



# MEAT EDUCATION



## RAISING SHEEP + GOATS

# WHY SHEEP + GOATS?

### **There are many advantages to raising sheep and goats:**

1. Sheep and goats are good grazers, and some do well on range environments.
2. These animals are known for their scavenger ability to find food.
3. Compared with beef animals, sheep and goats are efficient eaters of forage.
4. Sheep and goats are used for more than one purpose. They can be used for meat, milk, wool/hair, and chammy.
5. Lambs and goats have a fast growing rate, and return on investment can be seen in a short time. Lambs are typically marketed at eight months of age.
6. Sheep and goats can be raised together. They complement each other's eating likes and dislikes. Sheep will eat short grass and some broadleaf plants. Goats will eat leaves off woody and broadleaf plants. By eating vegetation, sheep and goats promote healthy forests. They eat the plants that crowd and compete with trees.
7. Sheep are used in public and private areas to control plants like poison ivy and honeysuckle. Sheep also control kudzu in Florida. Sheep and goats are also used to control brush in national parks by grazing, thus reducing the need for herbicides.
8. Sheep and goats are very popular for young children to raise as 4-H and FFA projects. These animals require fewer facilities and are manageable by youth.