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Goats will make you go broke. Or goats will make you a good profit.Which will it be? It's up to you.Successful goat farmers have learned to focus on 7 proven ways to make money with goats.Not all goats are the same, and there are multiple directions you can take when raising goats for profit. You've heard the phrase, "Jack of all trades; master of none?"Well that applies to raising goats, too. To be successful and profitable, you will want to focus on one particular type of goat business and stick to it.Otherwise, you will get stretched too thin, and will never do really well at any of it.There are 7 proven ways to make money which you can choose from when raising goats for profit.I'll touch on each of those briefly, and then go into more detail below on how you can make money in each of these categories.Because of this, goats have a reputation for eating away at lots of trees and plants they can find nearby. This can be a great profit-making opportunity because lots of people have areas overgrown with trees and plants that they would like to clear, and hiring labor to do this can get expensive.Many goat owners make money renting out their goat herds to help clear overgrown land like that.Goats won't eat everything. But they can certainly eat a lot of plant material to make it much easier for humans to clear the rest.Plenty of goat owners run full-time successful businesses doing this. Learn more about using goats for brush clearing HERE. 5. Profit from Agri-Tourism You can also use goats to profit from tourists. Lots of people live in cities where they don't get much chance to see farms and farm animals up close. Many farms earn money by opening up to those people, and you can too. With your own goat farm you can provide tours where people can visit and see how a farm works. Many people will buy a ticket from you to watch a live goat milking demonstration, and to visit goats in a petting zoo you create. Some will pay you to bring goats to a school or festival for show-and-tell or demonstrations. There are all kinds of possibilities where you can make money entertaining or helping people with your goats. Learn more about Agri-Tourism HERE. 6. Goat Care Services Once you get some experience with goats, you can use that experience to earn a profit helping other people who own goats. At our goat farm, we pay other people to come over and take care of our goats when we have to go out of town. We pay quite a bit because the helpers must feed our herd of goats scattered across multiple fields. They have to milk the goats, feed them grain, put hay in their hay feeders and check their water. They also feed our livestock guardian dogs. Sometimes we help other people by keeping their goats for awhile while they are moving or changing things around. Many times they will pay us by trading goats or exchanging services. As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities for you to make money providing goat care services. 7. Goat Farm Online Marketing and Education With so many people interested in raising goats, there is a big demand to learn about goats. A perfect example is you reading this right now. Once you gain experience with your own goats, you too can profit by providing information, books, products, courses, newsletters and membership communities online to help people by sharing what you have learned about goats. There are other creative avenues for making money with goats as well. But if you want to be successful in your goat business, you will need to decide which strategy you want to go with, and focus on being excellent, growing and making money in that one niche. So how do you grow and make the most money you can with goats in a particular niche? Whichever niche you choose for your goat business, in order to be most successful you will want to diversify your income sources within the type of goat business you choose. In other words, you should pursue multiple income streams within your niche. Don't just depend on one source of income. If you do, and that source dries up, you're out of business. Here's how you can diversify your income sources in the different niches mentioned above. Dairy Goat Income Streams With dairy goats, there are a number of ways you can pull in a profit from different sources. Many people make money breeding their dairy goats and then selling some of the kids (baby goats). If you go this route, you can gradually grow a herd over time to produce more goats and increase your profit. Does often give birth to two, three or more kids at a time, so your herd can expand pretty quickly if you keep some of the kids for your own herd. You will need to occasionally buy other goats to manage your herd well and make sure you don't have inbreeding going on. Of course, you will need enough area for your goats, and it costs money to feed and care for a herd. But many people find creative ways to cut costs and create more profit. You will also need to balance money-making with keeping your herd of goats healthy and happy. The happier and healthier your goats are, the longer they will be able to produce for you. Some dairy goat farmers breed and raise "registered" goats so they can enter them in goat shows and win awards, which can greatly increase the prices they can charge for their goats. Some quality goats sell for $300 to $500 each. Top award winners can even sell for thousands of dollars, because they are in demand for breeding to produce other award-winning goats. Some people even loan out their goats for breeding in exchange for stud fees. Another income source is when you need to get rid of goats, like when you have older does or too many bucks. With these, you can sell them as you would meat goats, and earn extra money. There's more about meat goats later in this article. Sale of Milk and Milk Products for Profit With dairy goats you can also profit from their products. First, you never have to spend money on milk again. Our family drinks lots of milk from our goats, which has saved money at the grocery store. Some farmers start their own dairy or creamery to sell goat milk or cheese to the public. But that usually requires licensing and inspection, which can get expensive and is something to aim at later when your herd and farm are well established and sizable and you have more experience. With proper licensing, goat milk can also be use to produce yogurt, fudge, caramel, ice cream and other products. You don't usually have to be licensed to produce goat soap. Many farms sell their goat soap at local fairs, festivals and shops. Some have created worldwide profitable business selling their soaps and related products through online marketing with their own website. Some farms even sell raw milk to the public. If you do this, you just have to make sure you comply with local licensing requirements. There's a big demand for raw goat milk because many people with digestive problems say they can drink goat milk, although they are unable to drink cow's milk, and they find goat milk to be a lot tastier and healthier in many other respects too. Even in some places where you can't sell raw milk to the general public, some farmers get around those rules by creating a "herd-share program" That's a program where multiple buyers each purchase a "share" of a farm's herd, so it partly belongs to each of them. Then, when the buyers receive milk from that farm, the milk is considered as coming from the buyer's own farm since they own a share of that farm. The farm is technically not providing milk to the "public", and doesn't have to be licensed. In other words, a buyer is paying for a share of the herd in exchange for getting milk, as opposed to simply paying to buy the milk outright. If you're thinking about making money by starting a herd-share program to sell milk to other people without having to get a license, just make sure you check out the local laws to be certain everything you do is okay legally. Dairy Goat in Milk, With a Full Udder[/caption] If you raise dairy goats, you can also sell the milk, without a license, to farmers who plan to use it to feed their various farms animals, like pigs. Again, make sure you comply with the relevant laws when doing this, and mark your milk "not for human consumption". Meat Goat Income Streams If you decide to focus on a niche raising goats for slaughter, there are also different income streams you can diversify into which can help you turn a profit. Goat Meat Goats can be sold for their meat ("Chevon"). You may not be familiar with eating goat meat. But it is actually in high demand all around us. In fact, lots of goat meat is imported to the U.S. from other countries because producers in the United States can't keep up with the demand. Money from Different Sales Channels If you raise meat goats, you can diversify your income streams by selling your goats through multiple different channels, depending on which is the most cost effective for you at the time. Some meat goat farmers save time by selling to a middleman, like a trader or an auction, but you will have to accept a lower price due to the middleman. Other farms may skip the middleman and sell direct to a meat processor, restaurant or even to a consumer who is buying for their own needs. It all depends on what the best deals are that you can work out. Also, you can make more profit if you slaughter, skin and butcher your own goats. This will take some learning and practice, of course, but eliminates the cost of paying a middleman to do this. There is a lot of demand for goat meat, mainly among certain ethnic groups. For example, Hispanic people in the Southwest love to eat it, and refer to it as "Cabrito". That's why there are a lot of meat goats raised in Texas and nearby states. A lot of the goat meat being shipped to states further North, like New York, is being used by other ethnic groups, such as Muslims who traditionally eat goat meat for certain holiday celebrations. If you intend to sell goat meat for that purpose, keep in mind that those holiday celebrations often have some very strict requirement about how old the goat is and how the goat and its meat are handled. A lot of goat meat demand is not even due to ethnic needs. Goat meat production has been increasing steadily for upscale restaurant demand where Chevon is often considered a culinary delicacy and included by many chefs in multiple different recipes. Many chefs buy directly from nearby goat farms. Goat Skin A profit can also be made from goat skins. If you slaughter and process goats yourself, you will be removing skins. You can make more money here if you work carefully to remove skins with as little damage as possible, and you will need to learn how to handle the skin after removing it to prevent it from drying out, picking up bugs or getting damaged. Better skins will bring better prices. There are plenty of people who are into leather work, African drum making, etc. who are looking to buy goat skins, which are ideal for those purposes. Goat leather is considered more durable and softer than cow leather. Check out goat skins on eBay and you will see many skins being sold for $15 apiece, $65 apiece and more, depending on color and quality. That may not sound like a ton of money. But keep in mind, that it's only one of the many income streams you can develop from your goat herd, and it all adds up. Plus, if you process your own meat goats, you're going to be removing the skins anyway. Why throw them away if you can sell it? Breeding and Selling for Profit A lot of good income can be made if you breed meat goats and sell the kids, the same as mentioned above for the dairy goat niche. Many meat goat farmers are always looking for quality goats to improve their herd. There are even goat shows that specialize in meat goats. Just like with dairy goats, entering and winning shows can increase the re-sale value of your meat goat herd. Goat Fiber Income Streams Another source of profit you can diversify into with goats is with their fiber. A number of different breeds can be used to produce Cashmere. Also, Angora goats produce mohair. Both cashmere and mohair produced from goats is in big demand, along with certain other fibers. Fiber is usually combed or cut from live goats, so you can even produce fiber from goats you are raising for dairy or meat. There are multiple sources of income you can pursue in the goat fiber business. First, you can sell the raw fiber by the pound to someone who will clean, process and turn it into yarn. As an alternative income stream, you can increase your profits if you also take care of washing it and getting it ready for spinners who will purchase it from you prior to spinning it into yarn. Another option you could pursue would be to learn to spin fiber into yarn yourself. If you do it yourself, you can take advantage of the higher prices some buyers are willing to pay for items that are handmade and produced locally. It takes a lot of fiber to make up a quantity big enough to sell, so you will probably need a sizable herd to do this on a significant scale. Brush-Clearing Income Streams With Goats If brush-clearing is your niche of choice, you have several income sources you can pursue. State and county highway departments are faced with the task of clearing overgrown right-of-way areas. Some of these local governments have been known