

# ALTERNATIVE INCOME FOR FARMS

## GOAT MEAT PRODUCTION



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### INTRODUCTION

Goat meat is widely consumed throughout the world. Whilst there has always been a demand for goat meat in the UK, that demand has increased substantially in recent years.

#### ● *Important aspects to consider*

- Anyone interested is advised to visit at least a couple of farms with goats. Whilst their basic needs are similar to sheep they do need shelter from inclement weather.
- They will browse so when out they will often climb fences.
- Their feed requirements are very similar to sheep but **DO** need copper in their diet.
- They act more like cattle with a very strong hierarchy within the herd.

### THERE ARE TWO MAIN WAYS TO PRODUCE GOAT MEAT

1. Taking dairy bucklings and rearing them intensively on a milk machine and creep.
2. The most popular way is on a semi extensive system like suckler cattle and housed during the winter months. Aim for a meatier animal with higher meat to bone ratio that will command better prices.

*\*The two systems cater for different markets.*

### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Aim your herd kidding percentage to be 200% (as multiple births are more common in goats)
- Aim to slaughter kids between 6 and 9 months at 38-45kg depending on breed. This will return a carcass of 17-21kg.



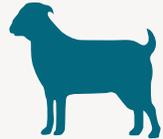
## SETTING UP A GOAT MEAT ENTERPRISE

1. Where will you slaughter and where are you going to sell your meat? There is no demand through local livestock marts except for culls. Find out what the local demand is for the product i.e. private sales, restaurants, butchers. Decide on your branding, USP's, web design and other routes to market.
2. Visit other breeders and rearers to make informed decisions. Talk to your vet and get their advice about integrating goats into your current system.
3. Assess your buildings and fencing for their suitability and potential cost of getting them ready. If you already have sheep, some modifications need to be done.
4. Decide on the type of goat you want to keep but expect to pay between £200 - £300 each for does and doelings. Always be aware of the animal health status before purchasing.
5. Register with Environmental Health as a food producer and get advice from them on storing, transporting and selling meat.

*\*information correct at time of publishing 02/2018.*

### ● Setup Stock and equipment

- Stock (Doelings / Does / Bucks)
- Fencing e.g. stockfence and plain wire, electric fencing, energizer
- Internal feeding equipment e.g. feed barriers, bale feeders, feed troughs
- Housing equipment e.g. 12' half mesh gates, drinkers, kidding hurdles, heat lamps
- Field shelters
- Handling equipment e.g. lamb weigher, simple race



### Next steps

- Discuss and learn from others within the sector.
- Develop/identify a market.
- For further information and to move forward with your idea contact your local Development Officer or contact us on the details below.



### Contact us on:

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