

The Master Goat and Sheep Producer's Certification Program

Today new business opportunities exist for farm families to diversify their farm operations and to explore alternative enterprises to increase their income. In the U.S., meat goat production has quickly become one of the fastest growing livestock industries. Persistence among ethnic consumers in maintaining their religious or cultural practices has increased demand for goat meat. Because of demand, new and established producers have consistently expressed a need for information on how to raise healthy, productive animals. Recognizing this need, Florida A&M University established the Master Goat Producer's Certification Program in 2007 and sheep production was added in the curriculum in 2008.

At this time, the faculty and staff at Florida A&M University and their partners continue to provide producers with updated information on small ruminant production, marketing and management. In fact in 2008, two new modules were added to the curriculum which included "Disaster Preparedness for Livestock Producers" and "Mobilizing Against Threats to Community Health (MATCH)" which was funded by the Kellogg Foundation. This year "Managing Financial, Legal and Production Risks For Small Ruminant Producers" is the newest module that has been added to the curriculum (funded by USDA/CSREES). Unfortunately, many producers are still unaware of some of the many risks that are involved in starting a new business adventure. As a result of their lack of knowledge, producers may face serious financial losses before they seek help which may be too late.

The Master Goat and Sheep Producer's Certification Program is a joint initiative between Florida A&M University, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Southeastern Small Farmer's Network and the University of Florida. The training team consists of animal scientists, veterinarians, a Master Gardener and Master Goat Producer, an Agricultural Economist and Statistician, a Community Development Specialist, a Regional Specialized Sustainable Agriculture and Extension Technology Agent and a Forestry and Natural Resources expert. Collectively we are working together to help build a sustainable and viable small ruminant industry in the state of Florida.

Training Team

Angela McKenzie-Jakes (Program Coordinator)
Specialty: Reproduction Management, Risk Management and Record Keeping
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 - 875-8557
Email: angela.mckenziejakes@famou.edu

Lee Anderson (Animal Scientist)
Specialty: Reproduction and Nutrition
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850-599-3383
Email: lee.anderson@famou.edu

Jean Beaudouin (Animal Scientist)
Specialty: Small & Large Ruminant Nutrition
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850-875-8559
Email: jjbeaudouin@famou.edu

Gerry Bryant (Animal Technician)
Specialty: Production and Management
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 -875 -8555
Email: GERRYBRYANT_777@yahoo.com

Les Harrison (Regional Specialized Sustainable Agriculture and Extension & Technology Agent)
Specialty: Marketing, Business and Risk Management
University of Florida
Phone: 850- 606 - 5202
Email: HarrisonG@leoncountyfl.gov

Pam Hunter, DVM (Veterinarian Manager)
Specialty: Herd Health
Florida Dept. of Agric. (DOACS)
Phone: 850-410-0947
Email: hunterp@doacs.state.fl.us

Uford Madden, DVM (Veterinarian)
Specialty: Bioterrorism Awareness
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 - 412-5253
Email: uford.madden@famou.edu

Ray Mobley, DVM (Extension Director)
Specialty: Food Safety & Herd Health
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 - 412-5252
Email: ray.mobley@famou.edu

Godfrey Nurse (Animal Scientists)
Specialty: Small Ruminant Nutrition
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 -875 - 8559
Email: godfreynurse@hotmail.com

Oghenekome Onokpise, (Associate Dean)
Specialty: Forestry & Natural Resources
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850-599-8816
Email: o.onokpise@att.net

Thomas Eric Peterson, DVM (Extension Veterinarian)
Specialty: Herd Health and Nutrition
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 - 412 -5117
Email: thomas.peterson@famou.edu

Gilbert Queeley (Agricultural Economist/ Statistician)
Specialty: Economic Development
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 -412 - 5255
Email: gilbert.queeley@famou.edu

Norma Tillman (Master Gardener and Master Goat Producer)
Specialty: Poisonous plants & Herbs
Florida A&M University
Phone: 386 - 303 -1361
Email: 147@windstream.net