to pay local goat farmers to rent goat herds to clear land that is overgrown. Individual homeowners and commercial businesses will hire a goat herd to do landscaping by clearing land. Goats can eat things like poison ivy and plants with stickers which are difficult for humans to handle. They also work well on steep and rocky areas that are hard to reach for people. Remember, goats are natural mountain climbers by nature. Income Streams from Agri-Tourism With Goats If you choose Agri-Tourism as the business you want to start to make a profit with goats, there are different income streams you can pursue. A petting zoo is a favorite with lots of people. Look for local carnivals and festivals, and talk to the organizers ahead of time about seeing if they would like to hire you to provide a petting zoo of goats. You can also make good money providing farm tours. Once you start raising goats, you can offer the chance for schools to pay you so they can arrange an educational field trip to your goat farm. You can show kids how to milk goats, make goat milk soap, and how goats can do tricks. It's a great way to make money having birthday parties at your goat farm also. Another way to make money is to charge for people to have their picture taken with your goats. This is perfect for outdoor events, and you can rent a booth at a country fair or special event. Income Streams from Goat Care Services If you want to earn income providing goat care services, you can diversify your income in multiple ways. As mentioned above, some goat farmers like us are always looking for someone with goat experience to take care of their goats when they are out of town. You can make money servicing those farmers as your customers. Many goat farmers also have goat farms but don't like to do certain goat-related tasks themselves. They would rather pay someone else to do those things. If you develop experience in these tasks, you can earn money doing this for other goat farmers on a contract basis. E xamples are disbudding (de-horning baby goats), hoof trimming, taking blood and fecal samples and other tasks. Just make sure you don't do anything for others which requires a veterinary license, if you are not a veterinarian. Income Streams from Goat Farm Online Marketing & Education With so many people worldwide wanting to get into raising goats, there is a huge demand for goat-related information, education and training. So if you choose this as a niche, there are all kinds of income streams available to you. Many online website businesses have become incredibly popular by providing all kinds of detailed information about raising goats, showing goats, different breeds and other information. You can earn a profit offering ebooks on various goat topics. Products can be sold online as well. People are always looking for goat milk soap, shampoo and other health products. You can also make money online selling goat farmer tools and equipment produced by other people for a commission. This can includes things like milking machines, disbudding tools, hoof trimmers, milking stands and all kinds of other equipment. You can make money offering goat-related courses, newsletters and membership communities online. Which Income Streams Do You Choose? All of the ideas above are just some of the different income streams you can pursue to make money with your goats. Stick to your goat niche, pursue the different income streams and you will be well on your way to becoming one of those goat farms that succeeds. But there is another critical factor you don't want to forget, to be successful making money with goats. Herd of Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats[/caption] To make money through all of the income streams mentioned above, you need to first get started with your own goats and learn as much as you can so you can help others. Before you get your first goats, study everything you can. There's plenty of information online. This will help you decide which niche of goat farming you should focus on. Connect with other goat farmers so you can learn what they do and get free advice on your own goat herd. Join Facebook groups of people raising goats and read their posts to start learning how they manage their own goat herds. Attend goat shows, and enter your own goats in the shows. You can meet lots of people there and learn a lot. If you want to focus on meat goats, start talking to people involved in trading, auctions and processing. You can work backwards by looking for goat meat that's available, finding out where it came from and then getting in touch with those companies to ask questions. Tell them you are exploring a possible business opportunity in meat goat farming and ask where they get their meat and how the process works. Join breeder associations and groups within the niche you are considering, and keep an eye on the information, current events and training materials they provide to members. As you make progress you will find that you learn more and more. This is especially true when you purchase your first goats and start taking action. Once you've gained knowledge and you have your goat business started and bringing in income, there is one more important step that will help you maximize the profit from your goat business. Those goat farms and businesses that have survived over the years and stayed profitable have learned how to keep costs to a minimum. There are plenty of ways you can do the same. Having land to raise goats is one of the big expenses. If you have inherited a lot of farm land, that's a bonus. But if you only have a small place you can still get started with goats. We started years ago with two goats in the backyard behind our house in a suburban neighborhood. Then, as we were able to, we moved out to a rural area and acquired more acreage, and increased the size of our goat herd at the same time. You can also rent land to keep your goats there. Just make sure you stay close by to keep an eye on them, and have some livestock guardian dogs with them to protect against predators like coyotes and other animals that can attack your goats. [penci_blockquote align="left" author=""]If you only have a small place you can still get started with goats.[/penci_blockquote] Feeding goats is also a big cost. But there are ways to minimize this. The more acreage you have near wooded areas, the more you can feed your goats by simply letting them eat natural leaves and plants in the area, or hay which you may grow on your own land. This can cut down on the amount of grain you would otherwise have to buy to feed them. Another little-known source of free feed is through beer breweries. They use grain in the beer brewing process. After that process, they throw it away. Many goat farmers make arrangements to gather the leftover grain from breweries for free. The breweries are usually happy to have someone get rid of it for them. They call it "Spent Grain", but it's perfectly good for goats to eat, and it's actually very healthy for them. Grain you get this way is wet, but very clean and can be dried and used to feed goats with no problem. This helps you avoid feed bills which can get pretty pricey otherwise. Labor is also a big cost. You will hit a point in growing your goat herd where you will not be able to expand the herd any further unless you get other people to help. Many goat farmers offer to let students from the FFA (Future Farmers of America) and other educational farm-related groups come to their farm to learn by working with farm animals. You can get students to work for free. It's a win-win situation. They get free experience on a farm, and you reduce your labor costs. You can probably be creative and find lots of other ways to cut expenses as you gain more experience. This will help you keep your goat operation profitable. Take Action Hopefully, you now have some ideas about the different goat businesses available to make money with goats, and the different income streams within each business that can produce a profit for you. If you're wanting to start a goat-related business, don't wait until things are perfect. Just jump in and get started. You can learn as you go. Buy a couple of goats, start connecting with other goat farmers, and you will gain experience fast. Before you know it, you will be well on your way to growing your herd, earning some money and developing your own successful goat farm. Having animals around is a lot of work, but they're always entertaining, and learning how to take care of them and help them thrive is a rewarding hobby unto itself. But most of us, I reckon, raise them for profit. In case you were wondering, these were about 3-4 months old. If you keep goats, you are in luck because, compared to most other livestock, there are multiple vectors to monetization with these rambunctious little critters. No matter what your objectives are, where you live, and what you want out of them, it is entirely possible to make a ton of money off of your herd. Keep reading, and I'll tell you about seven ways to make a profit with your goats. To many keepers, this is the first, best, and most obvious money-making activity for their herd. Goats are surprisingly efficient milkers, with many does in their prime yielding one to two gallons of milk a day during their lactation period, sometimes even more. Considering that the lactation period can last around 10 months, they can keep you rolling in milk! Depending on market forces and other factors, goat milk can sell for between $6 and $12 a gallon, and the math is pretty easy in this case: if you've got buyers, you could be sitting on a small fortune! If you're willing to invest more time, materials, and labor, you might consider goat milk-based goods like cheeses, yogurt, ice cream, and body care items like soap and moisturizers. Whichever path you want to take, you should definitely consider high-output and reliable dairy breeds like Alpines, Nubians, Saanens, and Toggenburgs. There are a few downsides to going the dairy route, though, whatever products you have in mind. Dairy goats need lots of feed, and it better be high-quality if they're going to turn out high-quality milk. You'll be spending upwards of $400 per adult goat per year just on food, possibly much more, and if you want to produce milk at a good clip, you'll need to invest in milking equipment, which can cost thousands. The biggest hurdles for most owners are regulations: federal, state, and local laws might require you to get licensed, be subjected to scheduled and unscheduled health inspections, meet sanitary standards, and more. Don't think you'll be allowed to milk, bottle, and sell your products out of a cooler or ice chest at the local farmers market! Those days are past in most places… Also, keep in mind that there is a lot more labor involved in milking. When they are in lactation, they'll need to be milked twice daily, absolutely no exceptions, whether you've got a use or storage space for that milk or not. Keeping your girls ready to milk also involves routine sanitary shaves, treatment of teats and udders, and a lot more. But if you're willing to jump through all the hoops and put in the work, dairy goats are one of the very best ongoing sources of revenue that keepers could ask for. Although it's historically not very popular here in the U.S., the future outlook for goat meat is changing, and changing fast. Part of this is due to rising interest from Americans who are keen to try new red meat, and the other part is due to exploding numbers of immigrants who are used to eating goat in their homelands. Either way, the stage is set for major profit potential, and it's a whole lot easier to capitalize on compared to dairy: a goat that reaches market weight, typically anywhere between 80 and 100 lbs, can sell for between $150 and $300. You might be able to get a lot more than that, per head, if your meat falls into the specialty category, meaning organic or in compliance with religious mandates for the slaughtering of meat. Your costs are also more straightforward. All goats need a high-quality and well-rounded diet, but they won't need as much food, and won't be eating for as long, compared to raising them for milk. A meat goat will typically consume anywhere between $100 and $200 worth of food to reach a suitable weight for slaughter. You'll have to contend with processing fees, too, if you aren't doing it yourself, something that will cost anywhere from $40 to $90 on average, sometimes more depending on the facility. The regulatory environment for meat is much easier to navigate compared to dairy products, too; depending on your state and who you plan on selling to, you might only need to have your goats processed at a USDA-certified facility. You might be able to process, package, and sell directly, though! Plus, your labor investment will be a lot lower overall. All you need to do, for the most part, is keep your goats alive, happy, healthy, and growing. Slaughtering goats yourself is not that difficult with the right tools and training, and that's assuming you want to do it yourself. If you send them off to a processor or sell them live to a wholesaler, you won't have to mess with that part. If you think meat is the way to go, check out breeds like the Spanish, Savannah, Myotonic, Kiko, and Boer. Most folks think of sheep when they think of livestock textiles, but don't