



GOATS

Goats are grazing animals originally tamed from wild animals from the areas around Anatolia and The Levant, back in the days of Göbekli Tepe ([click here](#) to learn more).



Goat Diet

Goats will eat many things, and anything that is or looks fibrous will attract them. They evolved to eat grasses and small plants in semi-arid environments. If you have a goat you might need to be careful about hanging out your washing--they will sometimes eat it! They have been known to eat plastic, also. You should also keep goats away from any trees that you want to keep, as they will eat tree bark. Fencing may be an option, to prevent unwanted damage.

Goats are known to cause soil erosion through overgrazing, as they will eat anything. This can cause loss of trees and other plants that hold the land together in hilly areas. Desertification is an increasing problem in the world, and goats are a major contributor to this.

GOAT

INFOGRAPHIC

GOAT BREEDING IS GENERALLY FOCUSES ON IMPROVING OF

- FIBER
- MEAT
- DAIRY PRODUCTS

IS KNOWN AS **LESS LACTOSE**

GOAT MILK

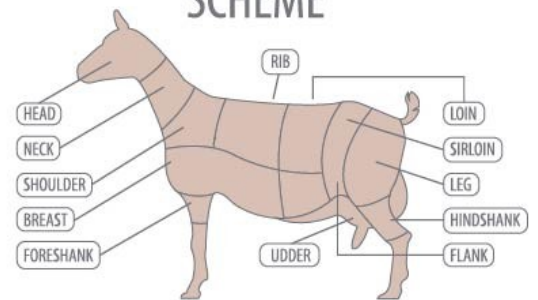
THAN OTHER TYPES OF MILK. IT IS EASIER TO DIGEST FOR PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM LACTOSE INTOLERANCE. THE DEMAND FOR GOAT MILK IS HIGHER THAN EVER

3500 kg

RECORD YIELD OF GOAT MILK PER YEAR AUSTRALIAN GOAT SAANEN BREED

GOAT CUTS

SCHEME



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Dairy Goats

Goat's milk is lower in lactose, this can be an advantage in this age of new and increasing allergies. People also use goats milk to make other dairy products, these include:

- Goats Cheese
- Goat milk yoghurt
- Ice cream

Breeds kept for milking include:

- The Alpine Goat
- La Mancha
- Nubian
- Toggenburg
- Guernsey



In some goat management systems, the farmer keeps kids with nannies part of the 24-hour period and takes them away for part so they can be milked, but kids stay with mum.

Goats for Meat

Although in Ireland goat meat is not often found in the marketplace, goats have long been farmed for their meat across the world, both as a staple part of the diet and as a celebration in many cultures for important festivals or to mark a rite of passage through life.

Breeds that are kept for meat production include:

- Boer
- Rangeland
- Kalahari
- Kiko

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Companion Goats

Goats are sometimes kept as companion animals. Varieties kept are usually smaller than commercially farmed varieties. The typical breeds for companion goats include:

- Kinder
- Pygmy

Goats in Ireland

The Old Irish Feral Goat is Ireland's indigenous landrace breed, which is now critically endangered and only found in remote mountain ranges roaming in feral herds. The Old Irish Feral Goat is highly adapted to the Irish landscape and climate. Interbreeding with imported domestic goats has caused major loss of the original characteristics and adaptations.



Irish Goat Festival



There is a famous Festival every August in Kilorglin, County Kerry called Puck Fair. In Irish, this is "Aonach an Phoic," meaning "Fair of the He-Goat" and is one of Ireland's oldest fairs.

Every year a goat-catcher goes up into the mountains to catch a wild goat. The goat is brought back to the town and the Queen of Puck, traditionally a young schoolgirl from one of the local primary schools, crowns him King Puck. This

signifies that the festivities may begin! On the third day-minus his crown-he is brought down to be led back to his mountain home.

The organisers assure us that the welfare of the goat is taken very seriously, but animal welfare campaigners disagree. So, there is often discord at the fair these days

Related Videos & Websites

- ⇒ [St. Tola Irish Organic Goat's Cheese](#) ⇐
- ⇒ [Irish Goat Breeds](#) ⇐
- ⇒ [Goat's Milk Farming](#) ⇐
- ⇒ [Companion Goats](#) ⇐

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