



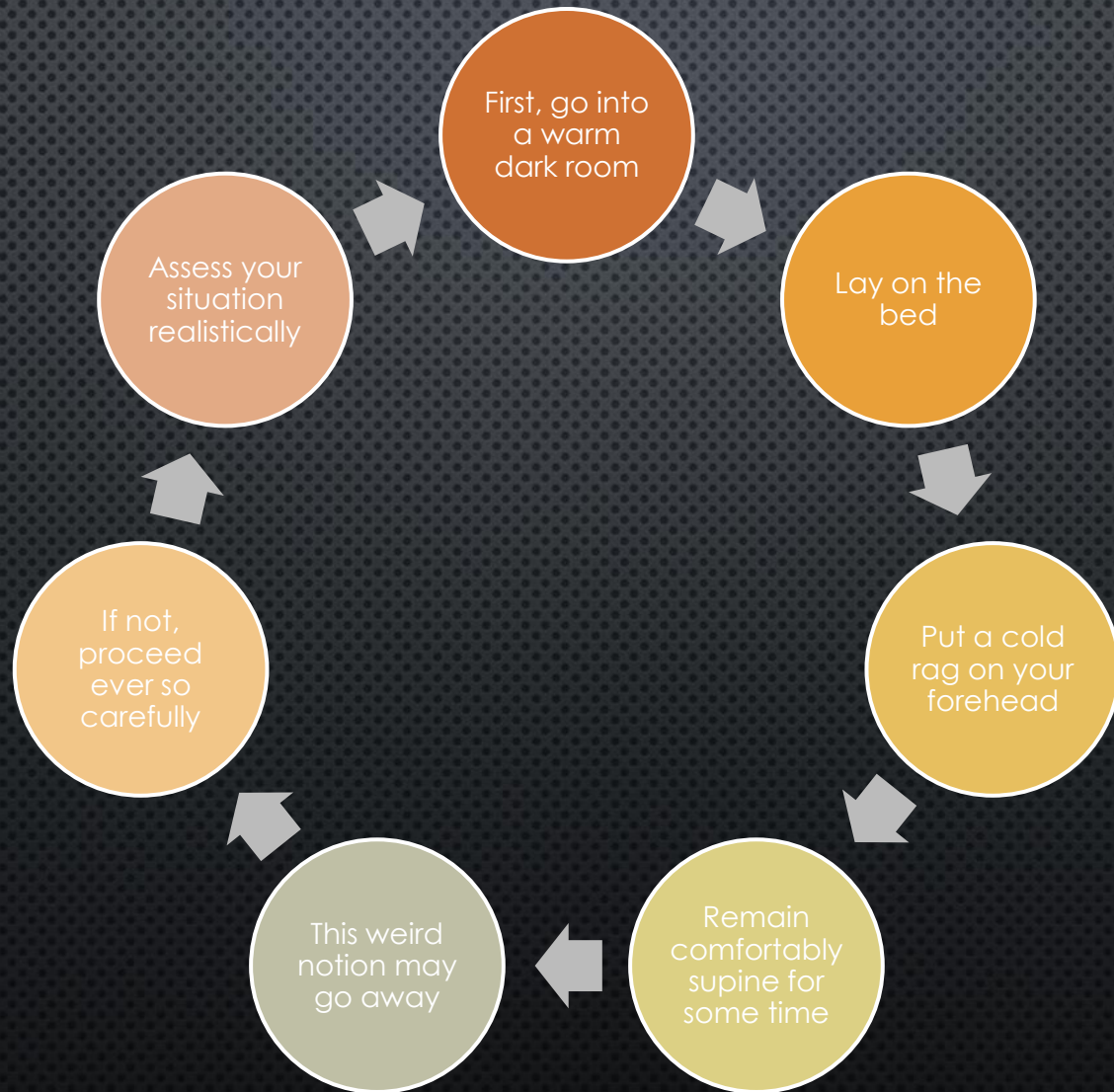
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SO, YOU WANT TO DO MEAT GOATS?