count goats out! Goats produce cashmere and mohair depending on the species, and both of these fibers are hotly coveted by makers of fine clothing and other craft goods. Depending on the species, some goats will produce anywhere from 10 to 12 pounds of mohair annually, selling for between $8 and $20 a pound. Cashmere goats produce a lot less fiber, only around a half-pound yearly, but it sells for between $20 and $45 an ounce! All you'll have to do to get this fiber is shear your goats, something you can do basically for free if you've got the skills and the tools, or you can hire professionals who will usually do it for around $10 a head. From there, you can sell the bulk fiber or process it into yarn and sell it that way, often for a premium. Another great thing about selling fiber is that regulations are basically non-existent compared to both meat and dairy. The downside is you'll be subject to highly volatile market forces, and it can be tricky to cultivate the contacts needed to ensure a tidy profit on your product. Still, this is a great option for folks who want a more specialized revenue stream from their animals and one that is less stressful. If you've never handled it before, you're missing out on just how nice goat leather can be… Goat leather, especially hides taken from kids, is soft, supple, durable, and versatile. It works just as well for making designer luggage and gloves as it does for hard-working garments and protective gear. A high-quality tanned hide from a Boer, Spanish, Nubian, or Kiko goat will sell for between $25 and $75. Note that I said a tanned hide, not a raw one. Tanning costs money if you aren't going to do it yourself, something that a professional tannery will charge you anywhere from $20 to $30 on average. You're probably thinking this will eat into your profits mightily, and you'd be right, but the alternative is that you'll have to tan it yourself. I'm warning you: tanning is disgusting work! Aside from the cost of the equipment and chemicals, and the skillset, the smell is something that you'll never forget, and chances are your family won't be able to stand it if you're doing it on the property. Sending hides away to be tanned and then selling them is straightforward when it comes to rules and regulations, but you might have to worry about local and EPA regs if you want to tan them yourself: many of the chemicals used in the process are pretty heinous. If you love goats but hate all the fuss and muss involved with extracting products from them, you should consider selling them live. Both kids and adults can be highly valuable for different reasons. A young kid that is weaned and entering adolescence might retail for between $100 and $300 depending on breed, lineage, and other factors. A young dairy doe could fetch as much as $600! And if you're talking about championship lineages, award-winning showgoats, and others that have legitimate accolades, they might sell for several thousand! Champion bucks can be major money-makers for breeding stock. Logistically, selling live goats is also a breeze compared to the other methods for making money we've already looked at: aside from keeping good records on lineage, vaccination, healthcare, and the like, you need only be concerned with transportation to interested customers on occasion. Goats have a reputation for eating just about anything, including things that they shouldn't. That's mostly a pop culture trope that's been overblown, but there's a grain of truth in it: goats eat a lot, and there are virtually no plants that are safe from them. Ask any goat owner who's kept these critters for any length of time, and they will tell you that decorative flowers, herbs, veggies, and even thorny berry bushes are all fair game. In recent decades, some enterprising herd keepers have started using their animals as living lawn mowers for clearing land. Hard to believe, but it's true! From tuning up overgrown lawns at homes that have been abandoned or left vacant to clearing out underbrush from hunting plots and anything else you can think of, a sizable herd of goats can do it, and a lot faster than you think. Depending on the size of the herd, transportation costs, and the size of the parcel along with its condition, you could charge anywhere from $300 to $1,500 or even more for such a service. There are some specialty costs associated with this, though. You'll need a vehicle and a trailer that can safely move your animals around. You'll very likely need to set up a temporary shelter for them on the property, and if you are smart, stay with them to make sure they are safe the entire time. Temporary fencing to keep them contained, typically electric fencing, is also a must if you're not working on a fully fenced property. It's eco-friendly, fun, and shockingly effective. This is one option for profit you should definitely look into! Goats are full of crap, and I mean that quite literally. They poop, and poop often, and though their leavings are nothing but a smelly problem for you, a little bit of time can turn it into rich manure that can do wonders for crops and gardens. This requires collection, some easy processing in the form of turning and other organic additives, and bagging, but once you do bag it, you can sell it for between $10 and $25. Depending on your market, this could be for a 25- or 50-lb bag. Sounds like a lot of stinky work for not much money, right? Well, consider this: an average adult goat will produce over 2,500 lbs of manure yearly, including their soiled bedding! If you're willing to get a little nasty, that's a lot of money on the table that you can put in your pocket. Do note that zoning regulations and some county and state laws might be of concern regarding storage of manure, hazardous runoff, and other factors, but these laws are typically easy to navigate. Tim is a farm boy with vast experience on homesteads, and with survival and prepping. He lives a self-reliant lifestyle along with his aging mother in a quiet and very conservative little town in Ohio. He teaches folks about security, prepping and self-sufficiency not just through his witty writing, but also in person. Find out more about Tim and the rest of the crew here. If you want to start dairy goat farming business, then you should read this guide. Dairy goat farming is very easy and simple. Successful and profitable dairy goat farming business doesn't require any hard work. Even a children and women can easily raise them. And they require less food, housing and other managements than any other livestock. Raising dairy goats has already been recognized as a very profitable business idea throughout the world. Because, goat milk has a great demand worldwide. Goat milk and many dairy products prepared by goats milk are very popular. Goat milk is highly nutritious and easily digestible than cow's milk. It also has a unique taste and flavor. Goat's milk is also highly enriched with many necessary vitamins and mineral supplements. Along with producing milk, dairy goats also produce meat, mohair, hide, leather and manure (used as fertilizer in crop fields). As a result dairy goat farming for profit can be a great income source for the people who are interested in this business. You can sell other products and earn money if your goats produce less milk. The investment in dairy goat farming business is lass and returns are very high. But the returns from commercial dairy goat farming business mostly depends on selecting breeds, feeding, housing and some other managements. The steps for starting dairy goat farming business are shortly described below. Follow these steps carefully. Choosing the suitable goat breeds for your business is one of the most important factors of starting dairy goat farming business. Because, choosing right breeds according to your area plays an important role in their production. Choose those breeds for your business which are easily maintained and will produce highly in your area. On an average Saanen, Anglo Nubian, Alpine, Jamunapari, LaMancha, Oberhasli and Toggenburg are popular and highly productive dairy goat breeds. Good food always keeps the animal healthy and productive. In case of dairy goat good feeding practices increase the milk production. You can do the feeding processes of your dairy goats in many ways. You can feed your goats forages including corn silage, haylage, hay and many types of by products like beet pulp and brewers grain. You can feed them dry hay in round bale feeders or along the feed alley. In case of ensilaged feed you can set up newer and bigger operations. You can also feed your dairy goats purchased or homemade supplementary feed with grain. Be very careful while providing supplementary feed for your goats. Ensure all nutrition elements and necessary vitamins are available in their food. Along with providing good quality food for your goats, provide them sufficient amount of fresh and clean water. Being small sized animal goats require less place for living than cow. You can easily keep many goat in the place required for one cow. You also can keep your goats with your other livestock animals. For commercial dairy goat farming many different buildings will be very suitable for housing them. Naturally dairy goats are fall breeders and produce kids in the spring. But by using different techniques and modern farming methods, many dairy goat producers are kidding throughout the year. And by applying those methods producers are producing milk over the whole year. In traditional breeding system producers use bucks for breeding. But in modern system producers are applying artificial insemination to improve their genetics. For commercial dairy goat farming artificial insemination is very effective than using bucks for breeding purposes. Most of the dairy goats give birth of multiple kids only once every year. And raising the kids is an intense job for the producers. Most of the dairy goat producers keep the female goats and sell the bucks after a few months. You can also keep the female kids for milk production and sell the bucks when they reach slaughter age. Feed the kids nanny for a few days after their birth and after that you can feed them cow colostrum. After that, feed the kids milk replacer with bottles, nipple pails or with automatic kid feeder. At their age of 1-2 months, you cal let them to go with their mother and have some food from the grazing place. Milking goats is very easy and simple. You can milk your goats manually or by using milking equipment and parlours like cow. See this guide on how to milk a goat & how to milk a goat by hand. Make a suitable shelter and house for your goats.Make a fence around your farm area.Always feed them nutritious, fresh and healthy food.If possible, make a pasture for your goats.Make a separate room for milking your goats.Take extra care to the kids and pregnant goats.Make a to do list before starting dairy goat farming business. Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Whether you're a homesteader, hobby farmer, or aspiring agricultural entrepreneur, profitable goat farming is a realistic and achievable goal when approached with the right strategy. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk you through everything you need to know about raising goats for profit—focusing on both meat and dairy production. From choosing the right breeds to maximizing your income streams, we're diving into the details that will help you build a thriving goat business.Before we get too far into this, I have a great course on the basics of goat care. I call it Goat Crash Course: Goat 101. In this course, I explain things like types of shelter, types of feeds and hays, basic assessments and so much more! Check it out! Goats are one of the most versatile livestock options for small farms. They require less space and feed than cattle, have strong market demand, and offer multiple income sources—milk, meat, manure, breeding stock, and even agritourism.Here's why profitable goat farming is on the rise:Low Startup Costs: Compared to other livestock, goats are relatively inexpensive to purchase and maintain. High Reproduction Rates: Most goat breeds can produce twins or triplets yearly, increasing your herd quickly. Diverse Market Opportunities: You can sell meat, milk, cheese, soap, breeding stock, or even rent goats out for land clearing.Before you jump into raising goats for profit, it's essential to decide your primary focus. Yes, you can do both, but if you are just starting out, it would be much easier to figure out where you want to focus your attention.Meat goats are hardy, grow quickly, and are in high demand—especially around holidays in ethnic markets. Popular breeds include:Boer: The most common meat goat breed, known for fast growth and muscle mass. Kiko: Hardy and parasite-resistant, great for low-maintenance operations. TexMaster: A crossbreed of Boer and Myotonic, prized for meat quality and ease of management.Meat goats are typically sold by live weight or hanging weight, with pricing often ranging from $5–$10 per pound depending on your market.If you're more interested in daily hands-on care and want to create value-added products like cheese and soap, dairy goats are the way to go. Top breeds include:Nubian: High butterfat content, ideal for cheese and rich milk. Saanen: High milk volume, friendly temperament. Alpine: Balanced milk