What are the advantages and disadvantages of sheep and goat production?

A. The advantages of raising sheep and goats are:
   - 1. Sheep and goats are good grazers, and some do well on range environments.
   - 2. Compared with beef animals, sheep and goats are efficient eaters of forage.
   - 3. Sheep and goats are used for more than one purpose.
   - 4. Lambs and goats have a fast growth rate, and a return on investment can be seen in a short time.
   - 5. Sheep and goats can be raised together.
   - 6. Sheep are used in public and private areas to control plants, such as poison ivy and honeysuckle.
   - 7. Sheep and goats are popular for young children to raise as 4-H and FFA projects.
What are the advantages and disadvantages of sheep and goat production?

B. The disadvantages of raising sheep and goats are:

1. The price of wool is very low.
2. The popularity of lamb and mutton is low.
   - Interest has lacked in lamb for the diet. However, some improvements have been made in promoting lamb consumption.
3. Disease and parasite presence is high in the production of sheep and goats.
4. Predators (e.g., dogs, wolves, and coyotes) typically attack sheep and goats.
5. Animals used for more than one purpose can cause an increase in labor.
What facilities and equipment are required in sheep and goat production?

- Sheep and goat facilities and equipment vary based on climate, lambing/kidding season, and individual preferences.
- Sheep and goats do not need shelter at all times.
- They are very adaptable to a variety of climates and conditions.
- Some sheep and goats are raised in confinement settings.
- A. All farms require storage of feed, bedding, and equipment.
What facilities and equipment are required in sheep and goat production?

B. Traditional barns, pole buildings, and metal buildings provide the best protection for sheep.
   - Buildings should be located on elevated, well-drained sites.
   - These traditional buildings are sometimes built with three sides.
   - The open side should face south, away from winds.

C. During lambing/kidding season, mothers should be kept in dry, draft-free pens.
   - Depending on the weather/season, mothers can deliver outdoors in small shelters.
   - During winter months, ewes/does should be brought indoors and should have lambing/kidding pens with water, feeders, and heat lamps.
What facilities and equipment are required in sheep and goat production?

D. Bedding provides comfort to animals in buildings.

- Numerous materials can be used for bedding: straw, dried cornstalks, corncobs, cottonseed hulls, wood shavings, and wood chips. Bedding should be kept clean and dry.

E. Some sheep and goat producers keep their animals outdoors all year.

- Sheep and goats benefit from the outdoor air and from an increase in exercise.
- Their fleece/coats stay cleaner.
What facilities and equipment are required in sheep and goat production?

F. Confinement buildings are used in sheep and goat production.
- The use of these buildings allows the producer to raise larger flocks or herds. However, it also increases capital costs.
- Advantages of confinement buildings in the production of sheep and goats include the following: predator problems are decreased; internal parasite problems are reduced; foot rot is easier to control; automated feeding systems can be used; and market lambs can be fed in a controlled environment.

G. Fencing is important in sheep and goat production.
- Woven wire or barbed wire is used. It should be high enough so animals do not jump out and so predators cannot enter.
What facilities and equipment are required in sheep and goat production?

- H. Loading chutes are used in the production of sheep and goats.
  - Chutes should be designed free of shadows, with smooth, solid sides.
  - Entry points in a chute system should funnel animals.
  - Sheep and goats prefer to be handled quietly and in a low-stress environment.

- I. Waterers and feeders are very important pieces of equipment.
  - They should be designed to meet the needs of a specific number of animals per pen.

- J. Other equipment essential to sheep and goat production includes shearing equipment, hoof trimmers, rope halters, shovels, buckets, and heat lamps.
What are the leading states and nations in sheep and goat production, and what are the major export and import markets for the United States?

- Statistics show the leading states and nations in sheep and goat production and the major export and import markets for the United States.

What are the leading states and nations in sheep and goat production, and what are the major export and import markets for the United States?

- The leading states based on total sheep operations in 2009 are the following: (1) Texas, (2) Iowa, (3) Pennsylvania, (4) Ohio, (5) Oregon.

