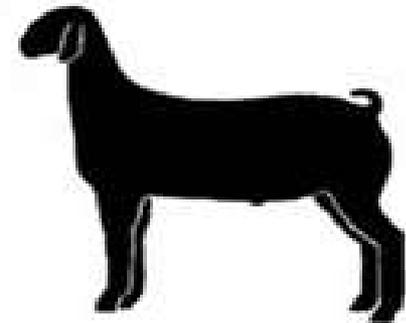


# So You Want To Show Sheep and Goats?

Charles Seely

CEA- 4-H and Youth Development

Washington County



TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

# Before Making Commitment

- Come up with list of goals
- Participate or Compete?
- This is a FAMILY project!
- Find a Mentor
- Determine amount of money you are comfortable spending

# Sheep and Goat Success

- Having success with an animal project is based on 3 parts
  - Good Program
  - Selection
  - Showmanship Ability
- If one of these 3 parts isn't equal to the others, success will be much harder to achieve!





# Facilities and Equipment

# Facilities and Equipment

- Do not need anything elaborate
- Allow enough pen space for sheep/goat to move around (6ft x 10ft) (5x20)
  - Wire hog panels are perfect to use
- Make sure the pen is tall enough so the sheep/goat cannot jump out (48" tall or higher)
- Mostly/Partially covered (covered on north end)
- Ensure proper drainage
- Ensure Proper Ventilation

# Facilities and Equipment

- Allow for sheep/goats to eat separately
- Keep water buckets off ground by clipping water bucket to wire panel
- Have place to keep feed, hay and medications separated entirely from your animals
- **NO RAMPS OR INCLINES IN PENS!**

# Other Equipment Needed

- Feeders
- Rope Halters/ Chains
- Water Buckets
- Multiple types Dewormer
- Hoof Trimmers
- Drench Gun
- Muzzle
- Blankets
- Medicines
- Access to scales
- Fans
- Syringes/Needles





# Getting Started

# Selecting A Breeder

- Magazines
  - The Showbox
  - Purple Circle
- Websites
  - [www.oklahomashowgoats.com](http://www.oklahomashowgoats.com)
  - [www.clublambpage.com](http://www.clublambpage.com)
  - [www.texasshowgoats.com](http://www.texasshowgoats.com)
- Word of Mouth
  - Successful Families
  - CEA
  - Ag Teacher

# Questions to Ask Breeder When Purchasing

- When was the last deworming?
- Do they need a CD/T (Overeaters/tetanus) shot?
- What type of feed are they on?
  - Breeders usually send some home
- What type of feed they recommend?

# After Getting Your Project Home

- Have fresh, clean water
- Gradually switch to your desired feed
- Worm if needed, CD/T if needed
- Look for respiratory Infection (coughing, wheezing, fever)
- Do not begin training your project to show!
- Let project become acclimated to new environment for 1-2 weeks
- If sheep is long stapled, shear

# After Acclimation

- Halter Breaking/ Chain breaking
  - Easier when they are smaller
  - Evenings and Mornings
- Clip goats if long haired
- **DO NOT BEGIN EXERCISING !!**

# Halter Breaking/ Chain Breaking

- Two person job
  - Exhibitor controlling animal
  - Adult helping exhibitor
- May take anywhere from 1-4 weeks
- Repetition, Repetition, Repetition
- Easier to accomplish when animals are smaller than when they are over 100 lbs
- Tie up away from other structures
- Sheep – After sheep are comfortable on halter, begin hand walking them

# Halter Breaking/ Chain Breaking



# Training To Pose/Brace

- Two person job for beginning showmen
- Repetition, Repetition
- Consider building a “bracing stand” (above) or use lamb clipping table.
- If not driving, give tail a yank, or give dock a slight push
- Invest in a large mirror, allows exhibitor to see what project looks like when on the pose



# Showmanship Advice

- If there is a TJLA jackpot show around, go watch
  - Watch better showmen
  - Gives you an idea of what a finished sheep/goat should look like
  - Gives you opportunity to learn
  - Ask successful families questions
  - Watch Youtube videos and tutorials
  - [www.theshowbox.com](http://www.theshowbox.com)



# Feeding

# Feeding

- The goal of the feeding program is to allow animal to reach genetic potential
- Try to feed at least twice a day, 12 hours apart
- Ration with roughage: Alfalfa Hay or Coastal

# Feed

- Availability
- Cost
- Personal Preference

# Lamb Feeds

- Showmaster Show Lamb 18% Textured
- Purina Honor
  - 15% Protein
  - 18% Protein
- Moormans
  - 15.5% Protein
  - 18% Protein
- Make sure you call feed store and let them know what you need before you bring project home!

