick containing minerals can be bought from the agricultural supplier.
- pasture grasses* Not all grass is very good to eat. Some grasses are tough and hard to digest. Good grasses are called "pasture grasses".
- salt lick* A block of salt containing minerals. Goats will lick the block of salt to get the quantity of salt they need.
- to come on heat* When a female animal looks for a male to mate with.

USEFUL BOOKS

Moderately simple English:

"Introduction to tropical agriculture", by J.A. Sutherland. Angus and Robertson, Sydney 1971. Pages 214 to 218.

Acknowledgements

Technical information D. MacAuley. *Editor* Lyn Whitlam. *Photograph* Office of Information.

METRIC INFORMATION

1 centimetre = 0.39 inches	1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds
2.54 centimetres = 1 inch	0.45 kilograms = 1 pound
30 centimetres = 1 foot	1 tonne = 1,000 kilograms
1 metre = 3 feet 3 inches	= 2,200 pounds
0.91 metres = 1 yard	1 litre = 1.76 pints
1 hectare = 10,000 square metres	0.57 litres = 1 pint
= 2.47 acres	4.55 litres = 1 gallon
0.4 hectares = 1 acre	

FARMING NOTES SERIES

- 1 Looking After the Soil
- 2 Sorghum
- 3 Corn (Maize)
- 4 Goats
- 5 Passionfruit
- 6 Rice
- 7 Peanuts
- 8 Pineapples
- 9 Sweet Potato
- 10 Vegetables
- 11 Rubber
- 12 Bananas
- 13 Coconuts
- 14 Pyrethrum
- 15 Wildlife
- 16 Pepper
- 17 Chillies
- 18 Cardamom
- 19 Winged Bean
- 20 Soya Bean
- 21 Arabica Coffee
- 22 Robusta Coffee
- 23 Cocoa

METRIC INFORMATION

1 centimetre = 0.39 inches	1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds
2.54 centimetres = 1 inch	0.45 kilograms = 1 pound
30 centimetres = 1 foot	1 tonne = 1,000 kilograms
1 metre = 3 feet 3 inches	2,200 pounds = 1,000 kilograms
0.91 metres = 1 yard	1 litre = 1.05 pints
1 hectare = 10,000 square metres	0.51 litres = 1 pint
2.47 acres = 1 hectare	4.55 litres = 1 gallon
0.4 hectares = 1 acre	