

Goats



Goats are a species of livestock. They are small, ruminant mammals raised for the production of meat or milk. In 2022, there were about 2.5 million goats in the United States.

Illinois has about 8,400 head of dairy goats and 23,000 head of meat and other goats. This means Illinois accounts for about 1% of the United States goat population.



The most common breed of meat goat is the Boer goat. Goat meat is called different things in different parts of the world. In the United States, it is called chevon or cabrito. Chevon is usually lean, low in cholesterol and fat. It can be cooked by stewing, baking, grilling, or frying. About 63% of the global population eats goat meat.



There are various breeds of dairy goats raised in the United States. Dairy goats can produce between 4 to 5 quarts of milk a day, depending on the breed. Goat milk is whiter than the milk that comes from a cow. This makes the cheese white as well. The top three states for dairy goat production are Wisconsin, Iowa, and California.



Meet the Wolff Family

Gilmore Acres | Effingham, IL

Tell us about your farm.

Gilmore Acres is a family-owned farm. Our farm has been in the Wolff family since 1917. We are currently raising Alpine and Boer goats. Our Alpine goats are dairy goats, and our Boer goats are meat goats.

How do you milk your goats?

At Gilmore Acres, we milk twice a day. We usually milk at 5:00am and 5:00pm. We have an eight-stanchion milking parlor and use a milk machine to milk our goats. The milking process takes about 3 to 4 minutes per goat, and our herd average is 7.75 pounds of milk per goat, per milking.

How is goat milk different from cow milk?

Goat milk and cow milk contain many of the same beneficial nutrients for humans. Some people who are allergic to cow milk are able to safely digest goat milk because it contains a different type of casein protein.

What products are made from your milk?

We use all of our milk on our farm. We use our milk to make ice cream, yogurt, ricotta cheese, and even soap and lotion. Goat milk soap and lotion are known for their many benefits for the skin. The lactic acid in goat's milk can help exfoliate dead skin cells, leaving the skin smoother and brighter. Goat milk also contains natural fats that can help protect the skin from damage and promote healing.



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