***Lesson: Goats for Fiber***

**Purpose:** What kind of fabric are you wearing right now? Is your clothing made out of cotton? Maybe it is even made out of sheep wool. Cotton and sheep wool are very common clothing fibers, but fibers derived from goats are often seen as being even more extravagant. What is it about goat fiber that makes it so desirable to consumers?

**Directions:** Go to the following website: http://www.agmrc.org. Click on the Commodities and

Products, Livestock, Goats, Goats for Fiber. Use the information along with any other needed research to answer the following questions.

1. What qualities make cashmere so desirable for clothing material?
2. Where is the majority of goat fiber sold? Why do you think this is so?
3. Why could goat fiber be considered a value-added product?
4. What can a producer do to add value to the fiber they are selling?
5. What is the primary difference between mohair and cashmere?

**Reinforcement Activity: Comparing Apples and Oranges (sort of)**

For this activity, you will be comparing the profit potential of sheep and goats. You will need to first find useful information about both types of fiber producing animals, then make a decision on which animal you would rather purchase for fiber production. Information you should find for both animals includes:

1. What is the average production of fiber per animal per year? (How much is shorn at a time, and how many times are the animals sheered each year?)
2. What is the fiber valued at for each animal?
3. What can be done to add value to the fiber of each animal? How much value does this add?

Now using the above information, and any other information you find to be important (feeding costs, meat production potential), write which animal you think would be the most profitable to purchase, and defend your reasoning.