

# CARING FOR OUR GOATS



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# Introduction

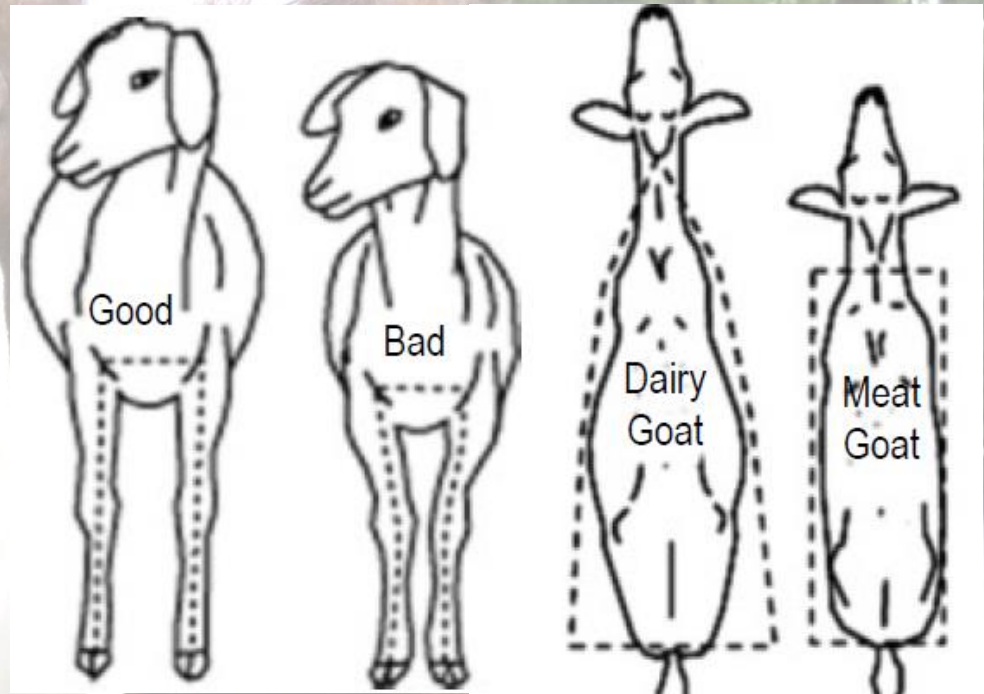
The background of the slide features two goats in a natural, wooded environment. The goat in the foreground is a brown and white breed with large, dark, curved horns, looking directly at the camera. Behind it, another goat of a similar breed is visible, looking slightly to the left. The background consists of green trees and foliage, creating a soft, natural setting.

## GOATS

- One of the first animals to be **domesticated by humans**, about **9,000 years ago**. Today, there are some **200 different breeds** of goats that produce a variety of products, including milk, meat, and fiber (mohair and cashmere). Worldwide, goat meat production is higher than meat production from cattle or hogs.

# Selection

- When selecting animals for your herd you must **first decide what traits are important to you** and what the animals will be used for.
- Select an animal that:
  - **Has a shiny coat**
  - **Is lively**
  - **Can move easily**
  - **Has good disposition**
  - **Is in proper condition**
  - **Produces firm manure**
  - **Has well-shaped udder and teats (dairy)**



# What do goats need?

Basic necessities of a goat?

1. **Proper shelter**
2. **Adequate food**
3. **Parasite Control**
4. **Social interaction**
5. **Healthy immune system**



# Shelter

**Goat shelters do not need to be expensive.**

- Three sided shelters - protect the goats from wind and precipitation are adequate.
- Calf hutches and even large dog boxes provide sufficient shelter for goats.
- **Bedding:** straw, shredded paper, shavings.
- **Space requirements:** 15 square feet of bedded area / goat
- Goats like to sleep with their heads uphill
- Cold, damp drafts - will decimate a group of young goats more quickly than any other single factor.

