

# Dairy Goat Identification, Record Keeping and Registration



## DAIRY GOAT IDENTIFICATION

Dairy goat identification is the process of uniquely identifying a dairy goat using a marking on the body of the dairy goat.

### a) Reasons for goat Identification


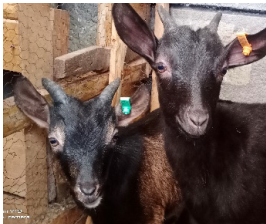
- Is the basis for keeping accurate pedigree and performance records of the flock.
- It enables registration and performance recording of goat with Kenya Stud Book through breed societies.
- It enhances traceability (ownership and flock of origin) and helps to mitigate stock theft.
- It is useful for surveillance of dairy goat diseases.
- Proper goat identification enables producers to meet market requirements.
- Proper goat identification is the basis for effective genetic evaluation, selection and conservation.

### b) Important considerations during goat identification



- Accurate identification and recording must start at birth to establish pedigree connections.
- Immediate temporary identification (eg, by collars) is better than none
- Methods used to apply the identification should be simple, safe and affordable
- Readability of the identification - should be visible from a distance of at least 2-3 meters
- Durability or permanence of the identification
- Avoid duplication or re-use of identifiers to reduce confusion

## c) Methods of Identification

### i. Temporary Method

Method of identification	Description	Tool/material used	
Ear Tagging	Numbered ear tags are applied on the ear using a plier. Can be plastic or metallic		

### ii. Permanent Method

Tattooing	done on the ear or under the tail using a tattooing machine		
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## DAIRY GOAT RECORD KEEPING

### a) Importance of records in dairy goat farming

- Tracking performance of dairy goats
- Evaluation of dairy goat for selection through use of breeding, financial, and production records.
- Taking control of inbreeding and aid in breeding planning through use of breeding records
- Required by breed societies during official registration and performance recording with Kenya Livestock Breeders Association (KLBA).

- Selecting dairy goats with the right characteristics for breeding (through use of production, health, feed efficiency) to improve the flock
- Rationalizing labour
- Feed planning and management
- Disease management; keeping track of treatment and disease control through use of health records.
- Assessing profitability/losses through use of financial records
- Improving bargaining power on products, because you can see the investment and the cost of the production.
- Access to credit services through use of production and financial records

**b) Type of goat records to be kept**

***i) Identification, Pedigree and Breeding records***

Identification records include information on flock ownership, location, and individual goat identification, while pedigree records include the goat's parentage information (sire and dam). Breeding records show individual phenotypic performance, reproduction information (mating history, and progenies (offspring)).

**FARM NAME**  
ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER

**INDIVIDUAL GOAT RECORD CARD**

SEX..... BREED..... GRADE.....

PEDIGREE RECORDS										
Name of Goat.....					Sire	Buck Name..... Tattoo No.....				
Tattoo No. .... Ear Tag No.....						Breed..... KSB No..... Volume.....				
Date of Birth/Kuzaliwa.....						Grand Sire..... KSB No..... Vol..... Grand Dam..... KSB No..... Vol.....				
Kenya Stud Book No..... Volume.....					Dam	Doe Name..... Tattoo No.....				
Birth Weight (Kgs)..... Weaning Weight.....						Breed..... KSB No..... Volume.....				
Litter Type/Mapacha..... Origin/Place of Birth.....						Grand Sire..... KSB No..... Vol..... Grand Dam..... KSB No..... Vol.....				
BREEDING RECORDS								TRANSFER RECORDS		
Date of Service*	Buck Tattoo No.	Breed of Buck	Date of Kidding	Kids Born No.		Birth Wt.		Weaning Wt.	Remarks	2 <sup>nd</sup> Owners Name.....
				♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	Address.....
1 <sup>st</sup>										Farmer Group.....
2 <sup>nd</sup>										Signature..... Date.....
3 <sup>rd</sup>										3 <sup>rd</sup> Owners Name.....
4 <sup>th</sup>										Address.....
5 <sup>th</sup>										Farmer Group.....
6 <sup>th</sup>										Signature..... Date.....
7 <sup>th</sup>										4 <sup>th</sup> Owners Name.....
8 <sup>th</sup>										Address.....
9 <sup>th</sup>										Farmer Group.....
10 <sup>th</sup>										Signature..... Date.....
11 <sup>th</sup>										