# Goat Feeds

- Show Rite
  - Advancer – 16% Protein
  - Glen Martin Grand Drive – 17% Protein
- Showmaster
  - Show Goat Sales Edge – 18% Protein
  - Show Goat Developer – 16% Developer
- Moormans
  - Amino Gain – 17% Protein
- Purina Honor
  - Exclamation – 16% Protein/ 4% Fat
  - Impulse R20 – 16% Protein/ 3%Fat

# Sample Schedule to Start

Animal	Beginning month	Middle Stage	Finishing Out	Pushing for Weight
Goat	1/2 lb x2	3/4 lb x 2	1 lb x 2	1.5 lb x 2
Sheep	1 lb x 2	1.5 lb x 2	2 lb x 2	2.5-3 lb x2

- Sheep: start feeding wet at the end of first month.
- Projects will consume 2.5 - 3% of their BW
- 60 days from show, have animal slightly conditioned to start exercising
- Every animal will feed differently

# Supplements

- There is no “magic potion” that turns a bad animal into a great one!
  - Good feed, clean water, TLC
- Two Types
  - Fat Supplements
  - Protein Supplements

# Fat Supplements

- Products that are high in fats to add condition to give a fresh handle and smooth appearance
  - Showmaster PowerPhat
  - Honor Show Chow – High Octane Power Fuel
  - Moormans Fast Fat
  - Show Rite – Fat-N-Fluffy
- Use with caution!

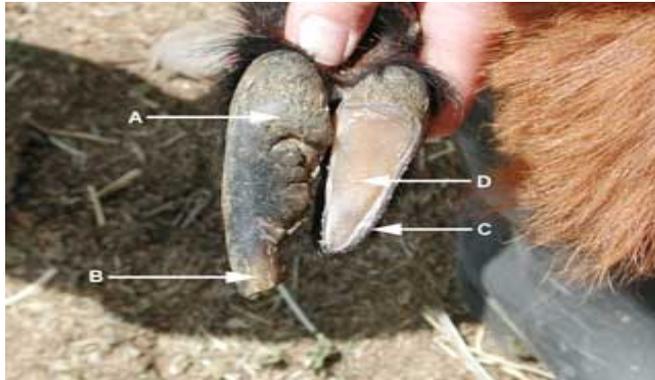
# Protein Supplements

- High Protein Supplements that will add amino acids to diet and help burn fat if needed.
  - Moormans – Fast Forward Mineral
  - Purina Honor – High Octane Fitter 35 (Use only if you have one that is over-conditioned)
  - **USE WITH CAUTION**



# Health and Care

# Hoof Trimming



Before and After: This picture shows the various parts of the hoof on the bottom of the foot. A) identifies the heel regions of the foot. B) shows the toe region on a claw that has not been trimmed. C) identifies the outside hoof wall, and D) indicates fresh sole after being trimmed.



This shows the bottom of a foot that is in desperate need of a trim. Notice how hoof wall has over-grown between the two claws allowing dirt and potential infection to be trapped in the interdigital cleft (identified by the white arrows).

# Hoof Trimming



- After finishing, coat hoof with Kopertox

The goal of trimming the foot should be to get the bottom of the foot to match the angle of the coronary band (identified by the white line). In this picture, the excess toe is being removed to a level where the bottom of the foot will be parallel to the coronary band. The intended bottom of the foot is indicated by the black line. Notice how the white and the black line will be parallel once the foot is properly trimmed.



This picture compares the untrimmed claw on the left to a trimmed claw on the right. Notice how much shorter the toe region on the trimmed side is in comparison to the untrimmed side.

# Health and Care

- Watch at Feeding Time
- Deworming
  - Approximately every 28d
  - Safeguard, Cydectin, Valbazen
  - Rotate Wormers!!!
  - Check Eyelids or gums for paleness in color
- Urinary Calculi
  - Watch in Morning
  - Comparable to Kidney Stones
  - Keep plenty of fresh water
  - Ca:P ratio

# Health and Care

- **Foot Rot**
  - Bathe foot in zinc sulphate
  - Keep hooves trimmed
  - Keep pens dry
  
- **Scours**
  - Back off feed
  - Supplement more fiber (Coastal Hay)
  - Scour Halt
  - Kaopectin (Similar to Pepto)
  - Check for blood (see coccidiosis)

# Health and Care

- Runny Nose
  - LA 200 - 1 cc/50lbs of BW
  - Will usually see this in sheep and goats after periods of heavy rain
  