production and strong genetics.Dairy operations can sell raw milk (check local laws), cheese, yogurt, and even body care products like goat milk soap and lotion.Before we get too far into this, I have a great course on the basics of goat care. I call it Goat Crash Course: Goat 101. In this course, I explain things like types of shelter, types of feeds and hays, basic assessments and so much more! Check it out! To make your farm truly profitable, you need to track both startup and ongoing costs. Here's a quick breakdown:Goat shelter or barn: $500–$5,000 Fencing (goats are escape artists!): $2–$5 per foot. This can increase with the additions of hot wire and additional t-posts to secure your fencing better. Water system and feeders: $200–$800 Breeding stock: $150–$500 per goat (more for registered goats) Milking or processing equipment (for dairy): $1,000–$5,000Feed and hay: $10–$30 per goat per month Veterinary care: $10–$20 per goat monthly Mineral supplements: $20/month for small herds Marketing and packaging (dairy products): VariableUse a simple spreadsheet, like or Schedule F, or farm management software to track all expenses. Knowing your break-even point is key to profitable goat farming.Our herd health bundle helps you keep track of your herd's health. Includes the goat assessment, herd check sheets AND Herd Health Tracker! Success in goat farming starts with proper infrastructure:Goats need shelter from wind, rain, and predators. Simple sheds with good ventilation and dry bedding will do for most climates. Plan for at least 15–20 square feet per goat inside and 200–250 square feet of outdoor space.Invest in strong fencing like woven wire or electric netting. Goats are curious and agile—they will test your boundaries!A balanced diet includes:Quality hay Grain (in moderation) Minerals (always available) Fresh waterDairy goats also benefit from high-protein supplements during lactation.A well-managed breeding program is a core component of profitable goat farming.Breeding Season: Typically fall, with kids born in spring. Gestation Period: About 150 days. Kidding Rate: 2–3 kids per doe is common with good nutrition.Tips for profitable breeding:Keep detailed records of breeding dates and bloodlines. Cull unproductive or unhealthy animals.Sell kids at 8–12 weeks for meat or raise doelings as future milkers. Processing the kids is the hardest part of meat goat farming, so be prepared.If you are a farmer/ homesteader and looking for a way to track your income and expenses, I highly recommend our Schedule F Tracker! We have been using it for years and it is the easiest, fastest and best way that we have found to keep track of the money spent on the homestead. Understanding your target market is crucial for maximizing profits. Here are key goat product income streams:Target:Local ethnic communities Butcher shops Farmers markets Online meat sharesOffer whole goat sales, cut-and-wrapped meat, or CSA-style shares. Use social media and your website to take pre-orders.Raw milk laws vary by state—check your local regulations. You can sell:Bottled milk Cheese (chevre, feta, aged varieties) Yogurt Butter Goat milk soap and lotionAdd value by offering farm tours, classes, or subscription boxes.As your herd improves, you can sell:Registered doelings and bucks Starter herds to new farmers Wethers as pets or brush goatsDocument pedigrees, health records, and milk/meat performance to increase value. To give you an idea of how this looks, a starter herd of TexMaster goats (kids and yearlings) will cost you about $2400 depending on your local area. And they are not breed-able for about another year or so. An adult doe will run you about $1,000. Before we get too far into this, I have a great course on the basics of goat care. I call it Goat Crash Course: Goat 101. In this course, I explain things like types of shelter, types of feeds and hays, basic assessments and so much more! Check it out! Diversify your farm income to reduce risk and grow your revenue. Here are bonus ways to make money with goats:Goat Yoga Classes Brush Clearing Services Manure for Gardeners Homestead Workshops YouTube Channel or Blog Etsy Shop for Goat-Based ProductsThe more ways you leverage your goats, the more profitable goat farming becomes.Marketing is where many farms struggle—but it doesn't have to be hard.Include:Your story Products & services Contact info Farm blog (for SEO) Online store or order formPinterest is powerful for promoting:Goat milk soap tutorials Cheese recipes Homesteading tips Farm lifestyle contentCreate vertical pins (1000×1500 px), use text overlays, and include keywords like "profitable goat farming," "goat milk soap," or "how to start a goat farm."If you are a farmer/ homesteader and looking for a way to track your income and expenses, I highly recommend our Schedule F Tracker! We have been using it for years and it is the easiest, fastest and best way that we have found to keep track of the money spent on the homestead. Post consistently on:Instagram (behind-the-scenes + stories) Facebook (farm updates + customer interaction) YouTube or TikTok (goat care, kidding season, milking tutorials)Engage your audience and build community. People love following real farmers.To run a legitimate and profitable operation, get familiar with local regulations. Below are just a few licensing and regulations to consider. I would also look into getting insurance if you are going to have farm tours, sell food products, etc. It's better to be safe than sorry.Business License Raw Milk Sales Permits Animal Welfare Standards Meat Processing Laws Zoning & Land UseIt's worth consulting your county extension office or a farm attorney for guidance. Don't skip this step—it protects your farm and future.The best farmers treat their operation like a business. Monitor these metrics:Feed-to-meat/milk conversion ratios Breeding success rates Average sale price per product Customer acquisition cost Monthly profit/lossReview your numbers monthly and look for ways to improve efficiency. That's how you turn a hobby into profitable goat farming.Our herd health bundle helps you keep track of your herd's health. Includes the goat assessment, herd check sheets AND Herd Health Tracker! Absolutely—if you plan well, start small, and grow intentionally.Profitable goat farming isn't a get-rich-quick scheme, but with hard work and smart decisions, you can turn your goats into a dependable income source that fits your lifestyle and values.Whether you're raising meat goats for local markets or crafting artisan cheese from your backyard herd, there's never been a better time to start.If you like the content I put out, feel free to buy us a coffee! It helps keep this site running, marketing and the goats in grain! Buy me a coffee Goat farming can be a challenging business, but it can also be highly rewarding. The market for goat milk in the US has grown exponentially, meaning that the profit that a goat farm can yield can be considerable if the farm is managed well.A dairy goat farmer can make around $22 profit per goat per day. If we take a lactating average of 284 days, a goat farmer can earn $6248 a year. This is calculated with a $12/gallon goat milk value, an average of 2 gallons/day per goat, and a maintenance cost of $2/day. If the farmer is selling by-products such as goat cheese, yogurt, etc., this amount can further increase.On average in the US, goats' food amounts to 0.65$/day, and they supply milk that can be valued at $12 or more per gallon. The average goat will produce 2 gallons per day. Of course, there are other costs associated with raising goats, like medication, veterinarian bills, watering, and workforce. So, we will assume that the maintenance cost of a single dairy farm goat is $2/day. However, it is difficult to put an exact number on how much money a goat farmer can make, as it depends a lot on many factors, some of which we will discuss in this article.Why Invest in Goats?Goat domestication happened around 10,000 years ago. People began keeping goats to feed their families with milk, dairy products, and meat mainly because it was easy to raise. History tells us that the Roman Empire facilitated goats' development and spread the tradition of farming goats.Goats have been there, alongside humans, through many important historical events, including famines, saving their owners from starvation. Goats could do this because they are versatile animals, which can graze on hostile terrain, where other farm animals have a slim chance of reaching, like rough mountains. Goats' personality is also a factor, as they can be docile and easy to farm, and it is always easier to work with a tolerant animal. The fact that they enjoy the company of humans means that they are not stressed around them. This is relevant because, according to research, the quality of the milk a stressed animal produces is inferior, and it also reduces the milk quantity by 11%.The goat population worldwide has grown to more than a billion heads, with Asia and Europe leading the market. Still, countries such as the US and New Zealand are catching up fast due to the increased demand and economic benefits.Dairy goats were a novelty for the US, but things have changed during the last decade. However, worldwide, the most consumed type of dairy is goat milk.The fact that people of different nationalities, who are used to consuming goat milk, moved to the US, along with their culinary traditions, led to a much higher demand for goat milk and other goat products.How Much Does A Goat Farmer Make A Year?Dairy goat farmers in the US may find that their earnings per year on the milk that their goats produce may differ depending on the breed, housing, and feeding of the goats. The profit varies tremendously, so there is no number that you can set your heart on. Goat milk is rich in protein and calcium and is richer and more nutritious than cow milk. This is the reason it is recently highly sought after in the US. But what exactly is in it for goat farmers? What do goat farmers that rear goats for their milk earn yearly?Major Expenses for Goat FarmersNow that we have established that there is a high demand for goat milk in the US, the major expenses for farmers are in starting up. Farmers have to make the major initial investment in building goats' shelters and housing and buying the goats and their feeds. And then, when production begins, they only have to focus on food and other purchases to maintain their goats and keeping them healthy for better milk production.The amount of money that a goat farmer can make depends on:The size of the farmSelecting Right Goat Breed for Better Milk ProductionType and Quality of Goat FeedThe Type of Goat FarmGoat's Health and CareMarketing Goats' ProductsThe Size of the FarmSince goats don't produce too much milk and average around two gallons a day, it takes more goats to obtain a profit.A report by the University of California states that starting a goat farm of about 500 goats on 55 acres of land will cost over $240,000. This could differ depending on the locality and the regulations concerning the farm operations and goat milk processing in a particular state or area.The average cost of goat milk in the US is between $8 and $12 for a gallon. One goat can produce about 2-3 gallons of milk per day, depending on the breed. Saanen goat and some other goat breeds can produce this amount of milk daily. So, if we take an example of a goat producing 3 gallons a day, this will mean that it can generate $36 per day at maximum capacity.All things being equal, on average, a goat farmer could be earning $13,140 per year just from one goat. Dairy goats are milked at least twice a day, and so at optimum levels, these goats will produce high quantities of milk daily. Watch this video, a great story about a small goat farm, and detail about its goat dairy operations.Selecting Right Goat Breed for Better Milk ProductionRearing goats that produce milk at these rates depend on a lot of factors. Selecting the right breeds is the first thing a farmer does to ensure high production and income. Goat breeds that are high-milk producing, such as Saanen, Alpine, Beetal, and Toggenburg, will ensure more milk, and in return, more income for the farmer than the low-milk producing goats.Type and Quality of Goat FeedRearing high-milk producing goats does not, in itself, guarantee high incomes. Feeding also plays a role in the rates at which they produce milk. Goats must be fed with high-protein grain and fresh, lush grasses, herbs, and shrubs. To get the best nutritious milk from these goats, they also require the right amounts of vitamins and water.Goats enjoy roaming free and grazing bushes. Doing so also increases the milk quality, so to maximize profit, it is always good to invest in pastures filled with bushes.Goat's Health and CareIn a study, the total cost of caring for a milking doe per year was found to be about $1,024, factoring in expenses like labor, feeding, breeding, bedding, and veterinary costs. This would bring down the annual profit that we have calculated earlier in this article from each milking dairy goat to $12,116. Of course, expenses may vary based on circumstances like goats becoming pregnant, availability and cost of local resources, and other specific maintenance costs. Another important factor in ensuring high milk production in goats is breeding. The right