REALLY BASIC CONSIDERATIONS



PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILING

Is your mental
status
otherwise,
okay?

Are you &
your S.O. in
near perfect
harmony?

Are you and
he/she
gainfully
employed?

Can you
make
changes in
your lifestyle
gracefully
and
cheerfully
tolerate
adversity?

Can you
readily admit
ignorance
and diligently
pursue
knowledge?

If so,
proceed,
again ever so
carefully

COMMON EARLY ERRORS

Being insufficiently 'educated' about the goat business (opportunities, constraints, returns to be realized); read, visit, look and talk

Improperly matching type of goat enterprise

desired with available, or required, resources

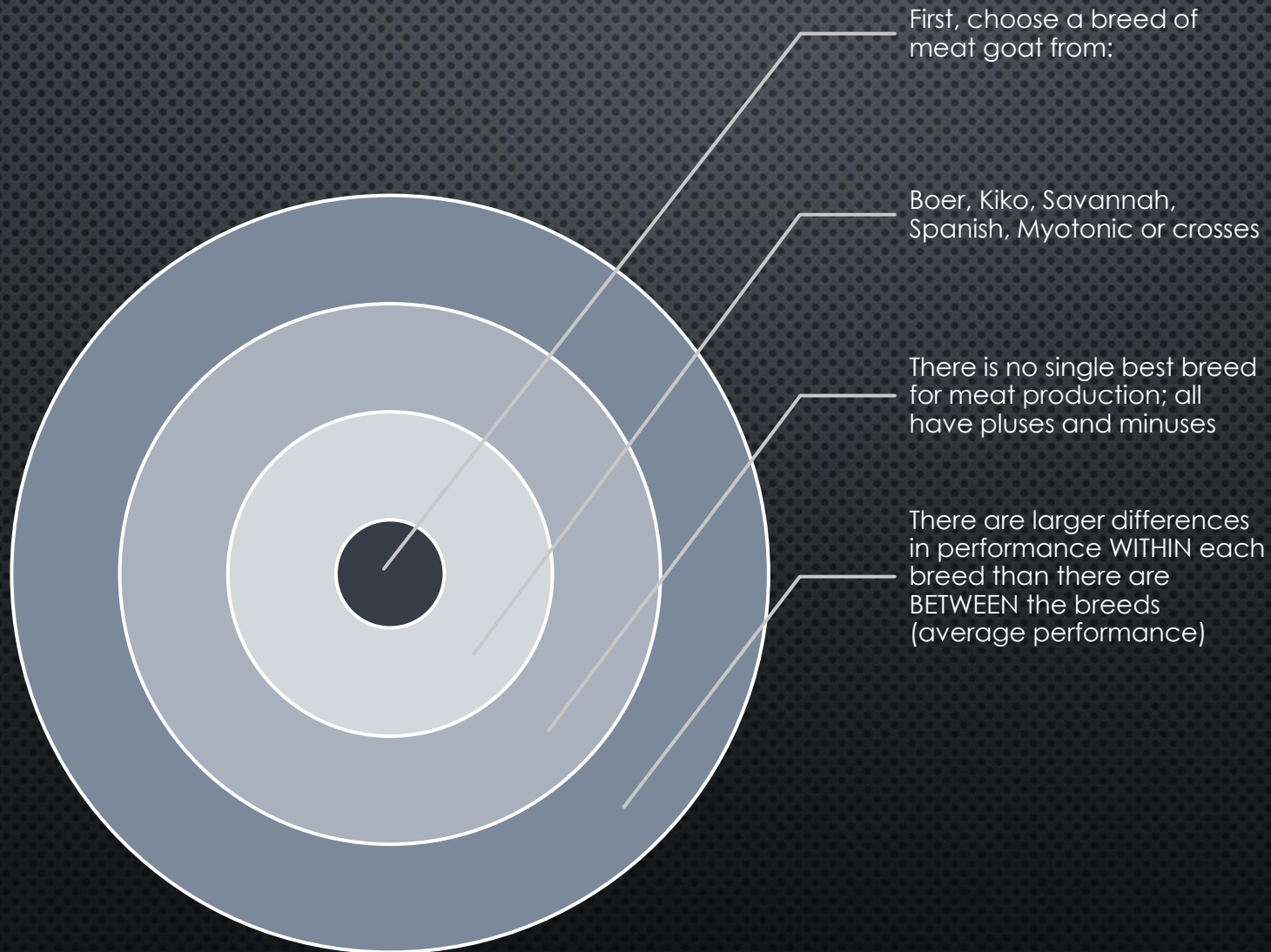
3. Over-estimating proper stocking rates and facilities capacity

