The Master Meat Goat Producer Program is designed as an educational tool to provide information and insight to broaden production management skills and improve the competitive advantage in the market place; toward increased profitability for the meat goat producer.

The Master Meat Goat Producer Program will be led by a team of specialists and agents from Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee with the support and involvement from representatives of state-level agencies, businesses and organizations that have an interest in the states’ meat goat industry.

The Master Meat Goat Producer Program will:

- Include 10 educational topics that focus on meat goat production and issues facing the meat goat industry.

- Enhance the profitability and competitiveness of meat goat producers by providing essential, technical and practical information.

- Provide participants with a meat goat reference manual that covers in detail the educational (technical and practical) information presented in the sessions.

- Encourage producers to interact with trained facilitators and encourage the sharing of ideas with other producers.
Master Meat Goat

What topics are covered?

MARKETING / ECONOMICS / BUDGETS
Goal setting, evaluating objectives, writing a mission statement and planning; all necessary for success. A look at the true economics for a meat goat business: budgeting time, money and resources to the enterprise identified and marketing – how to market your product for profit.

ENVIRONMENT
Producing meat goats that are healthy and function within climatic constraints. Farm biosecurity to keep your livestock and family healthy and best management practices for land stewards.

NUTRITION
The most expensive expenditure on most farms. Understanding the concept of balanced nutrition for production parameters.

FORAGES
The use of pasture grasses, forbs and mixed vegetation for forage-based meat goat production. Use of dried forages as a supplemental feed source. Establishment of mixed specie pastures.

FACILITIES / FENCING / EQUIPMENT
Economics of portable and permanent structures and fencing. Discussions on equipment and facilities needed based on production management goals and goat behavior under various circumstances.

GENETICS
Decisions that impact the quality and performance of goats within the industry and the consumer. Learn basic genetic principles, the use of performance records, planning breeding programs, herdsire selection and selecting and culling females.

HEALTH / BIOSECURITY
A herd health management program must be incorporated as part of a total operation. Learn to prevent diseases, recognize diseases and avoid internal parasite devastation.

REPRODUCTION AND BREEDING
A major factor impacting profitability. This section covers economics, reproductive systems function, management and development of replacement stock, body condition scoring and artificial insemination.

BEHAVIOR
By understanding the agility, aggressive and curiosity tactics of the goat, they can be used to advantage in production management and foraging.

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT
This section will discuss body condition scoring, quality assurance management practices, record keeping and practical working “hands-on” sessions.

Where and When?
Van Buren County Extension Office
445 College Street
Spencer, TN 38585

Classes will be scheduled as the need arises. To put your name on the list for upcoming classes contact the UT Extension office at 931-946-2435 or visit our website at vanburen.tennessee.edu.

What are the benefits of the Master Meat Goat Producer Program?

- Participation in educational sessions with specialists that provide opportunities to gain knowledge in meat goat production and marketing
- A reference manual of the 10 topics covered in the sessions
- Master Meat Goat Producer Certification
- Informative interaction with other producers
- An opportunity to identify all the facets of meat goat management for a new or novice producer
- Graduates will be eligible for 50% cost share through the TN Department of Agriculture’s TAEP Program. Items eligible for cost share include handling equipment, hay storage, and genetics.

The fee for the Master Meat Goat Producer Program is $65.00 for producers with a premise ID, which covers the costs of the training sessions, a meal each session, educational manuals and other teaching / instructional materials.

To register for the Master Meat Goat Producer Program, contact Chris Hicks at the Van Buren County Extension office at 931-946-2435, or by email at cbhicks@utk.edu.