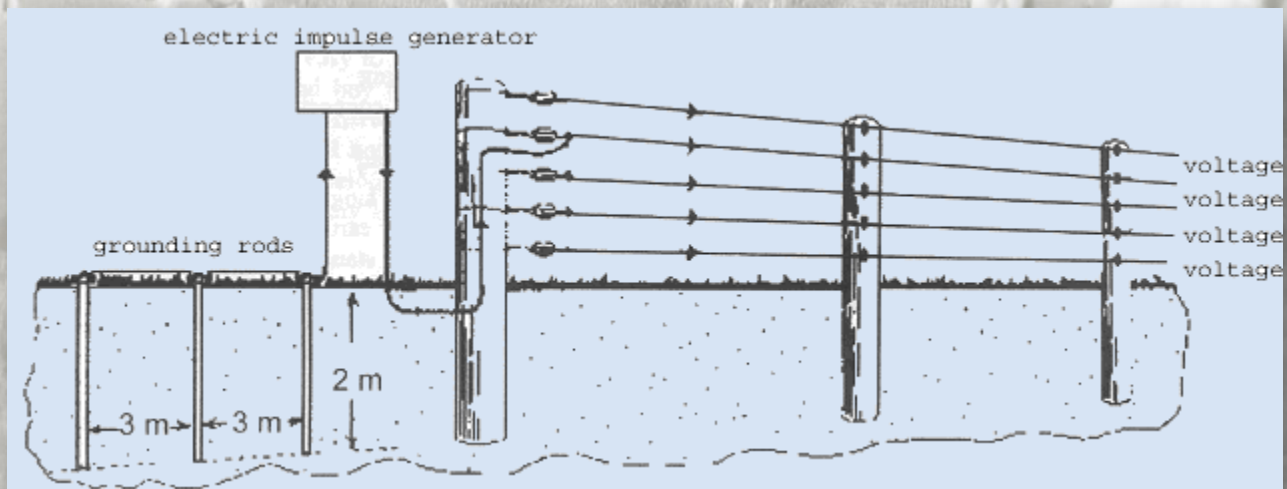


# Shelter

- Goat fencing can be any variety of systems or a combination of several systems.
- **Two fence system:**
  - **Exterior fence** (perimeter)
    - The perimeter fence will keep your goat in and predators out.
  - **Interior fence** (cross fence).

# Goat Fencing

- A permanent goat fence should have four strands of electric wire.
    - Bottom strand should be no more than 6 inches off the ground.
    - Next strand should be 12-14 inches off the ground.
    - Third strand should be 18-22 inches off the ground.
    - Fourth strand should be 30-34 inches off the ground.
- Many goat owners will electrify only 2 strands and will then alternate electrified strands to keep the goat from learning how to escape.



# Goat Fencing

## Short term fencing (Cross fencing)

- Can be as simple as one electrified strand of wire to a more complex arrangement using livestock panels or net fencing.
- Remember goats love to climb.
- You must have the fence anchored well into the ground to keep the goats from pushing the fence over.





# Nutrition



- Each goat needs to consume **3 to 5% of its body weight in dry matter daily.**
- Dry matter is a measure of how much of the feed is actually comprised of solids.
  - For example, 100 lbs of fresh forage will contain a dry matter basis of 5%, this means that.
    - Only 5 lbs will be nutrients that the goat will consume.

# Nutrition

A background image showing two goats in a stable or barn setting, eating hay. The goats are positioned on the left and right sides of the frame, with their heads lowered towards the ground. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is muted.

Example,

- A goat weights 40 lbs. You just purchased 30 lbs of high quality alfalfa hay which is 12% moisture.
- How many pounds of feed should the goat eat?
  - Answer:  $(40 \text{ lbs} \times 0.03) =$ 
    - **1.2 lbs** of feed on a dry matter basis.
- How much dry matter is in the hay?
  - Answer:  $(30 \text{ lbs} \times 0.12) - 30 \text{ lbs} =$ 
    - **26 lbs** of hay.

# Nutrition

- Dietary requirements will be determined by growth stage.
  - %CP – percentage of crude protein
  - % TDN – percentage of total digestible nutrients.

Test the forage that is growing in your pasture to see if the goats are getting the right nutrition from your paddocks.

**TABLE 2. DIETARY PROTEIN AND ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF GOATS\*.**

Class of Goat	Avg. feed intake/day, lb <sup>1</sup>	% Crude Protein	% TDN <sup>2</sup>
Growing doe, 45 lb <sup>a</sup>	2.4	8.8	56
Growing male kid, 66 lb <sup>b</sup>	2.9	9.0	57
Yearling doe, 90 lb <sup>c</sup>	4.6	10.0	56
3 yr. old doe, 110 lb <sup>d</sup>	5.0	11.7	69
Mature buck, 220 lb <sup>e</sup>	5.3	9.0	55
Dairy doe, 150 lb <sup>f</sup>	7.5	11.6	71

