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Raising Goats Naturally: The Complete Guide To Milk, Meat And More



Synopsis

Complete self-sufficiency may seem out of reach, but for more and more of us, increasing our self-reliance as much as possible is the order of the day. Incorporating dairy goats as the centerpiece of a diversified homestead can be the key to achieving this goal, and *Raising Goats Naturally* will show you how. By working with nature, you can raise dairy goats and produce your own milk, cheese, meat, fertilizer, leather, fiber, and soap—all without relying on drugs or following the factory farm model. By observing your own animals closely and educating yourself about their specific needs, you can create an individualized plan for keeping them healthy and maximizing their productivity. This unique, fully-illustrated guide will teach you to help your herd thrive with: breed-specific descriptions to help you choose the right goats for your goals and lifestyle; detailed information on housing, fencing, breeding, health, milking, and nutrition; complete recipes and instructions for making your own cheese, dairy products, and soap, as well as cooking with goat meat. Packed with personal experiences backed up by expert veterinary advice and scientific studies, *Raising Goats Naturally* brings together a wealth of practical information on raising goats for the love of it and using their milk and meat to become more self-reliant. Deborah Niemann is a homesteader, writer, and self-sufficiency expert who has raised livestock for over ten years. The author of *Homegrown and Handmade* and *Ecothrifty*, she presents extensively on skills for living a self-reliant life.

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Customer Reviews

Raising Goats Naturally is a great book for the herdsman looking for solid, well researched information about raising goats without the abuse of chemicals and other traditionally accepted methods of herd management. Using common sense, personal experience, and LOTS of research into a natural approach to herd management, Deborah helps her readers understand that good herd management translates into a herd that doesn't NEED conventional methods to thrive. I have had the fortune to learn some of what Deborah knows about raising goats naturally from her on line. This book offers Deborah's years of reading and application in an easy to read, easy to reference book. Deborah helps you understand that herd management is NOT a cookie cutter system. She shares different views and solutions to the same problems, so that her readers can take the information that will work for THEIR herd, and use it. In other books I have read on goats and their management and care, the author is usually quick to tell their readers to take an animal to the vet for care at the slightest sign of illness or problems. This approach is not helpful when you are trying to raise a herd of goats, and cannot afford to be taking a goat to the vet at the drop of a hat. Not to mention, that in some areas, finding a knowledgeable Caprine vet is not easy, or in some cases even possible. For those of us that need MORE than the automatic "ask a vet" response to minor issues, I appreciate that Deborah shares information about causes of certain ailments, and helps you make a better informed decision to consult a vet or not. If you know nothing about goats, and are looking for a great all around herd management book, this is a great book for you.

So my husband and I finally got baby goats. We started with 5, then got 5 more, now we have almost 20 baby goats. (only keeping 10, the rest are meat goats) We have plenty of space for them, but didn't know much about raising them, their general care, etc. So I got this book, thinking it would be helpful. In some ways, this book helped: worming and vaccination information was very informative. The illness section was also quite helpful. The various personal stories of goats and what the author learned from those goats was priceless information. Our favorite story was the pregnant goat that was trying to sit in the author's lap on the way to the vet. In other ways, this book was NOT helpful: This is a book of opinions. For some people, that might be great. For my husband and I, we wanted specific information about goats that we ended up finding out by visiting goat farms in the area and asking the farmers. Things like: "one of the babies is coughing a lot and sounds congested, what should I do?" or "One of the baby goats seems lame in one leg, what should I do?" Those types of questions are not answered specifically enough for me, or even addressed at all. Also, my husband and I wanted dairy and meat goats. We figured with a title like: The complete guide to milk, meat and more, there would be tons more information about meat.

There wasn't. I would have liked a butchering guide or a picture of the different cuts of meat on a goat or how to extract rennet from a baby goat. This book had some information about goats for meat, but it didn't have much information that was helpful. I did enjoy the milk section, especially the cheese-making section! I thought that was perhaps the best part of this book!

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