



December 2009

SPECIAL ISSUE

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International Goat Association Newsletter

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The Current Situation and Development of Goats in China

Written by Yingjie Zhang, IGA Country Representative, College of Animal Science and Technology, Agricultural University of Hebei

China has abundant resources of goat breeds, the total number of goats was 140 million in China in 2008. According to "The Sheep and Goat Breeds in China" records, China has 24 goat breeds used as different types of production, including milk type, meat type, cashmere type. In addition, China still has other 25

species not been included in "The Sheep and Goat Breeds in China," such as the local goat breeds and the introduced breeds. China is vast in territory, the goat-breeding situation also varies. Milk goats are mostly bred in agricultural areas and cashmere goats in cold mountain areas of north, but meat goat-breeding industry is evenly distributed in china.

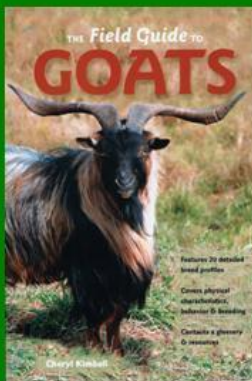
1. – The current situation of goats in China
As a traditional industry in China ,

goat raising industry has many characteristics, including low invest, low output and long production cycle. The local goat breeds perform better adaptability , but the lack of scientific breeding and management remains a problem. The slender income from sheep wool drives people to raise meat goats and the development of meat goats industry also promotes the progress of other related industries. The production of milk

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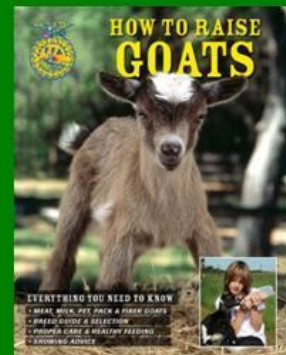
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Goats in China (continued from page 1)

goats and Cashmere goats kept some growth in stability in recent years.

1.1 – Current production situation of meat goats

The production of meat goats in china developed fast in last decade with notable economic benefits. In 2007, the number of meat goats amounted to 100 million and the total meat output reached 1.54 million tons, accounted for 47% of the total mutton output (the meat of sheep and goat). China is an exporter as well as an importer of mutton, but the export volume of goat meat only accounts for 0.2% of the total output, having little competition in goat meat markets.

The production of goatskins is closely related to meat goat industry. China's output of goatskins tops the world with the total output reaching 305,000 tons in 2006. The average weight of goatskins was 2.7 kg. Goat skins with high economic value are traditional exports of china and enjoy a good reputation. Its exports rank first in the world, accounting for 45% of total trade volume. Besides this, China also boasts precious goats breeds, such as Jining Grey goats (valued for lambskin)and zhongwei goat (valued for fur productions).

1.2 – Current production situation of milk goats

According to FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation) the number of milk goats was around 4.25 million , mostly distributed in Shanxi , Shandong, Henan, Liaoning and Hebei provinces. The average goat milk yield is 205Kg during lactation. Due to

the rapid increase of milk production, the proportion of goat milk declines, only about 7% of china's total output of fresh milk. The low utilization and processing ability of goat milk in china lead to the limited goat milk products. 30% of the output of goat milk is used for fresh milk consumption, while 70% for milk powder production.



Heifer China participant Deng Yungao and his goat, photo by Jake Lyell.

1.3 – Current production situation of cashmere goats

Cashmere goats are one of china's precious goat breeds, mainly including the Inner Mongolia Cashmere Goats, Liaoning cashmere goats , Hexi cashmere goats. These breeds are mostly raised in northern areas of china with the number reaching 40 million, such as Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Hebei, Shandong, Tibet , and Shanxi. In 2007, the output of cashmere reached 11,765 tons. The total production of cashmere in these areas accounts for over 90% of china's total production. Cashmere exports are about 60% of global trade and are the highest

amount of export products of goats products. The development of cashmere goats industry goes with the fluctuation of cashmere price in international market. But, the individual productive performance is on the rise and the individual average production of cashmere reaches 400g.

2. – The development of goats in china

In recent years, China has adjusted the policy of animal husbandry to develop herbivore raising. The priority is put on the development of Grass-feeding livestock, such as cow and sheep and the development of meat goats is also one of the key items.

Governments at all levels have released corresponding policies and measures to attract investors and increase their motivation. Since the entry into WTO, China's livestock market has integrated with international one, which provides an opportunity for the production of Chinese goats. Advantages of breeding goats in China---low production cost of goats, abundant labor resources and good quality of local species are helpful for Chinese products to compete in international markets. The focus of work, in future, will be transformed to the following points:

- to develop good goat breeds
- to increase comprehensive benefit with further processing of goat products,
- to extend feeding management and breeding technique,
- to develop ecological goat raising industry by planting grasses,
- to increase exports of goats and explore international markets by developing export-oriented goat industry.

Book Announcement: *The Field Guide to Goats*
IGA Members receive 25% discount!

