Livestock: Nutrition Assessment

YES NO

1. Do your animals appear to be lively, healthy, and vigorous?

2. Is the manure a proper consistency (pellets, except when on lush spring pastures)?

3. Do your animals reach market weight or breeding weight at appropriate ages?

4. If some animals are not growing well, is it due to a health problem? Lack of quantity or quality of feed? Poor milking mothers? ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

5. Do you know how to check your animals’ body condition score (1-5)? (see www.luresext.edu/goats/research/bcshowto.html)

6. Do you routinely check your animals’ body condition (thin, average, fat)?

7. Do your animals have appropriate condition (fat cover) for the stage of production they are in?

8. Do you know how to bring your animals into proper condition for their stage of growth, pregnancy, or lactation?

9. If they are too fat, can you adjust their condition by putting them in an area of lower quality forage?

** Review the questions above and note any adjustments that can be made or information needed.
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Stocking rate has an impact on nutrition (availability of quantity and quality of forage), sanitation, and parasite load of animals.

Based on the evaluation of your forages, and considering the year as a whole,

10. Is your farm carrying the right number of animals?
    • not overgrazed
    • not undergrazed
    • animals are healthy and well-nourished
    • hay expenditures are minimal

11. Are you providing your pastures enough rest? (This helps with pasture longevity and with breaking internal parasite cycles.)

12. Do you have a drought plan?

Source: ATTRA’s Small Ruminant Sustainability Checksheets