4. Underestimating feed needs and costs

MORE COMMON EARLY ERRORS



PROCUREMENT OF BREEDING STOCK



SELECTION OF INDIVIDUALS

Selection of individuals within a given breed is an imprecise undertaking and fraught

The price of individuals may/may not be closely related to their worth as breeding stock

Few goats are performance-tested, but some folks may have 'informal' information

Buyers are reduced to visually assessing worthiness of individuals...
bummer

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS IN VISUAL APPRAISAL OF INDIVIDUALS



That there is a reasonably close and positive relationship between physical appearance (phenotypic traits) and productivity traits (genotype)



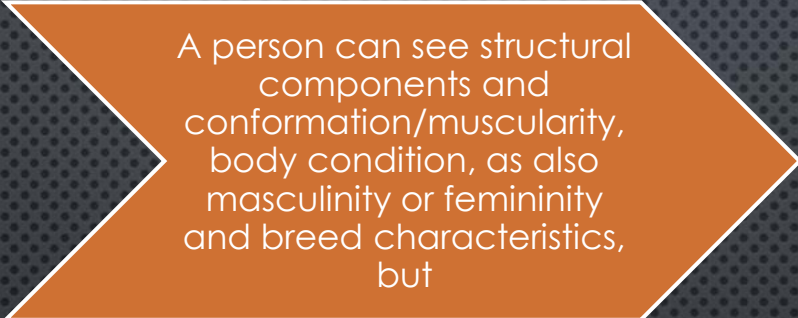
That the prospective buyer 'knows' what a good animal looks like



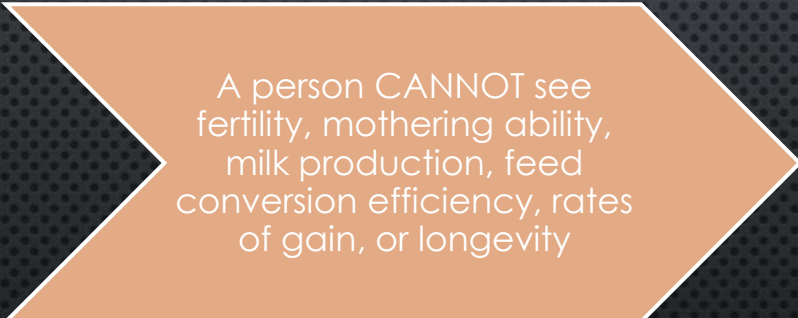
The perceived or actual relationship between phenotype and genotype is neither close nor reliable; do not think it otherwise



WHAT YOU CAN, AND CANNOT, SEE



A person can see structural components and conformation/muscularity, body condition, as also masculinity or femininity and breed characteristics, but



A person CANNOT see fertility, mothering ability, milk production, feed conversion efficiency, rates of gain, or longevity



(If so, there would be no need for testing)

