

Managing A Goat Herd Share Operation in Alaska



Why Goats?

- Ease of handling
- Digestibility of goat milk
- Minimal infrastructure
- Simple cleanup
- “Missing link”



Why Herd Share?

- Goats can help “pay their way”
- Connecting consumers with producers
- “Loca-vores”
- Freedom of choice
- Food security!



Remember food insecurity (Mar. 2020)?



What Herd Share is:

- Legal in Alaska
- <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/docs/vet/Dairy/RawMilkSharesAKFactsheet.pdf>
- Currently restricted to fluid milk only
- Sustainable – CSA
- Accountability
- Commitment
- Know your farmer!



What Herd Share is not:

- Not the grocery store!
- Not *selling* milk
- Not making cheese or other products... Yet!
- HB 22 would allow value-added products within the definition of the herd share relationship.



Safety & Sanitation: Part 1

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



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



HB 22 would allow value-added products -- like Queso Fresco...



Or feta with sundried tomatoes...



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



Benefits of HB 22 to consumers:

- Freedom to make food choices without restriction
- Having a variety of dairy options besides milk
- Access to digestible products for those intolerant to commercial dairy
- Consumers often prefer ready-made vs. DIY
- Growing appeal of unique, locally-made artisan foods

Benefits of HB 22 to producers:

- Options for best usage of seasonal surplus milk
- Farmer can buy more hay per gallon of milk
(goats eat even during their dry period!)
- Specialty products would still be available in winter even when fluid milk production drops

HB 22 would offer benefits overall:

- Help strengthen Alaska's fragile food system
- Help prevent food waste
- Expand Alaskan agriculture by offering a new business opportunity for farmers

From the goats at Cottonwood Creek Farm—
“Please.... free the cheese!!”



Thank you for considering HB 22!



Questions? Comments? Farm visit?

