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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

With endearing personal stories and layman's scientific explanations, *Raising Goats Naturally* lays an enjoyable and empowering foundation for goat-rearing success on the self-reliant farmstead. Deborah Niemann exemplifies the best spirit and action in homestead animal care. What a great contribution to self-reliance. -- Joel Salatin, Polyface Farm

Deborah Niemann's book is an inspiring and useful guide for anyone thinking about raising goats. Her research is exhaustive and her personal stories give real depth and dimension to the experience, preparing the prospective goat owner not only for the technical challenges, but also for the rich emotional experience of sharing your life with a herd.---Bryan Welch, Publisher & Editorial Director, Mother Earth News, GRIT Magazine, Mother Earth Living, and author, *Beautiful and Abundant: Building the World We Want*

Deborah Neimann has done it again! She has created another practical and educational book for beginners interested in trying something new. *Raising Goats Naturally* is an excellent starting point and guide for anyone about to dive into the world of goats. The book does a marvelous job in covering practical approaches to husbandry and how to avoid the pitfalls that novices often encounter. ---Jeannette Beranger, Research & Technical Programs Manager, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

In *Raising Goats Naturally*, Deborah Neimann cuts through the formulaic and often inflexible so-called "expert advice" and encourages us to get to know our animals and listen to what they tell us. Drawing on vast experience, Neimann offers an upbeat, authentic glimpse of what life with dairy goats is really like. This book is important because it brings animal husbandry back to the fore and delivers the goods in a highly integrated manner that's every bit as enjoyable to read as it is important for goatherds of all experience levels.---Oscar H. "Hank" Will III, Editor-in-Chief, GRIT Magazine and author of *Plowing with Pigs*

This lovely book offers a glimpse into an exceptionally thoughtful barnyard. As someone who has benefited from Deborah's goat wisdom for years, I'm delighted that she's compiled it into such a comprehensive guide. -- Margaret Hathaway, author of *Living with Goats*

Anastacia Zittel, Anastacia Knits blog

The book begins on explaining how to buy a goat, what to look for, what things to consider, the different breeds of goats. Niemann explains why raising a goat for a dairy animal is easier, simpler, and smarter than buying a dairy cow. There is a small section about fiber producing animals, but the bulk of the book is on the milk and meat products. Every aspect of care is discussed, from parasites, to housing / shelter, bedding, fencing, food, companionship (goats like to be with other goats, not just other animals), protecting from other animals, and so on. There's lots of photos to help you on your journey of goat ownership.

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When I bought my first goats, everyone I met was talking about using chemical dewormers on a regular basis, taking babies away from their mothers at birth, and using antibiotics at the first hint of anything abnormal. I didn't want to raise my goats like that, but there wasn't any information out there to help me follow a more natural path. I don't take drugs regularly, and if I suddenly found

myself with a medical condition that could be treated with drugs, I would first be looking at diet and lifestyle changes to solve the problem. Over the years, I've used the same approach with my goats. This is NOT a book filled with herbal or homeopathic remedies for sick goats. This is a book that gives you information on how to keep your goats healthy through diet and management. That starts with letting mothers raise their own babies so they can get the antibody-rich colostrum and milk. It continues with providing the best possible diet for goats by understanding their nutritional needs. Through the years I've consulted researchers at Texas A&M, Langston University, Auburn, and more to learn what nutrients goats need -- and how to provide those nutrients in their day-to-day diet, rather than by purchasing expensive supplements. A good diet is your first line of defense against disease and parasites. For example, a copper deficient goat will not be able to tolerate parasites, so you need to be sure that your goats are getting enough copper. But there are many other things that need to be done so that you don't lose goats to parasites. Natural management practices, such as pasture rotation and mixed-species grazing, play an important role in keeping goats healthy. The parasite chapter is 24 pages long and covers common deworming protocols to avoid, while it also provides many practices that will help to prevent parasite infection in your herd. While the first two-thirds of the book is about raising goats, the last third provides instruction in using their milk and meat for cooking and producing your own dairy products, cheeses, and soaps.

I have been reading and preparing to get some goats and this is the book that I have been looking for. I want Nigerian Dwarf's and this book covers them top to bottom. It also offers the information for those who are looking for self-sufficiency, and a more natural philosophy of keeping. If you are looking at getting Nigerians and only want to use the chemicals when absolutely necessary, then this is the book for you.

Excellent book! A thorough and informative manual for owning goats! This book has already answered questions I've spent countless hours trying to get resolved online and in other books! Deborah Niemann has an eloquent way of weeding through all of the options without pushing you one direction or another. To vaccinate or not vaccinate to use herbal remedies or pharmaceuticals...

This year we bought our first Nigerian Dwarf goats. I used this book for getting set-up. There is a lot of information, but I feel like there could be even more in-depth information...for example: exact feeding requirements and supplements, being able to tell if your kids are growing fast enough or if your does have enough body condition, etc.. I just think that if you advertise a "Complete Guide" it

should literally cover every aspect of goat rearing in-depth...with lots of charts and a plethora of information. With that being said, I think that this book is a great resource for new goat owners, just not a comprehensive one.

Experienced breeders and newbies alike will learn something from this book. The title may confuse some people looking for a book of herbal remedies; this is not the focus here. Instead the author presents strategies for raising healthy goats for milk or meat. I definitely agree with another reviewer that the chapter on parasites is one of the most comprehensive I've seen outside of a textbook.

I ordered three books on raising goats and, by far, this is the most useful one. It is also extremely well-written. One of the best books on practical agriculture I've read.

I have several other books on goats as I raise pure bred Nigerian Dwarf goats. This is by far the most concise and easy to read book that I own. The author raises goats along with many other livestock on her homestead. She lives what she has wrote about and gives insights on situations that occur day to day. Great book!

finally finished reading this, MONTHS after we bought goats. Has lots of helpful info.

The title really fits this book. This book answered every question I had (and gave me answers to questions I didn't know I had yet). It is definitely my go-to book for my herd and I highly recommend it to anyone who is considering raising goats for any reason.

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