



Sustainable Livestock Management

Maximizing Pastures

Maximizing Profits

Value Added

Profits



Livestock Management

- How many animals?
- Fencing
- Space
- Cost of Feed
- Cost of Care
- Enterprise
Exp/Inc



Space/Acreage

- Pens and dry lots
- Free-range
- Pasture



Acresage per Grazing Animal

- Horse – 1 to 2 acres
- Steer – 1 ½ acres
- Dairy cow – 1 ½ to 2 acres
- Goat – ¼ acre
- Sheep – ¼ acre
- Llama – 1/8 acre
- Broiler Chickens – 100 = 1/10 acre



Acreage needed is determined by:

- Forage available
- Quality of the forage
- Soil type



How Many?



OR



Animal Life Cycles

- Breeding
- Gestation
- Birthing
- Weaning
- Growth



Selecting Animals for Profit

- Research -Select a Breed
- Learn as much as you can about the breed before you go looking
- Truth/Dare
- Purchase from a reputable breeder, take a friend, WSU Livestock Advisors

Body Conformation



Fencing

- Single greatest expense – biggest room for wasted money
- Pick Right fence for right animals
- Keep animals in – predators out

Sacrifice Areas



Cost of Feed

- Sheep -- \$250 to \$500 per **year**
- Goat -- \$350 per year
- Chicken -- \$65 per year (feed costs more than hay)
- Pig -- \$450 for six months
- Horse -- \$150 per **month**
 - Hay runs about \$300 - \$400 per ton
 - Horses eat 1.8 to 3.5 tons per year

Care Costs

- Foot care
 - Hoof Trimming
 - Farrier
- Shearing
- Worming
- Vaccinations
- Injuries* (vet bills?)
- Pest Control



Livestock Management on a Mini-Farm

Don't Quit Your Day Job