- Coccidiosis
  - Symptoms – Blood in Stool
  - Caused by Coccidia
  - Treat with Corrid in water

# Health and Care



- Pink Eye
  - More prevalent in goats
  - Water running down cheek from eye
  - Eye will get a glossy blue color
  - Treatment
    - Squirt LA-200/ Penicillin in bottom eyelid
    - Inject animal with LA-200 intramuscularly in neck

# Health and Care

- Soremouth
  - Blisters show up around mouth
  - No known treatment
  - Let run its course
  - Scrape and spray vetericyn or iodine to treat, if you must
  - this will help dry the area and reduce the infection



# Health and Care

- Ringworm

- Ringworm is contagious and can be transmitted from goat to goat, from goat to human, or from infected equipment to goat. A good prevention program is necessary.
- Remove infected animal away from others. Shear the spots you see, and check for more. Usually on head or neck area.
- Although unsightly, ringworms cause little permanent damage.

The following products have been used with varying results:

- Fluid Film® - Spray daily on the area
- Novasan® - 3 ounces per gallon of water sprayed on goats, equipment and premises.
- Bleach - 10 percent solution sprayed on goats, equipment and premises.
- Vetericyn- Spray daily on the area



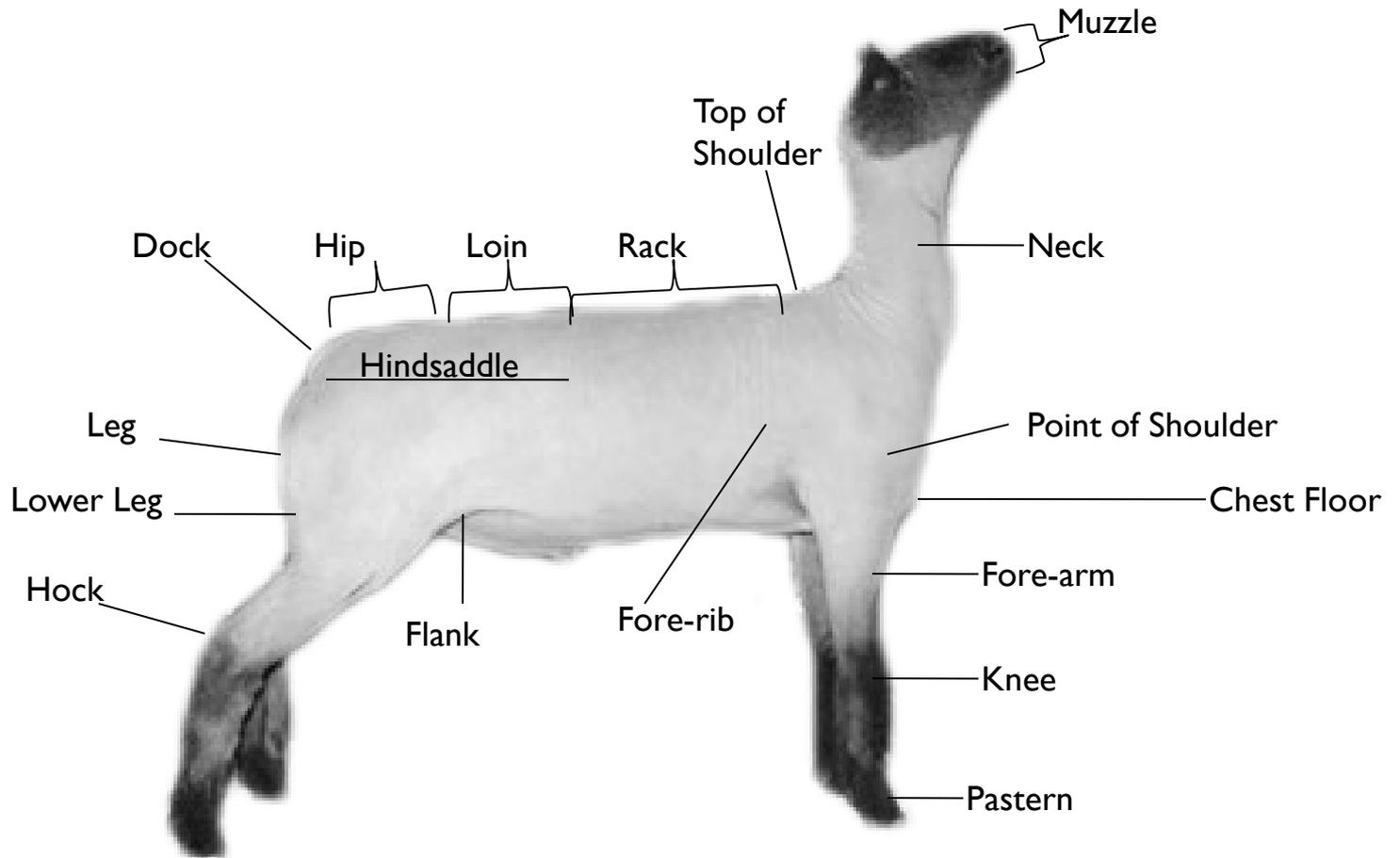


# Selection

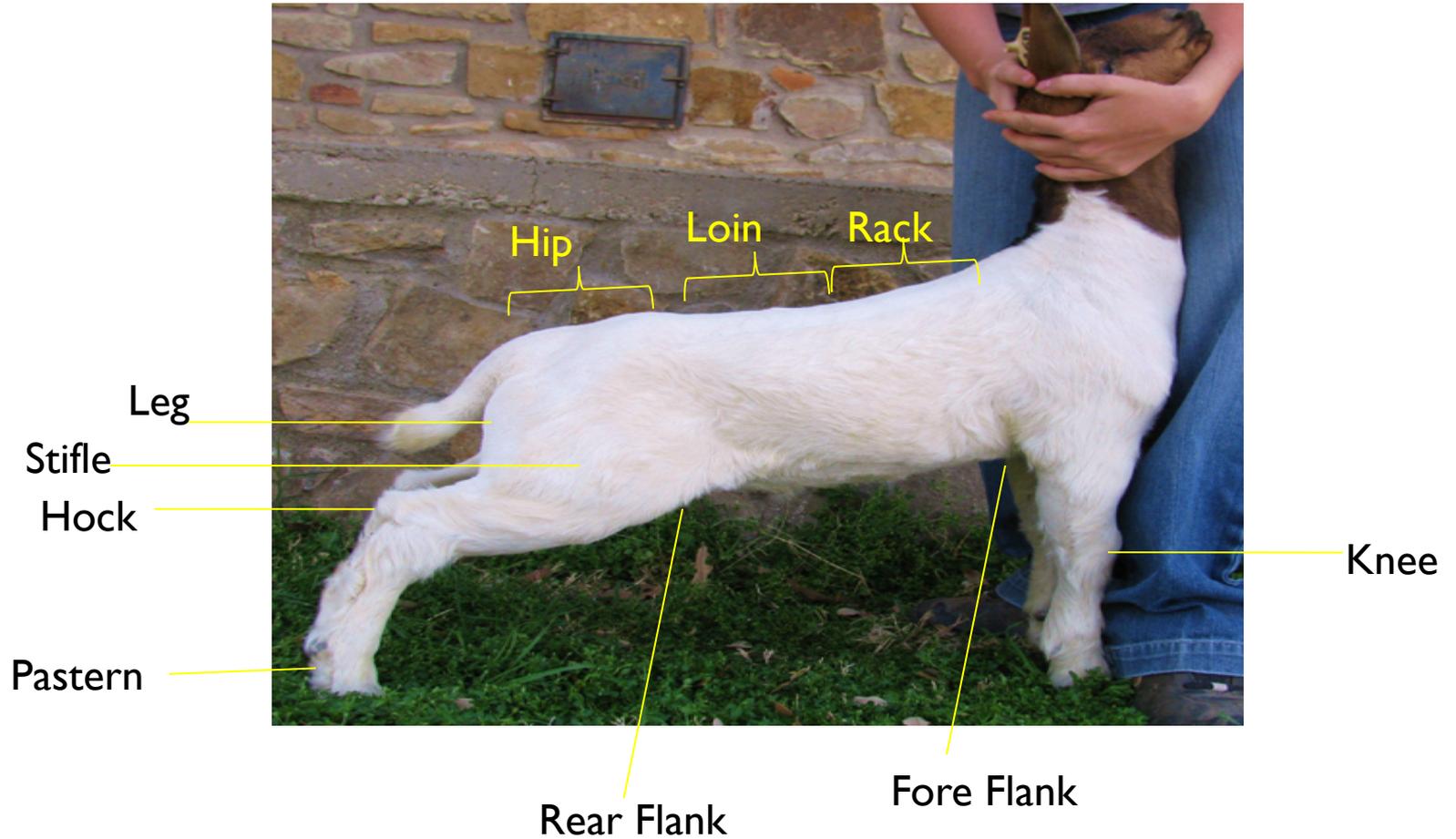
# Selection

- **Priorities**
  - Age
  - Muscle
  - Structure
  - Design
  - Rib Shape

# Labeling the Parts...



# Parts of a Goat



# Age

- **Maturity**
  - Animals that are shown over 13 months become too mature in their look and will likely lose their milk teeth.
- **Must have milk teeth**
- **Ideal birth months:**
  - Sheep – approx. 8-10 months: January to 1<sup>st</sup> of March
  - Goats – approx. 8-10 months: January to 1<sup>st</sup> of March

# Age

- Meeting minimum and maximum weight requirements (goats)
  - Goats 65-120 lbs
  - Sheep must weigh at least 80 lbs
- Milk Teeth vs. Yearling Teeth



Mouth with Milk Teeth Intact

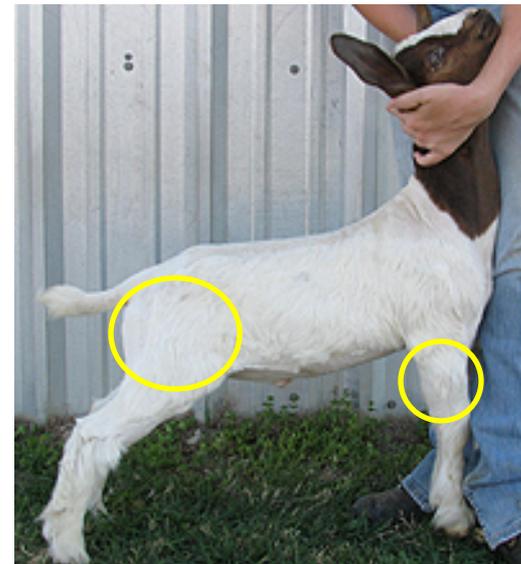
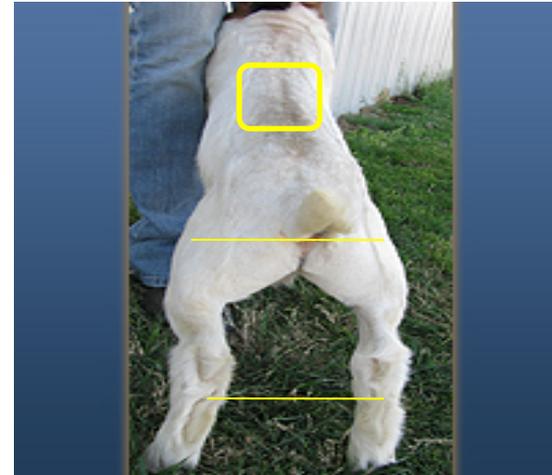
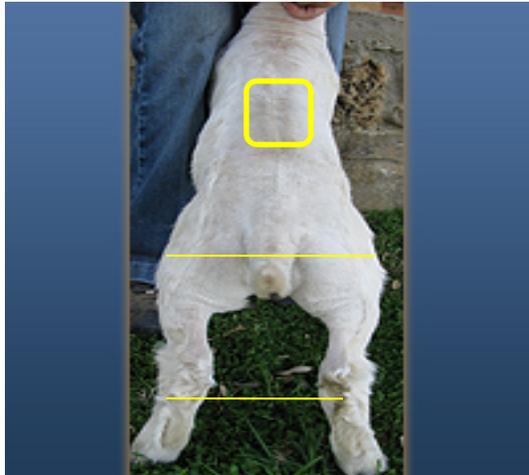


Mouth with Yearling Teeth

# Muscle

- Extremely Important!
- Start evaluation of muscling at ground
- Wide chested (Especially Goats)
- Wider tracking the better
- Want them to be big down their top
- Want them to be as big hipped and as big from behind as we can
- Heavy muscled animals will always beat light muscled animals!

# Muscle - Goats



# Muscle - Sheep



# Muscle - Sheep

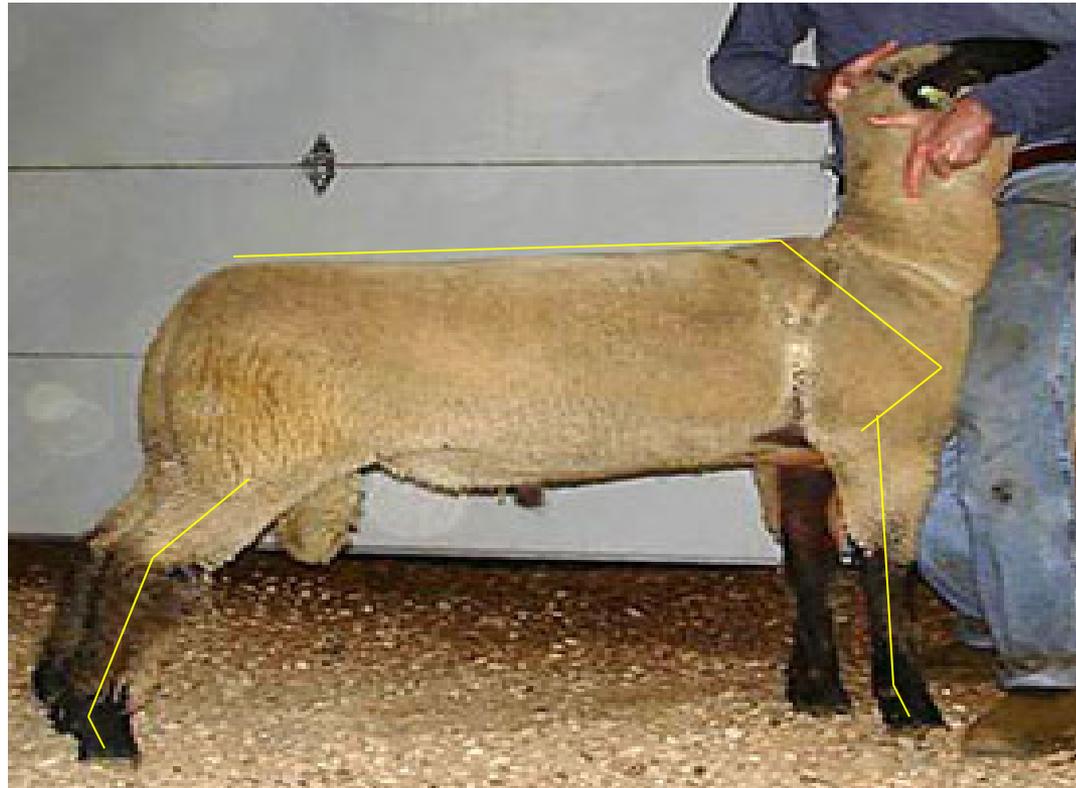


# Structure

- Making sure the skeleton is put together correctly, is flexible, and functional
- If a sheep/goat has a minor structural flaw when young, it will continue to get worse with age and weight gain
- Many times overlooked by feeders

# Structure - Sheep

Study the angles to the skeleton



# Structure - Sheep



# Structure - Goats



# Structure - Goats



# Feet and Leg Structure Imperfections



Cow Hocked



Bow Legged



Toed Out

Try your best to avoid any structural imperfections when selecting. They will only get more apparent with age and weight!

# Design

- Do they take a pretty picture from the side?
- Evaluated from the side profile
- Amount of fill
  - Can be altered last month of program
- First Impression
- Relates to structure

# Nice Designed Market Lamb



- Elevated in Chest
  - Level Topped
- Foreflank and Rearflank depth equal
  - Big Footed/ Big Boned
- Neck ties in at top of shoulder
  - Impeccable in structure

# Nice Designed Market Goat



- Level Topped
- Almost nearly level hip
- Foreflank and rearflank are equal in depth
- Neck comes right out of top of shoulder
- Elevated chest floor

# Nice Designed Lamb Prospects



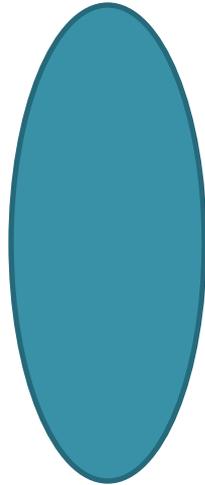
# Nice Balanced Goat Prospects



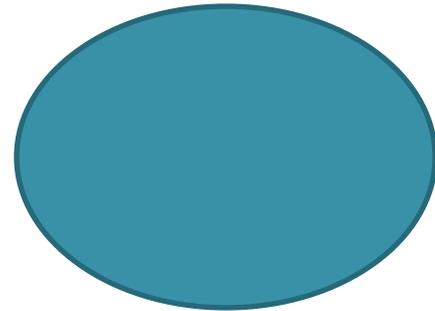
# Rib Shape

- Has become very important the last ten years
- Dictates how wide they will be across rack
  - Lays foundation for muscle deposition over rack
- Affects look from the side
- Concerned with how round/ how much shape the ribcage has just behind the shoulder

