Let’s discover the differences between sheep and goats and the roles they play in Alabama agriculture.

Sheep and goats can be found all throughout history. In fact, many American presidents liked the animals and kept them as pets.

- Pres. George Washington (1st) had sheep on his Mount Vernon estate.
- Pres. James Madison (4th) wore an inaugural jacket made of wool from sheep on his Virginia farm.
- Pres. Abraham Lincoln’s (16th) sons had two pet goats that lived in the White House.
- Pres. Benjamin Harrison (23rd) had a goat that would pull his grandchildren around in a cart on the front lawn.

- Sheep and goats were brought to the U.S. by Christopher Columbus and other settlers.
- Carl Sandburg, an American poet and writer, insisted on posing with his pet goats, instead of his dog, for a 1938 *Life* magazine photo.

- The first cloned mammal in history was a sheep named Dolly.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

There were over 5 million sheep and 2.5 million goats in the U.S. at the beginning of 2019.
**DID YOU KNOW?**

Tennessee Stiff-Leg goats, also known as “fainting goats,” will fall over when frightened or excited.

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**Sheep vs. Goat**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Goat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000 breeds</td>
<td>210 breeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female - Ewe</td>
<td>Female - Nanny or Doe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male - Ram</td>
<td>Male - Buck or Billy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby - Lamb</td>
<td>Baby - Kid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graze for food</td>
<td>Browse for food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not have teeth in upper front jaw</td>
<td>Do not have teeth in upper front jaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make the “baaa” sound</td>
<td>Make the “maaa” sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can live 6 to 11 years</td>
<td>Can live 8 to 12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 3 lambs per litter</td>
<td>1 to 3 kids per litter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used for meat, milk and wool</td>
<td>Used for meat and milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live in a flock</td>
<td>Live in a herd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be born with or without horns</td>
<td>Can be born with or without horns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- Sheep and goats are both herbivores and enjoy strolling through the pasture eating grass and any other great forage they can find.
- Sheep are very good for the environment. They eat brush and other natural vegetation, which helps prevent wildfires.
- Sheep minimize the need for farmers to use herbicides by eating weeds and other unwanted plants.
- Sheep consume about 2 to 4.5% of their body weight in dry food a day.
- Goats eat 3 to 5% of their body weight in dry food a day.
- Goats are not able to convert feed to energy as well as sheep.
Wool is the fur on the outside of the sheep that is cut to help make clothes, blankets and other goods. Sheep will get hair (wool) cut once a year, producing over 8 pounds of fleece.

The process for getting wool includes:

**Shearing**
Fleece is removed before ewes lamb.

**Scouring**
Fleece is washed. Dirt and lanolin are removed.

**Carding**
Clean, dry wool is combed.

**Spinning**
Wool is spun into yarn.

**Dyeing**
Colorful dyes may be added to wool before it is turned into clothing or blankets.

**Knitting**
Wool yarn is knitted or woven into fabric.

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**Alabama Sheep & Goat Facts**

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

There are approximately 51,316 goats on 2,356 farms in Alabama.

There are approximately 24,650 sheep on 1,062 farms in Alabama.

There are approximately 48,000 meat goats in the state.

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.
Sheep Products

**MILK** - often used to make gourmet cheese

**MEAT** - called “mutton”

**LANOLIN** - wool wax used for cosmetics such as lipstick, mascara, lotions, shampoo and conditioners

**WOOL** - 2/3 used for clothing; 1/3 used for blankets, insulation and absorbent pads for soaking up oil spills

**TALLOW** - sheep fat that is used to make soaps and candles

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Goat Products

**MILK** - does not have allergens like dairy milk. It is naturally homogenized and can be digested faster than traditional milk. Goat milk is also a popular ingredient in hand-made soaps and lotions.

**MEAT** - lower in fat and cholesterol compared to beef, pork, mutton and poultry. It is mostly eaten overseas.

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DID YOU KNOW?

One pound of wool can make 10 miles of yarn.

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WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the hidden words listed below. Words may appear up, down, left or right. Good luck!

- **KNITTING**
- **PAINTING GOAT**
- **SHEEP**
- **FORAGE**
- **LAMB**
- **EWES**
- **SPINNING**
- **HERD**
- **PETS**
- **GOAT**
- **DOG**
- **DOLLY**
- **WOOL**

**RAM**
**LINCOLN**
**YARN**
**SHEARING**
**MILK**
**FLOCK**
**MEAT**
**HERBIVORE**
**KID**
**NANNY**
**PASTURE**
**WASHINGTON**
**MUTTON**

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**K N I T T I N G O P L U Q R F L A E M T**
**N O Z T A O G G N I T N I A F G O G J H**
**I T S H E E P R O N T E W D A N L A U A**
**R X O O R L S G R E E B P A E I L R E L**
**L I N C O L N I B O W O O J Y N I O L A**
**V T D I E E P O M K E R Z O A N I F B M**
**A T R E P L G D H I S E R N R I X L A B**
**P I E C F D O E H J P O A T P P S G F E**
**E N H T G W A D I D O L L Y P S K L V E**
**T R T U O P T A R T H T S W O O L H Y U W**
**S U Y N O T G N I H S A W M E F G B J L**
**Q H P A S T U R E K L O Q A H M A R O I**
**O A L C R A Y N N A N N J R T Y S C V M**
**N K Y U O P L K G J E E Z X E Y O N N U**
**E I F S H E A R I N G L O A R T B R T**
**A D E U K L S G I A M I L K M V E T A T**
**Y W P R A I B L H G D D I O L H S J Y O**
**A O F N F L O C K U S T A A Y W X M G N**
**R O I A L P O M N G D O U M E A T D L K**
**K H E R B I V O R E Z R T O U W Y I D Z**

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