Rotational Shepherding in the Mountains
OGS Spring Conference March 8-10 2019

Introductions…
What we raise
Wool v. hair
Lamb v. Hogget v. mutton
How we raise them
Green fed v grain fed
Rotational grazing
Feedback loops
Why we raise them
Food and fiber
Land management
Land improvement!
Beauty
Meaning
What else do we raise
Fruit in silvopasture
How we sell our meat/wool/sheepskins
Direct marketing
Recipes and customer education

Sourcing your flock
Localized genetics
Matching management styles
Feeding
Breeding schedule and cycle
Parasite mgmt
Lambing
Start with a few sheep, they’ll grow on their own!

Our 18 month production cycle

September
Hoof trimming
Preparations for breeding
Ewe/Ram condition check
Flushing?

October-November
Tupping / Breeding - based on size of flock
Very small flock: procuring rams to ‘rent’
Medium to large flock: mgmt of your own rams
   Fencing and location
   Raising up replacement sires

December - February
   Feeding the flock
      Stockpiled forage
      Hay
      Grain or other boosts

January
   Feeding ewes for last month of pregnancy?
   Crutching
      Lambing ease
      Shearing prep
      Managing spring green up on wool

February - March
   Lambing
      Why we lamb at this time
         Weather
         Parasites
      Make a plan
         Envision your ideal lambing season
         Interventions- what are you going to do and what are you not going to do?
         911- who can you call and when?
   Jugs
   Lambing Kit
   Coccidia control
   Working lambs
      Tagging- consider your needs first
      Banding
         Tails
         Balls
         Tetanus
      Other vacs?

April
   Shearing
      Timing
      DIY v. pro shearer
Fiber storage
Wool pool v. direct market

Rotational grazing
Fencing
   Soft / Temporary
   Hard / Permanent

Timing
   Mob
   7-10
   Slow

Method
   Contiguous is best
   Call training
   Bucket training
   Dogs
   ATVs
   Pusher and puller
   Lambs don’t move easily

July - early August
   Pull ram lambs and separate!

July - September
   Parasite watch/control
      Signs and symptoms
         Anemia- famacha
         Bottle jaw
         Diarrhea
         Sudden death
   Remedies
      Anthelmintics
         Use 2: 1 white and 1 clear
      Multi species grazing
      Fecal analysis
      Breeding for resistance

July - September
   Separate cull ewes before breeding
   Identify replacement ewe hoggs
   Process hoggs (16-20 months old ideal)
      Consider your stockpiled forage
   Process on farm- no sales
   Send to USDA facility
      Truck and trailer
Return trips for hides and meat

What’s in the future for us...
- Leader follower multi species grazing
- Lambing barn
- Lineage records and performance culling
- Fecal sample analysis
- Dairy cow for orphan lambs
- Fiber processing and collaborations!

Mentors and resources
- Sheep Ailments by Eddie Straiton
- Living with Sheep by Chuck Wooster and Geoff Hansen
- Premier One Supplies for equipment
- Agricultural universities papers and publications
- Forums (beware- can be a rabbit hole!)

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