

Birth: Allow fawn(s) and doe to bond/nurse

If cold, multiple births, or doe fails to claim fawn

- a. tube with colostrum (cow/doe; goat)/ewe) or give First Catch Fawn or allow fawn to nurse colostrum from bottle
- b. pull fawn and bottle raise
- c. graft to another doe

8 hours- 18 hours (8-12 is best)

A. tag

B. First Catch Fawn or E. colizer + C (2-5 ml orally) or E. colizer (2 -5 cc orally) plus C&D antitoxin orally/SQ (use lamb label dose)

C. antibiotics +/- , but if have had lots of problems, may want to give

- a. Excede 0.15 ml SQ or
- b. Draxxin 0.1 ml SQ or
- c. Nuflor 0.6 ml SQ

D. Vitamin E/Se (if in deficient area: make sure you consult with your local veterinarian) 1cc BoSE SQ

E. Probios<sup>R</sup> or similar product: lamb dose or 1/10<sup>th</sup> to ½ calf or foal dose

F. Vitamin AD 0.05-0.1 ml SQ optional. If does have been or poor nutrition or under lots of stress probably need to do. If fawns weak or slow probably need to give.

24-72 hours: Everyone pulls fawns for bottle rearing at different times. Do what has worked best for you in the past. Once fawns are 24 hrs old or so, their gut “closes” so that they probably won’t absorb any more antibodies from the doe, so that is a good time to pull them. Some people like to wait longer, but the longer you wait, the more difficult it is to start the fawn on the bottle. I personally like to wait till they are 24-48 hrs old and pull them late afternoon/early evening and then try to feed them once before I go to bed. If they eat, fabulous, if not, they are hungry in the morning and usually take right off on the bottle.

Bottle feeding guidelines

First week or so: 2-4 oz 5 times a day. I feed @ 6am, 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm and 10-11 pm. You can feed more often and smaller amounts, but you should try to get 10-20% of the body weight of the fawn in them per day in milk. So if your fawn weighs 6 lbs (96 oz), then 10% is approximately 10 oz and 20% is 20 oz. This rate will allow the fawns to grow at the rate you want. If using a good formula designed for fawns or goat milk replacer, then the fawns should not scour using these guidelines. Fawns do not scour generally from feeding (unless the formulation is wrong) , they scour from disease (E. coli, Salmonella, rota or corona virus, Clostridium, coccidiosis, etc). If properly cared for and clean equipment used, then you shouldn’t have scour problems. If you have scours, then something is wrong and you need to adjust accordingly. I generally encourage the use of milk replacer. Use one that is formulated for fawns and mix according to the label directions. If you are having problems with this, then you may want to have your water analyzed as it may have bacteria or mineral content that is causing the problem. If you do feed goat milk, make sure that your source doesn’t have Johne’s Disease, Caseous Lymphadenitis or other disease you don’t want on your farm and has the same

TB status that you have. I know people that have successfully raised fawns on lamb milk replacer and other formulas. If it ain't broke, don't fix it, but if you look at all the data, they should and usually do better on species specific milk.

Fawns will need to be stimulated to defecate and urinate the first few weeks of life. I generally recommend that you use rubber gloves and baby wipes and stimulate while feeding. This is what the doe does and usually you get good enough at the technique that you can catch and don't have much "wiping" to do! You may want to change gloves between fawns so that you don't spread anything from fawn to fawn in case of a disease outbreak.

I usually recommend decreasing the number of feedings every 10 days or so by 1. So at 10 days, drop to 4 feedings per day (6 am, 12 pm, 6 pm and 10-11 pm) and all they can eat. Yeah, I know this is heresy and most people calculate things out to the ounce, but about 20% of body weight is all they can consume, and I've not had any problems. Once again, if you are doing something that works for you, don't change! I'm lazy and want my fawns to grow as fast as they can. Generally following this schedule, at 20 days or so, three times per day (6-7 am, 2-3 pm and 10-11 pm), 30 days of age (6-7 am and 6-7 pm) and by 40 -50 days once a day at whatever time you like to feed! You can wean them as soon as you think they are consuming enough dry feed and greens or you get tired of feeding them.

Offer fresh, clean water everyday to them in a small bowl. Also offer small amounts of "creep" feed or your regular deer ration. Keep it fresh and clean by cleaning the bowls every day and offering new feed. I generally recommend a 18% ration for fawns, but if you're feeding a 20% and getting along, that's fine. I also hand feed select "greens" to the fawns every day. That is, hand picked alfalfa, clover, dandelions, etc. that the fawns will nibble on. You can also use very good to excellent quality alfalfa or other legume hay, but I think that they eat the fresh stuff better. Some people offer "clean" dirt in a bowl from birth on. The theory is that they get some nutrients from the dirt to help them and their intestinal tract function better. Know lots of people who do this and they get along fine. Know lots of people who don't and they get along fine as well.

I keep fawns in separate pens and isolated from other fawns for several reasons. They will "bond" better to humans (may want to get them used to multiple people) if kept separate and it greatly decreases the chance of spreading disease between the fawns. Think like a dairy farmer raising calves in calf hutches. I generally mix the fawns in small groups depending on numbers and fawn growth and conditions at 3-6 weeks (or more). If they start to nurse/suck on each other (ears/tail/navel) then I either take them apart or spray vinegar or Chew Guard or Bitter Apple or Bitter Orange on the fawn part they are sucking on. The latter two products can be obtained from your veterinarian or catalog source.

Fawns could be weaned as early as 60 days or so following these guidelines, but it is usually best to base weaning on feed consumption and body condition. Bottle feeding is time consuming and milk replacer costs lots of money. You will have to use your best judgment and do what fits your situation best. Many people like to feed longer to keep the babies tame and used to humans. Some just like to feed the babies (so do I, but it does get old after a while!).

Pens should be on dirt (if possible) or the new raised decks may work well (I haven't tried them). The dirt should be covered with 2-4 inches or so of crushed limestone and then have shavings (or straw) on top. I think shavings work better and I am fond of cedar chips as I think they tend to keep flies away a little better plus I like their smell! Pine shavings or chips are fine but try to get kiln dried (cleaner with fewer bacteria in them) and try to stay away from sawdust on the really small fawns (gets in their eyes). I usually sprinkle some barn lime in every once in a while or when changing the shavings/straw as this changes the pH and tends to keep the bacteria down and the area "sweet". Especially as the fawns grow and start urinating enough to keep it wet. Make sure that you have good ventilation so there is air circulating, but no drafts. This will also help keep the area dry.

Some products that are commonly used that you may want to obtain prior to fawning are:

First Catch Fawn and First Fawn milk supplement from Labelle Inc.

Zoologic Fawn milk replacer

Fox Valley Fawn milk replacer

Goat milk replacer: several companies make it. If it doesn't cost a lot, it's probably not any good! Some milk replacers are cheap.... They are made from non-milk products and are less digestible..... you generally get what you pay for in this case, so don't buy the cheap stuff. Purina, Land-O-Lakes, etc. are usually good sources. There may be others, but make sure to read the label and if in doubt, make sure you check with your veterinarian or nutritionist to make sure. If you are using a product that has a lamb/kid label, mix at the kid rates usually.

Pritchard nipples: fawns generally take off on these better than others. Available from a variety of sources. If in doubt, check Nasco.

Ear tags: some states require a special ID.... I also like to use the sheep/goat tags so they are double IDed.

Needles, syringes, medications.

Disinfectant for bottles

Put everything that you need in a "tote" and have ready or tool box for easy use

Record book: the shortest pencil is better than the longest memory!