\*Approximations; based on dry matter in the feeds eaten

<sup>1</sup>Calculated on basis of the dry matter in the feeds eaten

<sup>2</sup>TDN = Total Digestible Nutrients

<sup>a</sup>Growing at the rate of .25 lb/day

<sup>b</sup>Growing at the rate of .33 lb/day

<sup>c</sup>Yearling female, last trimester of pregnancy and growing

<sup>d</sup>Milking 2 qt/day - enough for twins

<sup>e</sup>Not gaining weight, moderate activity

<sup>f</sup>Nubian, milking 1 gallon/day of 4.0% butterfat

Source: Pinkerton and Pinkerton, 2000

# Nutrition

A photograph of two goats looking over a wooden fence. The goat on the right is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The goat on the left is slightly behind and to the side, looking towards the left. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

- In Florida, **one acre of pasture** will be sufficient space to house **4 to 6 goats**.
- Rotational grazing vs. continuous grazing:
  - **Rotational will be more intensive.**
  - **Will allow your forage to rest and grow.**
  - **Will allow nutrients to be distributed throughout the pasture.**
  - **Allow each paddock to rest for a minimum of 21 days.**

# Water

- **Always** provide a source of water that is:
  - Clean
  - Fresh
  - Cool
  - Plentiful
- **DO NOT** allow goats to drink from ponds or rivers.



# Exercise

- Goats need plenty of exercise.
- They are great climbers.
- Provide them with access to woods.
- Exercise will help develop muscles as well as shape their temperament.
  - Walk your goat with a halter for at least 30 minutes per day.
  - You will develop a bond with the animal that will help you in the ring.



# Attention

Goat project is for the child and **not** for the parent.

- Tend to your animal twice/day. Early in the morning and late in the evening.
- This is the only way that you will be able to monitor your animal and tend to its needs.

# Attention

## Body Condition Scoring

- Your goal in feeding your animals:
  1. Meet their nutritional requirements (economically)
  2. Keep them in a productive condition.
- Body condition scoring evaluates the body fat reserves of your goat.
  - Evaluates the effectiveness of your feeding program.
- **Scores range from 1 to 5**
- Determined by looking at the tail-head and loin areas.





# Body Condition Scoring

Score	Spinous process	Rib Cage	Loin eye
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BCS 1  
Very thin

Easy to see and feel, sharp

Easy to feel and can feel under

No fat covering

BCS 2  
Thin

Easy to feel, but smooth

Smooth, slightly rounded, need to use slight pressure to feel

Smooth, even fat cover

BCS 3  
Good Condition

Smooth and rounded

Smooth, even feel

Smooth, even fat cover

BCS 4  
Fat

Can feel with firm pressure, no points can be felt

Individual ribs can not be felt, but can still feel indent between ribs

Thick fat

BCS 5  
Obese

Smooth, no individual vertebra can be felt

Individual ribs can not be felt. No separation of ribs felt

Thick fat covering, may be lumpy and "jiggly"



# Body Condition Scoring

Body Score 1



Body Score 2



Body Score 3



Body Score 4



Body Score 5



# Health Concerns

- Adequate shelter and good nutrition are extremely important.
- Treat your goat as a goat, not as a cow.
- Gastrointestinal parasites are the main health concern in Florida.
  - FAMACHA Card every 2 weeks.
  - Fecal analysis.



# Health Concerns

## Vaccines:

- **Check with the local veterinarian** for vaccination recommendation.

## Recommended Vaccination Program

Enterotoxemia and tetanus – *Clostridium perfringens* types C, D, + Tetanus Toxoid in one vaccine

Adult Males

Once a year

Breeding Females

Once a year (4 to 6 weeks before kidding), or twice a year: 4 to 6 weeks before breeding, then 4 to 6 weeks before kidding

Kids

Week 8, then booster on week 12

# Hoof Trimming

- Check your animal's feet regularly.
- Hoof trimming is easy when you don't let the hooves over-grow.

