The kids
Beth Feldman-McCannon
What are you going to do with the kids?
16’ * 16’ divided into two pens for 8 kids each with a 4*8 hutch, divided in half to form a 4*4 shelter for each pen and a 4’ gate for each pen. Facilities moved every year and kids taken out as soon as weaned.
Raising suckling kids

- Usually targeting the Easter market
- When do they need to be born?
- What does this require?
Kidding in cold weather -

Requires more labor and facilities
Must invest in barns with good ventilation and no drafts
Housing/pasturing – minimal exposure to feces

Typically requires a major investment in fencing – EQUIP or AMA grants?
Organizational skills help save time – can you organize tasks in modules
Organize things so that you can get your milk ready easily and quickly.
Warming box:

• Maintain grafteree “natural” suckling drive by stomach tube feeding (24-48 h limit)

• Forced air heating (inexpensive electric heater)

• Compartments

• Wire mesh flooring

Pasturing is required for Organic Production
Pasturing Goats

- Goats learn their eating habits from the herd
- Goats can eat a wide variety of plants from trees to conventional grasses and tend to be very versatile eaters
- Goats can not utilize mature hi-fiber forage well
- Goats are very susceptible to internal parasites – most parasites in bottom 2 inches of vegetation
- Few goats will naturally paw through snow to get grasses
Special needs of lactating dairy goats?
GOATS & WORMS - Does lose immunity to worms while lactating

In a management intensive system, when do we usually have them lactating?
Use “clean or safe” pastures

What is a truly safe pasture?

1. Pasture becomes infectious at about 5 to 14 days. Larva can survive up to 6 months but worm population does drop sharply after 55 to 70 days.
Move animals fast enough to prevent infection from feces deposited during current grazing period (autoinfection).

- Takes 3–5 days to hatch at 77–79°F, 15–30 days to hatch at 50–52°F. Often ~5 to 14 days from egg to L3.

- Play it safe with 4 day (wet, warm) to 7 day (cooler, drier) grazing duration. Move earlier if pasture getting too short – i.e. 3 inches.

- Allow a long enough rest period that there is substantial L3 die off before animals return to graze. (60 – 105 days)
If you rest a pasture too long, what happens to nutrition?
3 PHASES OF PASTURE GROWTH

PHASE I
LEAFY IMMATURE

PHASE II
LEAFY MATURE

PHASE III
STEMMY OVER-MATURE

NUMBER OF DAYS GROWTH

LOW
HIGH

Q U A L I T Y
Q U A N T I T Y

SPRING SUMMER

0 5 10 15 20 25
0 10 20 30 40 50
Browsing —
Goats love browse
If trying to sustain browse:

- Don’t browse it early in the season before the root reserves exhausted from putting out spring growth have been replenished,

- Don’t browse it late in the season after leaves have fallen when goats will tend to girdle trunks and branches,

- Don’t defoliate it more than ~66%,

- Don’t return onto it before leaf growth has recovered
Unfortunately, goats are susceptible to the deer worm