

Farm Business Options - Goats



**Cian Condon M.Agr.Sc. M.Sc.(Agr).
10th November 2020**

Goat Farming in Ireland

- Goats once were common
- Now approx 9000, 56% in herds of over 50
- Goat census – no distinction between types or breeds
- Large commercial herds typically housed all year
- Broad geographic spread but small numbers



Irish Milk Processing

- More or less stagnant – lack of processors
- Most products are fresh – require year round production
- Glenisk (Offaly) buy approx 60% of commercially produced milk
- Remainder by cheese makers
- Range of dairy products
- Difficult to enter sector unless also processing

Meat Goats in Ireland

- Relatively small numbers
- Dairy breeds & crosses also entering food chain
- Demand is there but scale hard to quantify
- Most producers small with own outlets for product
- Important to have steady supply, even in small numbers
- Cost?

DAFM Requirements

- Must have a herd number or equivalent
- Registration & tagging requirements similar to sheep
- Every goat must carry 2 tags & all recorded in herd register
- Nitrates Requirements must be adhered to:
 - Maximum Organic Nitrogen of 170kgs/Ha (18 goats)
 - Must provide adequate storage for waste

Other Points of Note:

- Goats require TB testing
- Little veterinary support
- Poor immunity to internal parasites
- Highly selective feeders
- Potentially high intakes
- Housing and facilities grant aided under TAMS

Conclusions

- Do your research (lots of it!!)
- Get a mentor!
- Additional information:
 - Teagasc Goat Page
 - Irish Goat Hub
 - Irish Goat Producers Association Facebook Page

Conclusions

- Do your research (lots of it!!)
- Get a mentor!
- Additional information:
 - Teagasc Goat Page
 - Irish Goat Hub
 - Irish Goat Producers Association Facebook Page