

# How to start a farm on limited acreage

Presenter:

**Debbie Webster**

Small Farm Entrepreneur & Educator

Whispering Pines Farm

Seneca, South Carolina

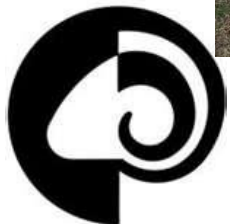
Host/Moderator: Jay Parsons

July 30, 2019



This webinar is made possible with funding support from the Let's Grow Committee of the American Sheep Industry Association.

# Why do it?



**LET'S GROW**

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com



# Return on Investment Memories versus Money

Start small- spend less, leave room for growth-  
in flock size and experiences.

More labor intensive= less upfront costs.

Labor saving equipment= more initial cost.

Ways to make money- early and later.



**LET'S GROW**

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com





# Things to Think About

- Harvest? Multiuse Breeds?
- Location-Predators, Neighbors
- Resources- Time, Money, Mentors
- Acreage- Rotational Grazing? one sacrificial pasture? one isolation area?
- Biosecurity- visitors, new stock
- Grow or not- Closed Herd?

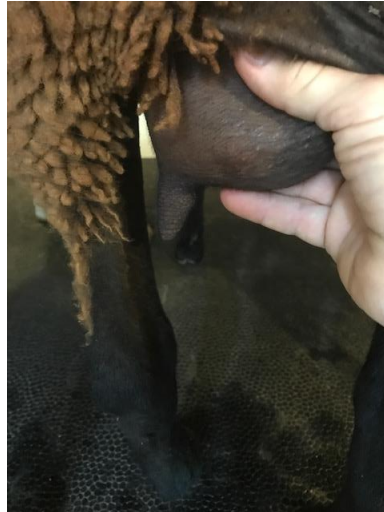


**LET'S GROW**

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com



# Dairy



**LET'S GROW**

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com





# Wool



**LET'S GROW**

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com







# Meat



**Contact Your County Extension Agent.  
Learn about Meat Fabrication  
Apply for a Meat Handler's License.  
Meaty Dog bones sell for \$4 per pound.  
there's a big push for raw meat for dogs.**

# Strategies and Schedules

- Fall Breeding season
- Gestation- 140-150 days
- Lactation- varies
- Weaning- varies- 30 days- 4 months
- Harvest
  - Meat- varies but 6 mos-364 days='lamb'
  - Milk- while nursing, Milk share, or after weaning.
  - Wool- once per year or more, usually before lambing
- Accelerated breeding program
- Next generation- terminal, breeding stock, etc



**LET'S GROW**

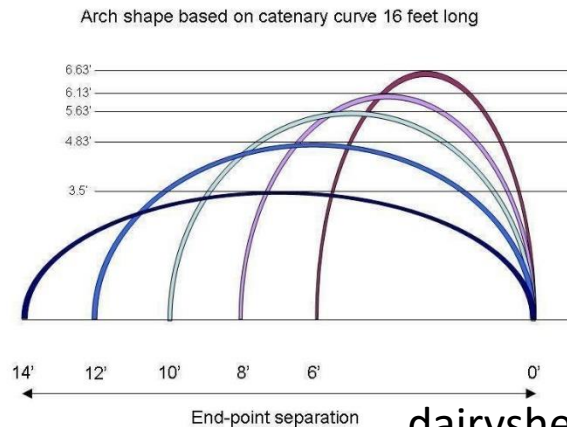
Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com





