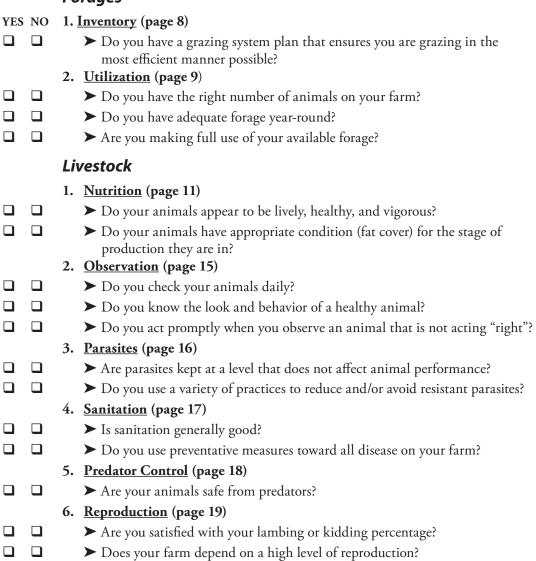# Small Ruminant Checksheet Quick Start

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These questions are bottom-line questions about components of your farm. If your answer to a question is "yes," proceed to the following question. If the answer is "no," mark the question and investigate options for strengthening that component by turning to the relevant section of the *Small Ruminant Sustainability Checksheet,* which is found on the page listed in parentheses.

Forages

YES NO

1. Inventory (page 8)

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you have a grazing system plan that ensures you are grazing in the most efficient manner possible?

2. Utilization (page 9)

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you have the right number of animals on your farm?

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you have adequate forage year-round?

☐ ☐ ➤ Are you making full use of your available forage?

Livestock

1. Nutrition (page 11)

☐ ☐ ➤ Do your animals appear to be lively, healthy, and vigorous?

☐ ☐ ➤ Do your animals have appropriate condition (fat cover) for the stage of production they are in?

2. Observation (page 15)

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you check your animals daily?

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you know the look and behavior of a healthy animal?

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you act promptly when you observe an animal that is not acting "right"?

3. Parasites (page 16)

☐ ☐ ➤ Are parasites kept at a level that does not affect animal performance?

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you use a variety of practices to reduce and/or avoid resistant parasites?

4. Sanitation (page 17)

☐ ☐ ➤ Is sanitation generally good?

☐ ☐ ➤ Do you use preventative measures toward all disease on your farm?

5. Predator Control (page 18)

☐ ☐ ➤ Are your animals safe from predators?

6. Reproduction (page 19)

☐ ☐ ➤ Are you satisfied with your lambing or kidding percentage?

☐ ☐ ➤ Does your farm depend on a high level of reproduction?

7. Breeding and Selection (page 20)

➤ Are you satisfied with the performance of your current breeding animals in the following areas?

• Number of kids or lambs weaned

• Weaning weights

- Milk production
- Health and longevity

❑ ❑   ➤ Are your animals suited to your management and your market?

Marketing (page 22)

❑ ❑   ➤ Are you selling your products for the best possible price?

❑ ❑   ➤ Are you timing production to ensure the best price?

❑ ❑   ➤ Are you selling all the products from your farm?

Records (page 24)

❑ ❑   ➤ Do you use records for management decisions and future planning?

Economics (page 25)

❑ ❑   ➤ Can you make a good profit after feed and other costs are paid?

❑ ❑   ➤ If you are selling a processed product, are you being compensated for the extra time you have invested?

Quality of Life (page 30)

❑ ❑   ➤ Is there enough labor available at all times of the year?

❑ ❑   ➤ Do the people involved in the care of the animals like to work with sheep or goats?

Systems Management

1. Timing (page 31)

❑ ❑   ➤ Are you timing lambing or kidding in order to make the best use of your resources and maximize profit?

2. Coordinating Enterprises (page 33)

❑ ❑   ➤ Do each of your enterprises bring benefits to your farm as a whole?

❑ ❑   ➤ Do your enterprises complement one another?

Conclusion (page 35)

❑ ❑   ➤ Have you identified the weak links of your whole farm?