

1. Are you new to goat production?  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
2. If no, how long have you been producing goats?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Years
3. Do you belong to any goat associations/registries?  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
4. If yes, please list all:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What type of goats do you have, and how many of each?  
Meat \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which of the following best describes your farm situation (check all that apply)?  
Goat production \_\_\_\_\_ Sheep production \_\_\_\_\_  
Cattle production \_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural professional \_\_\_\_\_  
Mixed species \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
7. How knowledgeable do you consider yourself regarding all aspects of meat goat production?  
None \_\_\_\_\_  
Novice \_\_\_\_\_  
Somewhat experienced \_\_\_\_\_  
Very experienced \_\_\_\_\_  
Advanced \_\_\_\_\_
8. What time frame is convenient for you to attend this program?  
Weekdays \_\_\_\_\_  
Weekday evenings \_\_\_\_\_  
Weekends \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Combination of above, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
9. Would you like to have your name added to our mailing list?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Lauderdale County Extension System  
 802 Veterans Drive  
 Florence, AL 35630



# Master Meat Goat Herdsman Program



**Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
 Urban Affairs & New Nontraditional Programs**



*Alabama A&M & Auburn Universities Cooperating*



## Master Meat Goat Herdsman Program

Goat meat is the most consumed red meat throughout the world. As the immigrant population continues to rise in America, meat goat production remains one of the fastest growing agricultural enterprises within the livestock industry. Relevant to other parts of the United States (US), the Southeast has a competitive advantage on meat goat production for two reasons:

1. Its temperate climate and sufficient rainfall allow forage production on a year-round basis that will meet the nutritional needs of meat goats.
2. Its relatively close proximity to numerous metropolitan areas with large concentrations of ethnic and faith-based populations who have a preference and demand for goat meat.

These factors also provide economic opportunities for pre-existing and limited-resource farmers, while “peaking the interest” of potential goat producers.

Integrating animal nutrition and sustainable alternative livestock production systems, producing a healthy food product, as well as other related human health risk factors, all play significant roles in the future growth of the meat goat industry.

For more than 20 years, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit located at Alabama A & M University has played a significant role in small ruminant outreach and research. It continues to be a valuable resource for small farmers and minority farmers involved in meat goat production.

In this tradition, experts from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and other resources will provide relevant research-based information designed to educate farmers about best management and production practices to produce healthy and productive animals. Upon completion of this program, producers will be able to adopt these efficient and effective production and management practices to insure their operations are *sustainable* and *profitable* for years to come.

### Program Format

The Master Meat Goat Herdsman Program offers a statewide comprehensive training curriculum that

addresses the fundamentals of meat goat production including: reproduction, nutrition, forages, health, management, marketing, economics, live animal and carcass evaluation, food safety, hands-on experience, and other relevant areas. It is designed to serve potential and existing goat producers, as well as agricultural professionals interested in learning more about sustainable meat goat production.

The registration fee for this program will help supplement costs associated with implementing this program, such as food and drinks, facility usage, printed materials, and a graduation dinner. We anticipate supporting organizations will provide supplemental financial assistance to help facilitate these training events. Upon completion of course requirements, participants will receive educational materials that include copies of the presentations, relevant handouts, an educational compact disk, and a diploma acknowledging completion of the program.

The entire program will require a commitment of 18 hours divided into several sessions. Each applicant must be willing to make this commitment in order to receive the course materials and certificate of program completion.

### Contact Information

Please contact one of the following individuals if you need additional information.

**Robert Spencer**  
802 Veterans Drive  
Florence, AL 35630  
Phone: (256) 766-6223  
E-mail: Rds0002@aces.edu

**Tommie Teacher**  
701 Hall Street  
Greensboro, AL 36744  
Phone: (334) 624-8710  
E-mail: teachto@aces.edu

**Eddie Wheeler**  
Suite G21, 424 Blount Avenue  
Guntersville, AL 35976-1132  
Phone: (256) 582-2009  
E-mail: wheeled@aces.edu

### Supporting Institutions and Agencies

- Alabama Cooperative Extension System
- Alabama A & M University
- AAMU Small Farms Research Center
- Auburn University
- More to be announced

## Pre-Application and Survey

In order to effectively serve our clientele, applicants are required to complete a pre-application form with survey. Each form and survey must be completed and returned for review. Potential program candidates are screened for participation and notified accordingly; this process is expected to take approximately 1-2 months.

If accepted into the program, applicants will be asked to formally register and pay as class dates are determined. If unaccepted, applicants will be notified of future classes as they are available.

Registration fees for the Master Meat Goat Herdsman program are:  
\$35 for early registration  
\$50 for late registration

Please review and complete the following application form and survey and return via the United States Postal Service to:

**Master Meat Goat Herdsman Program  
Attn: Robert Spencer  
Lauderdale County Extension Office  
802 Veterans Drive  
Florence, AL 35630**

---

---

## Pre-Application & Survey

**Name:**

---

**Address:**

---

---

---

**Phone:**

---

**E-mail:**

---