



# Reducing Costs with Multi Species Grazing

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# What is multi-species grazing?

- More than one kind of livestock (i.e. cattle, sheep, goats, or horses) grazing the same acreage of land.
- Grazing can occur at the same time or at different times.
- Not a new concept.
- Multi-species grazing is the norm for wild and natural ecosystems.



# What most cattlemen think about sheep!



MEAT GOATS  
OSU Extension





# What most people think about goats!



MEAT GOATS  
OSU Extension



# What most people think about sheep

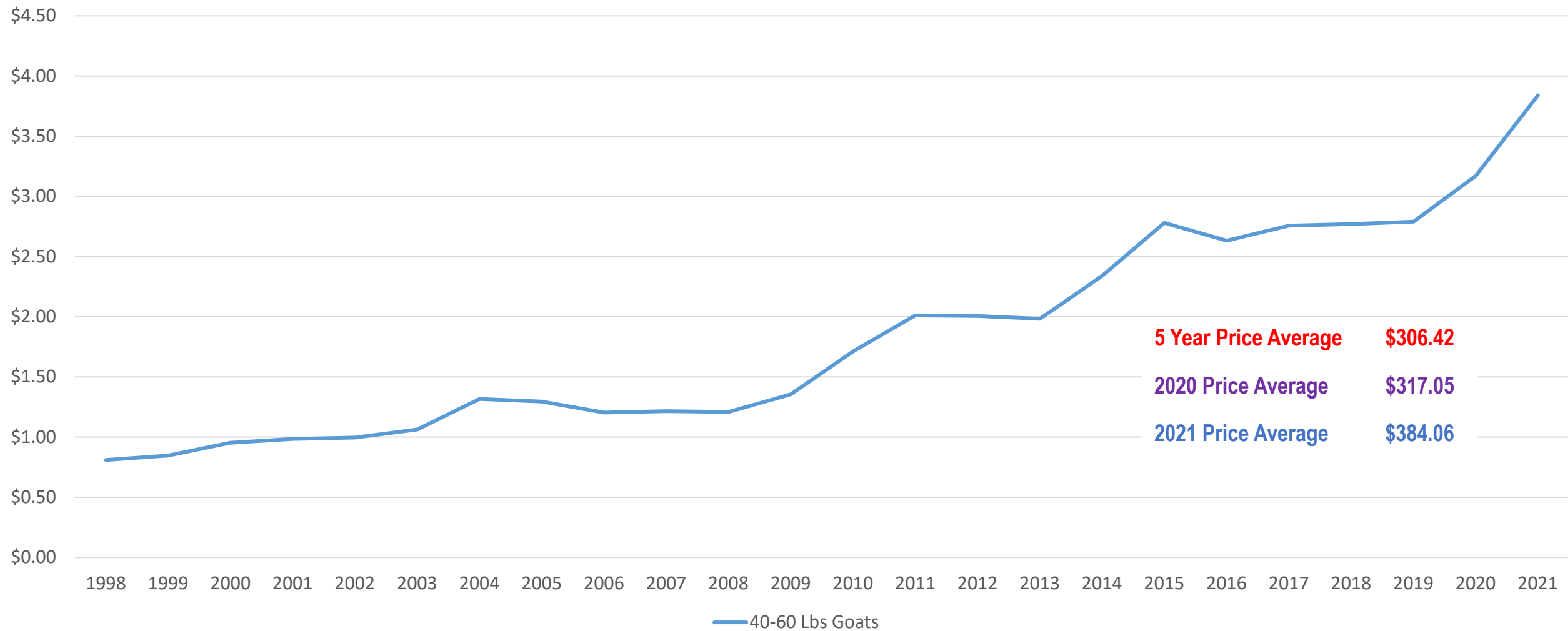


# Why Goats?



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40-60 Lbs Goats

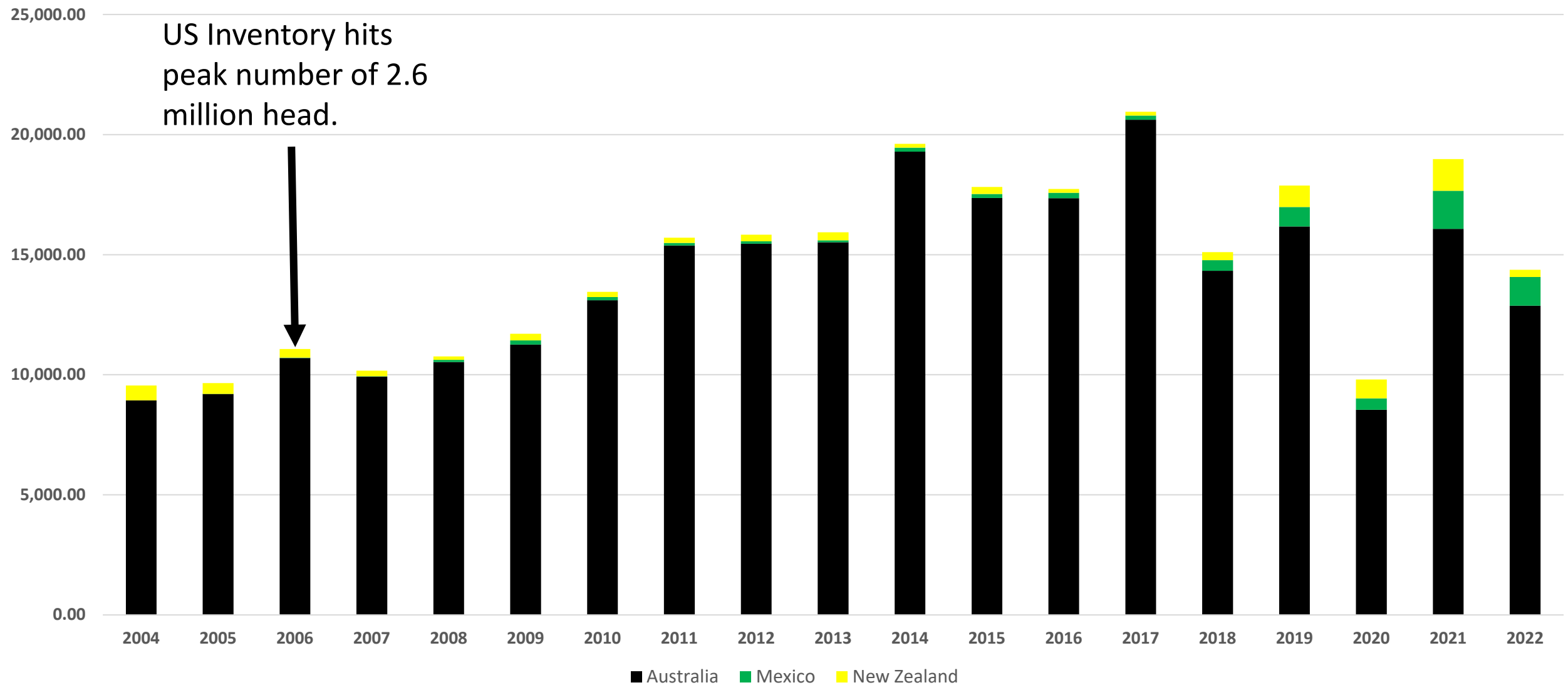




# Goat Imports



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# When I Say Sheep...

- I am talking about hair sheep.
- Why
  - Market seems to be closer to goat market.
  - Don't have to shear.
  - Management tends to be easier than wool sheep