Kept as pets, raised for their milk, or fiber or prized for their beauty or rarity, goats are increasingly popular animals on farms large and small. Whether you raise a favored few or a hundred head, *The Field Guide to Goats* is the ultimate resource on North American breeds.

The book provides detailed descriptions of more than twenty goat breeds found in the United States and Canada, from the popular Nubian, Pygmy, and Boer to the rare and lovely Golden Guernsey. Illustrated with 150 color photographs, this convenient, easy-to-use field guide also includes information on:

- Behavior
- Characteristics

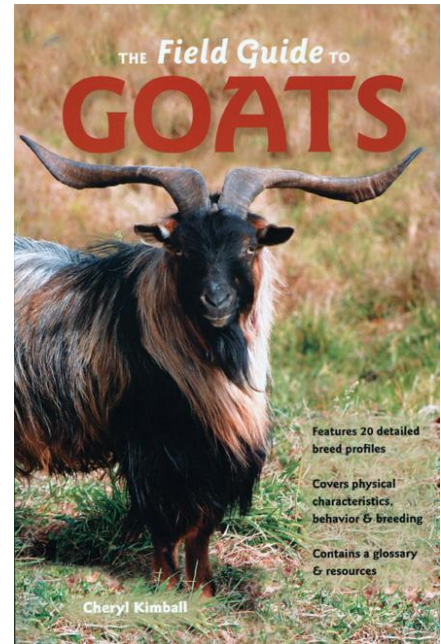
- Breeding, and history
- Glossary of caprine terms
- List of breed associations

It is the essential reference for anyone with an interest purchasing or raising goats.

About the Author

Cheryl Kimball is a certified veterinary technician and the author of several books, including *The Complete Horse* and *Mindful Horsemanship*. She works part-time at the New Hampshire Farm Museum and lives in Middleton, New Hampshire.

Retail: \$19.95 US • £12.99 UK • \$24.99 CAN
Pub Date: December 2009
144 pages and 150 color photos

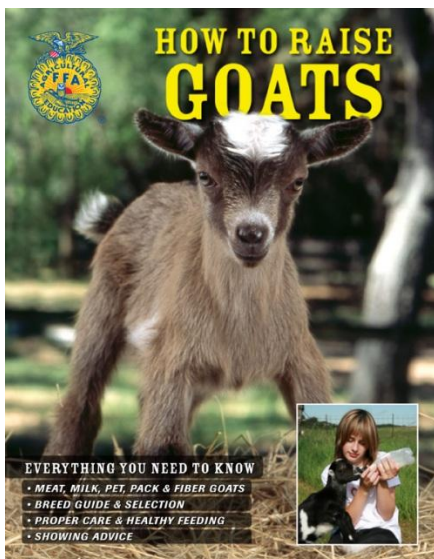


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Book Announcement: *How to Raise Goats*
IGA Members receive 25% discount!

If you're thinking of acquiring a goat or starting a herd, for whatever reason, *How to Raise Goats: Everything You Need to Know* might be the book for you.

Written by Carol Amundson, the



former editor of the Minnesota Dairy Goat Association newsletter, this approachable guide covers every component of raising goats for fun or profit, meat or milk. Beginning with the basics, history and behavior, types and breeds, *How to Raise Goats* answers all a prospective owner's questions about getting a goat, from land requirements and regulations to choosing or assessing particular animals or breeds. Details about housing, feeding, breeding, milking, training, showing, transporting and marketing, make this an indispensable manual for every prospective goat owner.

How to Raise Goats is published in association with the National FFA Organization, formerly

known as Future Farmers of America, dedicated to agricultural education since 1928, and has been reviewed and approved in accordance with industry standards.

Mrs. Amundson has been raising goats since 1989 on a farm near Scandia, Minnesota, with her husband and daughter.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7603-3157-6
\$19.95 US • £12.99 UK
Pub. Date: April 2009
249 color & 10 b/w photos

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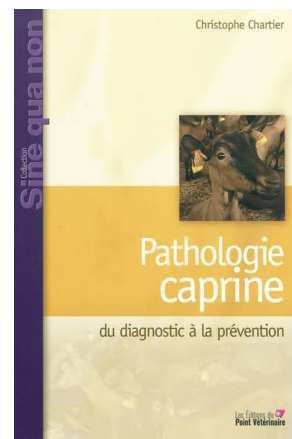
Pathologie caprine: du diagnostic à la prévention Goat diseases: from diagnosis to prevention

This textbook (323 pages) is the first book in French dealing with the major diseases of dairy goat in intensive systems. It is dedicated to veterinary practitioners, agronomy engineers and technicians working on these systems. It offers a practical but comprehensive information for beginners as well as for experienced people about all the topics around health conditions ranging from herd management aspects (housing, feeding, reproducing, milking) to diagnostic procedures (including necropsic examinations) and treatment-prevention schemes. The close relationship between management and health troubles is particularly emphasized for nutrition and digestive diseases, for milking procedure and mastitis

and for pasture, anthelmintics use and nematode infections. More than 200 pictures and drawings give a substantial illustration to the clinician.

