

Getting Started with Goats

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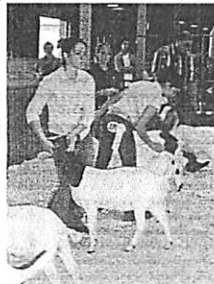
How to Get Yer Goat:

- Establish WHY you want to get goats in your life...
 - “provide kids with responsibility”
 - “produce my own food”
 - “land management”
 - “they’re cute!”
 - “I want to work with fiber”
 - “farm business that I can work”



What is your goal?

- Meat
- Breeding Stock
- Milk
- Fiber
- Showing
- Research
- Pets/agritourism



Who will be involved?

- Only you?
- Family?
- Hired labor?
- Vacations/time away?
- Further processors?

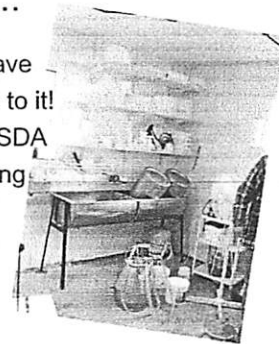


What is your plan?

- Business planning
 - Search for business plan on line and self educate
 - CCE workshops
 - Seminars
 - Courses
 - Hire a consultant

Keep in mind....

- Your idea might have regulations attached to it!
- Ag and Markets/USDA
- Local laws for selling
- Butchering?
- Insurance
- Taxes



Every good plan also evaluates

- Are you keeping your financial records?
- Are your customers satisfied?
- For the time you spend, are you getting a satisfactory ROI?
- Determine culling factors for animals
 - Traits of economic importance
 - Benchmarks that make her outstanding or "must go"

Actually getting your goat(s)

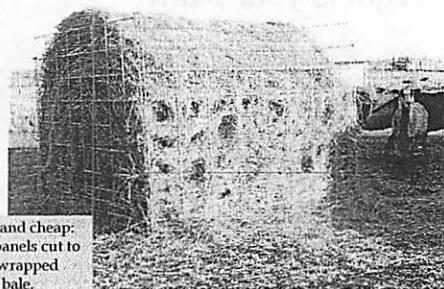
- When to get them
- Where to get them
- What to get
- What NOT to get....
- Find a mentor! Sign up for a breed/use listserve, lurk if necessary...



Practical management - feed

- Reduce waste!
- Less waste means more feed in animals, less used as bedding/manure pack
- Make it easy and quick to feed animals
- Separate feeders for hay and grain?
- Enough space for all to eat?
- Keep babies out? Feet out? Don't trap animals with horns?

- What kind of problems does this lead to?



Simple and cheap:
Cattle panels cut to
size or wrapped
around bale,
fastened with quick
snaps

But, you can have problems with animals with horns, or heads too big. Might need to cut holes. Holes, however, allow lambs/kids to enter, or ones with horns to get stuck!



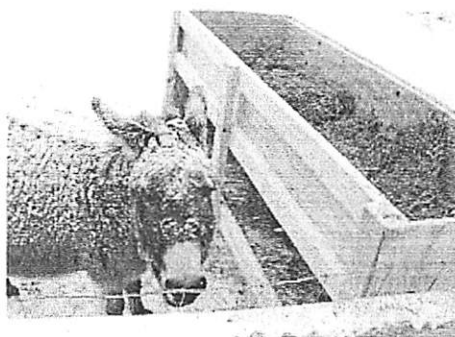
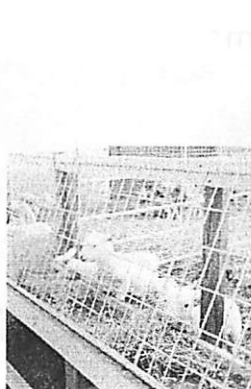
Build Your Own Feeders

Double-sided or single-sided using Premier's panels!