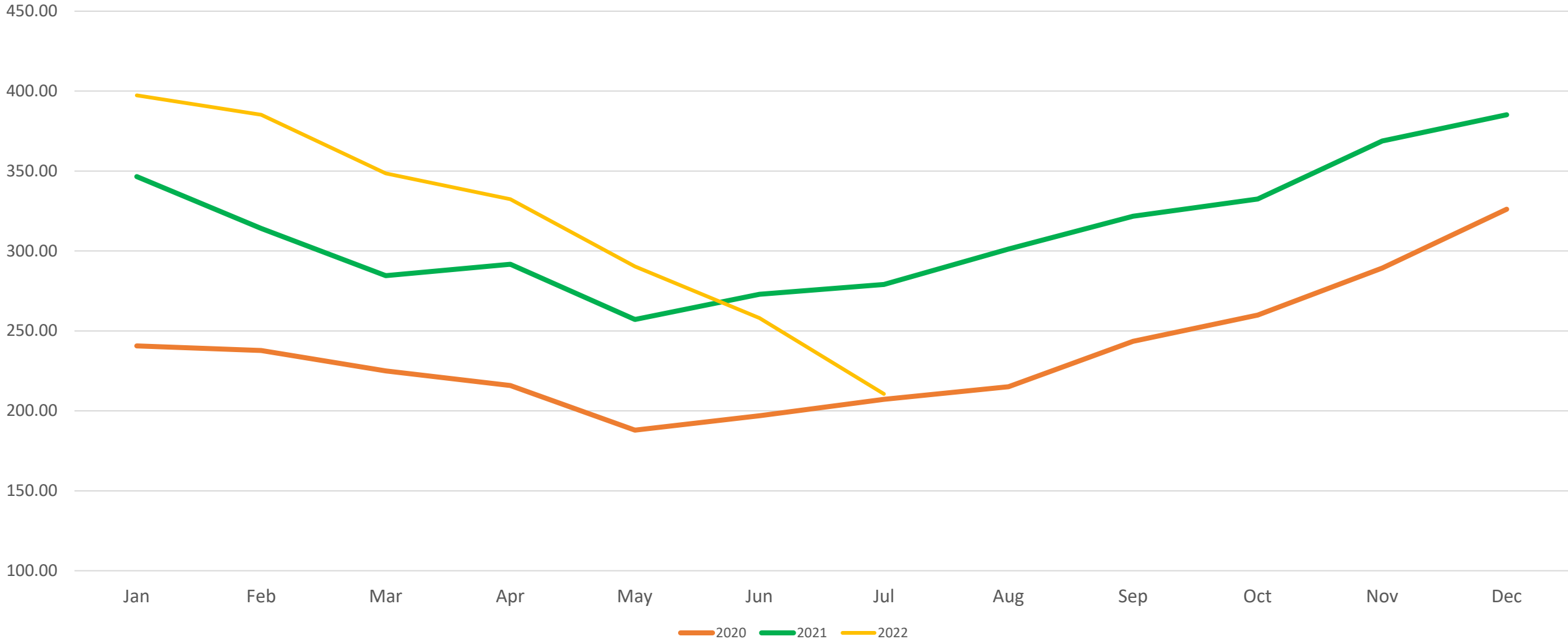


# Texas Hair Sheep



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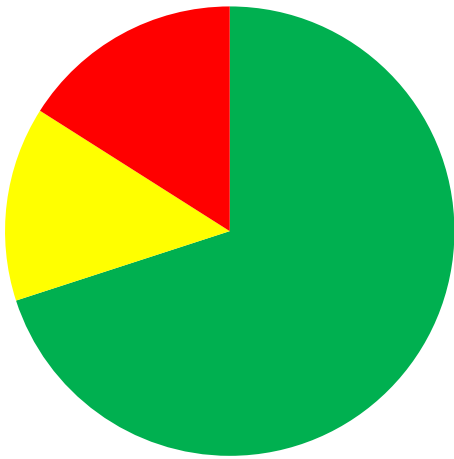
60-70 Lbs.



# Why it works



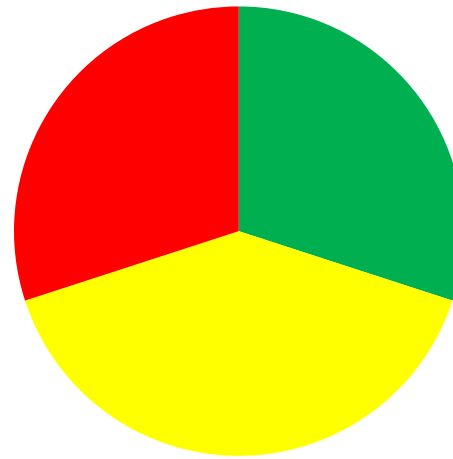
Roughage Feeder  
(grass)