Fifteen chapters constitute the body of the book:

1. Generality on dairy goat husbandry
2. Meat, fiber and pet goats
3. Drugs and goats
4. Necropsic examination
5. General diseases
6. Nutritional and metabolic diseases
7. Digestive diseases of young
8. Helminthic diseases
9. Respiratory diseases
10. Reproduction disorders
11. Udder diseases
12. Nervous and ocular diseases
13. Skin diseases



14. Muscle and bone diseases
15. Toxicological diseases

About the author:

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The goat of the Albères mountains, Albère

The association Slow - Food France has sent us information on a project to reclaim a hardy endangered breed. Catalan goats were identified in 1979 by Lawrence River Avon and were first recognized by their particular horn type.

Actions planned from September 2009 will enable a more accurate DNA typing, and organoleptic tests on cheese and meat will define "official" criteria for these products.

Our objectives:

- Review the current situation: location, census number of breeders
- Search of qualities or characteristics specific to race
- How to enhance the population? Local economy?

- How to recognize officially the race with including Slow Food and the Institute of Livestock?

History:

Martin Quintana focused first on this population. In 1995 he had thirty goats with some Catalan. Then, by commitment to this race, he began a collection of the latest type individuals "Catalan." In 2000, after buying goats from six neighboring farms, the flock reached 70 animals. Lawrence Avon, a specialist goat breeder and researcher at the Institute of Livestock, helped in this selection. He had a keen interest in the conservation of this breed. Today the population of Catalan goats extends to about 400 head. Most animals remained on the Quintana family lands. The rest were divided among four nearby

farmers who are also passionate about Catalan goats.

Now Mr. Quintana hopes that they will finally be recognized as a race. Our work is directed toward this goal.

Morphological characteristics: The Catalan was first recognized by its horns, which project backwards and are flat on the head. Their coat can vary from brown to dark brown, but a spotted brown mahogany is the most represented. They are thin small animals with long limbs, suitable for difficult terrain.

Hardiness:

These are hardy local breeds with the ability to adapt to their territory, and can be produced at

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IGA Mission: The IGA promotes goat research and development for the benefit of humankind, to alleviate poverty, to promote prosperity and to improve the quality of life.

IGA Vision: IGA is a global network of people and organizations linking research and production by sharing information, experience, and best practices. IGA advocates socially just, environmentally sound and economically viable goat production. IGA promotes regional activities with a global and diversity perspective.

International Goat Association

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The goat of the Albères mountains, Albère (continued from page 4)

lower cost. Catalan goats have the advantage of also producing milk at minimal costs. Moreover, they could in the future, constitute a gene pool for races that have been selected on specific characters in a productivity target.

Slow Food:

Slow Food is an association that works to safeguard biodiversity and the promotion of culinary traditions. The goal is to recognize the goat as a sentinel and which falls in the ark of taste, and should be made known to the general public.

Meat industry:

Quintana farming family is one of a few farms in French goat meat production.

Flock:

Composition: 230 goats / 3 goats

Feeding: grazing all year /

distribution of small quantities of hay and oats grain tacs (granules of barley, maize) for palatability.

Reproduction: 1 farrowing / goat / year, natural service during November and the natural seasonality for 1/3 of the herd in May. Kidding in March and November = 2 prolificacy, mortality close to 0.

Marketing:

Kids are typically sold at a live weight of 10 to 12 kg, at an age of 1 to 1.5 months in Spain. Prices vary between 6.5 € / kg live at Christmas and 4.5 € the rest of the year including transport. In France there is little consumption of meat goats, so selling prices are lower. The COPO offers 7.30 € to 7.50 € / kg carcass, about 4 € / kg live without taking responsibility for transport.

Milk:

Currently there is little breeding of Catalans for the purpose of milk production. Some figures concerning the quality and quantity of milk produced are available. The first data from controls is the dairy herd of Mr. Pacault with a sample of 6 goats in his Catalan herd.

Averages over 4 years:

Litrage (kg) Fat content (g / kg)

Protein content (g / kg)

Catalan goats: 460 43 9 32.2

Other: 483 38 2 34.8

We note that Catalan goats have fat similar to others, which is interesting for texture and sensory qualities of cheese. An analysis of milk is also being made on the herd from Quintana, but results are not yet available. Tests of

triangular cheeses were also made from three different herds, slight differences were seen. The Catalan goat cheeses are softer and have less taste.

Outlook:

- Three lots will be created this year in the Quintana family herd. A lot of doe one year and three goats will be separated.
- Purpose: control projections, followed genealogical lineage establishment to avoid inbreeding.
- Genetic typing of the Catalan goat in comparison with the goat of Asturias which is morphologically close to Rove and the goat which is close geographically. This is to show the existence of race.
- Recognition of early race by the Institute of Livestock.
- Proposed establishment of a dairy run by two people of the village of Las Illas at Martin Quintana.
- The seasonal artificial increase of production of kids at Christmas in order to have a dairy year.

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