breeding styles help with the multiplicity of the goats, which means more milk production for the farmer.The Type of Goat FarmFurthermore, goats can be exposed to parasites, and sometimes these parasites can make them sick or even kill them. The veterinary will be able to treat the goats, but depending on the infestation level, this can cost a lot of money, as the milk won't be viable for a while when the animal is being treated. Having pastures that the goats can graze reduces this risk as the goats won't reinfect themselves easily, unlike on a traditional farm. Traditional stall farms are difficult to maintain and kept clean and can indirectly increase costs by affecting animal health and the quality of their produce.Marketing your Goat's Product wiselyThe Marketing and Management of any company and product are the ones that drive profit. No matter how good a farmer you are and how high the quality of your products is, these are the aspects that make and break a business.Even if goat farming can produce, on average, $22 a day, it is important to consider all the other factors that influence this amount.One of the advantages of goat milk is that it is very versatile, and it can be used in many ways.Since the demand for goat milk has been constantly on the rise, the diversity of the products offered has become the norm. Free-range and Organic products can always be priced better, and in the case of goats, it can be easier to achieveThere are many options for goat farmers. During the last couple of years, people learned that goat milk could be an alternative to cow's milk, and those who suffer from cow's milk allergies are especially inclined to buy alternative products.Goat milk has gained popularity due to the fact that it is easier to digest and richer in proteins, compared to cow's milk.Studies show that goat milk can lead to an increased biliary output, which lowers total cholesterol levels and is associated with lower plasmatic levels of triglycerides. These factors have led the public to the general idea that goat's milk is healthier, which is why it is more expensive and why it can lead to an impressive profit if monetized correctly.Goat milk has been used in many products such as:Supplements for muscle gainNutritional supplementsShampoosSoapsCreams and other products of the cosmetic industryBaby formula and other products destined for infantsGaining access to these markets is a challenge, but with a high-quality product and rock-solid marketing techniques, it can be done, and this is a guaranteed profit booster.Furthermore, managing a dairy goat farm effectively can mean using all the products derived from the process, not just the milk. This can be done by establishing contacts with companies from different domains and monetizing everything, including manure and male kids.Conclusion The global milk market has gained 4% each year, and it is forecasted to gain even more as new research into the proprieties of goat milk emerges. Marketing research companies the IMARC group expect the market to continue to grow at least for the next five years.So, it is safe to assume that a goat farmer can obtain a substantial profit, but the value of that profit can only be driven by the management's decision they are going to take. This is not an Investment Advice The Ideas and Strategies presented on this website and the information are based on our research and experience. These strategies are not intended to be a source of financial or business advice concerning the material presented. The information and/or documents contained on this website do not constitute investment advice. Any business idea or investment plan with financial risk should never be used without first assessing your own personal and financial situation or consulting a financial professional. Last Updated on October 10,

2024 by Alice Benny Raising Goats for Profit …The fact of the matter is that raising goats can be very profitable. Most North American farmers tend to focus on cattle, pigs, and chickens. However, the goat market is becoming increasingly large and popular, with the demand of goat's milk and goat meat rising on a yearly basis. Raising goats for profits is very doable, as long as you do it right. Let's take a look at everything you need to know about raising goats for profit along with some goat breeds to consider. In addition to dairy goats and meat goats, you can also raise goats for fibers. Get creative and research the market in your area. You can rent out goats to clear pasture. Goat yoga is something to consider as well. Over the past years, there has been an increasing demand for goat meat in the United States. The demand for goat meat and milk over the past two decades has risen quite drastically. According to the N.C. Cooperative Extension, the rise in the demand can be attributed to the increase in the population of various ethnic groups residing in the US. These ethnic populations are demanding healthier and leaner red meat, which is exactly what goat meat is, especially when compared to other sources of red meat, such as beef and pork. Raising goats is absolutely profitable, which is one of the main reasons why the raising of goats for both meat and dairy in the US has been on the rise over the past two decades. Research shows that of the major consumers of goat meat in the United States, the three major groups of consumers include Hispanics, Muslims, and people from the Caribbean. It has been shown that Hispanic and Caribbean people prefer Cabrito, younger milk-fed goats which weigh between 15 and 25 pounds live, or Chevon, which are goats slightly older than Cabrito, weighing up to 60 pounds live. On the other hand, Muslims seem to prefer leaner and heavier goats, weighing up to 70 pounds live. If you have pasture in which they can free range, all the better, as this will not cost you anything to feed your goats. Some people rent their goats out for income to graze weeds, pastures, etc. This can be an additional income source. In addition, many gardeners use goat waste as compost for their fruit, vegetable, and flower gardens. Let's take a look at some goat market statistics for the US for the past three decades. From 1999 to 2011, the consumption of goats in the US increased by 320%, with a 150% increased between 2002 and 2011. In 2002, there were an estimated 2,530,466 goats being raised in the US. Of those: 1,938,924 were meat goats 290,789 were milk goats Rest were used for fiber The years between 2002 and 2006 saw a sharp increase, with the total number of goats in the US totaling 2,934,000, with a full 2,400,000 being meat goats, and 296,000 being dairy goats. In 1999, there were roughly 463,000 goats slaughtered for meat in the US. Compare this to the nearly 780,000 goats slaughtered for meat in the US in 2010. According to the NASS in 2018, the total number of meat goats being raised in the United States came in at roughly 2.1 million heads. This was actually a slight decrease from 2017, and quite a sharp decrease from 2007, which saw over 3 million goats being raised in the US. According to official statistics, there was a drastic increase in the imports of goat carcasses in the US between 1990 and 2014. In 1990, the US imported 2,994 million pounds of goat meat worth $1.9 million. There were 43,188 million pounds of goat meat imported with a value of $94.7 million in 2014. In 2006 it was shown that the US produces roughly 750,000 less goats for meat than the demand, which therefore leads to massive import. Currently, Australia accounts for well over 95% of the goats being imported to the US. In the US, you will earn a higher price if your goats are 100% grass fed. The average market price for a pound of 100% grass fed goat meat from a farm is $20 per pound, depending on the cut and your geographic location. When you sell a whole, grass fed goat, you account for the premium cuts as well. While there is a discount for buying the whole goat, the price per pound is overall higher, typically about $22 per pound. Therefore, a 100% grass fed goat that weighs 25 pounds, at $22 a pound is $550 on average. Although the numbers of goats in the US has risen and fallen several times over the past years, there is an ever-increasing demand for goat meat. The simple fact of the matter is that the US does not produce enough goats to meet its current demand, which is increasing the quantity of goat meat being imported. One of the reasons for this appears to be that meat goats are relatively hard to raise. The increasing demand for goat meat should spur increased goat production numbers in the US. However, the difficulties associated with raising goats are to blame for the decrease in the number of goats being raised in the US between 2005 and the current day. With everything said and done, raising goats can still be very profitable, if done the right way. Something which you as a potential goat farmer may be wondering is whether it is more profitable to raise goats for meat or for dairy. The fact of the matter is that both meat and dairy goats can be very profitable to raise, but is one more profitable than the other? Let's take a closer look at the difference between raising meat goats and dairy goats. In terms of body shape and size, dairy goats tend to be quite tall with long legs. These goats are long, and they have barely any body fat. Perhaps the most profitable type of dairy goat is the Saanen goat. These goats can produce up to three gallons of goat milk per day. This high yield makes them the most popular dairy goat in the world. Another heavy milker is the Alpine goat. (Alpine wethers are also good for meat.) On average, American farmers will price their goat milk between $8 and $12 per gallon. Therefore, with a maximum-yielding Saanen, this would translate up to $36 worth of milk per day. Dairy goats, in terms of their personalities, tend to be quite easy to raise due to their upbringing. Depending on how much time you want to spend milking and your milking setup, there are goats that are heavy producers as well as goats that are still considered dairy goats but don't provide as much milk as other goat breeds. One of these moderate milkers is the Toggenburg goat. Nubian goats provide milk for home consumption or to make cheese. They aren't prolific milkers and can be ideal for those starting out with a small herd. For the most part, dairy goats will be bottle-fed by their owners, which results in a more tolerant and sociable goat, particularly toward children. The reason why dairy goats are often bottle fed is to provide them with the maximum amount of the right nutrients, fats, minerals, and vitamins necessary to produce large quantities of high-quality milk. Learn when can baby goats go outside. There is an increased amount of care required to raise dairy goats. The production of milk, high quality and large quantities of it, requires some pretty specific parameters. Goats for dairy have a high maintenance level and require lots of care. They need to be fed the highest quality of foods, as well as lots of it. It is also worth noting that goat milking equipment is quite costly. In addition, the milking process itself very time-consuming. You will also need to be sure the milking equipment and area are clean. There is also the fact that the dairy coming from goats needs to be licensed and regulated. Simply put, raising goats for dairy can be costly, time consuming, and effort-intensive. Dairy goats are actually very profitable as they can also breed and produce young goats, therefore increasing the herd size. Also, keep in mind that farmers of dairy goats should milk their goats every 12 hours. Keeping with this time schedule can be another difficulty associated with dairy goats. There are a few popular meat goats which farmers prefer raising. One of the most profitable meat goats being the Boer goat, which when fully grown will come in at roughly 40 pounds. Taking into account that in the US, at the current market value of $22 per pound for an entire goat, a 40 pound goat would therefore sell for around $880. There are also processing fees (slaughtering, processing, packaging, etc.) to consider. Australia has relied on the Boer goat to become the No. 1 exporter of goat meat in the world. Kiko goats are also excellent meat goats. Now, one of the reasons why farming meat goats is more popular is because they do not require as much time, effort, or money to raise. Meat goats are fed normal food. They drink their mother's milk. Besides basic care and maintenance, there is nothing special required. If there is no dairy being produced, there are no licensing and dairy regulation issues to deal with. Farmers do not have to bottle-feed goats expensive nutrients either. With meat goats, past basic care and feeding, there is not much time or effort required to raise them. Meat goat farmers typically never actually slaughter their own animals. The bottom line is that meat goats are much easier to raise and care for, but generally do not produce quite the same profit as the more time and energy-intensive dairy goats. You can slaughter a meat goat only once, but a dairy goat will continue producing milk for many years, as well as offspring too, which can then be used for more dairy or meat production. Something you should be aware of is just how profitable it is to raise meat goats, how much it costs to raise