

Small Acreage Animal Production Overview

Sustainable Small Farming & Ranching



Skagit
County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



CULTIVATING  SUCCESS™
sustainable small farms education

PRODUCER PROFILE

Reading Review

1. Coleman delivers a biased case for livestock on vegetable farms – What does he list as the major benefit of livestock as a secondary enterprise? What are some of the difficulties to managing this “free resource”? (pg 268)
2. What are Coleman’s arguments for poultry as an ideal complimentary livestock enterprise? (pg 270)
3. Why might Coleman categorize livestock enterprises as secondary to vegetable production? Are there local examples of farmers doing both livestock and vegetable production successfully?



Highlight the areas in your own plan that you think need further development or detail



Exchange plans with a partner



Take 10 minutes to read through the plan



Come up with 3 strengths of the plan and 3 suggestions for improvement



Take 5 minutes to discuss each plan as a pair

Whole Farm Plan Peer Review

Whole Farm Plan Final Presentation*

- Begin your presentation with Section 1 of your farm plan (mission, vision, values)
- Choose an additional section of your plan you feel comfortable presenting

*Required to receive a WSU Continuing Education Credit or to complete the SVC Course.

Whole Farm Plan Final Presentation*

- 5 min presentations (8 minutes if you are a group of 2 or more)
- Optional formats: power point (no more than 5 slides), posters, photos, handouts

Small Acreage Animal Management Considerations

- Animal Requirements
- Facilities
- Market Opportunities
- Financial planning



Animal Requirements

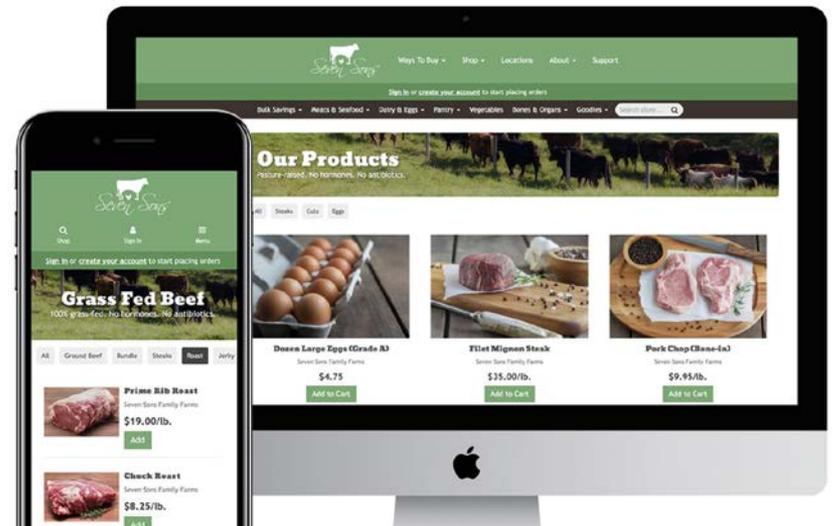
- Temperament
- Source of Animals
- Feeds and Feeding
- Pasture & Grazing System
- Animal Health
- Reproduction
- Waste Management
- Dead Animal Disposal

Facilities

- Site Suitability
- Shelter
- Water Access
- Zoning Restrictions
- Pasture/Fallow Land
- Transportation Requirements

Market Opportunities

- Intent of enterprise
- Sales outlets
- Processing requirements
- Storage



Financial Planning

Capital budget

- Infrastructure Development

Operating cash

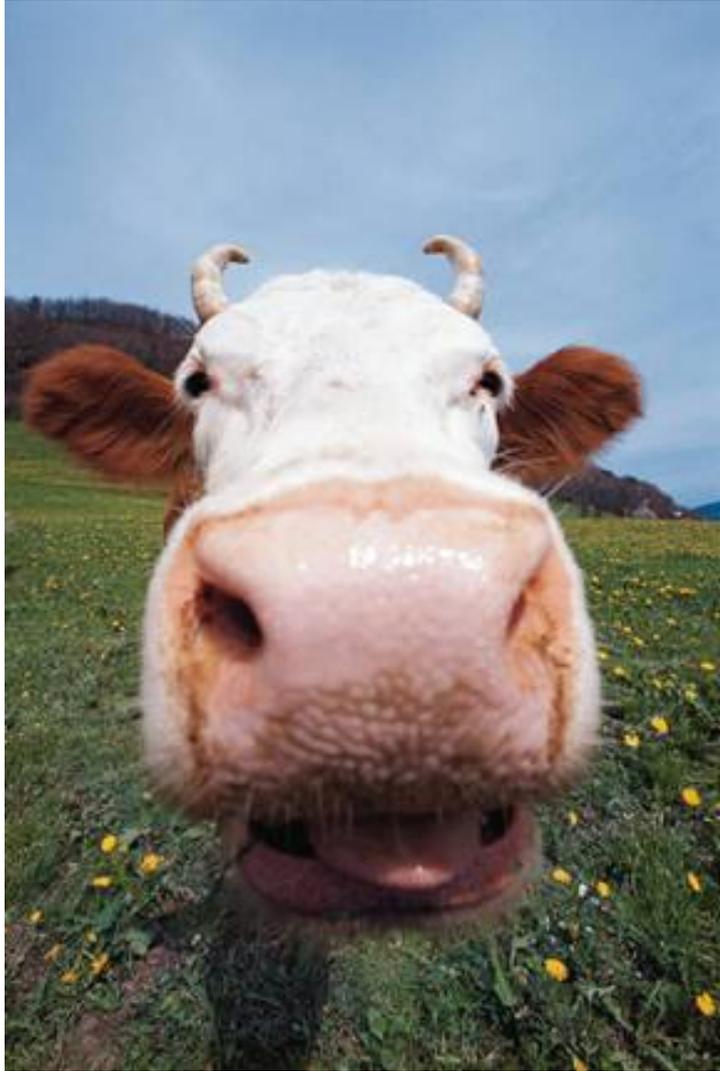
- Feed/Bedding
- Veterinary Costs
- Replacement Animals



Hobby or Business Enterprise?



- Requires tracking fixed, variable and labor costs
- Sales recorded
- Taxes and Deductions based on sales and expenditures.



Resources

Extension Publications

- [Washington State University](#)
- [University of Alaska](#)
- [Oregon State University](#)

Pasture Management



- A Brief Overview of Nutrient Cycling in Pastures - ATTRA
- ATTRA- Livestock and Pasture resources

Ruminants

- Raising Sheep and Goats for Profit: Small- Scale Ruminant Production – Colorado State University Extension
- USDA – link set – Sheep Goats and Small Ruminants
- Livestock Advisors – WSU Skagit
- Country Living Expo/Cattleman's Winter School



Poultry Management



- [USDA – link set – Poultry Production](#)
- [Pasture-Raised Poultry Nutrition – Jeff Mattocks - Attra](#)
- [Pastured Poultry Nutrition and Forages – Attra](#)

Processing and Marketing

- Resource Guide to Direct Marketing Livestock and Poultry – Cornell Small Farms Program
- Agricultural Marketing Resource Center - Livestock

Local Processors

- Del Fox Custom Meats – Stanwood, WA
- Andal's Custom Meats – Mount Vernon, WA
- Osprey Hill Farm – Poultry – Acme, WA

Next Week

Field Trip #2 November 23rd

Readings:

The New Organic Grower, Elliot Coleman – Chapter 12 and 13

Whole Farm Plan Section:

- Whole Farm Plan Section- Marketing Plan, Financial Plan and Presentation Outline