# Set Up- Safe Spaces

*Fences, Catch Pens, Cross Fencing, Oh My*



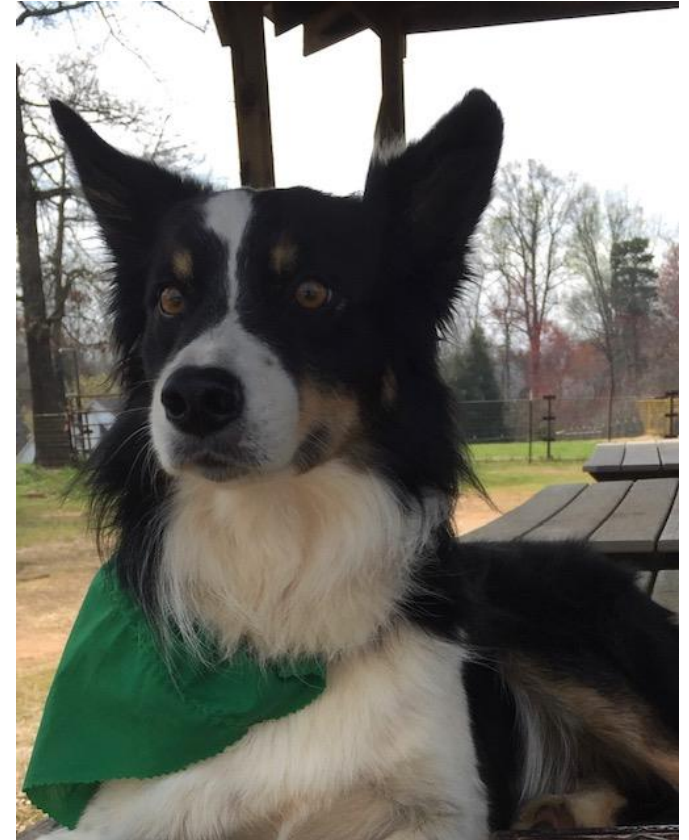
**LET'S GROW**

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com





# Set Up- Safe Spaces



**LET'S GROW**

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com





# Sheds or Natural Shelter





# Set Up- Nutritional Needs

- Feed=Need, Feeders- labor saving
- Water- electrolytes, apple cider vinegar
- Minerals- salt, copper



LET'S GROW

Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com







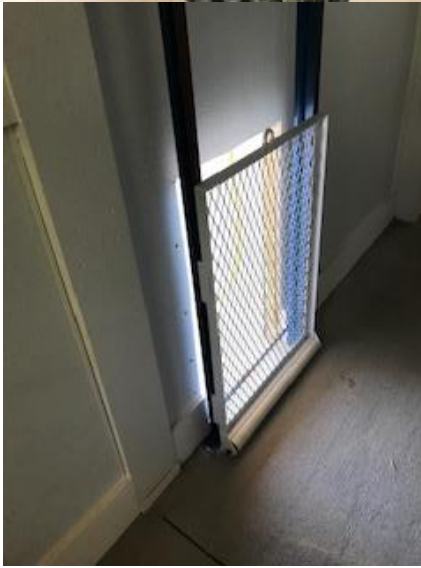


# Sheep and Goats





# Upgrade



# Healthcare

- Parasites-internal and external. Prevention, good practices- FAMACHA, BCS, BOSS, keep a consistent routine- change can be stressful
- Veterinary care versus Home Healthcare
- Culling
- First aid kit, lambing (birthing) Kit



Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com





# Top 4 Beginner Mistakes

#1- Feeding too much grain

#2- Not enough hands on

#3- Lack of Salt and Minerals

#4- Milking out



Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com



# Transitions- Growing Pains

## Sales of Offspring and Products

- For Pets, Meat, Dairy, Breeding Stock
- **Meat**- 'On the Hoof'. Growing into Meat Handler's License- Meat Label-selling per pound increases.
- **Dairy and Cheese making**
- Home use, friends and family, Barter with other Homesteaders, Pet use?
- Check state laws for Licensing.
- Growth= More Investment, but Economy of Scale- milking, cheese making
- Growth in Experience and Knowledge



# Resources

- Purdue Sheep and Goat Podcasts
- ASI newsletter
- DSANA newsletter
- Premier 1 Supplies
- State University for Extension Offices
- America Lamb Board
- Coburn Land O' Lakes
- Southern States
- Reliable Social Media Sites-
  - Maryland Extension Small Ruminant Program
  - Fias Co Farm



Debbie Webster  
dairysheepdeb@gmail.com



# How to start a farm on limited acreage

Presenter:

**Debbie Webster**

Small Farm Entrepreneur & Educator

Whispering Pines Farm

Seneca, South Carolina

Host/Moderator: Jay Parsons

July 30, 2019



This webinar is made possible with funding support from the Let's Grow Committee of the American Sheep Industry Association.