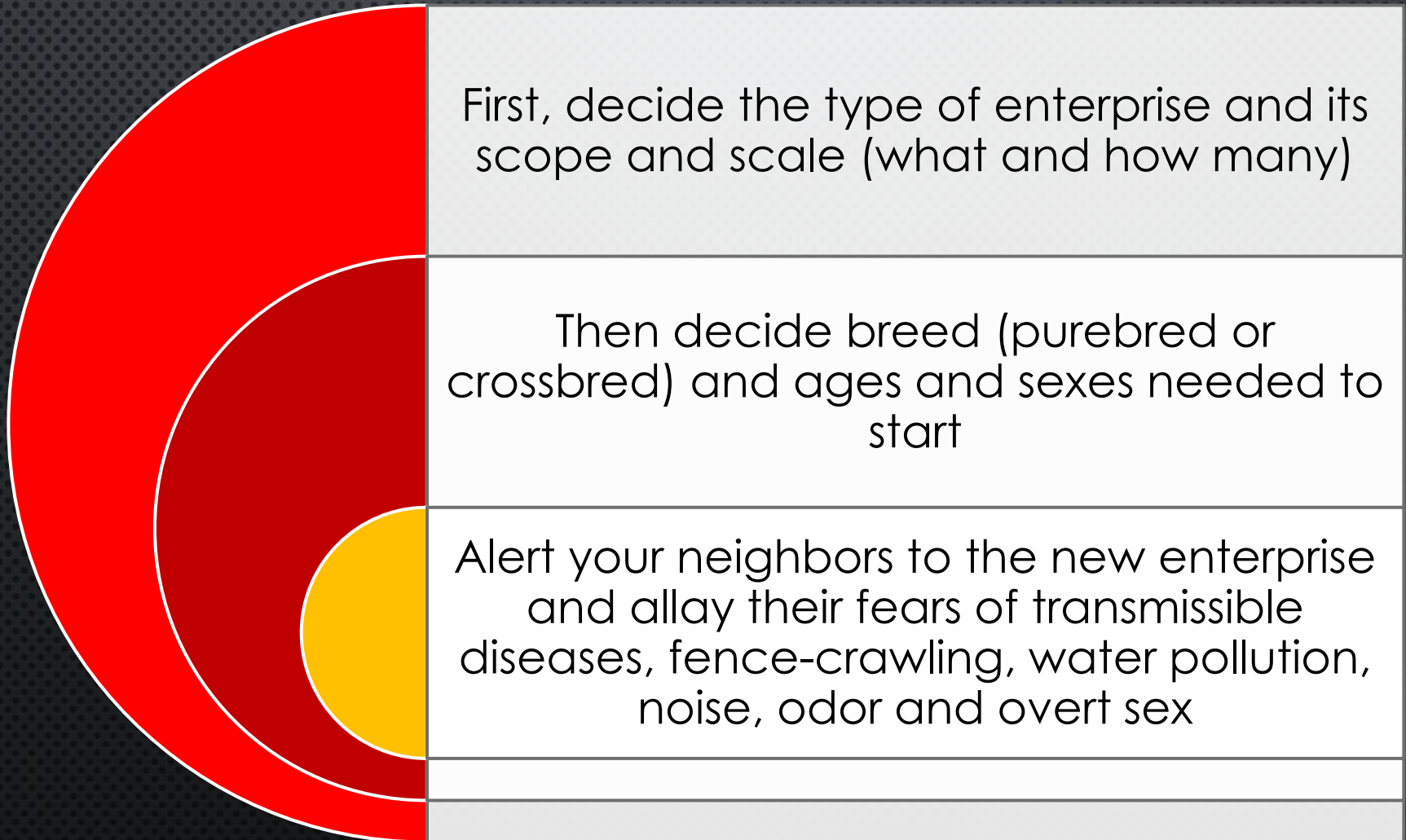
RATIONAL PRICING OF GOATS

The 'correct' price for a given goat is that sum agreed to by buyer and seller at time and place; all else is irrelevant

In a rational, economically equitable world, buyers would expect to pay prices fairly closely related to prices to be received in the near term

Unfortunately, this does not always occur

SOURCING FOUNDATION STOCK



WHERE SHOULD I BUY GOATS?



