Boer Goats
Boer Goats

- Originated in South Africa
- Name is derived from the Dutch word "boer" meaning farmer
- Developed during 1900, from indigenous breeds with some infusion of European, Angora and Indian goat
- Developed for Meat
- First full-blood Boers were brought into the United States in 1993
Characteristics

- White body
- Brown head
- Horned
- Does weigh between 150 to 250lbs.
- Bucks weigh between 200 to 350lbs.
- Rapid growth rate
- Excellent carcass qualities
- Highly adapted to different environments.
Breeding Ability

• Extended Breeding Season
• Females produce 1-4 eggs per cycle - producing 1-4 offspring
• Puberty in males 5 to 6 months of age
• Puberty in females 7 to 10 months of age.
• 200% crop is not uncommon
• Average Production Per head is 1.7%
• Possibility of 3 kiddings every 2 years
Meat Production

• Goat Meat is the Most widely eaten meat in the world.
• Average Daily Gains of .3-.4 lbs
• Early Maturing
• High quality, Lean Meat
Boer Goat Associations

- American Boer Goat Association
- International Boer Goat Association
- United States Boer Goat Association
Boer Goat Marketing and Sales
Total US Live Goat Imports

- Canada
- Australia
- New Zealand
Total US Live Goat Exports

- Mexico
- Canada
- Taiwan
- Philippines
- Brazil
- Dominican Republic
- China
Frozen Goat Meat Imports

Goat Meat Imported
- 2016 - 15,302 metric tons
- 2015 - 14,031 metric tons
- 9% Growth
Everyone in the world eats goats but Americans

- Who are the consumers of Goat Meat?
  - Hispanic
  - Caribbean
  - Muslim/Islam
  - Others
The Demand for Goat Meat Is Inelastic

• Price is not the driving force

• Religion and preference
Where to sale your Goats?

- **Direct marketing** - direct sales to consumers of live goats or goat meat, farmers’ markets
- **On-farm sales** of live or processed (under state regulations)
- **Restaurant trade**
- **Traditional markets** - livestock auctions, order-buyers, tele-auctions, packers, and shipper trade.
- **Cooperatives** for marketing or purchasing inputs may be good options.
Other Markets

- Show Goats for 4-H and FFA Members
  - Have to Develop a Market
  - Obtain High Quality Goats
  - Positive Reputation
  - Some skill is involved
  - Semen Sales
  - Can turn into a seed stock operation
Other Markets

- American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) -
  - Seedstock operation
  - Have to develop a market
  - Meet ABGA standards
  - Should participate in ABGA shows
Sheep and Goats Herd Health

Good genetics and good feed will not result in maximum production if health is ignored.
Disease Prevention

• Preventative Medicine is the least expensive treatment.
• Vaccination, wormer, medications, minimizing injury, stress, breeding, culling, quarantine new animals
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Respiration Rate</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Heart Rate</th>
<th>Gestation</th>
<th>Puberty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>12-20 per minute</td>
<td>101.7 - 103.5 avg. 102.3</td>
<td>70-100 Beats/minute</td>
<td>150 days</td>
<td>7 months does, 5 months bucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>12-20 per minute</td>
<td>100.9 - 103.8</td>
<td>60-90 Beats/Minute</td>
<td>147 days</td>
<td>8 months ewe lambs, 6 months bucks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facilities

• Well Constructed Facilities.
• Enough pins to do what you need to.
• Clean facilities reduces disease. Spray with a 25% solution of Clorox twice a year.
• Good Clean Water
Nutrition and Feeding

• Feed good quality hay and grain.
• 12-14 percent protein for ewes does and bucks.
• 14-18 percent Protein for lambs of kids.
• Always have hay available
• Minerals should be available
• Good Quality Water.

• Feed on weight and condition
• Think in terms of energy. If animals are doing more they need more energy.
• Watch the Copper content in she
Buck Management

- Maintain good nutrition year round.
- 30-40 days shear rams check for parasites.
- Have the buck/billy semen tested.
- Increase feed to get ready for breeding.
- Rams can breed 30 to 50 head.
- Billies 20-30 head.
- Use a marking harness changing color every 15 days.