Premier 1 has plans on their website. They use the 4x4 hole panels. These can be sourced locally. Can use as fenceline (build one half) or build both sides and project in to pen and toss hay/grain from outside pen

Build legs taller and put a standing rail on for goats; should keep kids out. Barrier ends so adults can't crawl under. Makes a safe zone for kids/lambs



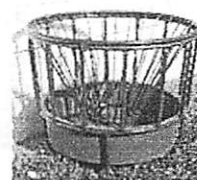
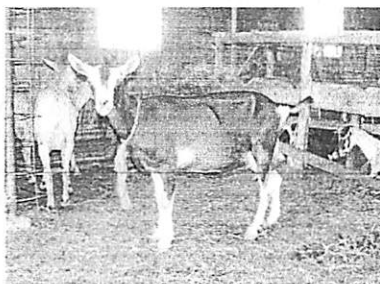
Wooden structures do weaken over time

Animal wear and tear

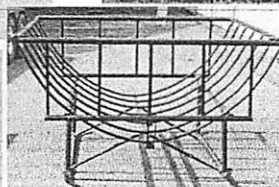
Construction materials

Repair

Chewing! (what does this tell you?)



Townsend Feeders: Rugged construction, different presentation of feeds. More expensive, but should last many years.





Even young children can feed without worry of them getting hurt by grain "hogs" with an adequate fenceline feeder.

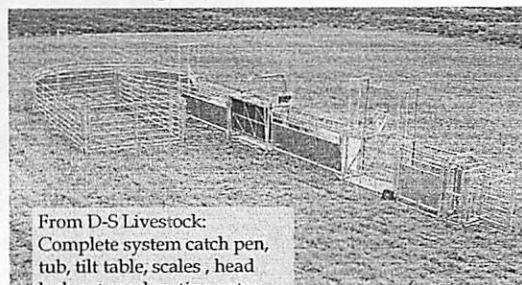
Are you feeding a proper ration for the stages of animals?

- Concentrate supplement on pasture
- Concentrate supplement to poor quality forages
- Mineral/Vitamin supplement?
- Protein lick block?
- Great resource for balancing ration (if you can do Excel) Ration Evaluator at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/feed.html>

Facilities

- Animal needs
- Animal and caretaker comfort
- Access to feed and water
- Cleaning?
- Catching/Birthing/
Treatment/Isolation of
special needs animals

Handling systems



From D-S Livestock:
Complete system catch pen,
tub, tilt table, scales, head
lock gate and sorting gates.
Yes, you will spend \$ on this!

Or you can go really cheap...



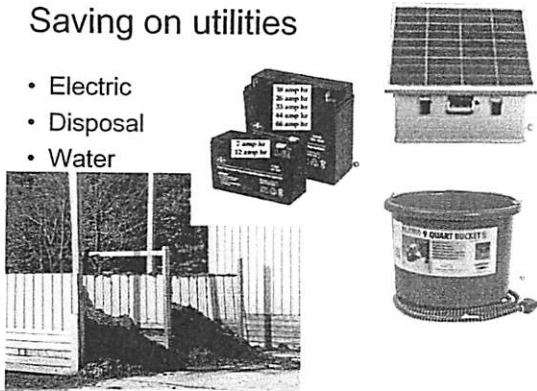
This was a small stock trailer and cattle/hog panels connected with snaps. Very portable! Also flimsy, with some "holes" so won't work for all animals at all times.

Breeding

- Short period of birthing = short period of breeding
- Can consider repro tools like CIDR/lutalyse (both need your veterinarian's approval!)
- Raddle paint to know if breeding accomplished!
- Source for breeding males = your management style/goals
- Can you "share" males with others? (either in same season, or when you are done)

Saving on utilities

- Electric
- Disposal
- Water



Vet and Meds....

- Have your vet in the loop! VCPR in place!
- Have a mentor to ask questions/help
- Prepare for challenges that are normally expected
- Check for expiration dates, adequate supplies of products needed BEFORE you have major events (birth, processing, deworming, breeding, etc)

Products I keep on hand...



Consult with your vet for...



And don't be without:

