**Lesson Title: Selection and evaluation of goats**

**Unit: 11**

TEKS: 130.7(C) 5 (a)(b)(c)

OBJECTIVES

The student shall be able to:

1. List selection priorities of market and breeding goats in order of importance
2. Evaluate selection priorities of market and breeding goats
3. Understand the purpose of market and breeding goat selection

TEACHING MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT

PPT: Selection and Evaluation of Sheep

TEACHING PROCEDURE

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| Interest Approach/Anticipatory Set | Teacher Notes |
| Open discussion – Review the selection process for sheep | Teacher initiated – Student led, teacher may have to encourage the students what to look for |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Teaching Plan and Strategy / Presentation of New Material | Teacher Notes |
| **Market goats**  Muscle  Just like sheep, the forearm of goats is an excellent indicator of muscle. Goats are handled thoroughly to determine the amount of muscle they possess. A handler or judge takes their right hand and runs it over the ribs of the goats determining the width and leanness of the ribs. The meat from goats is marketed entirely different from that of cattle, swine and even sheep. Goat meat is becoming more popular in the United States, and especially those states that are bordering Mexico. Goat meat can be found in stores like Fiesta and Mas with caters primarily to the Hispanic population. The loin of a goat is the same as in sheep. When looking at the loin is it important that it is wide, long, and expressive. You also feel the loin to get a measurement of how firm the loin is. From the loin, the judge continues their handle to the hip. The hip should be wide and square. The larger the hip, the bigger the leg. The leg is where most of the meat is found on a goat. The judge uses two hands on one leg to feel the circumference of the leg. The leg should show definition and expression. It should be free of fat and handle very firm. The purpose of handling goats is to confirm what you eye tells you is already there. Base width is determined by looking at the width between the back legs. Muscle pushes legs out. Consequently lack of muscle causes the back legs to stand narrower.  Correctness of finish  As stated earlier, it is preferable that goats stay lean. The consumer pays for the fat that they are not going to eat. Sheep should have no more than 2/10 s of fat over their rack and loin. Although you cannot get a totally accurate measurement with your hands, it is very possible to tell the difference from the handle between a fat and lean sheep.  Growth/Weight  The length of the cannon bone is a good determining factor for estimating the size a certain goat will finish out at. It is also more desirable to have a goat that is more elongated. If the goat has a longer cannon bone, one would venture a guess that they should be taller at the top of their shoulders. Also, if a sheep has a longer body, they should carry more weight which is important, because sheep are sold by the pound.  Skeletal Correctness  A goat, much like in other species should have a proper 45o angle to their shoulder and a straight knee. They should also have a 45o angle to their pastern. Their hip or dock should come out level and square. When standing behind a goat their hocks should be square and follow a straight line to the ground. It is also preferable if they have stout bones, also known as heaviness of structure.  Balance and Eye Appeal  A balanced and eye appealing goat is extended up front. This refers to a long lean neck that attaches at the top of their shoulder blades. A goat will not be entirely level from their shoulder blades to their hip, but they should not have a large dip behind their shoulder blades  **Breeding goats**  Growth Performance  A larger goat produces more meat, thereby resulting in more dollars for the farmers. Growth performance is genetic, so it is important that the ewe has the genetics to produce a goat with a good growth performance.  Functionality  Structural correctness, review the importance of being structurally correct because of genetic influence as they are being used for breeding and also, they have to carry the goat to term  Rib  Rib shape should be similar to breeding heifers. Within goats we want a large rib capacity in order to have the room to produce a large goat.  Balance and Eye Appeal  Similar to market goats  Muscle  Similar to marketgoats, although note that it is not the top priority, but it is important because it is genetic, and that will influence the potential offspring |  |

ENGAGEMENT

Students will write a paragraph explaining the purpose of selecting both market and breeding goats

EVALUATION

A short Q and A at the end of the lesson

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

College & Career Readiness Standards: II.C.1; II.E.7

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