


### Four Types of Herds


- Show Animals
- Breeding Stock
- Commercial Animals
- Junk

### Show Animals



- Not a rich Texan and can't keep a separate show string?
- Our show goats come out of breeding herds they are animals with "Fancy Points"
- Pick out the ones that look "show ready today" and then cross our fingers 😊

### Breeding Stock



- Goats correct in conformation
- Goats with muscling
- Goats with size and scale
- Goats with eye appeal
- Buy the best genetics we can afford

## Breeding Stock (Con't)



We buy the best buck we can afford – fewer does and a better buck ultimately lead to herd improvement

- Breed true
- Live through kidding
- Plenty of milk to raise twins and triplets
- Hill Place Farm kidding average past 17 years: 224%

Why important: Fancy kids (Selection Grade 1) bring higher dollars

## Commercial Stock



- Our commercial kids come out of our breeding herd
- Those that won't make good breeders go to market
- Almost all our kids that go to market are Selection Grade 1 "Fancy kids"

## Junk Stock

Buy Junk ... Get Junk ... it is That Simple!

- There is always a reason why the goat is cheap and it isn't because the seller wants to give you a break
- More breeders who bought quantity over quality have gone out of business
- All they bought was disease and trouble
- In the long run better genetics will give you more market animals



Not a Hill Place Farm Goat 😊

## Care and Maintenance

You can have the best genetics available but if you don't care for your animals they won't produce for you. Seems to be two schools of thought:

- Goats are domesticated animals and need care
- Goats are just like whitetail deer – throw them out to pasture and don't worry about them
- We care for our goats to the best of our ability and pocketbook
- Better to take care of a few well than a lot poorly





## Care and Maintenance

- Our goats go on pasture as soon the pastures are dry enough
- We give our goats the best browse (first) and pastures (second) and rotate as needed (5-10 acre plots)
- We give fresh water daily – if it is dirty it is changed
- Goats have access to minerals and salt in the pastures
- Each pasture has a three-sided run in shed
- We check on our goats twice a day
- Run Great Pyrenees with goats
- We keep our goats in the pastures as long possible in fall



## Care & Maintenance

- Late fall goats are brought back to barn
- When in the barn hay and grain as necessary
- 16% protein – the best ration you can afford (a lot of cheap ingredients are not readily absorbed)
- greenest leafy hay we can afford
- Goat minerals – not sheep minerals
- Loose salt
- 20% Sweetlix protein block
- Selenium deficient across NE – max allowed by law
- When in barn – forced exercise - does, bucks and kids



## Care & Maintenance

### Pregnant Does – our Bread and Butter

Late stage pregnancy we keep a close eye

Selenium/Vita E booster

If act ketotic – tested than treated immediately

If the goat goes off feed – grain is withdrawn and poorer quality hay is given – does not take as much energy to digest lower proteins

Exercise is CRITICAL!!



## Care & Maintenance

- Kid out in January and February
- Less parasite problems
- Have a great start before warm weather
- First time kidders (if possible go in jugs)
- When necessary we use heat lamps



## Care & Maintenance

When kids leave jug we provide a warm box for them to hang out in if they wish

Note that there is no top and has wire to keep moms out!

Lamps are from premier and a lot more fire proof



## A Few Words About Marketing

Our breeding & show stock are sold off farm & at our annual production sale in Syl



We guarantee all of our bucks and does will breed

Our market animals go to New Holland

Small auction houses are a crap shoot

Pool animals and share costs to New Holland for higher dollars

Mark each farms goats with a different color to keep sales separate