them, the profit margin, and everything else related to finances as well. Let's take a closer look at everything you need to know about raising meat goats for profit. The fact of the matter is that farming meat goats can be and is very profitable. In fact, meat goats are far more profitable than either sheep or cattle. Remembering that goats can be worth up to $20 per pound on average, whereas cattle goes for much less. (Think of your grocery store prices.) Although the following figure is from Australia, it still provides a good estimate of what an average meat goat farmer can expect to earn in a single fiscal year. "For the 2015-2016 financial year, 18 female goat farmers reported earning an average of $66,127 — significantly more than their 22 male counterparts, who reported an average earning of $44,495." This really depends on who you ask. Generally speaking, the Boer goat is often considered to be the best type of meat goat out there in terms of quantity and ease of raising. A Boer buck can weigh between 200 – 340 pounds, therefore producing a lot of meat in pounds. On the other hand, if you are going for the best taste and the highest quality of meat, the best goat is considered to be the Black Bengal goat. Below is a list of the 10 best meat goats to raise on a farm based on general consensus and various studies related to ease of raising, the quality of the meat, and the amount of meat produced. Black Bengal goat Boer goat Kalahari red goat Kiko goat Fainting goat Nubian goat Rangeland goat Sirohi Goat Spanish Goat Verata Goat Raising a meat goat is not overly expensive. It can definitely lead to some pretty decent profits. Let's go through a breakdown of how much money you can expect to spend on raising and maintaining a single meat goat. Once you have your fixed costs of fencing, shelter, watering systems, etc., the ongoing costs are minimal. The monthly costs are approximately $20 – $25 per goat, not factoring in medical or veterinarian expenses which you may or may not require. Keep in mind, meat goats should get most of their nutrients from foraging. Ongoing monthly costs include: Indoor bedding (hay) Hay, alfalfa, etc. — They can eat up to four pounds a day Periodic supplements Therefore, for a single meat goat, expect to spend between $60 – $150 raising it, depending on how the type of goat and how many months it takes to raise. Now, these are the pure costs, but what you must also then factor in is how much labor is required to raise those goats. On average for 10 goats, expect to spend a minimum of two hours a week taking care of the goats. You will need to change bedding, sweep and clean, provide water, and feed the goats. Learn what to feed goats to gain weight. This depends on the type of goat meat you are planning to produce the market with. If you are raising goats for the purpose of selling Chevon meat, these goats will generally be slaughtered between 3 and 6 months of age. Most goats, even the older ones, are slaughtered within the first 12 months of life, sometimes up to 14 or 16 months. Therefore, you first need to figure out exactly what your goals are and what kind of goat meat you plan to supply the market with. Paying attention to the demand for specific types and ages of meat is therefore crucial to success. Once again, this depends on the exact market, the demand, the location, and the type of goat. On average, to the end customer, 100% grass fed goat meat will sell for approximately $20 per pound. The actual price depends on the cut. Some examples: Ground goat may sell for $11 per pound Traditional grass fed goat stew bone-in meat can sell for $18.95 per pound Leg of goat at 2.5 pounds sells for approximately $59 ($23.60 per pound) A goat shoulder can sell for $80 for three pounds ($26.66 per pound) If we are talking about Chevon, which is meat from young goats up to 60 pounds, you may get a premium price. That being said, if you are going for the popular Boer goat, the most popular goat for farming, a mature Boer buck can between 200 – 340 pounds. Let's go over some tips that you need to follow if you plan on successfully raising meat goats for profit. Carefully evaluate your financial resources before beginning to raise meat goats. Calculate what you can expect to spend on them compared to the expected returns. Remember, certain breeds of goats are better for meat farming purposes than others. Do what you can to save money, which could include using the wasted hay which goats have not eaten for bedding. Goats are strong, good jumpers, and escape artists, so one of the most important tips here is to make sure to use a tall and strong fence, or else you will be constantly dealing with escaped goats. Consider predators in your area and be sure to install barriers. The quality of the feed and supplements will make a difference in terms of the growth rate, the final weight, and the quality of the meat. Simply put, you get what you pay for. There are a wide array of factors and costs associated with meat goat farming. Below is a breakdown of the costs which you can expect to deal with when raising meat goats. First you must calculate the total number of goats you have, both male and females, and how much you paid for each. You must then calculate the total weight of all goats. You then must do research to figure out the price of a live goat per pound and then multiply this per pound cost by the total poundage of goats. If you breed meat or dairy goats, you will not have the upfront costs. You must now figure out how much the feed for goats is going to cost. This means figuring out how many baby goats are going to be born and how much feed must be consumed by each baby goat to achieve a target weight within a certain period of time. Figure out the cost of the feed per pound, and multiply this be the amount of feed you will require. At the same time, if raising adult goats, you must also calculate the total amount of adult goats you have and how much feed they require. Add together the feed for raising the baby goats and adult goats, and then factor in the transportation cost for the feed. This will be your total feed cost. What Do Goats Eat You must then calculate other costs, which would be shelter + vaccination + labor + green fodder growing costs. Now you need to figure out exactly how much your goats weigh in total poundage, and multiply this by the average cost of goat meat per pound. You will then subtract the total running costs (feed cost/other costs) from the total poundage value. Simply put, you need to subtract your total investments and costs from the final sale price, which will provide you with your overall returns. It's important to know the exact breakdown of all costs and how to calculate your returns with all necessary factors. Using a comprehensive meat goat profit calculator will tell you exactly how much profit you can expect to make from your meat goats. Raising Goats for Profit Let's quickly go over some of the most popular and widely farmed breeds of meat goats which you may be interested in. The Spanish goat, also known as the scrub goat, originally came to the US from Spain via Mexico. This is a goat widely used for meat farming and brush clearing purposes in the US. However, since the 1980s, Boer goats have become more popular for meat. Spanish goats have a straight profile with long horns that flare up laterally. Spanish goat bucks can be up to 25 inches in height and weigh up to 250 pounds. Does can be up to 17 – 20 inches in height, weighing up to 150 pounds. Pygmy goats originally come from the Cameroon Valley in West Africa. These small goats are commonly kept as pets or meat goats. Male pygmy goats can be up to 20 inches in height and weigh up to 60 pounds. Females often top out at 15 inches in height and 60 pounds. Pygmy goats are quite small and slender. They can come in a variety of colors, and they are a very hardy breed of goat. The Kiko goat was first developed in the 1980s in New Zealand. Kiko goats are relatively large goats. They are not very long, and they have very compact and thick bodies, kind of like a barrel. Some would call their appearance "fat". Kiko goats are popular to use for meat farming because they: Are hardy Are low maintenance Reach slaughter weight quickly Kiko goats are used for both meat and dairy production. Male Kiko goats can weigh up to 200 pounds. Kiko does weigh between 100 – 150 pounds. The origins of fainting goats can be traced back to the early 1800s, when a farmer named John Tinsley brought a few of them to Tennessee. It is thought that he came from Nova Scotia, Canada, although this has not been confirmed. Fainting goats are of course known for fainting and going stiff when they feel threatened. These goats are often used as meat goats, pets, and to protect larger goat herds. Males can grow up to 25 inches tall and weigh up to 200 pounds. Female Myotonic goats are decidedly smaller, coming in at around 17 inches in height. The does average of 60 – 80 pounds. Of course, besides raising meat goats, raising goats for dairy production purposes is another profitable option to consider. Dairy goat farming is often regarded as being extremely profitable due to the high demand for goat milk across the world. Worldwide, although North America has a penchant for cow's milk, across the whole world, goat's milk is actually more popular. As an example, Pam Lunn from the United States makes nearly $10,000 per year from her small dairy goat operation. In the US, farmers can sell goat's milk for up to $3 per quart, or about $3 per 0.95 liters. This comes close to $12 per gallon. Considering that your highest producing dairy goats can make up to three gallons of milk per day, a single dairy goat could produce potentially $36 per day in profits. There are a few different breeds of goat which are considered to be the best and most profitable milk producers. Here is a list of the top breeds of goat for milk production. Others, such as Toggenburg goats, give good milk but not as much as other dairy goat breeds. Their milk is low in butterfat, making it suitable for drinking but not suitable for making butter and cheese. Before you choose any one goat for milk production, there are a number of factors you should consider. These include the following factors: Demand Amount of milk the specific breed can produce – More milk isn't better if you can't milk the goats. Difficulty of raising the breed in question Taste and quality of the milk Butterfat content and the milk's viability to make cheese, soaps, and other related products Cost of raising vs overall profits Your average dairy goat is going to produce between 1 and 3 gallons of milk per day, or up to around 12 liters. During a 305-day lactation period, your best dairy goats will produce up to 1,800 liters of milk. As stated before, goat milk can be sold for as high as $8 – $12 per gallon. On average, a pound of goat's milk cheese is sold for $14.95 per pound in the US. Choose a breed based on all important factors (costs/production length/ease of maintenance etc.). Dairy goats need a clean and dry environment, which during winter months means needing an enclosed barn. Always ensure that you have large and tough fences, as goats in general are notorious escape artists. For feeding a variety of hay, shrubs, grasses, woods, and supplements should be provided. In order to prevent young goats from consuming all of their mother's milk, dairy goats should be milked twice per day. Let's quickly take a look at the most popular dairy goat breeds from around the world. They are: As the name implies, these goats originate from Nigeria. Nigerian Dwarf goats have very thick and stocky bodies with short legs. These goats are not overly large and can grow to about 21 inches tall and 75 pounds. This type of goat has its origins in the Middle East, but was first developed in Britain during the 19th Century. Nubian goats tend to be larger than other breeds of dairy goats with a good deal of meat on them. Bucks can grow to 35 inches in height and 310 pounds, with Nubian does growing to 31 inches in height and 240 pounds. This type of goat has its origins in Spain. One of the defining characteristics of LaMancha goats is their distinctly small ears or lack of ears. LaMancha bucks will grow to roughly 30 inches tall and at least 155 pounds. Does will grow to at least 28 inches tall and 130 pounds. The Saanen goat comes from the Saanen Valley in Switzerland. This is a fairly average looking goat with a white coat. Saanen goats usually have short and glossy hair. Saanen males can grow to 90 cm and over 200 pounds. Female Saanens grow to around 80 cm and 140 pounds. The Alpine goat has its origins in the French Alps. These are fairly long and skinny goats with thin builds. They can come in a variety of colors. Male Alpine goats usually grow to 32 inches tall and 130 pounds. Female Alpine goats average 30 inches tall and 110 pounds. The Oberhasli goat was imported to the US in the 1900s and has its origins in Oberhasli, Switzerland. These goats are known for having the facial shape of a dog. Oberhasli goats usually grow to around 34 inches and 150 pounds. Female Oberhasli goats grow to 30 inches and 100 – 120 pounds. The bottom line is you can quite easily raise goats for profit. It's a continuously growing market with a massive and ever-growing demand. Whether you want to raise goats for