■ Grass ■ Forbs ■ Browse



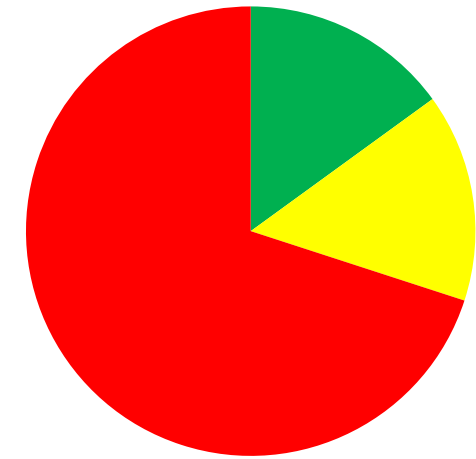
Intermediate Feeder  
(forbs)



■ Grass ■ Forbs ■ Browse



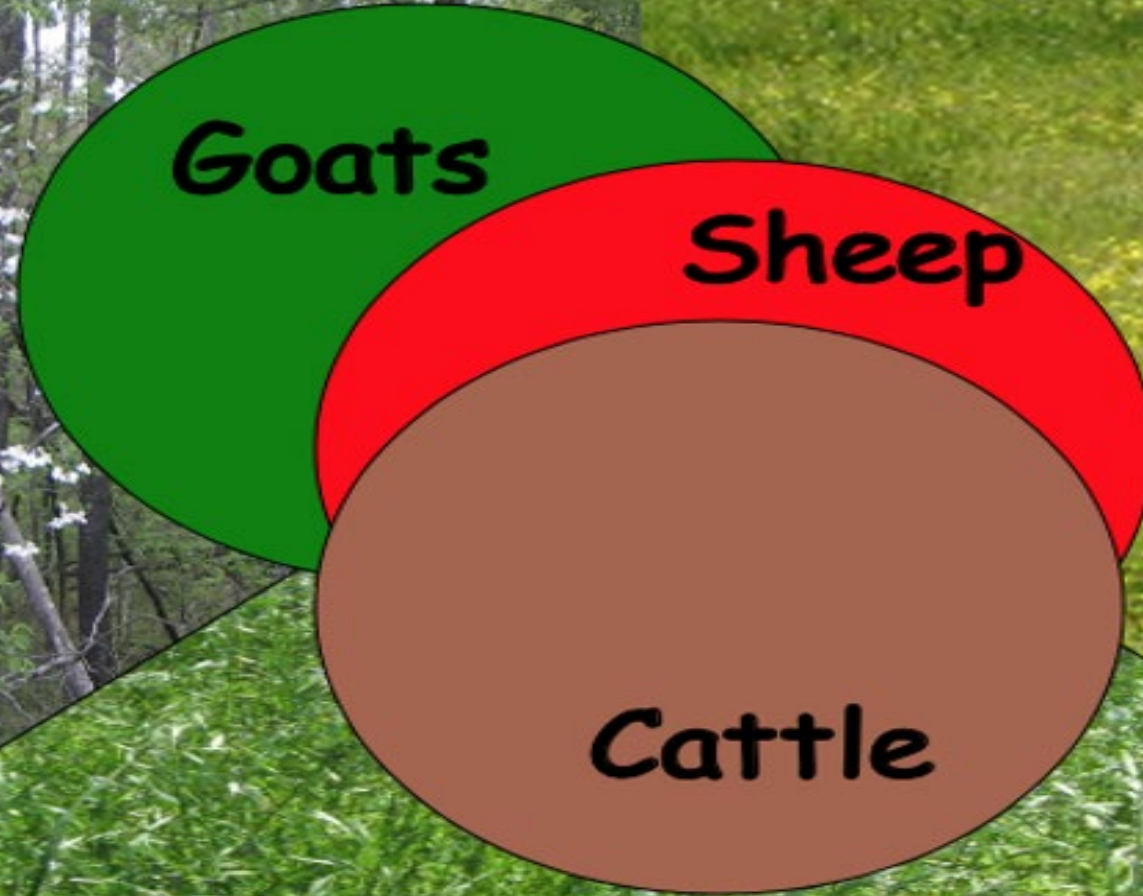
Concentrate Feeder  
(browse)



