

Premier's Stomach Tuber

A Safe, Easy Method for Feeding Weak Lambs & Goat Kids

During lambing/kidding every producer is faced with the problem of feeding lambs/kids suffering from exposure and weakness. Attempts to bottle feed frequently result in fluid entering the air passages because of the lamb's/kid's inability to swallow. No doubt you have felt the bubbling sensation which is a forerunner of death by drowning or pneumonia. By using the following method you can feed both weak and stubborn lambs/kids quickly and safely.

1. Be very careful to gently extend the animal's chin so that its neck is straight before carefully inserting the tube. If the light is good you can visually observe the bulge of the tube sliding down the neck. In bad light, we use our fingers to feel its presence. If you can neither feel nor see the tube, it may well be in the animal's hard hollow trachea and thus the lungs. Be cautious of this. If the tube enters the lungs instead of the stomach, pneumonia and starvation could result.
2. Pull the tube out gently and restart it. The chance of wrongly inserting the tube is not as great as it may appear. Simply be sure that the tube is inserted in a straight line from the animal's mouth to its stomach.
3. Continue to pass the tube into the stomach. The usual distance is 11 or 12 inches. You cannot pass the tube too far, but it is very important to pass the tube far enough. If it is in the correct position you will hear a gurgling sound through the empty syringe.
4. Should the solution not run, the cause could be an airlock or possibly with older animals, the teeth could be clamped on the upper part of the tube. If an airlock occurs, slide tube in and out about 1/2 inch.
5. Do not ram the milk into the stomach. We usually do not actually insert the plunger unless using thick colostrum which will not flow on its own. If the plunger is used, gently push the milk into the animals stomach.

Caution: Be sure milk has had time to flow out of the entire length of tube and into the lamb's stomach before withdrawing tube from the animal. Doing otherwise may accidentally allow milk to enter the lamb's lungs as the tube is being removed.

The amount recommended for a new born 10 lb. lamb/kid is 4 oz.
5 times a day if he is not being supplemented by mom.



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