



Producer Case Study: Susan Littlefield of Littlefield Family Farm



This case study highlights one of the farmers featured in our workshop series The Cycle of a Goat Dairy or Meat Operation. Visit cfra.org for more information.

 **Location:** Surprise, Nebraska

 **Farm size:** 21 acres

 **Operation animals:** Dairy goats, registered Columbia sheep, chickens, and cattle

Susan grew up on a small farming acreage that had a variety of animals and crops. She got interested in farming when she was in 4-H and FFA in Minnesota.

She married a farmer, and they moved to Nebraska. Together, they wanted to continue their love of agriculture, which led to Littlefield Family Farm.

Why dairy goats?

Susan raised goats in her youth when she was in FFA and 4-H. Dairy goats seemed to be a simple fix in their small acreage operation when they needed milk for bottle lambs.



Selling and marketing

Littlefield Family Farms sells privately and at public markets. They also use the Columbus Sales Pavilion when selling animals.

“ We market via word of mouth. When it comes to our chickens and beef, people know we are selling them. Now word is spreading about our goat milk.

-Susan ”



CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS

cfra.org | info@cfra.org | 402.687.2100



Finding land

Susan and her husband, Mike, found a great real estate agent and were open and detailed about what they were looking for.



Mentoring and networking

For those considering farming or have just begun, Susan suggests joining Facebook groups and state organizations to begin networking and finding resources.

“ Mike’s parents were a good resource when we first got started. I have a good network of dairy goat folks around Nebraska and in Minnesota who will answer questions. For example, I have a friend in Minnesota who raises goats and sells the milk.

-Susan ”



Barriers to raising goats

“ Ha... money! There are so many things I would love to do, but let’s be realistic, you can’t go hog wild buying stuff, so you make do with what you have and become creative.

-Susan ”

Advice for beginners

“ I wish I would have known there will be a lot of pitfalls. You just need to focus on the goal and move forward.

Make a list. Know what your short- and long-term goals are and don’t get discouraged.

Trial and error brings positive results if you keep working at it.

-Susan ”



CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS

cfra.org

| info@cfra.org

| 402.687.2100

