Handling Kidding Season by Pat Bloomer

Pre-Kidding:

Give your does a booster of CD&T vaccine
Keep mineral mix w/selenium available or consider a Bo-Se shot (Vitamin E/ Selenium)
Gradually increase grain ration, depending on condition of does and quality of forage/hay

Check facilities:
Jug (small individual pen useful for helping does bond to kids) for does as necessary
Plan for smaller post-kidding pens
Warming box

Gather supplies:
7% iodine navel dip
paper towels or absorbent rags
Order Vitamin E/Selenium (Bo-Se) from a veterinarian for injecting kids to prevent white muscle disease
syringes (12cc & 3cc) and needles (20ga-1 inch)
bucket
soap (Ivory bar or flakes)
disinfectant scrub (Iodine, Betadine, etc.)
plastic sleeve or glove
collar
Procaine penicillin G/ or other antibiotics
feeding tube, syringe, jar
colostrum (have some frozen for emergencies or purchase a dried product)
50% dextrose or glucose solution (for weak kids)
pepto bismol (for mild cases of diarrhea)
baking soda (for acidosis or floppy kid syndrome)

official scrapie ID tags
barn sheet records
dehorner – if disbudding kids
tattooer if tattooing kids
CD&T vaccines
Wormer
Kidding signs: (Sometimes!)

- Bleating
- Standing apart at feeding
- Appropriating a "spot" and defending it
- Teats appear stiff and full
- Tail bone prominent / tendons on either side relaxed

Problems:

- All signs and nothing happening for hours
- Hard labor and nothing showing
- Tissue hanging and no labor or progress

Know how to assist with the following situations or skills. And know what to expect --

- Hypothermia
- Tube Feeding
- Dextrose / Glucose injection

Check for reason that intervention was necessary with kids and figure out how to prevent it in future years: Mastitis Rejection Illness, floppy kid condition, serious diarrhea