■ Grass ■ Forbs ■ Browse



# Dietary Overlap



**Browse**

**Grass**

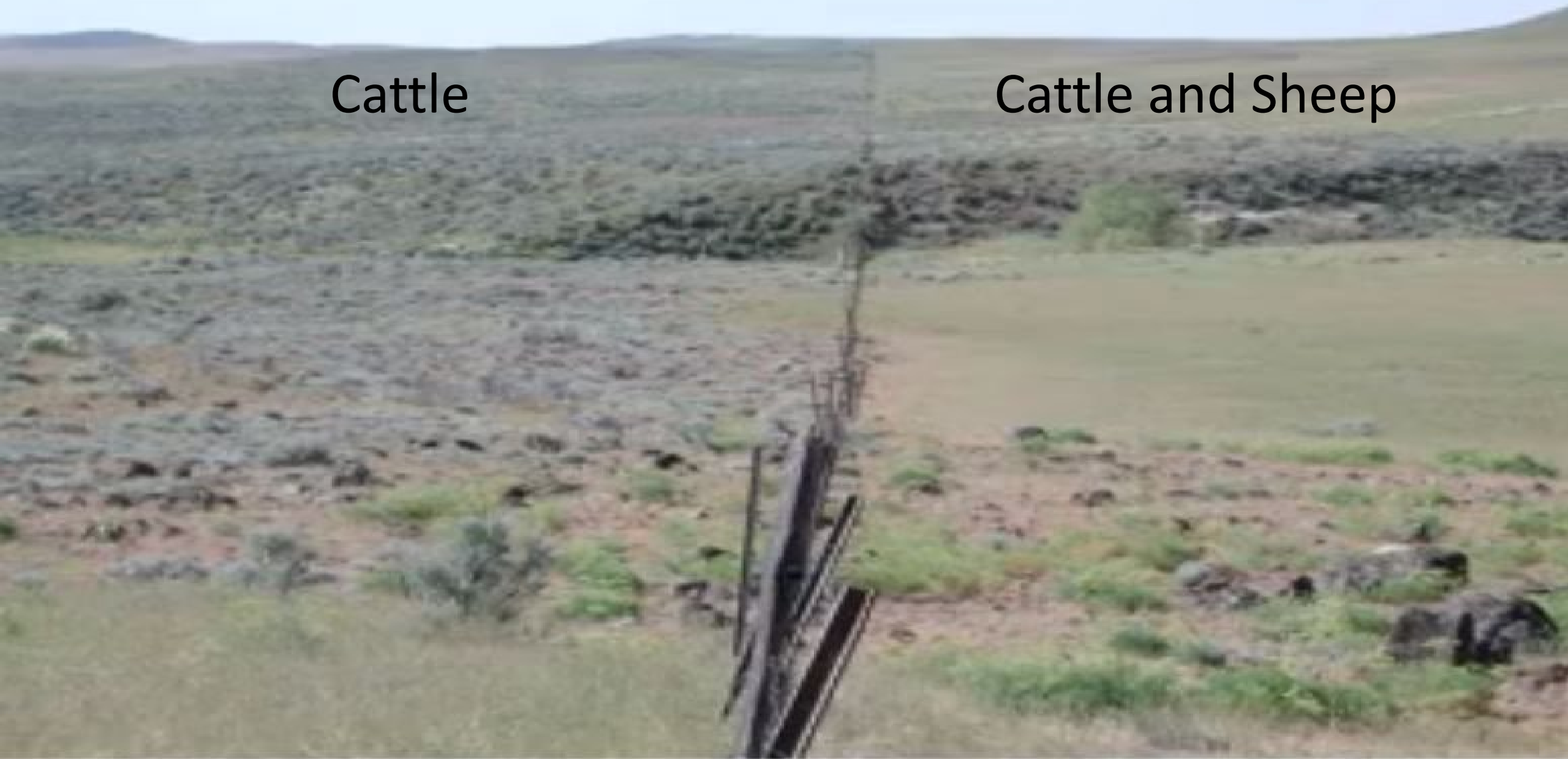
**Forbs**



# Pasture Comparison

Cattle

Cattle and Sheep



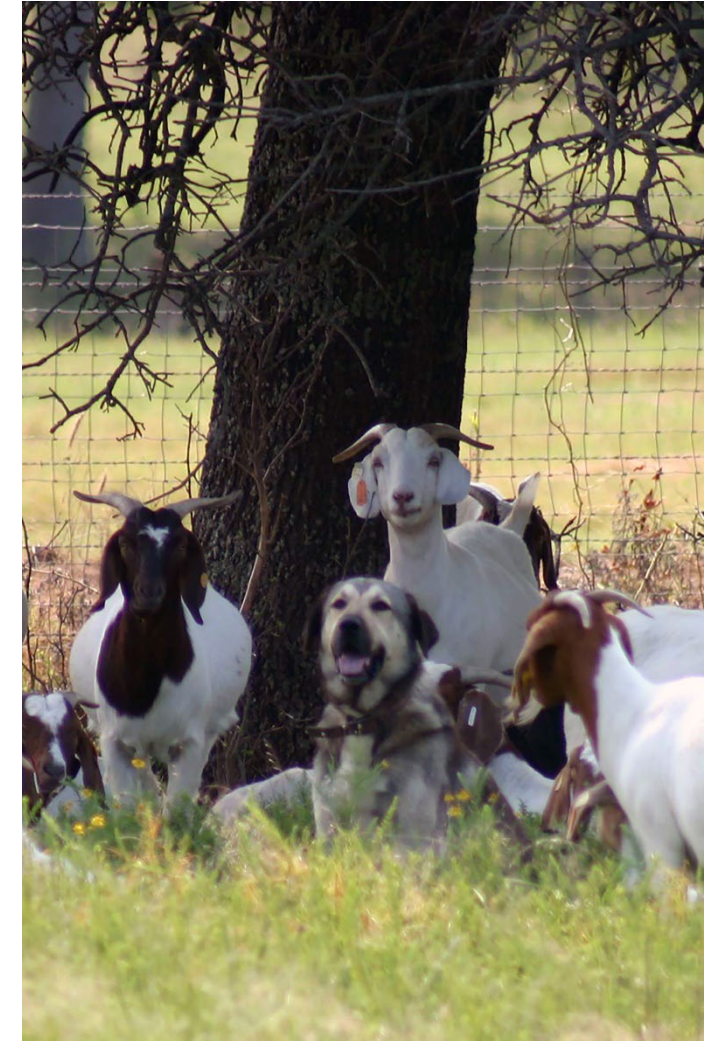


# Advantages

- Increased carrying capacity
  - 24% greater with sheep & cattle than cattle only
    - Depends on vegetation available
- More profit potential
  - OSU budgets show

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Goats</u>
\$41.81	\$29.85	\$44.41
Cattle Equivalents	X 5	X 5
	<u>\$149.25</u>	<u>\$222.05</u>

- Multiple profit centers
- Improved cash flow
  - Marketing different products at different times of the year



# Advantages

- Improved animal health
  - Reduced parasite load
  - Reduced disease transmission
- Improve land condition
  - May reduce or eliminate need for weed spray.
  - May help control
    - Blackberry
    - Sericea Lespedeza
    - Pigweed
    - Many others
  - Won't help with
    - Bitter Sneeze Weed
    - Goat Weed

Weed Control Costs		
	<u>\$/Acre</u>	
2, 4 D		\$17.32
Grazon		\$18.82
Remedy		\$18.42
Weedmaster		\$17.87

