

LET'S BUY SOME GOATS!

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WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BUYING GOATS?

Have proper facilities for goats!
What is needed?

**DO NOT BUY A GOAT UNTIL YOU
HAVE PROPER FACILITIES FOR GOATS!**

FACILITIES..

❖ FENCING

- ❖ Net Wire
 - ❖ At least 48" tall
 - ❖ Barbed wire top/ bottom
 - ❖ Proper wire spacing
- ❖ Electric Fencing
 - ❖ High maintenance
 - ❖ Good temporary/rotation usage
- ❖ Combinations of net and electric are best



Remember, if you can throw water through it, a goat can go through it! Never discount good fencing systems!

Facilities..

- ❖ Corrals
 - ❖ 5-6 feet tall
 - ❖ Use heavy net wire or 4 X 4 welded wire
- ❖ Chutes
 - ❖ 12" wide, smooth sides, slightly curved
 - ❖ Well lighted
 - ❖ Movement uphill
- ❖ Sheds
 - ❖ 5 sq. ft. per animal
 - ❖ Two sides minimum



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BUYING GOATS?

Learn basic animal husbandry skills!
Can you keep your goats alive?

DO NOT BUY A GOAT UNTIL YOU
KNOW YOU CAN MANAGE GOATS!

KEEPING GOATS ALIVE...

- ❖ Nutrition/Feeding
- ❖ Health Program
- ❖ Disease Management
- ❖ Breeding/Reproduction
- ❖ Forages/Pastures



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BUYING GOATS?

Know the kind of goat best for you!
What breed of goat do you need?

DO NOT BUY ANY GOAT UNTIL YOU HAVE A PRODUCTION DIRECTION!

Types of Meat Goats...



- ❖ Boer and their crosses are the most popular and well known in the U.S.
- ❖ Kiko and their crosses are gaining in popularity daily
- ❖ Savanna, Myotonic, Angora, and their crosses are part of the landscape
- ❖ Spanish type goats are starting to make a comeback

Remember, there is as much difference within a breed of goats as between breeds of goats!

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BUYING GOATS?

Have a financial plan!
How do you pay for goats?

DO NOT BUY A GOAT WITHOUT REASONABLE ASSURANCE THE GOATS WILL PAY FOR THEMSELVES!

BUYING GOATS...

- ❖ Review and establish a real time budget for your operation
- ❖ Place limitations on your investment
- ❖ Secure cash rather than borrowed money if at all possible
 - ❖ Lending institutions are not favorable to loaning money for goat operations
 - ❖ Losses are a real possibility in the industry



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BUYING GOATS?

Know your limitations!

Can you manage a lot of goats?

DO NOT BUY A LOAD OF GOATS UNTIL YOU FIRST MANAGE A FEW GOATS!

LIMITS YOU MUST CONSIDER...

- ❖ Your age, health, and longevity
- ❖ Proper land and facilities on hand or attainable
- ❖ Labor availability or need
- ❖ Sustainable forage systems
- ❖ Control of parasites
- ❖ Other resources available

CAN YOU KEEP 'EM ALIVE?



Always Cover Your Backside!

Know how to survive if things start going wrong...

Know your limits...



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BUYING GOATS?

Figure out your market!
How will you sell your goats?

**DO NOT BUY A GOAT UNTIL YOU
HAVE A MARKETING PLAN IN PLACE!**

Marketing Options...

- ❖ Direct to Consumers
 - ❖ Live Off the Farm
- ❖ Through Marketing Channels
 - ❖ Special Sales
 - ❖ Traders
 - ❖ Local Sale Barn
 - ❖ Local Processing
 - ❖ Marketing Cooperative
 - ❖ Licensed Inspected Plant



Identify a market and know you will be able to sell your production at a profit before purchasing goats!!!!

THE BOTTOM LINE...

- Build Adequate Facilities-
- Develop proper husbandry skills-
- Identify the type and kind of goats to raise-
- Secure All Funding (Cash Preferred)-
- Start small and grow your operation to match your skill set and time constraints-
- Identify and Secure a Market-

BEFORE Buying the first Goat!



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

BUDGETS-PUBLICATIONS-VIDEOS-POWER POINTS