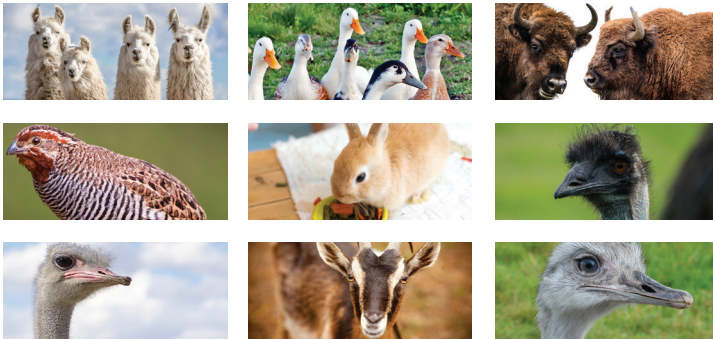


SPECIALTY ANIMALS

WHAT ARE SPECIALTY ANIMALS?

Specialty animals are livestock that are less common than the typical animals found in Illinois, such as pigs, cattle, and sheep. Specialty animals can be found in Illinois if you know where to look. Many specialty animals are found in the wild, but also are domesticated for breeding, eggs, meat and fiber. Some of the animals are domesticated to show at the 4-H fair or to keep as pets.



VOCABULARY

Bovidae: The biological family of ruminant mammals that includes goats, sheep and domestic cattle.

Burrow: A hole or tunnel dug into the ground by rabbits and other animals to create a space suitable for habitation.

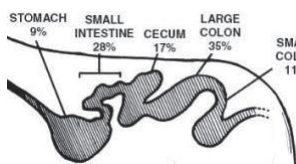
Camelid: A mammal of the camel family, including alpacas and llamas.

Clutch: A group of eggs laid in a single session.

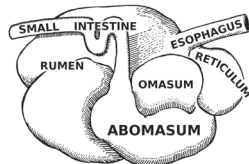
Fiber: A filament or thread from animal wool, fur or fleece used in making fabric or textiles.

Pseudo-Ruminants: Animals, such as alpacas, that have three compartments to their stomachs.

Ruminants: Animals, such as goats and cattle, that typically have four compartments in their stomach.



PSEUDO-RUMINANT DIAGRAM



RUMINANT DIAGRAM

TYPES:

Aquaculture, Bison, Donkeys, Ducks, Elk, Emus, Geese, Goats, Llamas, Ostriches, Partridges, Pheasants, Rabbits, Red/White Tailed Deer, Reindeer, Rheas, Quail

WHAT'S MY NAME?

Specialty Animal	Male	Female	Young
Alpaca/Llama	Macho	Hembra	Cria
Goat	Buck	Doe	Kid
Rabbit	Buck	Doe	Kit
Bison	Bull	Cow	Calf
Duck	Drake	Duck	Duckling
Ostrich/Emu/Rhea/Quail	Cock or Rooster	Hen	Chick

US & IL: ALPACA FARMS & ALPACAS



10,650 - # OF ALPACAS



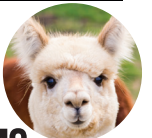
3,016 - # OF ALPACAS



1,944 - # OF ALPACA FARMS



240 - # OF ALPACA FARMS



US & IL: OSTRICH FARMS & OSTRICHES



4,738 - # OF OSTRICHES



656 - # OF OSTRICHES



212 - # OF OSTRICH FARMS



5 - # OF OSTRICH FARMS



SPECIALTY ANIMALS

THE BOVIDAE FAMILY

What are Goats?

Domestic goats are raised and bred as farm animals. There are certain breeds of goats used mainly for dairy production, while others are better for meat production or for their fiber. There are over 210 different breeds of goats around the world. Goats are ruminant animals, like sheep, which means their stomach contains four different compartments. Domestic goats eat plants like trees, shrubs, hay, and grains. Goats live to be 8-12 years old but are known to live up to 15 years and can weigh between 22-350 pounds.

FUN FACTS:

Originally being mountain animals, goats are very good at climbing on top of other animals, or even trees!

Goats are herd animals and will become depressed if kept without any goat companions.

Goats' Milk:

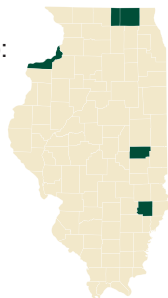
Goats' milk is relatively low in sodium and carbohydrates, and high in protein and calcium. Goats milk generally has less lactose (sugar) than cows' milk. Both goat and cow milk are rich in a range of vitamins and minerals.



