

Sire Selection: What to Look For Small Ruminant Conference June 17, 2020

FOR THE

#GATORGOOD

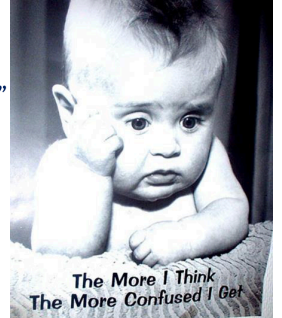


Laura H. Bennett

Livestock Agent (Pasco, Sumter, Hernando)

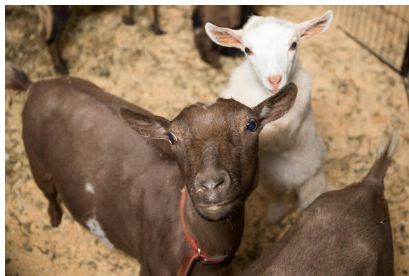
Many things to evaluate!

- Just because an animal is expensive
... doesn't mean it is necessarily
valuable.
- Just because an animal is "cheap"
...doesn't mean it is a value.



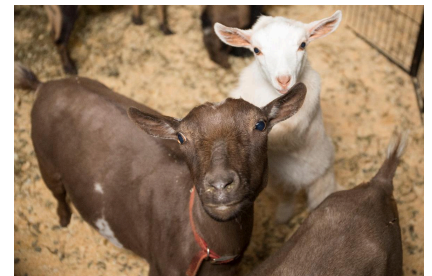
Go down the list:

- #1 Reproductive Soundness
- #2 Structural Soundness
- #3 Genetic Potential
for Production



Go down the list:

- #1 Reproductive Soundness
- #2 Structural Soundness
- #3 Genetic Potential
for Production



#1 Reproductive Soundness

- Remove the mystery with a Breeding Soundness Exam
- General health status very important-BIOSECURITY
- Not recommended to share rams or bucks
- Another BSE upon return AND should quarantine 30 d

Scrotal circumference is related to age puberty will begin
....in female offspring

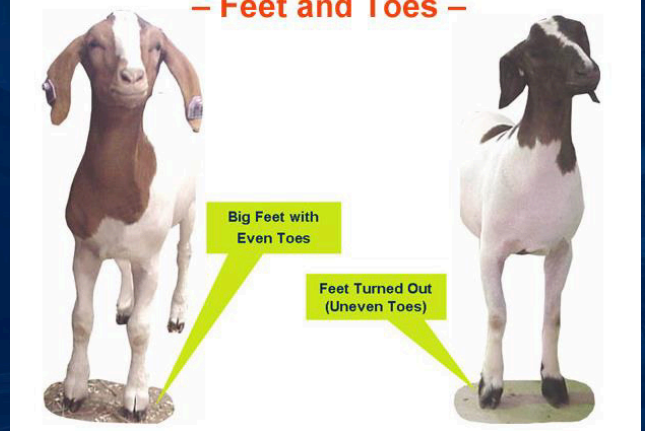


#2 Structural Soundness

- Mobility for breeding
- Length of time animal will stay in herd
- Necessary for animal to reach full genetic potential
- Problems passed on to offspring

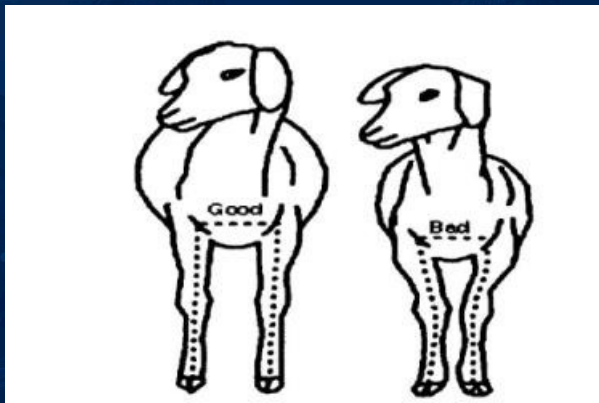


Evaluating Soundness/Structure – Feet and Toes –

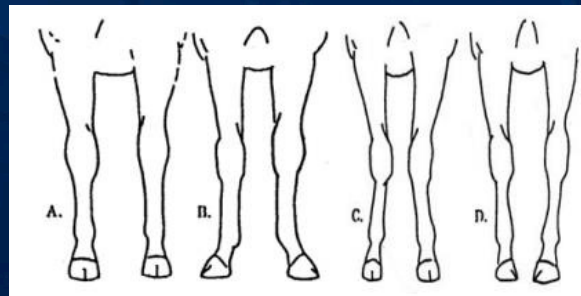


University of Kentucky, Animal & Food Sciences Dept.

Structure



Structure:



Evaluating Soundness/Structure – Hocks –



Nice Set to Hocks

Too Much Set to Hocks

University of Kentucky, Animal & Food Sciences Dept.