WHEN SHOULD I BUY GOATS

Doelings at
4-8 months
of age,
bucks at 9-
12

Allow 1.5 sq
ft per kid,
1.75 sq ft
per
yearling,
and 2.0 sq
ft per adult

Feed only
water and
hay or
pasture on
arrival

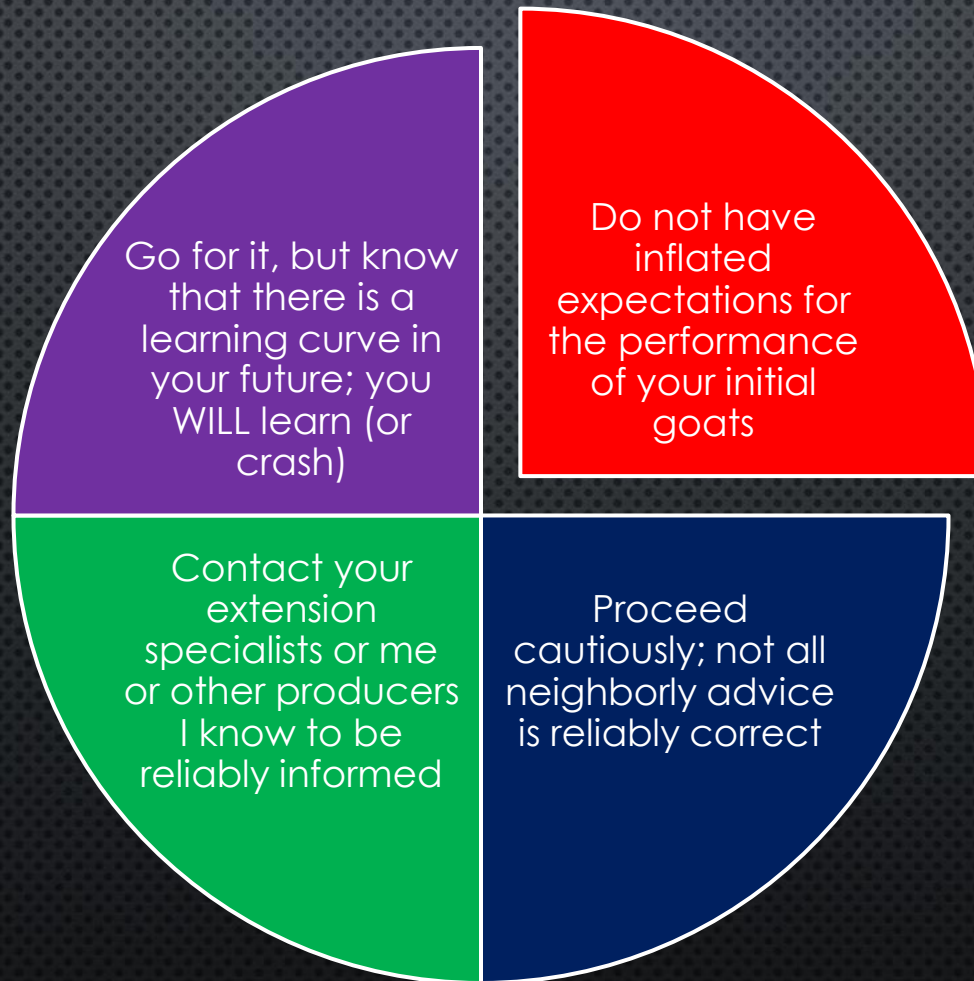


Haul
separately,
up to 20
hours or so

Separate
does and
suckling
kids when
hauling

Delay grain
feeding for
a few
days... r&r is
key

FINAL WARNING



THANK YOU FOR WATCHING



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