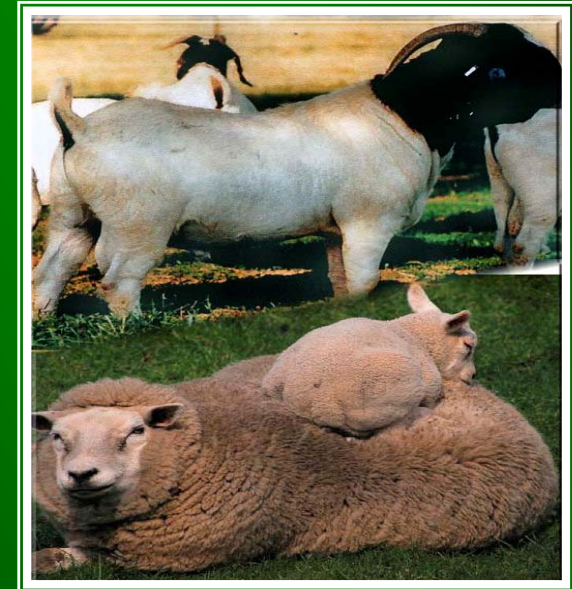
Sandra Thompson (Community Development Specialist)
Specialty: Business Management
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850 - 561 -2190
Email: sandra.thompson@famou.edu



This material is based on work supported by USDA/CSREES under award number 2007-49200-03891



Master Goat and Sheep Producer's Certification Program



Florida A&M University

College of Engineering Sciences Technology, Agriculture and Science
Cooperative Extension Program

Small Ruminant Program

<http://www.famou.edu/goats>
<http://www.famou/herds>
<http://www.famou/erbpd>

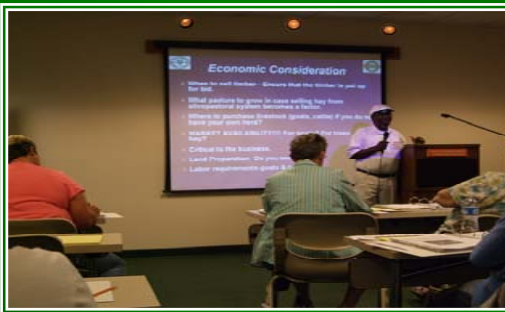


Program Format

The Master Goat and Sheep Producer's Certification Program is a comprehensive training program which offers classes on risk management (production, marketing, financial and legal risks), herd health, nutrition and pasture management, reproduction and breeding management, marketing, biosecurity, disaster preparedness, quality assurance, selecting and evaluating breeding stock, bioterrorism awareness and much more. This program also offers hands-on training on hoof trimming, administering medications, FAMACHA and microscopic fecal examinations.

There are three levels of this certification program and they are the following:

- **Level 1 :**
 - You must take a pre-test and attend all of the training classes.
 - You must pass the post-test with a score of 70% or higher and complete the program evaluation instrument.



Dr. . Oghenekome Onokpise (Associate Dean), discusses Silvopastoral systems for small ruminants (i.e., goats and sheep) .

- **Level 2 :**
 - To become eligible for certification, you must pass level 1 and agree to an onsite farm inspection.
 - Once you have passed level 1 and an on-farm inspection, you are then certified as a Master Goat or Master Sheep Producer.



Dr. Pam Hunter, DVM (Veterinarian Manager, Florida Dept. of Agriculture –DOACS) demonstrates to producers how to examine their animals for physical and structural soundness.

- **Level 3 :**
 - To become an *Advanced Certified Master Goat or Master Sheep Producer*, you must pass level 1, pass level 2, agree to a second farm inspection and pass the web-based goat certification course hosted on Langston University's website <http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/training/qa.html>.

We also offer a non-certification track for those producers, students or agricultural professionals who want to participate in the training activities, but are not interested in becoming certified. Individuals that take the non-certification track will not be required to have an on-farm inspection.



Dr. Thomas Peterson, DVM (Extension Veterinarian, FAMU) demonstrates to producers how to hoof trim.



Dr. Ray Mobley, DVM (Extension Director , FAMU) consults with producers after their initial farm inspection.



Master Goat Producers from left to right Eunice Cornelius, Norma Tillman and Willonese Adams (Spring Class of 2007).



Advanced Certified Master Goat Producer, Robert Sylvester (right) and Program Coordinator Angela McKenzie-Jakes