

## I. Narrative Description of Past and Present Activities and Future Plans

Goat House Farm (GHF) is an educational based not-for-profit organization. Our community goals are:

*-To establish standards and communicative strategies for first time goat owners based on scientific best practices and holistic care. 30% time.*

Past & Present: We currently serve as a resource point for first time goat owners and approximately 90% of our placements are with first time goat owner families. We provide support via telephone and in person for the public (regardless of where they purchased their goats), fielding general goat care questions at no cost. We have taught goat owners how to properly house, feed, groom, and pasture their goats. We have also guided goat owners through fecal microscopy, labor and delivery preparation, and kid care. We have answered calls at all hours of the day or night and will continue to do so. We refer the community to county and university extension office resources and to services at University of Florida, the only large animal teaching hospital in the region.

We are currently in the process of completing a general goat care packet for new goat owners that is specific to raising herds in the north Florida environment. This is particularly important due to the virulent strains of parasites associated with the hot, humid southern summers that have increasingly resulted in fatalities across farms in the region.

Future: Because we have found a lack of farm friendly and reliable resources in goat management, future activities will include a publicly accessible database of sound scientific practices in herd management drawn specifically from peer reviewed research and credentialed professionals. It is also our goal to promote county and university extension services by collaborating with these offices to provide a centralized online location (goatguild.org) of upcoming events, funding, and training opportunities for goat producers. We intend to apply for a USDA SARE grant to support this endeavor in 2021.

*-To develop and build community educational programs on goat husbandry and beekeeping centered around compassion, empathy, and environmental awareness. 40% time.*

Past & Present: The farm currently offers daily open farm tours to the general public. Day visits are scheduled between 10:00am and 4:00pm in the fall and winter months and until 6:00pm the remainder of the year. During the tours, students, adults, and families learn about raising goats, sustainable practices, goat care, and beekeeping through hands-on interactions. Farm tours are not a petting zoo but are designed so visitors are able to spend time with goats in their pasture in order to promote compassion toward the animals, gain an understanding of sustainable stewardship, and support emotional well-being for visitors *and* animals. We feel when we cultivate compassion through humane education, we can foster empathy which is critical to the foundation of a just and compassionate society. For this reason, GHF adheres to and advocates for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Five Freedoms: Freedom from Hunger and Thirst; Freedom from Discomfort; Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease; Freedom to Express Normal Behavior; and Freedom from Fear and Distress. Currently the farm has an average of six tours per week. We do not charge for this service and do not intend to charge in the future, though we do accept donations. We strive to make this opportunity available to all regardless of income level.

*Classes:* We began our classes in the fall of 2020. All classes are open to the public and can be scheduled via telephone or on our online scheduling portal.

*Milking Classes:* We offer a milking class every morning on the farm at 10:00am during milking season. The cost is \$20 for a 45 minute class for up to four people. The class includes an overview of the proper and sanitary methods of milking, including by hand and by machine; udder care; feeding of dairy goats; setting up a milkroom from sanitation to stands; and health concerns of dairy goats. We currently give approximately two classes per week.

*All About Goats Class:* Our All About Goats Class is offered at least four days per week throughout the day at 90 minute intervals. The cost is \$40. Participants learn the history of goats; nutritional requirements; herd behavior; shelter needs; fencing and predator prevention; basic grooming, including coat and hoof care; breed recognition and background; how to approach and communicate with the goats; vaccinations; and holistic care. Goat classes began in November of 2020 and to date we have conducted four classes.

*What's the Buzz, All About the Bees Class:* Our bee class is offered daily in the warm months when opening the hives does not disrupt the normal environment of our bees. The class is 90 minutes for \$50 and includes a small jar of honey. The class includes basic hive care, bee anatomy, queen identification, the honey making process, bee behavior, pest control; hive inspections, and bee folklore. Bee classes began in November of 2020 and to date we have conducted two classes. Classes are not offered from December through February or when weather prohibits.

*Agritourism:* GHF's activities are largely supported through visitor donations and the farm's agritourism activities, including overnight cabin and camping stays. Our agritourism stays serve to introduce sustainable livestock farming to the general public, while offering an affordable hands-on farm experience. Overnight stays range from \$5 per night with volunteer hours to \$50 per night for our inclusive cottage. Guests can also visit our flocks of chickens, containing many breeds listed on the Livestock Conservancy registry as threatened or endangered. Currently we average five agritourism stays per week.

The above activities all integrate knowledge transfer intended to foster compassion toward animals and the insects that are critical components to environmentally sustainable farm management from manure fertilization and cover crops to dung beetles and bee pollination.

*Future:* In the future, we plan to extend our day visits to include the value of dairy goat sustainability with the addition of cheesemaking and soap crafting classes. We also intend on adding a honey extraction activity during summer honey harvest.

In 2021-2022, we will implement beetle banks on the farm to both improve pasture management and teach visitors about the important aspect of beetles in parasite control. We have applied for a FACT grant to build our beetle banks.

*-To improve community wellness through goat-assisted therapeutic services. 20% time.*

*Past & Present:* Studies have shown that contact with animals assists with social, emotional, and cognitive functioning, and improves PTSD, depression, and anxiety treatments. For GHF, therapeutic services serve a dual purpose in bringing therapeutic services to the community as a whole, while

also exposing participants to the unique personalities and sustainable value of goat stewardship which simultaneously contributes to the prevention of animal cruelty.

We currently offer goat yoga classes every other weekend, where participants relax while doing light yoga with the goats. Since beginning yoga classes in the fall of 2019, we have had 152 participants (note: we were closed for four months due to Covid).

Our pasture and goat nursery are wheelchair accessible and we welcome anyone who would like to visit the herd simply to destress. We have marketed and hosted “midterm and final exam destress with the goats” opportunities free of charge to local college students.

Future: We plan to partner with Tallahassee Memorial Animal Therapy (TMAT) program to bring our therapy goats into senior centers and hospice care. The TMAT program provides training to therapy animal providers and serves over 60 different facilities each year. We intend to recruit volunteers to assist in training new kids for therapy and to expand our team of certified handlers.

*-To partner with nonprofit organizations in order to align shared missions and services. 10% time.*

Past & Present: We have partnered with Florida State University student organizations such as Camp Kaseem and sororities to host annual retreats and fundraising activities. For the last two years, we have hosted Camp Kaseem’s annual counselor retreat. Camp Kaseem is a student run summer camp for children whose parents have cancer. We have also sponsored an FSU’s Kappa Kappa Gamma’s Relax for Reading goat yoga philanthropy event, raising funds for the national Reading is Fundamental program.

Future: As mentioned above, we intend to develop educational partnerships with county and land grant university extension services. Instead of duplicating any services available via other nonprofit organizations, GHF intends to identify organizations for resources and referrals that align with our stated mission.

To further support our educational endeavors, we sell chicken eggs, specialty cottage goods, honey, and natural goat milk and honey products. We also sell raw goat milk (for pet consumption only, as per Florida law). We offer handcrafted goods made right on the farm. All profits from goods and services are put toward the above services and operating costs.