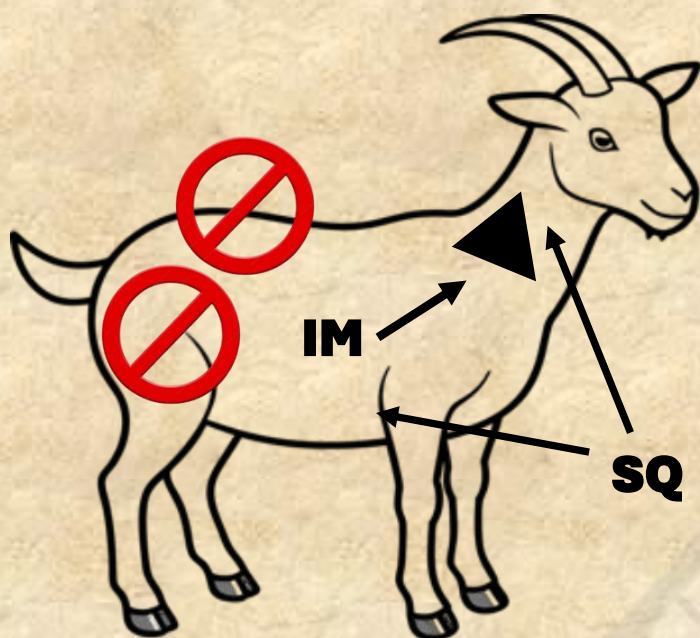


Giving injections to sheep and goats



Giving injections is a routine management practice on most sheep and goat farms. Medications are given to prevent and treat disease and for various other reasons.

NEEDLES

Needles come in different lengths and gauges (diameters). The best practice is to use the smallest needle available without fear of bending. 18 to 20 gauge, ½ to 1-inch needles are suitable for most injections for sheep and goats. Use shorter needles (¼ to ¾ in) for SQ injections and in younger animals. Longer needles (1 in) are needed for deeper IM and IV injections. Choose the gauge of the needle based on the size of the animal and the viscosity (thickness) of the product.

TYPES OF INJECTIONS

SQ	Subcutaneously	Under the skin	Side of neck, over the shoulder, auxiliary region behind elbow joint, over ribs Vaccines and some antibiotics are usually administered SQ
IM	Intramuscular	Into muscle mass	Lower quality meat areas: neck Antibiotics and other medications are often given IM
IV	Intravenously	In the vein	Directly into the vein, usually jugular. Typically done by veterinarian to give life saving treatment for milk fever, pregnancy toxemia, or other disease.
IN	Intranasal	In the nose	Directly into nasal cavity, vaccines or treatments for respiratory infections
IMA	Intramammary	Into mammary gland	Through the teat canal for treatment of mastitis

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1. Follow labeled directions and/or the advice of your veterinarian.
2. Properly restrain animal.
3. Use clean (sterile) needle to draw solution from bottle.
4. Use appropriate gauge and length of needle and injection site.
5. Use clean sharp needles; use one needle for each animal or change needles frequently.
6. Whenever possible, use the subcutaneous route of administration (if allowed on the label or recommended by your vet).
7. Do not give more than 5 cc of medication at one site
8. Don't inject wet or dirty animals.
9. Use good sanitation to prevent infections and injection site abscesses.
10. Dispose of needles and syringes properly (in sharps containers).
11. Keep records of all injections and medications given.

