Meat Goat Management Wheel
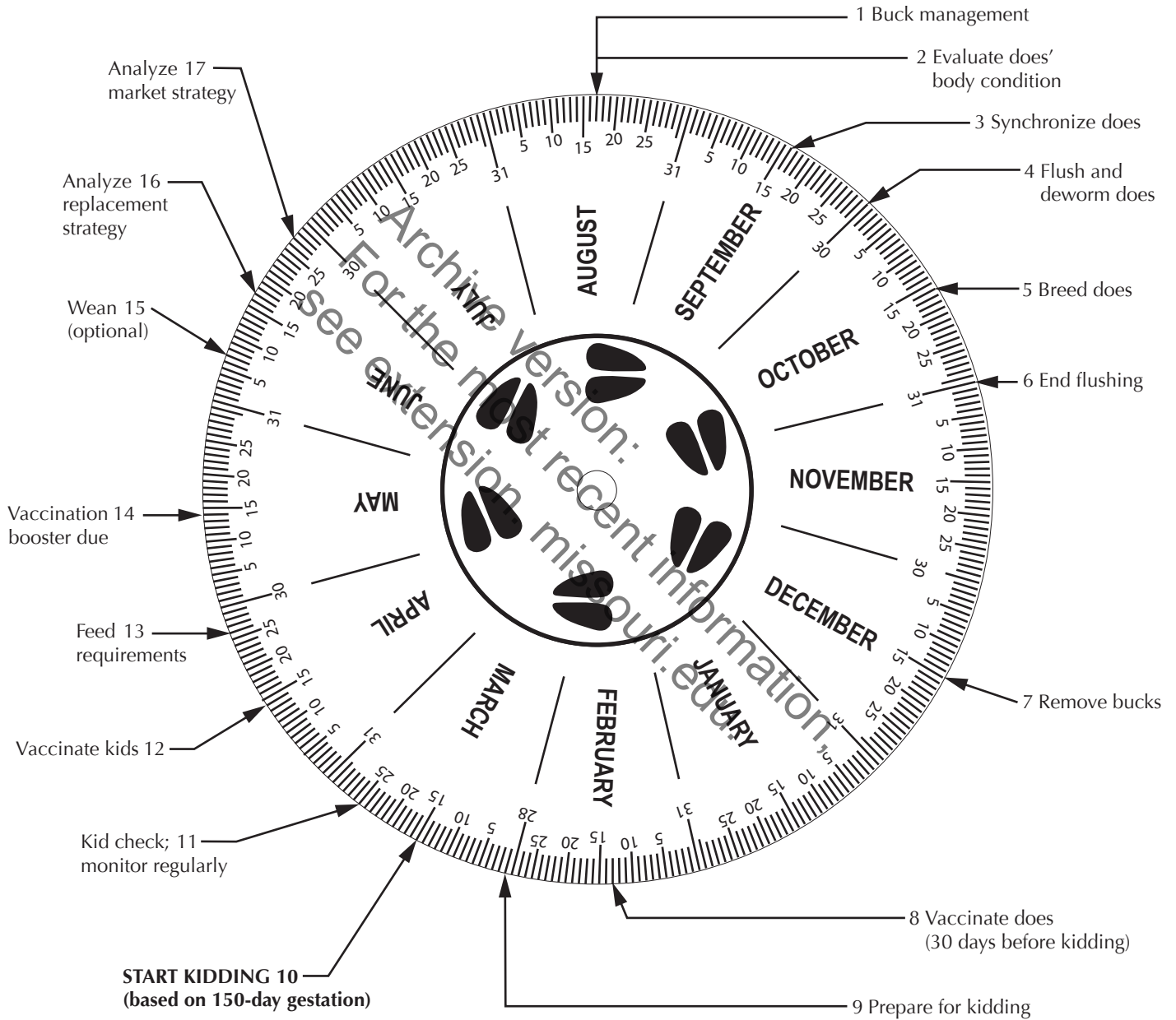
Instructions: Set date of kidding time (step 10) first to determine approximate dates of other management steps.

1 Buck management

2 Evaluate does' body condition

3 Synchronize does

4 Flush and deworm does

5 Breed does

6 End flushing

7 Remove bucks

8 Vaccinate does (30 days before kidding)

9 Prepare for kidding

START KIDDING 10 (based on 150-day gestation)

Kid check; 11 monitor regularly

Vaccinate kids 12

Feed 13 requirements

Vaccination 14 booster due

Wean 15 (optional)

Analyze 16 replacement strategy

Analyze 17 market strategy

AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY

1. Select bucks from healthy, high-quality herds and farms with similar management styles and environment. Trim feet if necessary. Perform breeding-soundness exam. One mature buck (1 year or older) for 25 to 50 does.

2. Does should be in acceptable body condition.▲ Manage obese or thin does accordingly. Doelings should be growing at an acceptable rate (see step 5).

3. Buck effect: bucks out of sight, sound, smell for 30 days before joining will suffice for most commercial producers. Use FAMACHA©▲ system to monitor for parasites. Monitor doe condition.

4. Flushing (improved nutrition) for mature does in thin or marginal condition may improve ovulation but is not justified for virgin does or fleshy mature does. Begin two weeks before breeding and continue two weeks after breeding. Deworm if needed.

5. Turn in bucks. Record breeding dates if possible. Monitor pasture conditions▲ and rotate as needed. Doelings should reach 60 to 70% of mature body weight by breeding time.

6. Does are now capable of being on a maintenance diet until the last third of the gestation period. Monitor condition of animals and pastures.

7. Monitor bucks and does for parasites (FAMACHA©) and body condition.

8. Administer CD&T yearly booster. Check for internal and external parasites and treat accordingly.▲

9. Check on kidding supplies and facilities.▲

10. Iodine navel. Ear tag, note and record any management concerns. Provide vitamins and minerals as needed. Provide good-quality forage for does. Monitor for parasites (FAMACHA© preferred). Deworm does if necessary. Castrate and dehorn at about 1 week of age, if desired.

11. If creep feeding, use 16% crude protein meat goat ration. If pasture-based, provide browse and quality forage. Observe kids and does for health issues (e.g., starvation, coccidiosis). Monitor for parasites.

12. First CD&T shot at 3 to 6 weeks of age. Booster 2 to 4 weeks later. If creep feeding, a third booster may be recommended. Consult veterinarian for recommendations in your area.

13. Can reduce creep protein based on kid weight and desired performance. Nutritional requirements for does also decline after 6 to 8 weeks of lactation.

14. Refer to step 12 for vaccination protocol. Monitor for coccidiosis.▲

15. Weaning time depends on management preference and marketing strategy. Do not wean and vaccinate on same day — wait two weeks. Weigh kids if possible. Check udders, cull problem and poor producing animals. Monitor for coccidiosis. Monitor for internal parasites (FAMACHA© recommended). Good time to have fecal samples evaluated for parasite load.

16. Use records to select replacement does or purchase does from producers with similar management and environment. Place "keepers" on high-quality forage or supplement with quality feedstuffs. Provide goat mineral and vitamin mix. Isolate new animals.▲

17. Market cull animals or kids not selected as replacements. Given the wide variation in marketing strategies used by goat producers, there are many possible dates for marketing.

▲ These are suggestions. Additional information can be obtained through your veterinarian, University Extension office, appropriate faculty at agriculture colleges, or other meat goat experts to assure the best management program for your operation.

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