

Urban Goats

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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

Not so good

- ❖ Woven wire
- ❖ Welded wire
- ❖ Single-strand electric
- ❖ Portable electric fencing



Better

- ❖ Chain link
- ❖ Wood
- ❖ Livestock panels



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.homegrownandhandmadethebook.com
- ❖ www.antiquityoaks.com
- ❖ NigerianDwarfGoats.ning.com
- ❖ *Homegrown & Handmade: A Practical Guide to More Self-Reliant Living*

