Urban Goats

Deborah Niemann
Why goats?

- Milk (dairy products and soap)
- Meat
- Fertilizer
  - Manure (compost)
  - Milk or whey
- Livestock feed
  - Milk or whey
  - Can be used as milk replacer
Can you raise goats?

- Zoning
- Space requirements
- Housing requirements
- Time commitment
- Financial commitment
Choosing a breed

Breeds

- Standard dairy goats
- Miniature dairy goats
- Nigerian dwarf dairy goats

Considerations

- Size of goat & ease of handling
- Space requirements
- Feed costs
- Milk production
- Butterfat
- Weight of kids (meat)
Buying a goat

- “You get what you pay for.”

- Buy from healthy herds that test regularly and/or are closed.

- Buy from a milking herd that keeps records.

- If you’ve never milked before, it’s a good idea to buy an experienced milker with a nursing kid (or two).

- Compare udders.
Do you need a buck?

- Separate housing required
- Stinky
- Larger breeds difficult to handle

What if you don’t have a buck?

- Lease a buck
- Board and breed doe
- Driveway breedings
Housing

- Needs to protect goats from wind, snow, and rain
- Should **not** be insulated
- Permanent vs. portable
- Where will you milk?
# Fencing in cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not so good</th>
<th>Better</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Woven wire</td>
<td>- Chain link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Welded wire</td>
<td>- Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Single-strand electric</td>
<td>- Livestock panels</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Portable electric fencing</td>
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Feeding

- **Kids**
  - Milk for *at least* 8 weeks
  - Hay, pasture, browse, and grain

- **Dry does and bucks**
  - After 6 months, grass hay, browse, pasture

- **Pregnant does**
  - Grass hay, browse, pasture until last two weeks of pregnancy

- **Add 1-4 cups grain during last two weeks of pregnancy, depending on size**

- **Milking does**
  - Alfalfa hay, browse, pasture
  - 1 pound grain for every 3 pounds milk produced

  - Check label on commercial rations
Health Care

- Vaccines
- Communicable diseases
  - CAE
  - Johnes
  - CL
- Zoonotic diseases
  - Tuberculosis
  - Listeriosis
  - Toxoplasmosis

- Parasites
  - Internal
    - Barber pole worms
    - Tape worms
    - Other worms
  - External
    - Lice
    - Mites
Got goat milk?

- Make cheese -- chévre, feta, cheddar, gouda, parmesan, mozzarella, gjetost, & more!
- Make butter, sour cream, yogurt, and buttermilk!
- Cook with it!
- Make soap!

Supplies:

- Cheesemaking.com
- DairyConnection.com
- Many soapmaking supply sites online!
Questions?

- For more information –
  - www.homegrownandhandmadeethebook.com
  - www.antiquityoaks.com
  - NigerianDwarfGoats.ning.com