- The top wool-producing states, based on 2009 figures, are the following: (1) Texas, (2) Wyoming, (3) California, (4) Montana, (5) South Dakota.
What are the leading states and nations in sheep and goat production, and what are the major export and import markets for the United States?

B. The top sheep-producing nations, based on 2009 figures, are the following: (1) China, (2) Australia, (3) India, (4) Iran, (5) Sudan, (6) New Zealand, (7) United Kingdom, (8) Pakistan, (9) Turkey, (10) South Africa.

The top five wool-producing nations, based on 2009 figures, are the following: (1) Australia, (2) China, (3) New Zealand, (4) Eastern Europe, (5) Argentina.
What are the leading states and nations in sheep and goat production, and what are the major export and import markets for the United States?

- C. The U.S. goat industry is composed of milk, meat, and mohair operations.
  - 1. Dairy goats are in every state.
  - 2. Meat goats have gained popularity recently.
    - Meat goat farms are located throughout the country.
  - 3. **Mohair** is a versatile fabric for warm and cold weather made from the hair of Angora goats.
    - The leading states for Mohair production are Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.
What are the leading states and nations in sheep and goat production, and what are the major export and import markets for the United States?

- D. The United States exports about 2 percent of its lamb and mutton.
  - Most U.S. mutton exports are to Mexico.

- E. The United States imports more than 50 percent of the dairy goat cheese products it uses and consumes.
  - Most dairy goat cheese imports are from France.
How does the sheep and goat industry affect the economy?

- Compared with the beef, dairy, and swine industries, the sheep and goat industry is relatively small in terms of production numbers and its overall impact on the economy.
- On the other hand, the sheep and goat industry tries to increase sales in specialty markets.
  - A. The sheep industry
    1. The sheep industry has significantly changed in the past several years from wool to meat production.
    2. The demand for lamb and mutton remains steady and shows little change in preferences.
       - Traditionally, U.S. citizens have not consumed lamb regularly, as they do beef, pork, and poultry products.
How does the sheep and goat industry affect the economy?

3. The wool industry in the United States has changed because many wool mills have closed or have moved to other countries.
   - This allows for export markets to increase slightly for wool and wool products.

4. The challenges for the sheep industry and American lamb products depend on the adoption of new technologies by producers, marketing improvements, research development, and perfection of efficiency at every stage of sheep production.
How does the sheep and goat industry affect the economy?

B. The goat industry

1. Dairy goat milk and cheese see a steady growth in consumer demand as people become more aware of the higher protein and lower cholesterol levels in goat products versus dairy cow products.
   - Dairy goat producers market their products primarily through direct markets, farmers’ markets, and Internet sales. They also sell them directly to retail stores and restaurants.
   - Goat milk can be used to make cheese known as chevre.

2. Meat goats are marketed through harvest facilities, auctions, and on-farm sites to private buyers.
   - Meat goats are sold based on their size and age.
   - An Easter kid is a noncastrated meat goat weighing 16 to 40 pounds that is usually sold seasonally to ethnic markets.
   - Cabrito is the meat from a noncastrated milk-raised kid weighing 25 to 40 pounds.
   - Technically, chevon is the meat from a goat of any age or size.
How does the sheep and goat industry affect the economy?

3. As Hispanic and Asian populations continue to rise in the United States, so will the preference for goat meat.
   - Historically, these populations have preferred goat meat in their diets.
   - Faith-based populations have also increased in the United States, creating a greater demand for goat meat.
   - Goat meat is not generally available at grocery stores or supermarkets.
   - It is sold at ethnic markets and in specialty stores.

4. Great potential exists for the goat industry in the United States as ethnic populations continue to increase.
   - Small goat farms have the greatest opportunity for growth as the demand in metropolitan areas increases.
   - Goat meat offers a healthy choice to meet the demands of health-conscious people.
   - Industry groups must educate consumers and producers and increase marketing strategies.
   - Other challenges of the goat industry relate to the price and availability of the meat.