

Feeding Mineral to Goat

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Feeding mineral of the goats is important because forages and shrubs in Florida do not have enough minerals to meet the nutrient requirements of goats. Minerals can be classified into macro minerals and micro minerals. Macro minerals are phosphorus, magnesium, and potassium. Micro minerals include iron, zinc, copper, manganese, iodine, selenium, and cobalt. A commercial goat supplement is recommended for any goat operation. It is important that the calcium to phosphorus ratio is 1.5-2 parts of calcium to 1 part of phosphorus in the diet. The maintenance of this ratio is important to prevent urinary calculi. Furthermore, it is recommended that only one mineral supplement be offered to the herd. Feeding two or more sources of minerals at the farm can lead to over-supply of minerals. This can lead to mineral toxicity. Sheep have a lower requirement for copper compared to goats. It is not advisable to feed a sheep mineral supplement to goats. Furthermore, horses have a lower requirement for iodine than goats, so do not feed horse minerals to goats. Provide free choice mineral formulated for goats.