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Goat production handbook

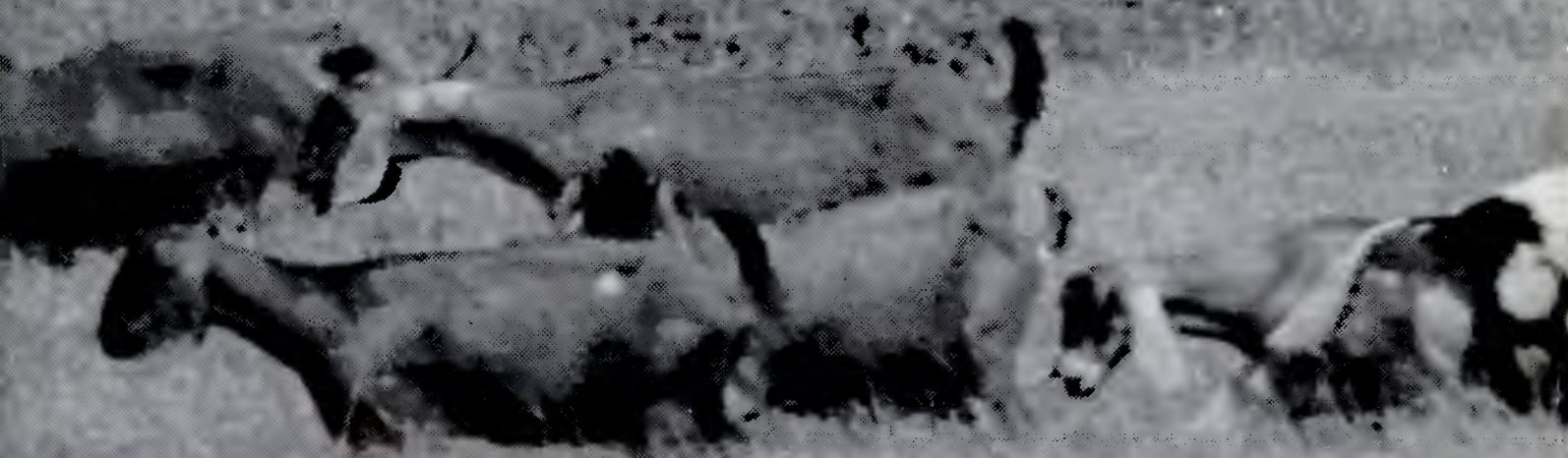


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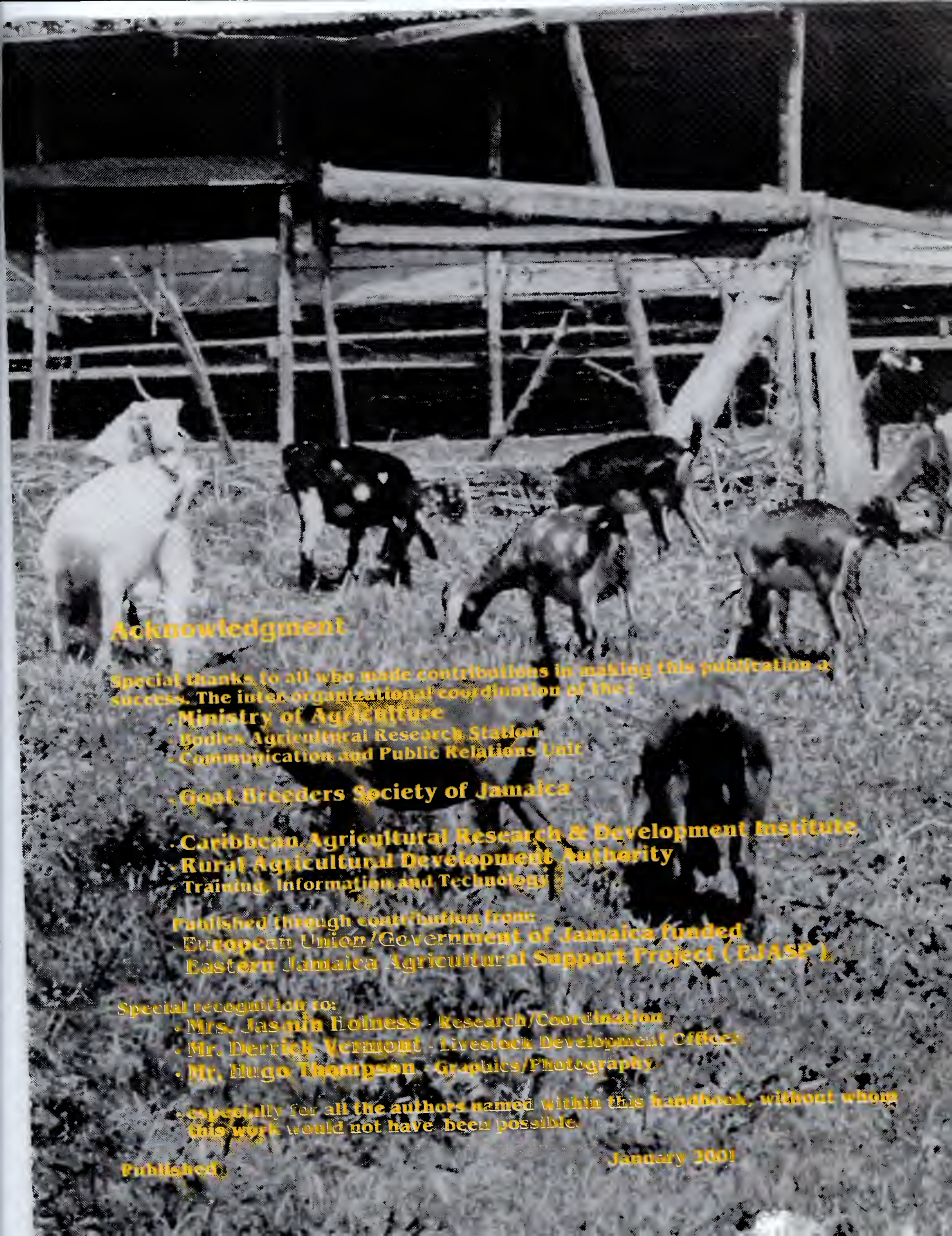
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Goat production handbook



