

Fact Sheet: Meat Goats & Sheep



- 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.



- 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

- 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.

ALABAMA

MEAT GOAT & SHEEP PRODUCERS

A DIVISION OF ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION