



# Overview of the Species Considerations

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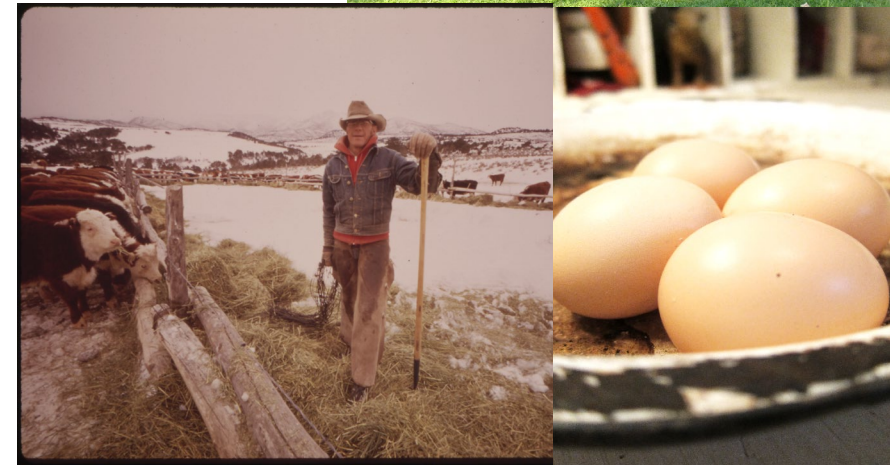
Gem and Boise Counties



10 Acres and  
a Dream

# General topics to consider

- Space Needed
- End Product
- Start up/Maintenance Expense
- Marketing of End Products
- Labor & Equipment Required
- Care Needed
- Integrated with other enterprises



# Overview of the Species

## The Pros & Cons



Rabbits



Goats



Cattle



Poultry



Sheep



Pigs

# ENTERPRISES: RABBITS



Species	End Products	Physical Resource Considerations	Management and Labor Considerations	Financial Considerations	Market Considerations
Rabbits	Meat	Minimal housing and land needed	High reproductive rate (50-75/year)	Inexpensive to begin	Meat rabbits ready for harvest in 10-12 weeks
	Fiber	Vulnerable to predators	Short gestation period (30 days)		Demand for breeding pet rabbits depends on area
	Breeding Stock	Need feed storage area	Lots of breeds to choose from		Demand for meat depends on area
	Pets				Meat processing facilities are limited
					Knowledge of fiber and uses required for successful fiber sales





# ENTERPRISES: POULTRY



Species	End Products	Physical Resource Considerations	Management and Labor Considerations	Financial Considerations	Market Considerations
Poultry (Chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys)	Meat	Minimal housing and land needed	Can help improve soil and control parasites in pastures	Inexpensive to begin	Meat birds can be market ready in 8-24 weeks
	Eggs	Vulnerable to predators	Pasture can be up to 30% of diet	Pastured poultry systems need grain to supplement diet	Meat and eggs have high demand in most areas
		Need feed storage area	Meat birds have high labor, short term		Meat processing facilities are limited
			Egg layers have lower daily labor year-round		
			Pasture poultry need fresh grass frequently		

# ENTERPRISES: GOATS



Species	End Products	Physical Resource Considerations	Management and Labor Considerations	Financial Considerations	Market Considerations
Goats	Meat	Excellent fencing essential. Taller woven wire or panels, reinforced with electric wires or electric mesh	Multiple births common	Hay and grain to supplement pasture	Kids can reach market weight in 6-8 months
	Milk	Dairy operation requires facilities and practices for cleanliness	Short gestation (5 months)		Market for milk and cheese will vary by area
	Fiber	Vulnerable to predators	Kids can reach market weight on mother's milk & good pasture		Knowledge of fiber and uses required for successful fiber sales
	Breeding stock	Land needed for grazing	Sheering may be required		Fiber can be sold commercially or direct marketed to hand-spinners
	Pets				Demand for meat depends on area



# ENTERPRISES: SHEEP



Species	End Products	Physical Resource Considerations	Management and Labor Considerations	Financial Considerations	Market Considerations
Sheep	Meat	Good fencing essential. Woven wire field fence is best. Also, electric mesh or 3-4 strand electric with powerful energizer needed.	Multiple births common	Hay and grain to supplement pasture	Lambs can reach market weight in 6-8 months
	Fiber	Land needed for grazing	Short gestation (5 months)		Demand for meat depends on area
	Breeding stock	Vulnerable to predators	Lambs can reach market weight on mother's milk & good pasture		Knowledge of fiber and uses required for successful fiber sales
			Sheering required depending on breed		Fiber can be sold commercially or direct marketed to hand-spinners; 6-12 pounds per year per animal

# ENTERPRISES: PIGS



Species	End Products	Physical Resource Considerations	Management and Labor Considerations	Financial Considerations	Market Considerations
Pigs	Meat	Can be raised in small outdoor pens and/or pasture or rough ground unsuitable for crops	Very prolific: 8-14 piglets/litter, up to 2 litters per year	Will likely require purchased feed for optimal growth	Can reach market weight (260-300 lbs.) in 6-8 months
	Breeding Stock	Shelter required year-round; animals chill and overheat easily	Short gestation (3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days)		Demand for meat depends on area but fairly easy to market
		Year-round breeding requires sturdy facilities and equipment	Can reach market weight in 6-8 months		Processing facilities common
		Vigorous rooters & diggers. Will eat all plants, roots & destroy pasture quickly if kept in too small an area for too long.	Omnivores = can supplement diet with farm waste (extra milk, whey, eggs, veggies, fruit, field crops, pasture, brush)		



# ENTERPRISES: CATTLE



Species	End Products	Physical Resource Considerations	Management and Labor Considerations	Financial Considerations	Market Considerations
Cattle	Meat	Barbed wire fencing works. Can be trained to 1-strand electric fencing for interior pastures.	Slow turn around; 9-month gestation, most calves born as singles	Hay and grain needed to supplement pasture, possibly	Can reach market weight on good pasture alone
	Milk	Diary operation requires facilities and practices for cleanliness and must meet legal requirements for sale	2 ½ to 3 years from breeding to harvest		Market for grass-fed dairy products and meat is fairly strong will vary by area
	Breeding stock	With good genetics & high-quality pasture dairy cattle can produce excellent milk with little to no grain.	Harvested at 18-24 months		Harvested at 18-24 months = 2 ½ to 3 years from breeding to harvest
		Land needed for grazing			Large quantities produced
		Year-round breeding requires sturdy facilities and equipment			

# When evaluating potential livestock enterprises, look for animals that . . .

- Have low initial start-up cost relative to the ability to generate income
- Match your time & labor resources.
- Complement your other enterprises' labor, resources, marketing.
- Are marketable in your area.
- Are profitable.
- You like being around!!



# Questions?



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