

Managing A Goat Herd Share Operation in Alaska



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Why Herd Share

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



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Why Goats?

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



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What Herd Share is:

- Legal in Alaska
- <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/docs/vet/Dairy/RawMilkShareAKFactsheet.pdf>
- Fluid milk only
- Sustainable – CSA
- Scheduled
- Commitment
- Tailored to the individual



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What Herd Share is not:

- Not the grocery store!
- Not selling milk
- Not making cheese or other products...

Yet!

HB 16 would open doors for value-added products.



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Challenges & Rewards

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges: • Uncertainties of farming • Tough climate • High cost of feed • Low hourly wage • High commitment level morning & evening • Including Christmas, your birthday, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewards: • Being self-sufficient • Enjoying your animals • Knowing where your food comes from • Meeting an increasing demand/filling a need • Helping others • Success stories |
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Choosing Your Goats

- Type?
- Breed?
- Age?
- Registered?
- Health tested?



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Safety & Sanitation: Part 1

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



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Safety & Sanitation: Part 2

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



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Safety & Sanitation: Part 3

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



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Enjoying some Value-Added products



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



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... or Queso Fresco...



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...Or chevre—to be a legal component
of a herd share agreement.



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Kidding in September??



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Or February...



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Winter bottle babies



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From the goats at Cottonwood Creek Farm--



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Thank you for considering HB 16!



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