

Managing A Goat Herd Share Operation in Alaska



Why Herd Share

- Legal in Alaska
- Let your goats help “pay their way”
- Connecting consumers with producers
- “Loca-vores”
- Digestibility of goat milk



Why Goats?

- “Missing link”
- “Poor man’s cow”
- Sentient beings
- Minimal infrastructure
- Housing
- Fencing
- Cleanup



What Herd Share is:

- Legal in Alaska
- <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/docs/vet/Dairy/RawMilkSharesAKFactsheet.pdf>
- Currently allows fluid milk only
- Sustainable – CSA
- Scheduled weekly pickup
- Commitment
- Tailored to the individual



What Herd Share is not:

- Not the grocery store!
- Not selling milk
- Not making cheese or other products for herd share members...

Yet!

HB 16 would open doors for value-added products.



Safety & Sanitation: Part 1

- Milking location
- Pre-milking spray
- Wash your hands!
- Hand or machine?
- Final strip
- Post-milking dip
- Strategic feeding



Safety & Sanitation: Part 2

- Wash hands!
- A “sharp dividing line”
- Filtering milk
- Rapid chilling
- Cold storage



Safety & Sanitation: Part 3

- Record keeping
– which goat's milk?
- Educating the share owners
- Jar care
- Who cleans?



Benefits of HB 16 for Consumers:

- Variety of options besides fluid milk
- Majority prefer ready-made vs. DIY
- Digestible products for those with allergies
- Specialty farmstead cheeses that are not available in stores
- Consumer preference for unique locally made/artisan food

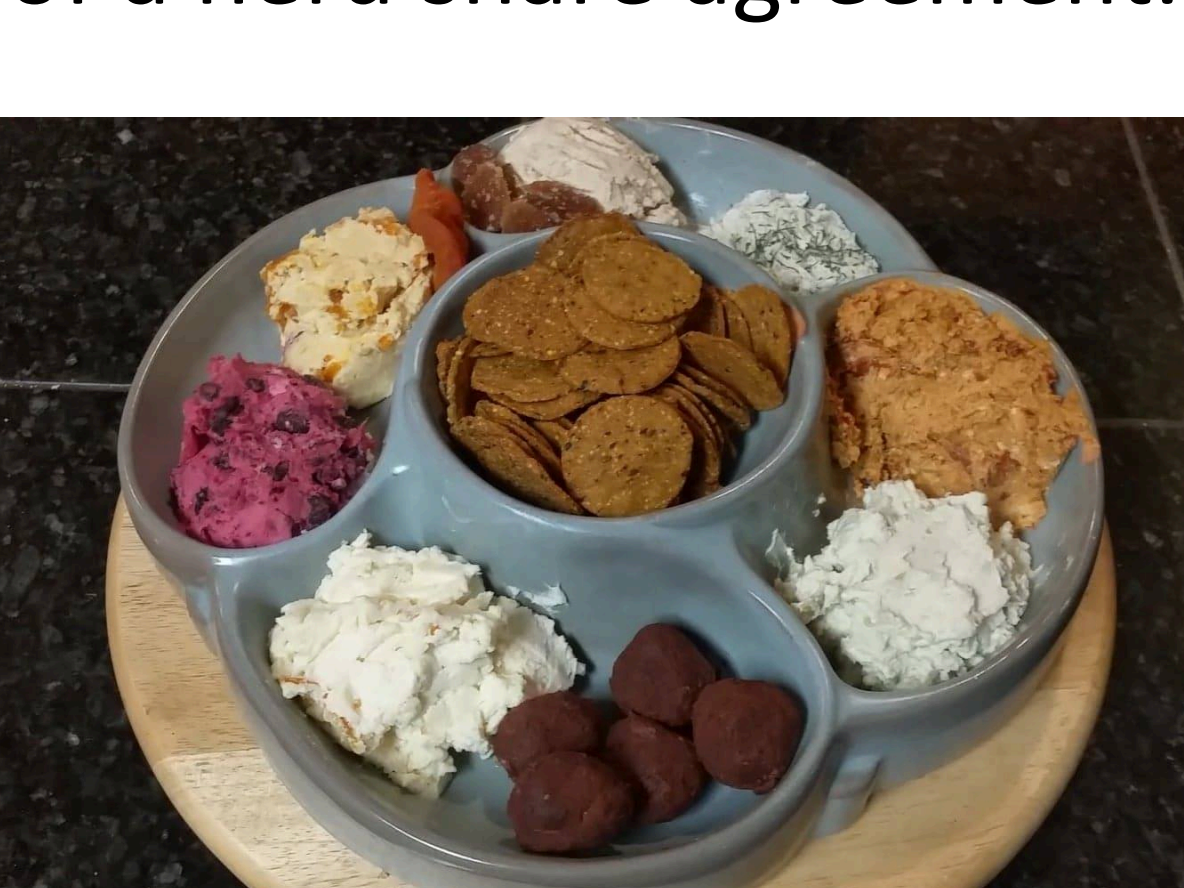
HB 16 would allow value-added products -- like feta...



... or Queso Fresco...



of a herd share agreement.

A blue ceramic charcuterie board is filled with a variety of cheeses, meats, and snacks. The board is divided into several compartments. One compartment contains round, golden-brown crackers. Another compartment holds a pile of white, crumbly cheese. A third compartment features a dip with a thick, orange-brown sauce. Other compartments contain a pinkish-red dip, a white dip, and several small, round, dark-colored cheese balls. The board is placed on a light-colored wooden platter, which is set on a dark, speckled countertop.

Benefits of HB 16 for producers

- Buy more hay per gallon of milk
- Allow for best usage of seasonal surplus milk
- Freeze products for later use
- Have specialty products available when production is low in winter – goats eat even during dry period

Ring in the New Year with some
Value-Added products!



From the goats at Cottonwood Creek Farm--



Thank you for considering HB 16!



Come to the Farm!

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