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Developing a Model for Goat Production



The production processes used to produce goats vary from operation to operation, as no two farmers will have the same situation. There are several factors that can determine the model that will be used by a particular farmer. The production model adopted will be determined by the land facilities, feed and management resources available as well as the specific market (s) the producer is targeting. The major thrust in developing a model should be to produce and market goats on a price-competitive basis.

Facilities and equipment can form a major part of your expenditure and will vary according to the type of operation. It is however, important for new entrants to protect their investments so it might be necessary for them to have a sheltered area, feeding area, and access to water and feeding area. It is also important for them to select the animals that are adaptable to the environment, have good reproductive rate, growth rate and carcass value.

When developing a model the producer must know the cost of production for each group of market animal. The farmer must also take into consideration the change in cost as the production process changes in response to

market requirements. It is therefore important for goat farmers to thoroughly analyze the cost of the specific operation that they are embarking on.

The model presented here is meant to assist producers with the understanding of some costs involved in running a specific production model. Since every operation will be unique, producers must determine their specific needs and use the figures presented as a guide to develop their own models. While the revenues for the early periods may be marginal, individual producers may be able to do much better by developing markets to provide higher revenues.

Some key issues to note when developing a model are to:

- **Know all the production and marketing costs.**
- **Recognize when the cost production is not acceptable.**
- **Be able to make changes in the production process that will lower the production.**

The critical assumption will provide a clearer understanding of how this model was developed.

**GOAT PRODUCTION MODEL FOR A 50 DOE UNIT
OVER A 5 YEAR PERIOD**

ITEM	PY 1	PY 2	PY 3	PY 4	PY 5
Expenditure					
Breeding Stock					
35 Does	122,500	0	0	0	0
1 Buck	15,000	0	0	15,000	0
Housing	90,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Fencing	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Land Preparation	15,000	0	0	0	0
Forage Establishment/Maintenance	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Equipment/Machinery	60,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Sub-Total	332,500	17,500	17,500	32,500	17,500
Recurrent cost					
Concentrate Feed (strategic)	36,000	75,000	105,000	120,000	120,000
Medication	3,500	5,500	7,000	8,500	8,500
Labour	40,000	45,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
Miscellaneous	10,000	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Subtotal	89,500	138,000	179,500	196,000	196,000
Total investment	422,000	155,500	197,000	228,500	213,500
Income					
Sale of manure	6,000	8,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Sale of goats	5,400	243,000	324,000	486,000	615,000
Total Income	11,400	251,000	333,000	495,000	624,000
Profit/Loss to date	(430,600)	(335,100)	(199,100)	67,400	477,900
Number of goats sold	1	45	60	90	114
Herd Value	305,00	509,000	836,000	988,500	1,016,500
Cash value including herd	(125,600)	173,900	636,900	1,055,900	1,494,400

ASSUMPTIONS

- Kidding Rate (Females kidding/Females exposed)..... 95%
- Annual kidding frequency..... 1.5
- Litter size.....1.6
- Litter size weaned.....1.5
- Mortality rate.....10%
- Months to weaning..... 3.0
- Months to market.....10-12
- Male:Female ratio..... 1:1
- Average live weight of animals sold.....40 kg
- Price/kg live weight.....\$132.00
- All sales are considered for meat.
- Culled does will be replaced by weaner does.
- Feed cost is calculated based on commercial rates.
- Labour is calculated based on actual time spent on unit.
- Herd value is calculated from animals on farm at the end of each year.
- Cash value including herd value would be the value of the operation if the entire herd were to be sold at the end of the year.
- Offspring are projected to be crossbred Nubian or Boer.
- Machinery/Equipment include Forage chopper and various hand tools.
- The foundation herd will be first cross Native and Anglo-Nubian.