What are some of the most important limiting factors facing the (local, state, national) sheep/goat industries today?

- FSA payments
- Encouraging increased lamb/goat production
- Mentors
- Sharing information
- Lack of funding
- Predator control
- Access to quality replacement stock
- Consumer education
- Tail docking
- Carcass grades training
- Co-grazing with cattle
- Unified approach
- Lack of university classes
- Shearing locations
- Lack of processors
- Pressure from other agriculture
- Type of animals produced
- Lack of information (research)
- Foot problems
- Forages
- Parasites
- Genetics that fit Kentucky
- Record keeping systems
- Master Goat/Sheep Herdsman Program – new producers
- Small and large production systems
- Group purchasing – inputs
- Lack of facilities
- Herd/flock management
- Input costs
- Animal identification – tagging
- Consistent grading
- Participation in sales
- Lack of knowledgeable veterinarians
- Fill vacant positions
- Marketing – lack of buyers, wool, shearers
- Health – feet, parasites, limited products
- Information – correct, timely
Consensus top five most important issues/limiting factors:

1. Master Herdsman Program for goat/sheep producers
2. Marketing
3. Flock/herd health
4. Correct/timely information
5. Unified approach

What are we (sheep/goat industry, producers, Extension, etc.) doing best on the top five issues/limiting factors?

Relationships with other states
Goat marketing excellent – KDA
Scharko’s work
Goat calendar
Hutchens’ newsletter
Kentucky Goat News
Regional association meetings
Summit – cooperative efforts
Buck performance
Ewe Profit
Sheep Profit Day
Third Thursday Goat Days
Lambing School
Tel-O-Auctions, Graded Sales
Wool pool
Shearing School
Extension publications/offices
Cooperative meetings – associations
Master Herdsman planning has begun
Value-added processing – KDA
Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy – goat/sheep grants
Microscopes, FAMACHA cost-share
Field days
Resources are available (takes some looking)
Farm Bureau Sheep and Goat Committee
Gil Myers – parasites
What MORE do we need to be doing on each issue or what are our WEAKNESSES in dealing with each of these issues?

Multi-faceted industry
Master Herdsman – need to designate a person
Lack of young producers – sheep
Research needs: parasites, diseases, foot rot, CL, pneumonia, coccidia, products
Information for 4-H, not adults
4-H Record Book
Mineral recommendations
Sheep information not in Kentucky
Continue to cooperate
Funding and resources for Master Herdsman
Regional Master Herdsman meetings
Need larger groups of good quality
Educate veterinarians on sheep and goats
E-mail newsletters
More meetings and communication between sheep and goat industries
Comprehensive educational resources
Encourage sheep in graded sales
Special vaccines for Kentucky
Agent training – Kentucky-based information
Extension publications for Kentucky
Annual research update
Joint annual meeting with breakout sessions for sheep, goats
Handbook – compile information and update
More regional information
Help in niche marketing
More marketing personnel
Breeding stock sales
Diagnostic lab low priority
More Patty Scharkos
Better distribution of information
More research funding
Four breakout groups developed action plans for two of the top five issues.

Group 1

Master Herdsman
-Cover all aspects from novice to experienced
-Appoint coordinator
-Develop areas to be covered
-Find presenters that are relevant, interesting, and knowledgeable
-Develop curriculum
-Try in one area; use feedback to modify
-Work with regional and state groups to develop locations

Unified Approach
Work together to increase:
-Total number of producers
-Marketability of products
-Productivity
-Overall profit
Educate producers as to what buyers want at what time

Group 2

Marketing
-Keep sending more information out to producers. We need to increase quality first and numbers second.
-Inform producers of the quality needed
-More information on ethnic marketing

Correct/timely information
-Weekly packet to agents – include any newsletters or hard copies
-Make a sheep calendar along the same lines as the goat calendar
-Use more e-mail
-Make it interesting, short, and visual
Group 3

Master Herdsman
- Pattern like Master Cattleman beef program
- Hire coordinator
- Fund as with Kentucky Beef Network (Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy)
- Master Herdsman classes with three-ring binder
- Cover reproduction, nutrition, facilities, health, forages, marketing (meat and wool), end product (meats lab), and record keeping (some topics may require division by species)
- Every county agent to have binder in office as resource
- Charge for program

Flock/herd health
- Develop a CPH-type health program for replacement females as basis of elite female sales
- Develop autogenous vaccines for bacterial infections – CL, foot rot, bacterial pneumonia
- Annual educational forum on small ruminant health and production

Group 4

Marketing
- We need an additional small ruminant specialist to promote our industries and educate producers on producing and marketing quality animals through our graded programs
- Create a directory of Kentucky goat and sheep producers who wish to market direct off the farm to ethnic consumers
- Establish a goat and sheep hotline to help connect buyers and sellers of breeding animals

Flock/herd health
- Develop a program of sheep- and goat-related continuing education for veterinarians
- Better report current goat and sheep health-related research to producers through an annual report from the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University to the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the Kentucky Goat Producers Association.
- Develop a sheep and goat advisory panel to steer sheep- and goat-related research
Goat and sheep producers developed mission statements and action plans for their respective industries.

Sheep

Mission Statement
The Kentucky sheep industry will double its numbers within the next five years; improve market opportunities; expand and encourage related production issues (hair sheep, year-round lambing, types of lambs for other markets – ethnic, companion grazing, and replacement female program); improve profit; promote health issues; and promote communication with our producers.

Action Plan
- Get organizations together
- Apply for funds
- Hire coordinator/CEO to oversee both groups by the end of 2006
- Increase communication and education through a Master Herdsman program by the end of 2007

Goats

Mission Statement
Growing the Kentucky goat industry to become a national leader through education and communication.

Action Plan
- Create a full-time small ruminant development office within one year
- Use this new office to develop and promote a Master Herdsman program as a dynamic educational program that benefits existing and potential goat producers in the next three to five years
- Encourage ongoing research and demonstrations by the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University, and better communicate results to farmers
- Continue to encourage the development of a small ruminant specialist at the University of Kentucky