**Grazing Animal Behavior**

* **Basis for Animal Behavior** 
  + What affects how animals behave:
    - Born with certain abilities:
      * Inherited abilities
      * Physical, Sensory & Physiological Abilities
    - Born knowing what to do:
      * Called “Instincts”
    - Learn how behave
* **Inherited Abilities** 
  + Physical abilities affect what animals eat
    - Ability to eat cellulose
    - Capture and Consume Prey
* **Select Correct Species**



Concentrate Feeder (browse)



Intermediate Feeder (forbs)



Roughage Feeder (grass)

* **Inherited Abilities** 
  + Physical abilities affect where animals eat

Select Correct Breed

Inherited Behaviors - Instincts

Mammals know how to find milk and stay close to mother.

Basic ideas of what is cover   
& how to hide

Preference for salty foods

Preference for sweet…   
 not sure

Inherited Behavior - Instincts

Behavioral characteristics can be inherited

* + Example = Guard Dogs vs Herding Dogs

Basics of Animal Behavior

4 Basic Learning Paradigms

Young animals clearly learn what   
to eat avoid from their mother

Learning from Mother

Early Life Experience is Influential

Preferences are formed

Early dietary experience

Goats - 6 weeks old

* + Experienced: raised on blackbrush range
  + Inexperienced: drylot fed alfalfa pellets

Weaned at 26 weeks

Week 28 - offered all goats blackbrush in pens

Early dietary experience

Animals must learn how to eat

Build Foraging Skills

Animals learn based on consequences

Skin Defense System:

Animals learn based on consequences

Gut Defense System:

Animals learn based on consequences

Conditioned Aversions

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Terpenes in sagebrush limit intake of sagebrush

Animals learn based on consequences

Gut Defense System:

Animals learn based on consequences

Conditioned Preference

Energy Increases Palatability

Nutrient – Toxin Interactions

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Use of Sagebrush by Sheep

Creating Designer Livestock

Select animals that naturally possess the desired ingestive characteristics

Breed animals with these abilities

Prepare animals with prescribed dietary experiences

Offer animals nutritional or pharmaceutical resources to aid in digestion or detoxification

For More information:

www.behave.net