

SDSU Extension

# Raising Sheep and Goats in your Backyard

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## Are you ready?

- Access to fresh feed and water
- Shelter, resting area
- Veterinarian
- Sufficient space and facilities
- Multiple animals

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## Determine your goals



- Wool?
- Meat?
- Dairy?
- Companion?
- Competition?
- Weed control?




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## Housing requirements

- Keep weather in mind
- Does/ewes – 20-25 sq ft/animal
  - Only space requirement- will not provide enough feed
- Housing structures
  - Does/ewes – 10-15 sq ft/animal
  - Open or enclosed
- Fencing!
  - Chain link, woven wire, hog panels

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## Feeding your sheep/goats

- Rumen: converts low quality feedstuffs into high quality food and fiber
- Sheep and goats consume ~3% of their body weight daily
- Feed for the stage of production
- Feed storage


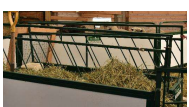
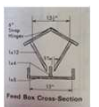

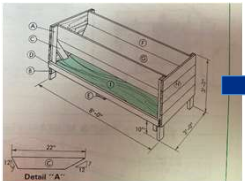



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### Feed options

- Sheep and goats consume ~3% of their body weight daily
  - 100 lb goat → 3 lb feed/day
- Hay
  - Grass, alfalfa
- Grain
  - Mixed ration, corn
- Grazing
- Supplementation
  - Mineral, vitamins
  - Specific for your type of animal

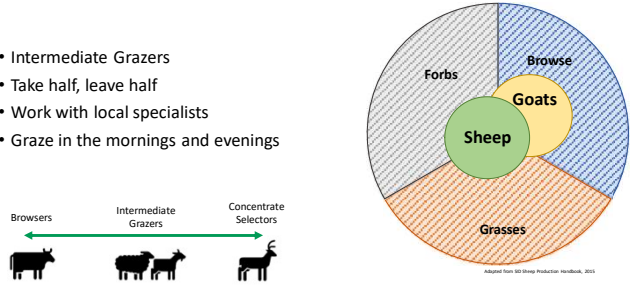


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### Goat vs Sheep Grazing

- Intermediate Grazers
- Take half, leave half
- Work with local specialists
- Graze in the mornings and evenings





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### Kidding/lambing


#### Birthing Jugs

- ~4'x4'
- Feeder up off the ground
- Temperature kept above freezing
- Kept in jug a minimum of 48 hr
- Colostrum

#### Supplies

- Heat lamps
- Iodine
- Electrolyte supplement
- Disinfectant (animal and human use)
- Thermometer
- Vaccinations – C&D
- Ear tags and applicator
- Docking/castration equipment

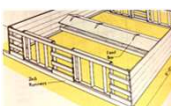



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### Post-parturition to weaning

- Creep feed – supplemental grain for lambs/kids
- Greatest nutrient requirement for ewes
  - ~6-8 weeks of lactation
- Weaning – 90 to 120 days





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### Shearing

- Keeps sheep cool and healthy
- Once or twice a year
- Before lambing or before summer
- Skirting: taking out the undesirable parts (dirt, hair, hay)
  - Increases the value of wool



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### Marketing your product


- Get to know people in your area with similar products
- Increasing demand for local product
- Online opportunities
  - Facebook
  - Website
  - Etsy, Ebay, Etc.
- Booth space – local fairs
- Reputation is key!



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## What's it going to cost?




<p><b>Expenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ewes/does → \$250</li> <li>Rams/bucks → \$300                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breeding fee?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Feeding → ~\$200 per animal</li> <li>Startup:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fencing → \$1200</li> <li>Housing → \$2,000 – \$10,000</li> <li>Supplies → \$500 - \$2,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Income</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lambs 60-90 lb → \$2.50/lb                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70 lb → \$175/lamb</li> </ul> </li> <li>Kid goats 40-55 lb → \$1.50/lb                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 lb → \$75/kid</li> </ul> </li> <li>Wool mid-grade → \$3.00/lb                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 lb → \$30/ewe</li> </ul> </li> <li>Meat? Dairy? Other products?</li> </ul>
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## Questions??



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mail:	fax:	email:
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