Three-fourths of sheep and goat farms in the U.S. are 49 acres or smaller.

Twenty-seven percent of sheep and goat producers in the U.S. are women, nearly double the 14 percent of overall principal farm operators who are female.

Sixty-one percent of sheep and goat producers derive their main income from a source other than farming, compared to 52 percent of all farmers.

Alabama ranks 10th in the nation for meat goat production.

In 2017, there were over 45,000 meat goats on 2,400 farms in Alabama.

Goat markets are held bimonthly in several Alabama cities including Ashville, Brewton, Cullman, Florence, Moulton, New Brockton, Opp, Russellville and Uniontown.

Boer, Kiko, Myotonic, Savannah and Spanish goats, or any of these breed combinations, are ideal meat producers.

The Boer goat is the main meat goat breed in the U.S.

Goats are harvested for meat at 3-5 months of age and 25-50 pounds.

In 2012, there were over 21,000 sheep on 700 farms in Alabama.

There are over 40 breeds of sheep in the U.S.

Sheep are over one year of age; lambs are under one year.

The average gestation period for meat goats and sheep is five months. The average birth yields two kids for goats and one or two lambs for sheep.

Alabama's hot climate is more suitable for hair sheep, or sheep with more hair follicles than wool. Hair sheep are raised for meat instead of wool production.

In 2012, over 13,000 pounds of wool were produced in Alabama.

Sources:
ACES.edu
FAMU.edu
Farmflavor.com/alabama
NASS.USDA.gov