

## What You Absolutely Need:

### Loose Minerals for Goats

- They should be offered free choice to all goats at all times.
- These minerals will make up for what the goat is not getting in her grain and hay.
- I recommend Manna Pro



Like anything else, goats need to eat healthy to be healthy. Cheap sweet feed mixes or multi-species grains are like the 'fast food' of the goat world – they fill the stomach but don't nourish the body.

Ask 10 farmers what they feed and you'll probably get 10 different answers. Read, research, and learn what works best for you!

I feed Purina Goat Chow with great results.



### Resource:

<http://www.thegoatspot.net/forum/f186/short-list-common-mineral-deficiencies-188811/>



## Mineral Deficiencies



All goat herds in the country are at risk of becoming mineral deficient, and many herds are.

Mineral deficiency in and of itself is not a serious issue, but complications from it can lead to or compound other problems.

Great care must be taken when administering mineral supplements. Overdosing on minerals is just as much of a problem as being deficient.

## Copper Deficiency

### Symptoms

- Change in fur color
  - Dark colored animals will turn a rusty red on their rear legs.
- “Fish tail”
  - The hair on the end/sides of the goat's tail will be thin or nonexistent
- Fence and bark chewing
- Rough coat
- In severe cases, anemia

### Treatment

- Copper bolus



Copper deficiency makes a goat more susceptible to parasites like the barber's pole worm.

Most goat herds across the country face copper deficiency.

Water high in iron will work against a goat's copper levels.

## Selenium Deficiency

### Symptoms

- Reproductive Issues
- White muscle problems
- Performance issues
- Muscle stiffness
- Reduced immune response

### Treatment

- Selenium gel
- BoSe shot
  - This is Rx from a vet only



## Salt Deficiency

### Symptoms

- Rough coats
- Decreased performance
- Unusual eating habits
  - Eating dirt
  - Chewing tool handles
  - Chewing another animal's fur

### Treatment

- Salt, offered free choice
  - There are many forms of salt, including those that have other minerals (such as cobalt, iodine) added in.

## Cobalt Deficiency

### Symptoms

- Lack of appetite
- Poor growth
- Vitamin B12 deficiency

### Treatment

- Cobalt block, free choice



## Iodine Deficiency

### Symptoms

- Enlarged thyroid gland
- Goiter swell
- Metabolic disorders (decreased metabolic rate)
- Hair loss
- Dry, scaly skin

### Treatment

- Iodonized salt, offered free choice