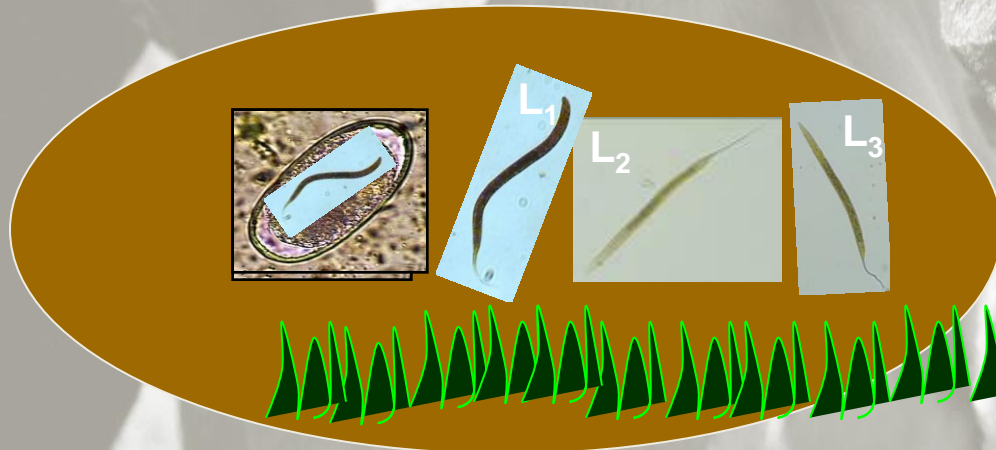


# Parasite Management

- The biggest challenge for the goat industry in Florida is called: ***Haemonchus contortus*** or barberpole worm.
- Monitor your animals on a regular basis.



# Life Cycle of GI Worms



# Opportunities

- Goat projects can open the doors for **many opportunities**.
  - Start a small herd.
  - Will teach you:
    - To be responsible
    - To be organized
    - To be fearless
    - To be perseverant



# Opportunities

A group of goats in a field. In the foreground, a white goat with large, floppy ears is looking towards the camera. It is wearing a dark collar with a small tag. Behind it, several other goats are visible, some looking in different directions. The background is a bright, slightly blurred field.

- Many doors open:
  - Start your own herd.
  - Make some revenue off of goat kids.
  - Co-graze with other species such as:
    - Cows
    - Horses
    - Sheep

# Ask for Help

- Call the Extension office or the Fair if you are having trouble with your animals.
  - Extension office: 352-671-8400
  - Email: [jonael@ufl.edu](mailto:jonael@ufl.edu)
- Contact your 4-H or FFA leaders.
- Read the labels if you are using medications for your animals.
- More information:  
<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/SmRuminantProdConf2012.shtml>

# Upcoming Events

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Marion  
COUNTY  
EXTENSION

**Click Here to register**

## 2013 Small Ruminant Production Conference

Nov. 6, 2013 at the  
UF/IFAS Extension Marion County

2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UF/IFAS Extension Marion County and the Central Florida Livestock Agent's Group invites you to our second Small Ruminant Production Conference. The program will focus on goat and sheep health, nutrition, production efficiency and management for your herd or flock.

### Topics include:

- Sheep and Goat Nutritional Requirements
- Common Diseases for Small Ruminants
- Winter Forage Alternatives
- Multispecies Grazing
- Toxic Plants
- Hoof Trimming Demonstration



<https://www.eventbrite.com/event/83676488>

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Registration form is attached.

## 2013 Small Ruminant Production Conference

Marion County Extension Recreational Hall  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala FL 34470

### Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
9 a.m.	Registration	
9:30 a.m.	Introductions and housekeeping instructions	
10 a.m.	<i>Sheep and Goat Nutritional Requirements</i>	Dr. Matt Hersom, Animal Nutrition Specialist, UF/IFAS Extension
10:30 a.m.	<i>Metabolic Issues of Small Ruminants</i>	Dr. Robert Purvis, Florida A & M University
11 a.m.	Break	
11:10 a.m.	<i>Culling Decisions to Improve Your Herd or Flock</i>	Mark Shuffitt, Livestock Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County
11:40 a.m.	<i>Winter Forage Alternatives</i>	Yoana Newman, Forage Specialist, UF/IFAS Extension
12:10 a.m.	Lunch	
1 p.m.	<i>Multispecies Grazing: Incorporating Small Ruminants to the Mix</i>	Joe Walter, Livestock Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County
1:30 p.m.	Common Toxic Plants That can Harm Small Ruminants	Dennis Mudge, Livestock Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Orange-Seminole County
2 p.m.	Guardians for our Small Ruminants	Mrs. Lisa Dreggors, Small Farmer, Marion County
2:30 p.m.	Break	
	<b>Demonstrations</b>	
2:45 p.m.	Fencing for Small Ruminants	Ed Jennings, Livestock Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County
3:15 p.m.	Hoof Trimming Demonstration	Jonael Bosques, Small Farms Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County
4 p.m.	Small Ruminant Farmer Roundtable Trish Strawn, Growing Synergy, LLC	Ashley Fluke, Livestock Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County
5 p.m.	Adjourn	