dairy or meat production, fibers (from angora goats), if you do it right, you can make a decent yearly profit. Get creative! Can you get zoning to do a petting zoo for schools? Perhaps you can rent out your goats to clear pasture in neighboring areas. You can host goat yoga on your property or bring your goats to a country club or other facility for outdoor goat yoga. Related articles: While goats can make great pets, they can also be highly profitable in both the meat and dairy industries. If you're interested in raising goats and making money in the process, you'll need to know how to profit from your herd of goats. What are the most profitable goat breeds? Here are the most profitable goat breeds depending on the commodity you plan to sell: Most Profitable Meat Goats: Most Profitable Dairy Goats: Most Profitable Dual-Purpose Goats In addition to selecting the right breed for your operation, you will want to run your business in a way to maximize your profits. Read on to learn more about these profitable goat breeds and how to get the most out of your herd. Top Profitable Goat Breeds To Own Profitable Meat Goat Breeds Raising goats for meat is a low-risk, high-yield business model, making it attractive for beginners. If you have decided to raise goats for meat, you will want to choose a breed known for its quality of meat and fast growth rate. #1 Meat Goat Breed: Boer The Boer is the largest of goat breeds, with bucks reaching up to 300 pounds at maturity. Boers are also the most common breed of goat in the United States due to their success as a meat-producing goat. They grow rapidly and are typically ready to process between 3 and 5 months of age or between 50 and 80 pounds. Boers also have a high fertility rate and are prolific breeders. #2 Meat Goat Breed: Kiko The Kiko is a good choice of meat goat if you are looking to sell pasture-raised meat. Kikos have the ability to quickly gain substantial weight on pasture alone, which has the potential to save farmers significantly in feed. Kikos are also well-known for birthing and raising multiple kids (baby goats) each pregnancy. #3 Meat Goat Breed: Myotonic (Fainting Goat) Myotonics, otherwise known as Tennessee Fainting Goats, are often used in crossbreeding programs due to their muscle-heavy compositions. The gene that allows them to gain muscle more readily than other breeds is the same that causes their muscles to lock when they are startled – causing them to become briefly immobile and fall over or "faint." #4 Meat Goat Breed: Pygmy Pygmy goats are stocky with heavy bones and are bred primarily for meat. They are smaller than most other meat goats, with bucks at most 60 pounds, but their manageable size makes them ideal for smaller homesteads and smaller (i.e., child) handlers. Profitable Dairy Goat Breeds: If you are interested in raising dairy goats, you will want a breed of goat that is both a prolific breeder and a high-yield milk producer. As an additional advantage, dairy goats should be docile and tame, as they will need to cooperate with their handlers multiple times per day when being milked. #1 Dairy Goat Breed: Saanen The Saanen produces more milk than any other breed of goat – up to three gallons of milk per day – making it one of the most profitable of dairy breeds. Saanens reach up to 150 pounds at maturity, making them a medium-large breed. #2 Dairy Goat Breed: Nigerian Dwarf As their name suggests, Nigerian Dwarfs are small in stature – topping out at about 75 pounds. Does yield around two quarts, or ½ gallon, of milk per day. They are especially gentle and friendly, making them a popular breed of choice for 4H and FFA programs. #3 Dairy Goat Breed: French Alpine French Alpine goats produce around 1 gallon of milk per day, making them a profitable dairy breed to raise. They weigh 150-200 pounds at maturity and does have large udders – making them easier on the hands when milking. #4 Dairy Goat Breed: LaMancha LaMancha goats produce ⅔ – ¾ gallons of milk per day, putting them in the middle of the French Alpine and the Nigerian Dwarf in terms of daily milk production. LaManchas are a hardy, resilient breed with distinguishable small ears. Profitable Dual-Purpose Goat Breeds: Can't decide whether to raise dairy goats or meat goats? There are productive dual-purpose breeds that provide both ample milk and high-quality meat. These will not only allow you to profit from the meat and milk that they provide but will also allow you to sell the kids – marketing them as the perfect all-in-one goats for self-sufficient homesteaders. #1 Dual-Purpose Goat Breed: Anglo-Nubian While the Nubian does not yield as much milk as other popular dairy breeds, they are known for their high percentage of butterfat, making them a good choice for producing dairy products. They have a mature weight of between 135 and 175 pounds, and because they are a large breed of goat, they are known to grow quickly when compared to other breeds. #2 Dual-Purpose Goat Breed: Kinder Kinder goats produce a large quantity of milk – up to a gallon per day – and are known for their sweet (non-goaty) tasting milk and high butterfat percentage. If they didn't produce a profitable carcass as well, we would have listed them with the rest of the dairy goats above. Kinders mature to a weight between 120 and 150 pounds and grow quickly, making them a good choice for meat as well. Which Is More Profitable: Goat Meat Or Goat Milk? At the end of the day, dairy goats are more profitable. But raising dairy goats is not for the faint of heart for a few reasons: They are more time-intensive. Dairy goats should be milked every 12 hours. Dairy chores are time-consuming, and they make it challenging to take a vacation or just a weekend away. There is more start-up cost. Unless you are milking your goats with your hands and a bucket, you will need to invest in expensive equipment. You will also need sterile containers to store the milk and a way to process and house the milk. Selling dairy products comes with strict rules and licensing requirements. Dairy products are heavily regulated in the United States, and meeting the many requirements to legally sell your milk can be daunting. Meat goats are much easier to care for. As long as the goat's basic needs are met, you can turn them out to pasture in the morning and go about your regular day (or leave them pastured without bringing them in at night, so long as they are safe and sheltered). Which commodity you decide to produce will depend largely on your lifestyle and available initial investment. If you decide to try your hand at both dairy and meat, there are dual-purpose breeds that will work well for that kind of operation, and as an added bonus, your family will be self-sufficient in terms of both meat and dairy products. Maximizing Your Goat Profits While it would be unrealistic to expect to turn a profit immediately, there are things you can do right away to make your business more lucrative in the long run. There are several ways you can maximize profits from your goat business. Choose the right breed. Some goat breeds have been bred over many years to reach a marketable weight in a relatively short time frame. Others have been bred over the years to produce high quantities of milk for a longer period of time. Whatever your business model, make sure to choose the appropriate breed for your operation. Choose your feed carefully. The largest expense you will incur will be feed. This is especially important for dairy operations, as your goats may have different dietary needs. If you have enough quality pasture to free-range your goats, this will save you significantly. If you don't, you will want to do your homework in sourcing the highest quality feed for the best price in your area. Market your goat products. Because there is currently more demand in the US for goat products than there is supply, you should find it easy to find a market for your meat or milk. To maximize profits, find the most profitable market in your locale for your product. This may be at auction, or it may be as a vendor for a local restaurant. Protect your goats. Goats are prey animals, and humans aren't the only species that eat them. To protect your investment, you will need to protect your animals from predators. The easiest way to do this is through the use of an electric fence. This will help keep the predators out of the goat pen and the goats inside their enclosure, where they are safe. Which Goat Breed Are You Going To Raise For A Profit? Because of the relatively low supply when compared to demand, as well as the increasing demand for both goat meat and goat dairy products, you should be able to bring in a profit regardless of whether you decide to raise meat goats or dairy goats. If you choose one of the breeds in this article, you will be off to a great start. You can learn more about owning and raising homestead animals in my latest articles here! Raising goats for profit is an increasingly popular venture for small farmers, hobbyists, and entrepreneurs. Goats are versatile animals that offer multiple streams of income, and with the right strategies, you can turn your goat farming into a lucrative business. Whether you're focusing on dairy goats, meat goats, or unique services like brush clearing and agri-tourism, understanding how to diversify and target specific markets can significantly boost your profit. Let's explore seven effective methods to make money by raising goats.Find a Profit NicheOne of the most important steps in making a profit from raising goats is identifying a niche that works for you. Not every goat farm will succeed using the same strategies, so you must focus on what works best for your environment, skills, and market. Whether you want to focus on dairy goats, meat goats, or even fiber-producing goats, finding the right fit is crucial. A niche helps you stand out in a crowded market, allowing you to cater to specific demands while minimizing competition.Dairy Goat Income StreamsDairy goats offer several opportunities to generate income. Selling fresh goat milk is a straightforward and profitable option. Goat milk is known for its nutritional benefits and is sought after by health-conscious consumers and those with lactose intolerance. You can also expand into producing value-added products such as cheese, yogurt, and soap.From personal experience, selling homemade goat milk soap has not only been a creative outlet but also a way to connect with a local market that values natural, handmade products. Investing in the right dairy breeds, such as Nubians or Saanens, is key to maximizing milk yield and, by extension, profit. Keep in mind that proper goat care services are essential to ensure consistent milk production.Meat Goat Income StreamsRaising goats for meat can also be a profitable enterprise. Meat goats, particularly breeds like Boer or Kiko, are known for their rapid growth and lean, high-quality meat. The demand for goat meat is strong in many ethnic communities and is growing as more people discover its health benefits. One option is to sell directly to consumers or local restaurants, focusing on providing fresh, sustainably raised goat meat.Another strategy is breeding and selling goats for meat. By maintaining a healthy breeding stock, you can sell kids for a premium, especially if you emphasize the health and quality of your animals. In this market, quality and reputation are everything, so maintaining high standards of care and genetics can significantly boost your income.Goat Fiber Income StreamsIf you're interested in something beyond dairy and meat, raising goats for fiber can be a great alternative. Certain breeds like Angora and Cashmere goats produce valuable fibers that can be sold to textile manufacturers or directly to consumers. Cashmere is particularly prized for its softness and warmth, making it a high-end product.Goat fiber is a niche market, and with the growing trend of sustainable, natural fibers in fashion, there's potential for expansion. From personal observation, fiber production can be an excellent complement to other income streams, especially if you target a niche market that values eco-friendly, handmade products.Brush-Clearing Income Streams With GoatsGoats are natural browsers, which makes them ideal for brush clearing. Renting out your goats to clear land is an innovative way to make money. This service is highly sought after by landowners, municipalities, and developers who prefer an eco-friendly alternative to machinery or chemicals. It also allows you to keep your goats well-fed without additional feed costs, minimizing expenses while generating income.By offering brush-clearing services, you tap into a growing market that values sustainability. Word of mouth and good marketing can help you expand this income stream, especially in areas where traditional land-clearing methods are costly or impractical. With the rise of agri-tourism, goats are becoming a popular attraction for visitors looking to experience farm life. Offering farm tours, workshops, or even goat yoga can attract a steady stream of visitors to your farm. This income stream doesn't require you to sell a physical product, but it does rely heavily on marketing and creating a unique experience.Personally, organizing farm tours has not only been an enjoyable way to educate the public about goats but has also strengthened community