Clean udder with warm water and dry with a clean piece of cloth.

- Apply milking jelly on the teats.
- Milk into a clean container by squeezing (not pulling) the teats with clean hands.
- Pass the milk through clean cloth and store in clean containers in a cool place.

**Marketing**

- Local markets are readily available for goat's milk. Try your local hospitals, children's homes and individual households. Tell your customers about the benefits of goat's milk.
- More distant markets are best accessed by joining or forming a local dairy goat-keepers' association.

**What can go wrong and what is the remedy?**

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| Time breeding to supply milk when demand is greatest (dry season) - provided you can feed your animals | Obtain market information on demand for goat's milk. Mrs Eunice Oketch – a mother of seven from Kajulu village in Winam Division, Nyamira Province, Kenya, was among the first members of her community to take up dairy goat-keeping. That was in 2003: at that time her neighbouring farmers did not believe dairy goat-keeping was possible and none consumed goat's milk. Mrs Oketch was given two dairy goats by Africa Now, an NGO. The goats were given on a 'payback system': three years later she was able to pay back three kids, which have been passed on to other local farmers. Each day, Mrs Okech gets around 4 litres of milk from her goats. She keeps 1 litre for her family and sells the rest. After deducting her costs, she makes a monthly profit of around US$15. From the proceeds of her milk sales she is able to pay school fees for one of her sons who attends the local secondary school. In addition to milking goats, Mrs Oketch also has three young goats and is keen to expand her flock further. She needs a bigger flock – she is currently unable to meet the rapidly growing local demand as more and more people get to know about the benefits of consuming goat's milk. 

**Case Study**
Why dairy goats?

• Dairy goats are improved breeds bred for milk production. They are very different from the local goats kept for meat.
• Male dairy goats may be used to serve neighbours’ goats and thus help bring in income.
• Goat’s manure contains a high level of nitrogen. It can be used to enrich soils and improve crop yields or to fertilize fish ponds.
• Goat’s milk can generate value-added products, such as cheese and yoghurt.
• The fat and protein content in goat’s milk is more easily digested than that in cow’s milk.
• Goat’s milk can be processed into many products, including yoghurt, cheese, and ice cream.
• The milk is nutritious and has a lower risk of allergic reactions.
• Older female goats and surplus males can be slaughtered or sold for meat.
• The fat and protein content in goat’s milk is more easily digested than that in cow’s milk.
• Most dairy goats are owned by women thus supplementing their incomes.
• Two-thirds of the raw material for soap is goats’ milk.

Getting started

Step 1: Establish sources of fodder

• Produce fodder on farm or buy locally. One option is to plant a plot of Napier grass to provide the bulk feed and some high-protein fodder strips, such as Calliandra, Desmodium, and Calliandra. Other feeds include maize stover, sweet potato vines, banana peels and weeds.

Step 2: Construct a goat house with a slatted floor, including an outdoor exercise area for the goats

Step 3: Acquire dairy goats

• First a local dairy goat breeder who can sell you some animals.

Step 4: Routine management practices

Feeding

• Proprietary goat milk replacer, for kids.
• Proprietary milk replacer for adults

Vaccination

• Male goats serving owned by commercial marketers should be vaccinated against diseases, including bovine tuberculosis.

Reducing kid mortality

• Construct a raised goat house with a slatted floor and an outside exercise area for the goats.

Controlling worms

• Fodder: treat with milk per day for the kid, depending on its age. If sick, use antibiotics for 3 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 5 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 7 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 10 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 14 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 15 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 21 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 28 days.

Deworming

• Scabies: treat with ivermectin at 10 mg/kg body weight per day for 5 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 5 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 10 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 21 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 28 days.

Vaccination

• If your goats graze with other goats they should be vaccinated against the highly contagious disease goat pneumonia (CCPP).

Twins: treat with ivermectin at 20 mg/kg body weight per day for 5 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 5 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 10 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 21 days. If not, use suitable deworming products for 28 days.

Rearing Dairy Goats

Throughout East Africa, increased demand for milk is increasing. Average farm size is decreasing as plots are subdivided and farmers struggle to find space on their farms for grazing as well as crops and cash crops as well as livestock. Farmers would like to keep dairy cows but do not have the money to buy animals and build ear-grazing units or sufficient land to grow enough fodder. But you have ever considered keeping dairy goats as a more affordable and appropriate option?

One dairy cow can support five dairy goats but only one dairy cow. See table below on profits, based on average prices in Kenya for 2006.

Dairy goats or cows?

Older female goats and surplus males can be slaughtered or sold for meat.

Dairy goats require less land than the same number of dairy cows. Half a hectare of Napier grass can support five dairy goats but only one dairy cow. See table below on profits, based on average prices in Kenya for 2006.
Rearing Dairy Goats
Throughout Eastern Africa pressure on land is increasing. Average farm size is decreasing as plots are subdivided and farmers struggle to find space on their farms to grow cash crops and crop residues in order to keep livestock. Many farmers would like to keep dairy cows but do not have the money to buy animals and build earthen or metal sheds sufficient to grow enough food. But you have probably considered keeping dairy goats as a more affordable and appropriate option?

What do you need to know?

- Dairy goats are improved breeds bred for milk production. They are very different from local breeds and produce much more - up to 12 litres per day!
- Goats typically have a 2-day dry period. They have to be milked twice a day, weekly, to milk twice or triple!
- They are easily managed. However, if you grow your own fodder, you will need a park and water supply.
- Most dairy goats are owned by women. This enhances their income and agency.

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... continue reading...
Milking
Your dairy goat will give milk for around 6 months. To milk:
• Clean udder with warm water and dry with a clean piece of cloth.
• Apply milking jelly on the teats.
Milk into a clean container by squeezing (not pulling) the teats with clean hands.
Pass the milk through clean cloth and store in clean containers in a cool place.

Marketing
• Local markets are readily available for goat’s milk. Try your local hospitals, children’s homes and individual households. Tell your customers about the benefits of goat’s milk.
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