

## **Bottle Baby Instructions from Red Rooster Ranch**

<https://www.redroosternigerians.com/>

Type of milk used is a personal preference. The official and vet recommended replacement for fresh, raw goat milk is goat milk formula. However, many breeders have had horrible results (sick, weak and failure to thrive kids) using formula. Many suggest using milk in the following order of preference:

- Fresh, raw goat milk from a store, farmer or co op
- Store bought pasteurized goat milk
- Fresh, raw cow's milk from a store, farmer or co op
- Store bought, pasteurized WHOLE cow's milk
- Goat Formula

Amount per feeding is based 20-30% of body weight but babies have tiny stomachs. You may need to increase the number of bottles in a day to get enough milk consumed. The amount to feed is 3 to 4 oz of WARM milk per 5 lbs of body weight. Note that this means as the kids grow, their consumption per feeding will increase. Do not feed kids until they are full as serious complications can arise. Stick to the % guide and use good common sense.

Regular baby bottles can be used but most kids prefer a more natural shape and size like the Pritchard Teat. These screw onto small soda or tea bottles. We suggest using Teajava glass bottles.

<https://www.premier1supplies.com/p/pritchard-teat?criteria=nipples>

**Up to 4 weeks** – Every 4 hours (6 spread out feedings per 24 hours)

Below is an adjusted schedule with cluster feeding to be able to skip a 2 AM bottle. Small (under 3 lbs) and/or weak kids MUST have continuous feedings throughout the night.

Between 3-4 weeks, kids will start to be able to eat AND digest hay. Before 4 weeks they cannot digest and absorb solid food despite their attempts to nibble. Be sure to begin offering hay and/or soaked pellets and fresh water at 3 weeks.

Sample Schedule: 5 AM - 8 AM - 12 PM - 4 PM - 8 PM - 11 PM

**4 to 6 weeks** - Every 6 hours (4 bottles every 24 hours) or the below adjusted schedule:

Sample Schedule: 6 AM - 11 AM - 5 PM - 9 PM

Once kids are eating hay and drinking water regularly, you can be much more flexible with this schedule. They still require the same amount of milk per 24 hours, but it can be spaced as needed for your own scheduling needs.

**6 - 12 weeks** – Every 8 hours (3 bottles every 24 hours)

Sample Schedule: 11 AM - 5 PM - 9 PM

We simply drop the morning feeding since this is when they are getting fed their hay rations. If they are in with the herd, you will want to ensure that they are hungry and eat when there is plenty of food available. This will also (hopefully) help as you wean them off of bottles and prevent the early morning screaming routine as they will become accustomed to not getting a bottle the first time they see you in the morning.

**12 - 16+ weeks** – Every 12 hours (2 bottles per 24 hours). You will eventually go down to once per day until you completely wean them off of milk.

Sample Schedule: 11 AM - 9 PM

We leave the night feeding as their last as it is nice to send them to bed with a full belly. We find that stopping bottles cold turkey is easier on the kid. If they don't know if/when they are getting a bottle they will be more likely to cry and scream hoping for one. It only takes about 2-3 days for the crying to stop when bottles stop. Even then, offering treats and love will help.