- Observe mating
Ewe/Doe Management

- Ewes and does can be maintained on poor quality feed if adequate amounts are supplied.
- Sheep breed in the fall. Goats breed in the fall but also in cooler weather.
- Two weeks prior to breeding, (flushing) increase feed ¾ of a pound of concentrate or put on good pasture. Flushing can influence ovulation rates.
- Also good time to vaccinate
- Make sure you can identify animals. Ear tags, paint brands
- Keep good records. Write down the dates breed or marked.
- Watch for re-breeders.
Pre-Lambing/Kidding

- After 40 days pregnancy can be detected.
- Bucks can be removed.
- Feed one pound of feed the last six weeks to prevent pregnancy toxemia.
- Vaccinate with CD and T a month prior to lambing/kidding and two weeks before birth.
- Move ewes/does closer to the house or in a pen when time is close so that you can watch them.
Lambing/Kidding

- When you find ewe/doe in labor wait for normal dilation. Don’t rush the process.
- After 30 minutes you can assist with the process. Wear gloves with goats to prevent Q fever.
- Lambs/Kids need colostrum with in two hours after birth. If they are weak give 60cc of colostrum by tube.
- Put Ewe and Lambs in jugs for close observation for a few days.
- Identify lambs/kids with ear tags or paint brands.
- Keep records.
Creeping/Weaning

- 16-18 percent crude protein ration.
- Self feeder in a creep pen.
- Don’t forget the water.
- Vaccinate for CD&T 30 days after birth. And second dose two week after.
- Remove grain from ewes/does two week prior to weaning.

- Wean lambs/Kids at about 60 day if they are feeding feed well.
- Don’t change rations, move the ewes/does not the kids.
Medications to Keep on Hand

- Penicillin
- Oxytetracycline
- Banamine
- Mineral Oil
- Probiotics
- Respiratory Infections Draxxin, Nuflor

- Talk with your veterinarian and develop a relationship with them. Ask how to use these products, what for, when.
Culling

• Check teeth, udders, feet, smooth mouth, broken mouth
• Cull Unwanted traits
  - Un-healthy animals
  - Open animals
  - Bad Teats
  - Broken Udders
  - Old Animals
  - Poor Structures
Parasites

Dewormers

- Panacure, Safeguard, Ivomec, Ivomectrin
- Worms decrease productivity, induce disease
- At least twice a year. Rotate between Ivomec and the others.

$0.57 a dose (Ivomec)
Clostridial Infections

- 9 way with black leg
  Clostridium Chauvoei, Septicum, Haemolyticum, Novyi, Sordellii, Tetani, Perfringens Types B, C, and D
  Bacterin Toxoid
  Labeled for sheep not goats
  100 ml cost $46.09
  Treats 25 head at 4 ml
  2 first treatment 2 booster
  $1.84 per head

Disclaimer:
Consult for Veterinarian for recommendations and off label use.
Coccidiosis

• Most common in young animals
• Signs- Diarrhea, loss of condition, unthrifty, poor growth
• Treatment: Coccidiostats added to water, good sanitation, separate young and older animals
Pneumonia

• Respiratory problems - coughing, thick nasal discharge, thick discharge around the eyes, wheezing, and rapid breathing

• Treatment: Decrease stress, provide dry areas, good ventilation, vaccinate for specific organisms, antibiotics.
White Muscle Disease

• Selenium/ Vitamin E Deficiency

• Mainly occurs in young animals. Back legs become paralyzed, reluctant to move, breathing problems.

• Treatment - Vitamin E and Selenium injection.
Urinary Calculi

• Water Belly

• Signs: straining, arched back, problems urinating

• Prevention: 2:1 ratio of Calcium to Phosphorous, increase roughage, add ammonium chloride to diet.
Pinkeye

- Pink mucus covering the eye
- Highly contagious
- Transferred by flies and contact
- Broad Spectrum Antibiotic
- Sever cases eye should be covered.
Soremouth

- Contagious to humans
- Lesions on mouth and udders
- Vaccinate or let it run its coarse.
Chlamydia

• Signs: Abortion, weak or still born lambs
• Treatment: Oxytetracycline, isolate animals, fetal tissue should be burned or buried.
• Prevent: Vaccine
Vibriosis

• Signs: Late-term abortion, still born, weak lambs, brown odiferous discharge after abortion.

• Caused by Bacteria not the same as cattle

• Treatment: Antibiotics and Vaccination prior to breeding
Toxoplasmosis

- Caused by a protozoan. Commonly shed by cats contaminating feed.
- Once they have aborted they develop immunity.
- Limit the number of Cats.
Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease that affects the nervous systems of sheep and goats.

“Mad Cow”

Incoordination, weak, delirious

Monitored by USDA APHIS
• Goats and sheep must be inspected before traveling out of district
• Need to have a USDA scrapie’s tag.
• Producers must have a registered brand.
• If bringing in-state must have a veterinary health inspection and a permit number