Goats & Sheep: Raising Browsers & Grazers Webinar

- March 21, 2017 -

Presented by:

Jim Bourne
(The Lamb’s Quarter)

Tony Koch
(Koch Ranches)

Hosted by:
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)

Photo courtesy of The Lamb’s Quarter
Introductions

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs.

FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Project awards grants and facilitates peer-to-peer farmer education to increase the number of animals that are raised humanely in this country.
Our Presenters

Jim Bourne – The Lamb’s Quarter
• Owings, Maryland
• 2014 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient

Tony Koch – Koch Ranches, Inc.
• San Antonio, Texas
• 2013 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient
Sheep

Reflections of a Novice

Jim Bourne of The Lamb’s Quarter
What is my Market?

- Who are my customers? What do they want?
  - Ethnic communities
  - Breeding Stock
  - Farmers Markets/Direct marketing
  - Sale Barn
  - Dairy
  - Wool/Pelts
  - Meat
Farmers Market...
Breed Selection

- Wool Sheep vs Hair Sheep
- Heritage Breeds
- Thriftiness and Frame
Katahdin – a hair-type breed
Clun Forest – a wool-type heritage breed
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Decrease Stocking Rate if:</th>
<th>Increase Stocking Rate if:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poor pasture quality</td>
<td>Excellent pasture quality</td>
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<td>No pasture rotation</td>
<td>Rotating several pastures</td>
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<td>Stony, ledgy hillside soils</td>
<td>Well fertilized land with low erosion potential</td>
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<td>Regrowth is abnormally slow</td>
<td>Animals are given supplemental feed</td>
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<td>Low rainfall or excessively drained (i.e. dry) area</td>
<td>Animals are avoiding species you would like them to eat</td>
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Fencing and Facilities

- Physical Barrier vs Psychological Barrier
  - Woven wire; Barbed wire; High Tensile Wire
  - Polywire; Netting fence; Low and High Tensile wire
Fencing and Facilities

- Intensive vs Extensive
- Barns, sheds, and run-ins
- Handling facilities
- Lambing pens
Fencing
Sheds
Pens
Working Sheep

- Is a dog in your future?
  - Guardian dogs
  - Gathering/Herding dogs
Parasites and General Health Issues

- Maryland Extension Small Ruminant Program FB page
- Parasites
  - To treat or not to treat
  - Dewormer resistance
  - Rotating pastures
  - Learn to recognize parasite-related health issues
Parasites and General Health Issues

- Grass, Legumes, and Grains – Watch for Bloat
- Sheep are copper sensitive! Watch your minerals!!
- Vaccines
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
- Cultivate a good relationship with a good vet
- Get yourself a library
Lambing
Education

• Land-grant universities in your state
• Storey’s Guide to Raising Sheep
• Local Extension Agent
• Stockman Grass Farmer
Please type your questions!