



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 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. <u>Inventory</u> (page 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you have a grazing system plan that ensures you are grazing in the most efficient manner possible? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <u>Utilization</u> (page 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you have the right number of animals on your farm? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you have adequate forage year-round? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Are you making full use of your available forage? |

Livestock

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. <u>Nutrition</u> (page 11) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do your animals appear to be lively, healthy, and vigorous? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do your animals have appropriate condition (fat cover) for the stage of production they are in? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <u>Observation</u> (page 15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you check your animals daily? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you know the look and behavior of a healthy animal? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you act promptly when you observe an animal that is not acting “right”? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. <u>Parasites</u> (page 16) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Are parasites kept at a level that does not affect animal performance? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you use a variety of practices to reduce and/or avoid resistant parasites? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <u>Sanitation</u> (page 17) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Is sanitation generally good? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Do you use preventative measures toward all disease on your farm? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. <u>Predator Control</u> (page 18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Are your animals safe from predators? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. <u>Reproduction</u> (page 19) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Are you satisfied with your lambing or kidding percentage? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ▶ Does your farm depend on a high level of reproduction? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. <u>Breeding and Selection</u> (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 |



YES NO

- 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?



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