

- March 21, 2017 -

# Goats & Sheep: Raising Browsers & Grazers Webinar



Photo courtesy of The Lamb's Quarter

Presented by:

**Jim Bourne**  
**(The Lamb's Quarter)**

**Tony Koch**  
**(Koch Ranches)**

Hosted by:

**Food Animal Concerns Trust**  
**(FACT)**

# Introductions

**Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)** is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs.

FACT's **Fund-a-Farmer Project** awards grants and facilitates peer-to-peer farmer education to increase the number of animals that are raised humanely in this country.



# Our Presenters



## **Jim Bourne** – The Lamb's Quarter

- Owings, Maryland
- 2014 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient



## **Tony Koch** – Koch Ranches, Inc.

- San Antonio, Texas
- 2013 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient

# Sheep

Reflections of a Novice

Jim Bourne of 'The Lamb's Quarter'



# What is my Market?

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- Who are my customers? What do they want?
  - Ethnic communities
  - Breeding Stock
  - Farmers Markets/Direct marketing
  - Sale Barn
  - Dairy
  - Wool/Pelts
  - Meat

# Farmers Market...

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# Breed Selection

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- Wool Sheep vs Hair Sheep
- Heritage Breeds
- Thriftiness and Frame

# Katahdin – a hair-type breed

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# Clun Forest – a wool-type heritage breed

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# Stocking Rates

<https://ag.umass.edu/crops-dairy-livestock-equine/fact-sheets/livestock-grazing-stockin-g-rates>

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| Decrease Stocking Rate if:                          | Increase Stocking Rate if:                              |
|---|---|
| Poor pasture quality                                | Excellent pasture quality                               |
| No pasture rotation                                 | Rotating several pastures                               |
| Stony, ledgy hillside soils                         | Well fertilized land with low erosion potential         |
| Regrowth is abnormally slow                         | Animals are given supplemental feed                     |
| Low rainfall or excessively drained (i.e. dry) area | Animals are avoiding species you would like them to eat |

# Fencing and Facilities

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- Physical Barrier vs Psychological Barrier
  - Woven wire; Barbed wire; High Tensile Wire
  - Polywire; Netting fence; Low and High Tensile wire

# Fencing and Facilities

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- Intensive vs Extensive
- Barns, sheds, and run-ins
- Handling facilities
- Lambing pens

# Fencing

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# Sheds

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# Pens

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# Working Sheep

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- Is a dog in your future?
  - Guardian dogs
  - Gathering/Herding dogs



# Parasites and General Health Issues

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- Maryland Extension Small Ruminant Program FB page
- Parasites
  - To treat or not to treat
  - Dewormer resistance
  - Rotating pastures
  - Learn to recognize parasite-related health issues

# Parasites and General Health Issues

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- Grass, Legumes, and Grains – Watch for Bloat
- Sheep are copper sensitive! Watch your minerals!!
- Vaccines
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
- Cultivate a good relationship with a good vet
- Get yourself a library

# Lambing

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# Education

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- Land-grant universities in your state
- Storey's *Guide to Raising Sheep*
- Local Extension Agent
- Stockman Grass Farmer



# Koch Ranches









# Please type your questions!



Photo courtesy of Browders Birds Pastured Poultry