ties, resulting in a loyal customer base for other products like milk, fiber, and meat. If you're looking to diversify your farm, this can be an excellent addition to your business model.Income Streams from Goat Care ServicesIf you have extensive knowledge of goat husbandry, offering goat care services could be another profitable avenue. Many people are interested in owning goats but lack the experience or time to care for them properly. Services such as hoof trimming, health consultations, and breeding assistance can provide an additional source of revenue.Sharing personal expertise and educating others about goat care is incredibly rewarding. I've found that offering these services helps build a strong relationship with the local farming community, which in turn creates opportunities for additional business, whether through word-of-mouth referrals or collaborations.Goat Farm Online Marketing and EducationIn today's digital age, online marketing and education offer immense potential for goat farmers. Starting a blog, YouTube channel, or social media presence focused on goat farming can help you reach a global audience. You can monetize these platforms through ads, sponsorships, and paid courses on topics like goat care, breeding, or fiber production.By sharing your experiences and knowledge online, you not only build a personal brand but also create a community of followers who trust your expertise. This can lead to further sales of goat-related products or services. The key to maximizing profits in goat farming is diversification. Don't rely on just one income stream. Instead, aim to combine several complementary activities. For example, you might raise dairy goats and sell milk, offer goat care services, and rent your herd for brush clearing. Each activity supports the others, creating a more stable and profitable business.Minimize Your Costs to Maximize ProfitRunning a profitable goat farm isn't just about increasing income streams; it's also about keeping costs under control. Efficient feed management, preventive health care, and well-planned infrastructure can significantly reduce expenses. Avoid unnecessary purchases and focus on what directly impacts your bottom line.For instance, utilizing natural pastures for feed can drastically reduce your expenses, especially if you're also offering brush-clearing services. Every cost-saving measure you take adds to your overall profit, making the business more sustainable.Take Action: Raising Goats for ProfitFinally, success in goat farming comes down to taking action. It's easy to get lost in planning, but real progress happens when you start implementing your ideas. Whether you're choosing your first income stream or expanding your existing operations, don't hesitate to take the first step. Experience is the best teacher, and the sooner you start, the sooner you'll see results. Dairy goats can be a great way to make money, but it's important to note that there are challenges and costs involved. While dairy goats are small and easy to manage, providing milk for your own consumption can save money, and selling milk can be profitable, especially if you can make cheese, butter, or yogurt. However, it is labor-intensive, and feed, hay, wormer, and vaccinations are costly. Additionally, the market can be unpredictable, and it may be challenging to make a substantial profit unless you have a large herd or high-quality breeding stock. Some alternative ways to make money from dairy goats include renting them out for grazing, selling kids, and teaching classes or creating educational content. Characteristics Values Dairy products Goat milk can be pasteurized and sold or made into by-products such as cheese, butter, ice cream, and yogurt. Farmers have noted getting $8 to $12 per gallon of milk sold. Goat kids Selling goat kids can bring income, especially if the herd is registered, from good bloodlines, vaccinated, and free of diseases. Goat rental Goats can be rented out for grazing and weed control, reducing feed costs. Teaching Knowledge about raising goats can be shared through in-person or virtual classes, eBooks, or blogs, which can be sold. Goat by-products Goat milk can be used to make soap and lotion, providing an alternative to selling consumable dairy products, which may be more heavily regulated. Cost savings Dairy goats can provide for a family's dairy needs, reducing the cost of purchasing dairy products. Work ethic Raising dairy goats requires a strong work ethic, including feeding, watering, milking, and staying up all night with expectant goats. Time commitment A dairy goat project requires a significant time commitment, with daily feeding, watering, and milking schedules. Space requirements Dairy goats need sufficient space to roam and graze. Setup costs Initial setup costs for a dairy goat project can be high, including the cost of purchasing the goats, feed, hay, wormer, and vaccinations. The Dairy Goat Handbook: For Backyard, Homestead, and Small Farm $24.99 Meredith Dairy Marinated Sheep and Goat Cheese 11.3 oz (Pack of 2) $24.99 Meredith Dairy Marinated Sheep and Goat Cheese 11.3 oz $12.99 Rent goats for grazing and weeding While it is challenging to make money with goats, renting them out for grazing and weeding is a viable option. This practice, known as "goatscaping", offers numerous benefits to landowners.Goats are agile creatures that can efficiently tackle weed problems, even on sloped or uneven terrain. They are particularly effective at consuming invasive plant species, such as kudzu, and plants that cause allergic reactions in humans, like poison ivy. By thinning out excess vegetation, goats also help create fire breaks, making them valuable in states prone to wildfires, such as Nevada and Oregon.Renting goats provides an eco-friendly alternative to traditional lawn care. Unlike gas lawn mowers, goats do not emit hazardous pollutants like carbon monoxide or volatile organic compounds. Additionally, they eliminate the need for chemical herbicides or pesticides, as they happily feast on unwanted vegetation. The manure they produce serves as free fertilizer, further enhancing the ecological benefits of goat grazing.Goat rental can also result in significant cost savings for landowners. The expense of renting goats for land clearing can be considerably lower than hiring regular lawn mowing services, with potential savings of $1,600 to $3,000 per acre.By offering your goats for rent, you can generate an additional revenue stream while reducing your feed costs. However, it is essential to consider factors such as the size of the landowner's property, as some goat rental companies may have acreage requirements for their services.Sell milk and dairy products Dairy goats can be a great source of milk and dairy products for personal consumption, and they can also be used to generate income. Here are some ways to make money by selling milk and dairy products from your dairy goats:Sell MilkDairy goats produce more milk than their kids need. For example, Nigerian Dwarf goats can produce 1 to 2 quarts/liters of milk per day for up to 10 months. This excess milk can be pasteurized and sold directly to consumers. In some states, you can sell raw milk, but in others, you may need to pasteurize it first. The price can range from \$8 to \$12 per gallon. However, it is important to note that selling milk is regulated by laws that vary from state to state, so make sure to research the specific requirements for your area.Sell Dairy ProductsYou can also turn your goat's milk into dairy products such as cheese, yogurt, butter, and ice cream, and then sell these products. Making and selling dairy products can be a good option if your state has strict regulations around selling raw milk. You can also use the milk to make soap and lotion, which can be a non-edible way to utilize your dairy produce.Participate in a Herd Share ProgramAnother way to sell milk without directly selling it to consumers is through a herd share program. In this model, you sell a portion of your herd to customers, making them "co-owners" of the goat. The milk from their goat then becomes a byproduct of their ownership. This approach can help navigate around dairy laws that restrict the sale of raw milk.Direct Sales and MarketingSelling your milk and dairy products directly to friends, family, and coworkers can help cover the costs of raising goats. You can also look into selling at farmers' markets or other local markets to reach a wider customer base. Building a personal relationship with your customers can help ensure repeat business and create a loyal customer base.While there is potential to make money from selling milk and dairy products, it is important to note that the costs of feeding and maintaining a herd of goats can be significant, and the labor involved in dairy production is intensive. Therefore, it may be challenging to generate a substantial profit, and for many, the income covers the costs of keeping the goats with some additional income.Goat yoga While it can be challenging to make a substantial profit from goats, dairy goats can be monetized in various ways, including through the sale of milk and dairy products. One creative way to make money with dairy goats is through "goat yoga."To host goat yoga, you will need a suitable outdoor space, such as a pasture or a barn for inclement weather. It is important to provide participants with information about the unique setting, such as the presence of insects and the possibility of goat "accidents." Participants should be advised to wear appropriate clothing and bring their own yoga mats or towels, as these may get dirty or be nibbled on by the goats.In addition to the yoga experience, you can enhance your offering by including extras such as local organic produce, flowers, or other farm-made goods. You can also partner with nearby wineries or breweries to offer a glass of wine or beer with each ticket purchase. Furthermore, you can provide private sessions for special events like birthday parties, field trips, or company outings.By offering goat yoga, you can create a memorable and enjoyable experience for participants while also generating income from your dairy goats. This approach allows you to tap into a growing trend and potentially attract a wide range of customers interested in a fun and unconventional yoga experience. Meredith Dairy Marinated Sheep and Goat Cheese 11.3 oz (Pack of 3) $34.99 Meredith Dairy Marinated Sheep and Goat Cheese 11.3 oz (Pack of 5) $49.99 Sell kids and goats for meat While it can be challenging to make a substantial profit from goats, dairy goats can pay for themselves through kid sales and the sale of dairy products. If you're looking to sell kids and goats for meat, there are several factors and strategies to consider.Religious MarketsReligious holidays, such as Eid al-Adha, can create demand for goats among Muslim and Jewish communities. It is important to be aware of religious requirements, such as Halal and Kosher practices, which dictate a quick and painless death for the animal, out of sight of other animals. During these holidays, it is common to sell live goats, which are then butchered by the buyer's family. In some cases, farms may allow the slaughter and butchering to take place on their property, subject to state and county regulations.CharacteristicsThe characteristics of the goats you're selling can impact their value for meat. Age is a significant factor, with four to six-month-old kids being a popular choice for buyers. Colored goats are often preferred over solid white goats, and a dark head is desirable, as it indicates a Boer breeding goat. Additionally, certain breeds, such as the Nubian goat, are known for their versatility and can be used for meat, milk, and hide.Sales VenuesThere are various venues for selling meat goats, each with its advantages and disadvantages. Local livestock auctions, also known as sale barns, offer convenience and reliability, as they guarantee a buyer and provide quick payment. However, they charge a commission on sales, which will reduce your profit. On the other hand, direct sales from your farm give you control over the sales price and eliminate commissions and transportation costs. However, you'll need to handle the marketing yourself and assume transactional risks. Consignment sales are another option, typically used for selling breeding stock, but they usually involve fees and may result in shrinkage.Online PlatformsOnline platforms like Craigslist can be effective for selling meat goats directly to consumers. When creating a listing, it's essential to include detailed information such as age, weight, color, breed, and sex. You should also clearly communicate whether buyers can harvest the animal on your farm, as this may incur additional charges for processing and cleanup.PricingThe price you can fetch for your goats will depend on various factors, including age, weight, breed, and religious considerations. During religious holidays, prices may be higher, but it's important to monitor market reports to understand the demand and pricing trends in your area.In summary, selling kids and goats for meat involves understanding religious and cultural preferences, breeding for desirable characteristics, and choosing the right sales venues and pricing strategies. By considering these factors, you can successfully navigate the market