

# **The kids**

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# 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 grafter “natural” suckling drive by stomach tube feeding (24-48 h limit)
- Forced air heating (inexpensive electric heater)
- Compartments
- Wire mesh flooring



<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/sheep/pdf/lambsurvival.pdf>



**Pasturing is required  
for Organic Production**

# Pasturing Goats

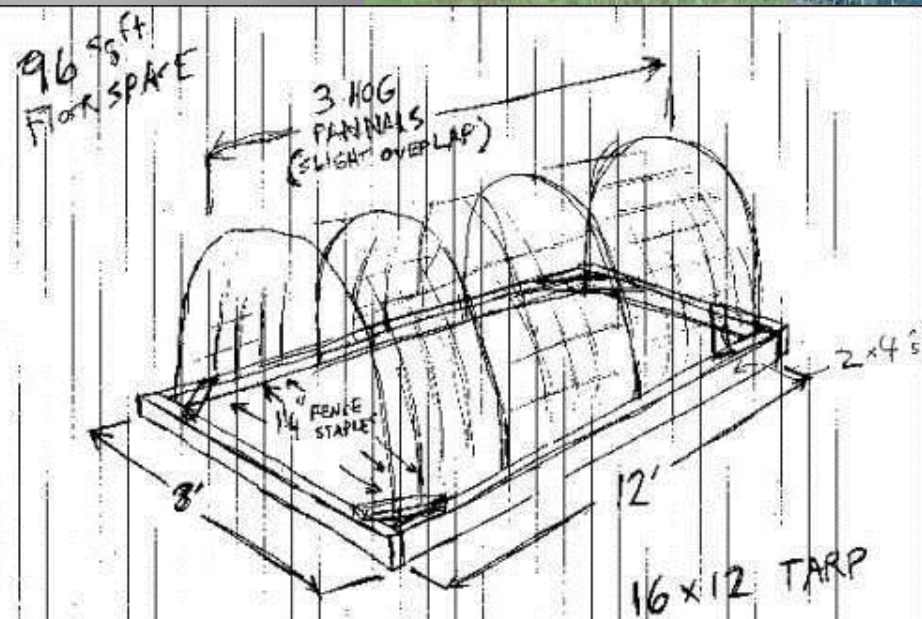
- ▣ Goats learn their eating habits from the herd
- ▣ Goats can eat a wide variety of plants from trees to conventional grasses and tend to be very versatile eaters
- ▣ Goats can not utilize mature hi-fiber forage well
- ▣ Goats are very susceptible to internal parasites – most parasites in bottom 2 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.

# Evasive Grazing

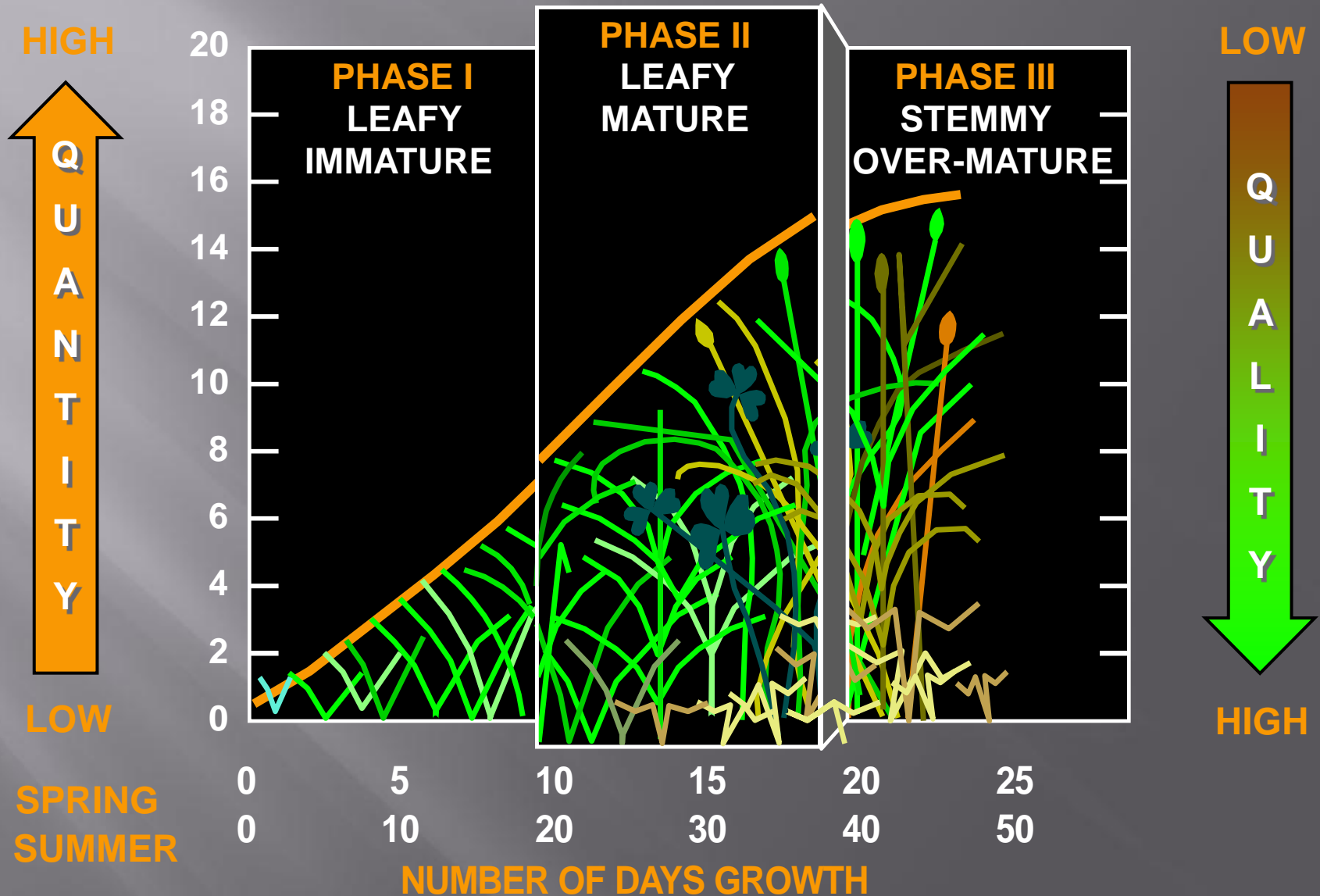
- ▣ Move animals fast enough to prevent infection from feces deposited during current grazing period (autoinfection).
- ▣ **Takes 3-5 days to hatch at 77-79°F, 15-30 days to hatch at 50-52°F. Often ~5 to 14 days from egg to L3.**
- ▣ **Play it safe with 4 day (wet, warm) to 7 day (cooler, drier) grazing 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



# 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

