

Small Ruminant Checksheet

Quick Start

These questions are bottom-line questions about components of your farm. If your answer to a question is “yes,” proceed to the following question. If an answer is “no,” mark the question and investigate options for strengthening that component by turning to the relevant section of the Small Ruminant Sustainability Checksheet, which is found on the page listed in parentheses.

- YES NO
- ### Forages
- Inventory (page 8)
 - ▶ Do you have a grazing system plan that ensures you are grazing in the most efficient manner possible?
 - Utilization (page 8)
 - ▶ Do you have the right number of animals on your farm?
 - ▶ Do you have adequate forage year round?
 - ▶ Are you making full use of your available forage?

- ### Livestock
- Nutrition (page 10)
 - ▶ Do your animals appear to be lively, healthy, and vigorous?
 - ▶ Do your animals have appropriate condition (fat cover) for the stage of production they are in?
 - Observation (page 13)
 - ▶ Do you check your animals daily?
 - ▶ Do you know the look and behavior of a healthy animal?
 - ▶ Do you act promptly when you observe an animal that is not acting “right”?
 - Parasites (page 13)
 - ▶ Are parasites kept at a level that does not affect animal performance?
 - ▶ Do you use a variety of practices to reduce and/or avoid resistant parasites?
 - Sanitation (page 14)
 - ▶ Is sanitation generally good?
 - ▶ Do you use preventative measures toward all disease on your farm?
 - Predator Control (page 15)
 - ▶ Are your animals safe from predators?
 - Reproduction (page 16)
 - ▶ Are you satisfied with your lambing or kidding percentage?
 - ▶ Does your farm depend on a high level of reproduction?
 - Breeding and Selection (page 17)
 - ▶ Are you satisfied with the performance of your current breeding animals?
 - ▶ Do your animals fit your management and your market?

YES NO

Marketing (page 19)

- ▶ Are you selling your products for the best possible price?
- ▶ Could changing the timing of your breeding season increase the profitability of your herd?
- ▶ Are you selling all the products from your farm?

Records (page 20)

- ▶ Do you use records for management decisions and future planning?

Economics (page 21)

- ▶ Can you make a good profit after feed and other costs are paid?
- ▶ If you are selling a processed product, are you being compensated for the extra time you have invested?

Quality of Life (page 22)

- ▶ Is there enough labor available at all times of the year?
- ▶ Do the people involved in the care of the animals like to work with sheep or goats?

Systems Management

1. Timing (page 24)

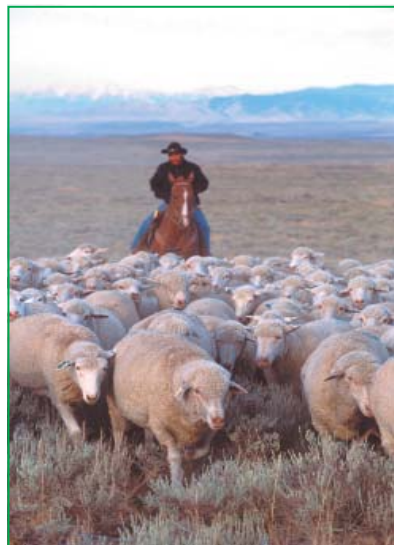
- ▶ Are you timing lambing or kidding in order to make the best use of your resources and maximize profit?

2. Coordinating Enterprises (page 26)

- ▶ Do each of your enterprises bring benefits to your farm as a whole?
- ▶ Do your enterprises complement one another?

Conclusion (page 27)

- ▶ Have you identified the weak links of your whole farm?



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