# Rib Shape



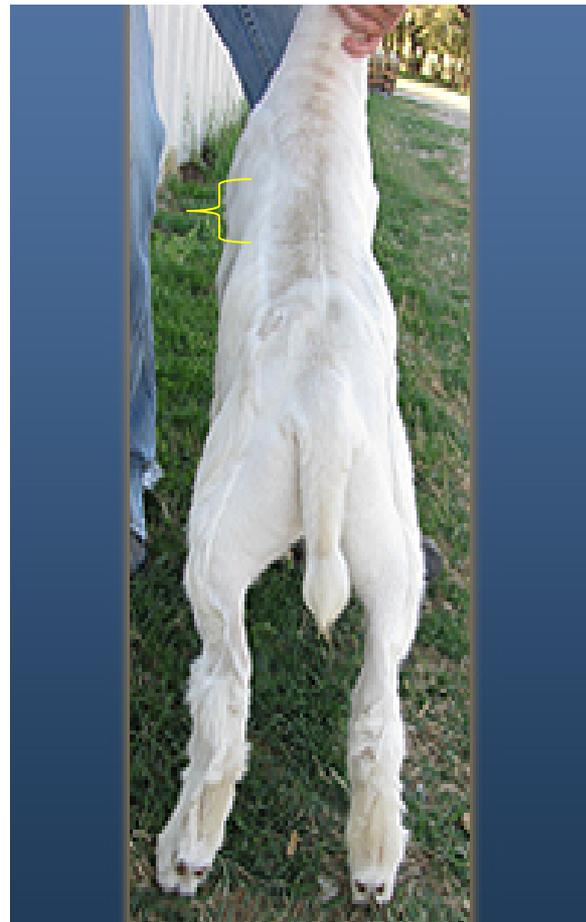
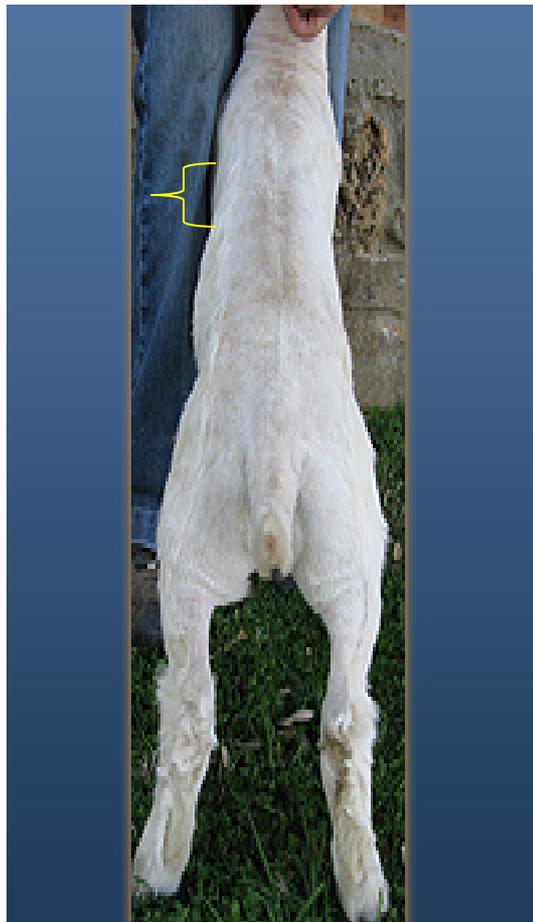
Flat Rib Shape



Round Rib Shape

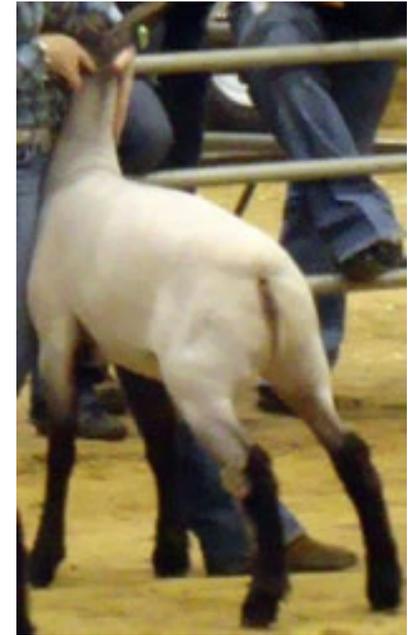
Which would have the better foundation to lay muscle down on through the rack?

# Rib Shape



# Rib Shape

- Also affects look from the side
- Flatter Ribbed
  - Usually deeper chested, poorer balanced
- Rounder Ribbed
  - Usually more elevated chest floor, more attractive from side



# Selection Wrap Up

- Muscle
- Structure
- Balance
- Age
- Rib Shape
- Ask questions!!



