



The Goat Source

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It's Breeding Season! Tips on how to keep you and your bucks fit for company.

It's an unfortunate fact that, during the breeding season, our bucks can add a distinct aroma to the air around the farm! The male goat has a set of musk glands on the top of his head. Burning the glands when the buck is dehorned as a baby can reduce the odor, but seldom gets rid of it altogether. When the buck comes into rut, the glands produce the distinctive "buck" odor. The doe's think it is great perfume, and when you breed your doe, she will smell bucky for a week or two. The boys also urinate on their front legs as an added enticement for the girls!

There are a few things you can do to make breeding season a little less smelly. Keep a pair of lightweight coveralls handy to work with the bucks in. A pair like the local garage mechanic wears work great. After a session with the boys, peel the coveralls off and throw into the wash. Get a pair of rubber coated gloves (the stretchy kind). They can also be thrown into the wash. There is a good soap available from Caprine Supply (www.caprinesupply.com) called "Buck Off". Wash your hands well with this soap and the odor is much reduced or gone.

If you can wash your bucks, that will help temporarily, but be sure it is warm enough, or they might get sick. I like to rub petroleum jelly on their front legs and their nose. It keeps them from getting urine scald and reduces the buck smell. If your buck has a long beard and it is really gross, you might consider trimming it or clipping it off completely.

With a little planning, breeding season can be a slightly less odor filled time of year!

Feeding and Nutrition Quiz

The rumen of a mature goat can hold an average of how much feed & fluid?

1. 2.5 gallons
 2. 3.5 gallons
 3. 4.5 gallons
-

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Answer: 4.5 gallons – the capacity of the goat is very large. This is why the goat can get a great proportion of their diet from forage based diets, even woody browse.

That's all for this month. See you next month... *Leslie, The Goat Source*

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