

Meat Sheep Production

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Assess your resources

- Land
- Buildings
- Fencing
- Capital
- Management Skills
- Labor
- Proximity to markets
- Transportation
- Access to shearers and feeds



Determine your goals

- Part time
- Full time
- Support a family



Educate yourself

- <http://www.sheepgoatmarketing.info/>
- Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets
- Pipestone
- SID Sheep Production Handbook
- Understand the USDA livestock reports
- Sheep and Goat Marketing Calendar
- Cornell Website



Develop a Marketing Plan and Work backwards

- Selling finished lambs weighing 90 to 120 lbs at livestock auctions or direct marketing
- Selling hothouse lambs – 40 to 60 lbs at wholesale buyers or at livestock auctions
- Ethnic trade – direct marketing from home or at livestock auctions (70-95 lbs)



Select a breed that matches your marketing goals

- Frame size and confirmation
- Out of season breeding
- Prolificacy
- Woolled vs Hair sheep



Different Methods of Marketing

- Farmers Markets
- Livestock auctions
- Ethnic Holidays
- On farm sales
- Wholesale accounts



Getting Started – The Shepherd's Calendar

- Gestation – 147 days, Breed at 1 yr to lamb at 1.5 years
- Prior to breeding – shear, trim hooves, worm by famacha, condition
- Breeding time - release rams
- Gestation – pasture (non red clover), water and minerals
 - 6 weeks prior to lambing: convert rumen over with grain, Psitacci vaccine for first time lambers
- Lambing time – jugs, mixing pens, grafting box, processing lambs





Getting Started – The Shepherd's Calendar

- Lactation – clean barn, lime for drying
- Weaning – creep feed
- Raising lambs – coccidiosis
- Marketing & transporting sheep and lambs







The Harris Farm Model

- May breeding for October lambing
- October breeding for March lambing
- No border collies or guard animals
- Pasture ewes and barn feed the lambs



Questions and Discussion

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