How We Do Things At Hill Place Farm
Managing Breeding Stock, Commercial Stock and Show Animals

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

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

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**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**

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**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 Syv

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