# Feeding (Last 90 Days)

- Where science meets art
- KISS method
- Everything you put into that animal has a purpose
- Keep in mind, we are feeding athletes!

# Feeding

- Feeding is very scenario dependent
  - Amount of Fat on Animal
  - Type and Amount of Exercise

# Thin or Fat

- **Fat**
  - Shoulder pocket
  - Chest floor
  - Ribcage



# Feeding and Fat: How They Relate

- **Too Fat**

- Utilize a combination of a protein supplement and Exercise to achieve desired condition level
  - Honor Fitter 35 (35% protein)
  - Honor Champion Drive (32% protein)
  - Moorman's Show-Tec Natural Fit (40% protein)

# Feeding and Fat: How They Relate

- **Too Thin**

- Utilize a combination of a fat supplement (4-8oz/day) and very little to no exercise to achieve desired condition level.
  - Showmaster PowerPhat (25% Fat)
  - Honor Power Fuel (31% Fat)
  - Moorman's Show-Tec Fast Fat (5% Fat)
  - Add 1/4lb of Steam Flaked Corn
  - Add 1/2-1oz of Dyne on feed
  - Essential Soft Silk (99% Fat)

# Final Points on Feeding and Fat

- We need enough condition on sheep and goats so that they handle fresh.
- Add supplement slowly, animals may become slightly looser in their stool
- Whatever you use, use those supplements with a purpose.
- Must evaluate animals fat level at around once a week.
- For help with your feeding program consult myself or Mr. Harris

# Exercising

- **Generally start 45-60 days before showday**
  - Types:
    - Walking them, chasing back to pen
    - Track with or without dog (Dog provides adrenaline)
    - Treadmill
    - Pulling a tire
  - Make sure animals are not too thin before you exercise!
  - Heavier Conditioned- more exercise needed

# Exercise

- **How many times per week?**
  - Depends on fat level
    - If fat is where you want to be at showtime, exercise 2-3x per week to keep muscle tone. If he becomes slightly under-finished, add more energy to ration.
    - Heavier Conditioned – 3-4x per week

# What To Do Two-Three Weeks Away?

- Usually muzzle animals one month out
- Three weeks out- feed animal 3x day if possible
  - Break total ration into three parts Ex: If you are feeding 3 lbs/day, feed one pound 3x a day)
  - Shrinks size of rumen
  - Makes animal look shallower bodied
- Making final adjustments to feeding regiment
- If animal is a “water hog”, begin limiting amount of water put in bucket (same amount, just spread out)



# Two Weeks Out

- Check my show box to make sure I have all supplies I need.
- **SHOWMANSHIP!!!!**

# One Week Out

- **Fluids are altered slightly**
  - Drench Guns are handy
  - Limit amount given in bucket
  - Administering electrolytes about 3-4 days out
    - Amount and Type Depend on Amount of Fat and Weight of Animal
  
- **Clipping**
  - Sheep- clip day before or on showday
  - Goats – 3-5 days out (lets clipper lines smooth out)



# Drenches

- Main purpose, to administer and maintain fluids within muscle cells
- Many types, many recipes:
  - Pick one you like that is right for that animal and use it.





Amino Acids –  
Burn Fat



Dextrose – Basically  
Sugar Water



Propylene Glycol –  
Energy (be careful  
administering)



4 Sure- Electrolyte



NRG Plus - Electrolyte



Show Shake-  
Versatile



Dyne- High Calorie  
Supplement

# Showday

- **Feeding**

- Usually feed AFTER the animal is weighed in (unless you are worried about being underweight)
- Keep muzzle on animals
- Don't stray too far from the pattern you set at home
- People tend to go crazy with feeding program on showday

# Showday

- **Fluids**

- Keep them comfortable
  - Body Temperature regulated
  - Stress level due to heat
  - If they are laying down, usually a good sign
  - Occasionally spray them down with water
- After weigh-in, I like to administer cool electrolytes and/or water every 2-3 hours
  - Water is the essence of life!
  - Too much electrolytes can cause scours

# Showday

- Leave animals in pen
  - Don't walk them around all day
  - Increases internal body heat
  - Increases stress levels
- Do not leave a full bucket of water/hay in pen

# Showday

- **45min- 1 hour before show:**
  - Wash and Dry Sheep/Goat
  - Put it on stand
  - Work on leg hair with wool card
  - Give a few drenches of ice water/electrolytes
  - Add skin conditioner (Sullivan's Freshen Up)
- **15 min before you walk in**
  - Walking the sheep by hand
  - Making sure your showmanship is on point

Any Questions?