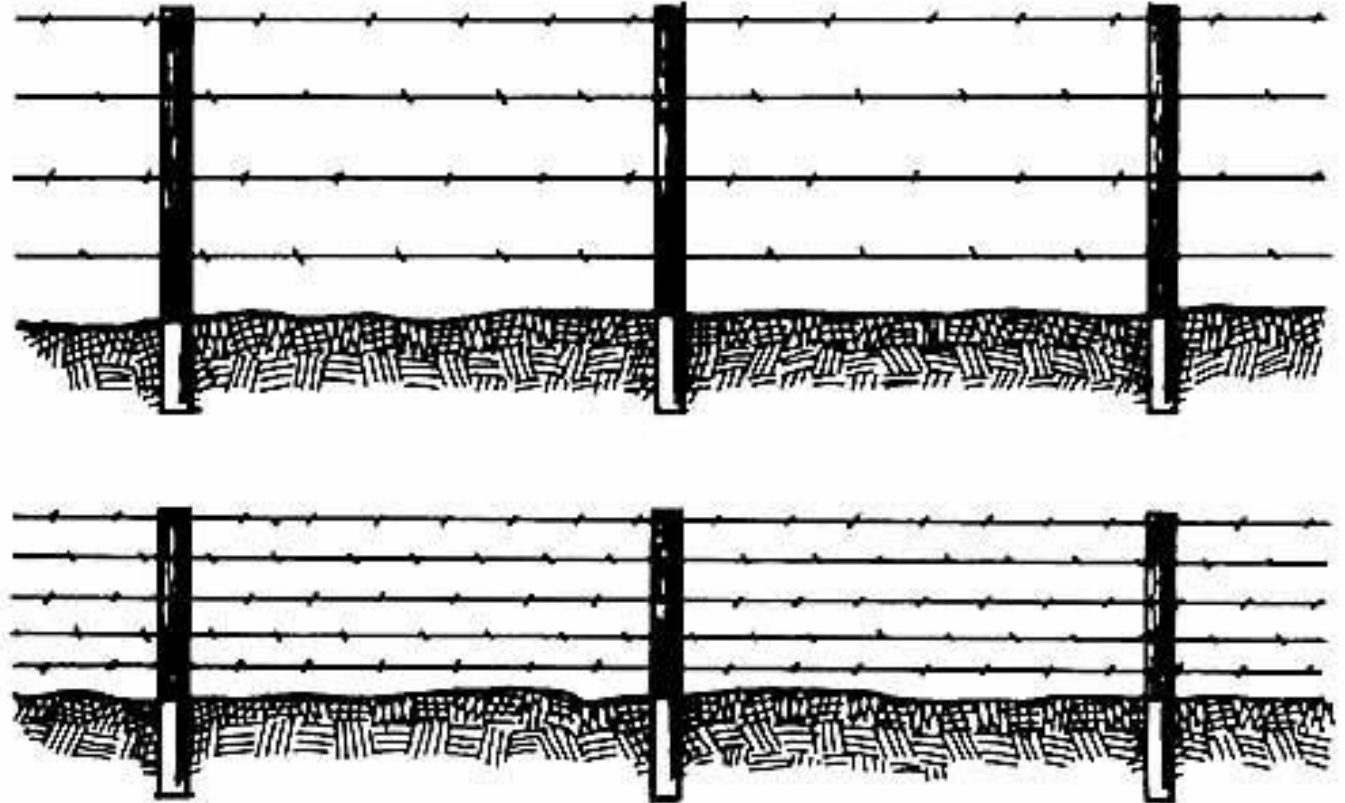




# Challenges

- Fencing
  - Goats require more fence than cattle.
  - Sheep require a little more on the lower part of the fence.
- Options
  - Add Electric
    - Wire - \$0.02/ft
    - Insulators - \$0.68/post
    - Charger
      - Solar - \$534
      - Non Solar - \$298
  - Add Extra Barbed Wire
    - \$0.10/foot
  - Add Field Fence
    - \$1.36/ft

**Not For Goats  
Maybe Sheep**



# Challenges

- Parasite Control
  - Number one challenge to goat and sheep producers and something cattle producers are not used to.
- Guardian Animals
  - Dogs, Donkeys, Llamas
  - Necessity
  - Should be a plus for cattle as well
- Lack of knowledge
  - Goats and sheep are not little cows
  - Both are ruminants, that is about it.
  - Death is a part of production.
  - Research is old or nonexistent
- Increased management
  - Goats and sheep will take more time



# So What

- Not for every producer!!!
- Ability to improve profits
- Reduce weed control
- Spread risk over multiple enterprises

