

Sheep and Goat Management



Set Goals:

- What are your goals?
- What do you want to produce?
- Can you market those products?
- Can you be profitable?

Nutrition/Health:

- Nutrition is costly and important
- Proper vaccinations and parasite management important for overall health

- Ewe/Doe Nutrition
- Timeline of ewe/doe
- Lamb/Kid Survival
- Feeding lambs/kids

Goals

- Do what you love, love what you do
- Have goals and priorities before you set out to buy/start an operation
- Use them to redirect/adjust

Nutrition

- Small Ruminants: _____ - _____ stomachs
- Largest Cost; be efficient
- Really, we are just controlling body condition
- Lifelong effects on the female and her offspring
- BCS: 1 to 5 scale; hit targets for improved efficiency
- Proper nutritional management can prevent health problems in the females and progeny

Health

- Vaccinations: annual boosters in females and breeding males for Clostridial C and D
 - Others to consider annually: Pi3, Vibrio, Chlamydia
 - Boost 30 d prior to breeding and boost pregnant females 3-4 weeks before parturition
 - Lambs/Kids: give CD-T 2 weeks prior to weaning and at weaning
- Parasites:
 - External: easy to treat and minor
 - Internal: main concern is _____ contortus
 - Main contributors to problems are overstocking, overgrazing, improper deworming strategies
 - Tests to determine: _____, _____ (1 to 5 scale; certification)
 - Goal is to have a manageable and responsive population of worms
- Things to Consider:
 - Do you currently run cattle or horses?
 - How can you adapt those facilities for sheep/goats?
 - What will you have to adapt?
 - Fencing (wool sheep vs. hair sheep vs. goats)
 - Equipment
 - Lambing/Kidding

- Predators

Resources

- Ration balancing software (Free):
 - **OSU Ration Software:** <http://agecon.okstate.edu/meatgoat/>
 - <https://msusheepration.montana.edu/>
- Record-Keeping:
 - <http://agecon.okstate.edu/meatgoat/record.asp>
- American Goat Federation: <https://americangoatfederation.org/>
- Genetic information: Nsip.org
- Lifetime Ewe Management: <http://www.lifetimewool.com.au>
- Purchase feeds on nutrient costs (APP)
 - <https://www.igrowlivestocktools.org/#!/calculators/feed-cost>
- WYO Ranch Tools: <https://uwyoextension.org/ranchtools/>
- KSU: <https://www.agmanager.info/decision-tools>
- Parasites: <https://www.wormx.info/>

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