\* - Indicate repeat service with "R"

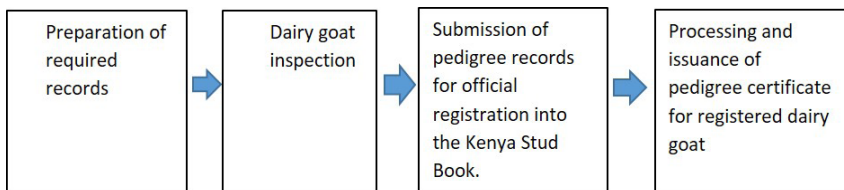
Issued by Farm Manager..... Sign..... Date.....

Witnessed by..... Sign..... Date.....

## Health and Production records

Health records comprise disease and treatment information that helps to keep track of the disease events for each dairy goat during its lifetime, while production records indicate the performance of the flock and individual goat, such as daily milk yield and quantity of milk consumed e.t.c.





## Dairy goat upgrading scheme

Class	Description
<b>Pool</b>	Doe lacks any identifiable characteristics particular to any specific breed. Does from pedigree males do not automatically qualify for foundation registration. They must be inspected for breed conformation.
<b>Foundation</b>	It is the doe in milk or in-kid, typical of the breed by inspection and identifiable.
<b>Intermediate</b>	It is the female progeny of foundation dairy goat, by a pedigree-registered sire, automatically with proof of service by registered sire.
<b>Appendix</b>	It is the female progeny of intermediate, which is officially milk recorded by the KLBA, automatically with proof of service by a pedigree registered sire.
<b>Pedigree</b>	It is the female progeny of Appendix, which is officially milk recorded with proof of service by pedigree registered sire and conforming to the breed standards of excellence

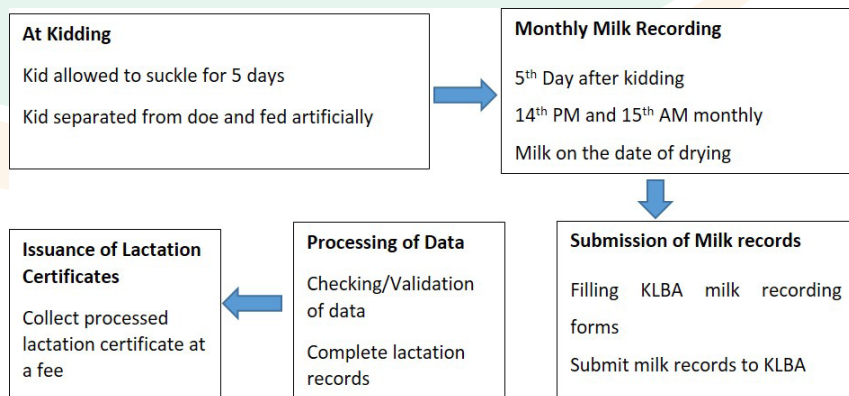
**Note:** Any offspring that is born off-type is automatically disqualified from registration despite the level /Grade of the parents.

### c) Importance of dairy goat milk recording

- i. Enables selection of sires of higher merit to ensure genetic improvement in a flock
- ii. Enables selection of better dairy goats for parents and compare performance variations among dairy goats
- iii. For individual dairy goat management (e.g. determine proper feed rations, administer proper dosage of a medication, monitor growth and, feed utilization).

- iv. Measure traits of economic importance for dairy objectively  
- because using the eye will not accurately determine their value.

#### d) Procedure of milk recording



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