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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Mrs. Eunice Oketch – a mother of seven from Kajulu village in Winam Division, Nyansha 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.

Case Study

Each day, Mrs Oketch 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.

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Step 1: Establish sources of fodder

- Choose species of fodder to be sown in a whole field.
- One option is to plant a sward of napier grass to provide the bulk feed and some high-protein fodder shrubs, such as Calliandra, Leucaena, and Desmodium.
- Provide roughages (like Napier grass) and supplements. Napier grass should be chopped or milled by-products (bran, pollard). Protein supplements include cotton seed cake, fishmeal, and dairy meal.

Step 2: Construct the goat house

- Construct a raised goat house with a slatted floor, including an outdoor exercise area for the goats. Goat houses should protect animals from wind and rain. Local materials such as bricks, concrete, and wood can be used. Equip the house with good ventilation so cold air can circulate easily.

Step 3: Acquire dairy goats

- Find a local dairy goat breeder who can sell you some animals.
- Identify local veterinary services.
- Introduce a male and leave with the female goats for 2 to 3 weeks. Mating all your female goats at the same time will ensure kids are born at the same time and eases management.

Getting started

- Male goats serving goats owned by community members should be tested for brucellosis. This is a disease affecting animals and humans. Ask your vet for more information.
- Ask your local veterinary officer for advice on vaccines.

Feeding

- Provide roughage (like Napier grass) and supplements. Napier grass should be chopped into 3-mm-long pieces. Energy supplements include molasses, corn or molasses-bys, bran and other feeds. Protein supplements include cotton seed meal.

Breading

- Identify a good breeding male goat whose owner has a high libido. Libido is observed by the male's ability to vigorously make contact with the female, functional teats and strong teeth and legs, good body condition and a soft udder, two well-developed testicles, strong feet and legs, and a well-contrasted body. These qualities will ensure successful mating.

Vaccination

- If your goats graze with other goats they should be vaccinated against the highly contagious disease goat pox (PPV). Vaccinate pregnant females against paralytic lymph and tetanus 2 to 3 weeks before kidding and vaccinate kids at 6 months of age. Vaccination is recommended for weaned kids at 3 months of age. Give all before the start of the rainy season.

Reducing kid mortality

- Ensure the newborn kid suckles immediately after birth. The goat's first milk helps protect the kid from diseases, gives digestive system working and is especially nutritious.

Controlling worms

- Failure to treat goats, especially those that graze, can result in blood loss, thin animals and death. For advice on dewormers, consult your local veterinary officer.

Deworm

- All animals before mating.
- All females before kidding.
- All kids at weaning (3 months of age).}

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Worming

- Failure to treat goats, especially those that graze, can result in blood loss, thin animals and death. For advice on dewormers, consult your local veterinary officer."
Rearing Dairy Goats

Throughout Eastern Africa, pressure on land is increasing. Average farm size is decreasing as plots are sub-divided and farmers struggle to find space on their farms for goats and crops as well as keep livestock. Farmers would like to keep dairy cows but do not have the money to buy animals and build ear-marking stalls or sufficient land to grow enough food. But you have ever considered keeping dairy goats as a more affordable and appropriate option?

What you need to start

- **Tips before buying and moving your goats**
  - consult with the nearest veterinary office for vaccination permit and any other relevant information.
  - housing with raised slatted floor (5 to 2 square meters per animal). Good ventilation is essential but house cannot be made of dirt or mud. Goats have a keen sense of smell and are not easily deterred once in a dirt house.
  - fodder (Napier and other grasses) which make up 80% of the bulk of goat feed. Establish a source of fodder by planting or buying fodder locally. Desmodium, grasses and milking by-products, must be fed to ensure milk production. Fodder shrubs can support milk production. Feeding supplements include cotton seed cake, fishmeal, leucaena leaves, sweet potato vines or desmodium. Finally add a tablespoonful of Calliandra leaves.
  - Feed supplements (grains, add half a scoop of fishmeal or any of the following: cotton seed cake, milo, or milled by-products (bran, pollard). Protein supplements include cotton seed cake, leucaena leaves, sweet potato vines or desmodium. Finally add a tablespoonful of Calliandra leaves.
  - Energy supplements include molasses, cereals into approximately 3-cm-long pieces. Energy supplements include molasses, cereals or milling by-products (bran, pollard). Protein supplements include cotton seed cake, leucaena leaves, sweet potato vines or desmodium. Finally add a tablespoonful of Calliandra leaves. Cotinus leaves, sweet potato vines or Desmodium. Finally add a tablespoonful of Calliandra leaves.
  - Dairy goat's milk can be beneficial for people with stomach ulcers and is an excellent alternative for people who are allergic to cow's milk.
  - Most dairy goats are owned by women thus supplementing their incomes.
  - Goats multiply fast. They can kid twice a year and often produce twins or triplets.

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

- **Step 3: Acquire dairy goats**
  - First look at local dairy goat breeders who can sell you some animals.
  - Move the dairy goats to the goat house.

- **Step 4: Routine management practices**
  - Milking
  - Feeding
  - Breeding
  - Deworming
  - Vaccination

- **Reducing kid mortality**

- **Controlling worms**

- **Vaccination**

- **Deworm**

- **Acquire dairy goats**
  - Male goats serving served by women with the female goats at the same time will ensure kids are born at the same time and eases management.
  - This is a disease affecting animals and humans. Ask for your vet more information.

- **Introduce a male and vaccinate kids at weaning (3 months of age),**
  - all before the start of the rainy season.

- **Adult goats**

- **Feed supplements**

- **Fodder**

- **Why dairy goats?**

  - **Dairy goats are improved breeds bred for milk production. They are very different from local breeds and produce more milk - up to 12 litres more!**
  - **Goats multiply fast. They can kid twice a year and produce twins or triplets.**
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  - **Goat’s milk can be beneficial for people with stomach ulcers and is an excellent alternative for people who are allergic to cow’s milk.**
  - **Most dairy goats are owned by women thus supplementing their incomes.**
  - **Goats can consume grasses and other plants that cattle cannot.**

- **Getting started**

  **Step 1: Establish sources of fodder**

  - **If you have land for a whole year.** One option is to plant a hectare of Napier grass to provide the bulk feed and some high-protein fodder shrubs, such as Calliandra. Other feed includes maize starch; sweet potato vines, banana peels and weeds.

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

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  **Breeding**

  - **Identify a good breeding male goat with a high libido. Libido is observed by the position of the testicles, which has no deformities, with two functional teats and strong teeth and legs, good body condition and a soft udder, two well-developed testicles, strong feet and legs. These qualities will ensure successful mating.**

  **Deworming**

  - **Female goats should have good body condition and a soft udder, two functional teats and strong feet and legs. Age at first mating should be about 12–16 months.**

  **Vaccination**

  - **If your goat's grass with other goats should be vaccinated against the highly contagious disease grass pox (CPPV).**
  - **Vaccinate pregnant female against peste des petits ruminants (PPR) 2 to 3 weeks before kidding and vaccinate kids at 6 months of age.**

  **Reducing kid mortality**

  - **Ensure the newborn kid suckles immediately after birth.** The goat’s first milk helps protect the kid from disease, gets its digestive system working and is especially nutritious.

  **Controlling worms**

  - **Control for internal parasitism**

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• 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.
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• 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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