If you haven't made the U-turn,
evaluate production potential



Genotype & Phenotype

- Select animals “visually”, you are using phenotype
- Select animals on pedigree, you are using genotype
- Genetics + Environment=Physical Attributes

Combine genetics of 2 parents  Expression

- Your job is to manage your herd so they can fully express their genetic potential.

#3 Genetic Potential for Production:

- First- Reproduction
- Second- Growth/Milk



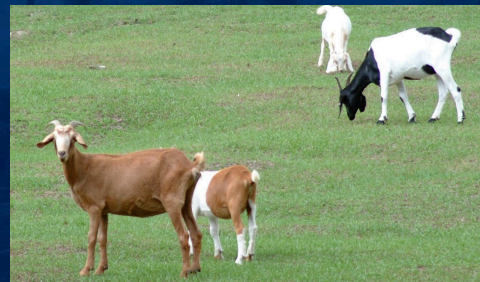
A doe or ewe's reproductive performance is most important factor for economic viability



Multiparous

Choosing for reproduction

- Select breeding stock born from multiparous birth
- This can contradict our selection for growth
- For Florida, moderate frame size is better



And, if you are keeping replacement females:

The Buck or Ram will account for around 90% of your herd genetics after ~2 generations.

Check to see if he was a multiparous birth himself.

Choose well!



Must have a GOOD (GREAT) Genetic Base:

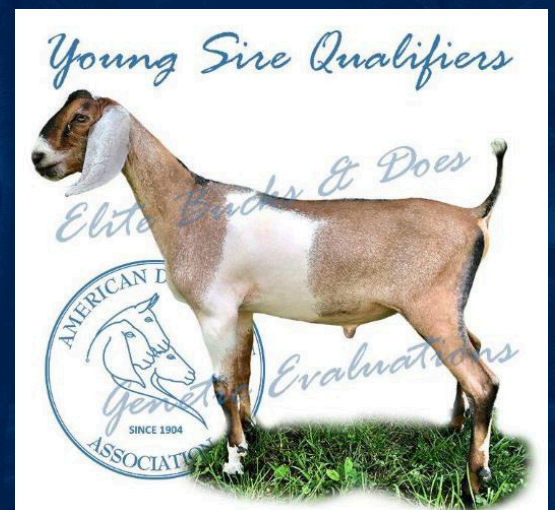
- You CANNOT feed or manage your animals into great performance or phenotype
- You CAN MOST DEFINITELY feed or manage your animals into poor performance or phenotype

Look to the breed standard:



Illinois State Fair, 2017

Source:
American
Dairy
Goat
Association



Crossbreeding for Heterosis:



Fertility of offspring
Lambing/kidding rate
Lamb/Kid survival rate



Tools available to the Producer:

Breeding Values

EPDs (sheep)

Performance Records



Evaluate where you currently ARE and where you want to Go

Request this information when purchasing new animals

Don't select for too many traits at once



Dairy

- American Dairy Goat Association
- Links to Dairy Herd Improvement Association



Goat Herd Improvement Program

- This program is free to anyone that wants to participate.
- You keep the data necessary from birth to weaning on kids.
- Over time information on overall averages and ranges will be provided to help you evaluate your herd.
- Data sheets are available, best way to contact is e-mail at kenneth.andries@kysu.edu or phone at 502-597-5094



Sheep and Goats:



The logo for the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) is centered on the slide. It features a stylized green and white circular emblem at the top, followed by the acronym 'NSIP' in large green letters, and the full name 'National Sheep Improvement PROGRAM' in black text below it.



In 10 years,

- **NSIP Polypay breeders** have increased the breed average for pounds of lamb weaned per ewe by 13 pounds.
- **NSIP Suffolk breeders** have increased the market weight of lambs at 120 days of age by 6 pounds per lamb while increasing loin eye muscle and reducing fat deposition.
- **NSIP Targhee breeders** have increased the number of lambs born by 7%.
- **NSIP Katahdin breeders** have increased weaning rate by 5% and are leading the national effort to develop resistance to internal parasites.

How will this help, financially?

Buck with an EBV of +10.0 for NKW
Daughters will produce 0.10 more kids
That's 10 more kids per 100 kiddings
 $10 \text{ extra kids} \times \$150/\text{kid} = \$1500$

Buck with EBV of +3.0 for WWT
Progeny will be 1.5 kg (3.3 lbs) heavier at weaning than average
 $3.3 \text{ lbs} \times \$2.50/\text{lb} = \$7.26/\text{kid}$
 $50 \text{ kids} \times \$7.26 = \363
 $100 \text{ kids} \times \$7.26 = \$726$

Places to get help

- Livestock or Agricultural Agent could help you set up a system to record and track performance data
- **Meat Sheep Alliance of Florida**
- Laura Bennett
- laurahbennett@ufl.edu
- Pasco, Sumter, Hernando