Illinois ranks 16th in goat milk production in the United States.

Top 5 (reporting) counties in Illinois (2017):

1. McHenry
2. Richland
3. Rock Island
4. Boone
5. Douglas



What are Bison?

American bison are large animals weighing between 930 - 2,200 pounds. Despite their size, bison are quick on their feet. Bison can run at speeds up to 40 miles per hour and jump six feet high. Bison are mainly sold for meat, by-products, and breeding stock. Bison meat is a popular alternative because of the low fat content, fewer calories and lower cholesterol content.



FUN FACT:

The American bison is the national mammal of the United States.

THE CAMELID FAMILY

What are Llamas?

Llamas, members of the *Camelid* family, are domestic livestock raised for their fiber production. Llama fleece is classified as specialty or luxury fiber. Llama fibers are also extremely warm, strong, durable, lanolin-free, and therefore hypoallergenic. Llamas are pseudo-ruminant with a three-compartment stomach. They chew their cud like cattle and sheep. Adult llamas can weigh between 300-400 pounds, and some llamas can weigh as much as 500 pounds. Llamas have a life span of 15-25 years.

What are Alpacas?

Alpacas, members of the *Camelid* family, are domestic livestock raised and bred specifically for fiber. Each shearing produces roughly five to ten pounds of fleece per animal, each year. In some climates this can be reduced to once every two years. Alpaca fleece is recognized globally for its fineness, softness, durability, thermal qualities, and luster. There are two breeds of alpacas: the huacaya and suri. Huacayas are more common and account for approximately 90% of all alpacas. Alpaca weights average from 100-200 pounds and alpacas typically live 15-20 years.

Llama vs Alpaca

Can you tell the difference?



Llama

Alpaca

The most noticeable difference between

a llama and alpaca is their size. Alpacas are smaller than llamas. Alpacas have a small, blunt face with shorter ears, while llamas have a longer face with banana shaped-ears. Another difference is their wool. Llamas have a coarse outer coat, compared to the alpacas fine and soft outer coat. Alpacas are raised and bred specifically for their fine and soft wool. Llamas are primarily used for guarding herds of sheep or alpacas and for packing.

OTHER SPECIALTY ANIMALS

What are Rabbits? Rabbits are small mammals with the average size between 2 - 4 pounds. Rabbits have keen eyesight that covers nearly 360 degrees, which helps them defend themselves from danger. In the wild, rabbits live in burrows that they dig themselves. A domestic rabbit usually lives between 8 - 12 years, while a wild rabbit typically only lives 1 - 2 years. Rabbits are mainly used for their meat, fur, and breeding stock. Rabbit meat is known for its high protein content. A three-ounce serving of rabbit meat contains 28 grams of protein, compared to 23 grams of protein in a three ounce serving of chicken.

FUN FACT:

More than half of the world's rabbits live in North America.



SPECIALTY ANIMALS

What are Ducks?

Duck is a common name for a large number of species in the *Anatidae* family. Domestic ducks are primarily raised for egg and meat production. The average duck egg is roughly the same size as the jumbo chicken egg and has slightly greater amounts of vitamins and minerals. Many ducks are kept as pets and for show. The Pekin duck is the most popular domestic breed.

FUN FACT: Instead of “teeth,” ducks have serrations (saw-like edges) on their bills.

What are Ostriches?

Ostriches are flightless, swift running, African birds with long necks and long legs. They are the largest and heaviest birds in the world typically weighing 140-290 pounds and measuring 6-9 feet in height. The common ostrich is raised on farms around the world, mainly for its feathers. Its skin is used for leather products and its meat is sold as a delicacy in many parts of the world.

FUN FACTS:

- Ostriches lay the largest eggs of any bird at 15 cm long. One ostrich egg can weigh as much as two dozen chicken eggs.
- The ostrich is the world’s largest flightless bird.
- An ostrich can run up to 43 miles per hour!

What are Emus?

These native Australian flightless birds were born to run with their long and powerful legs. Emus are the second-largest birds in the world. Female emus lay 5 - 15 avocado-green eggs per clutch. An emu’s body contains 3 gallons of oil. Emu oil is used in lotions, soaps, shampoo, and health care products.

What are Rheas?

The rhea is a large South American bird and is closely related to ostriches and emus. Rheas are flightless birds with long, powerful legs. Their large wings are used for balance and for changing direction as the rhea runs. Rheas and emus are alike with their three-toed feet while ostriches only have two-toed feet. Adult rheas are desirable for their meat, feathers, oil, and leather.

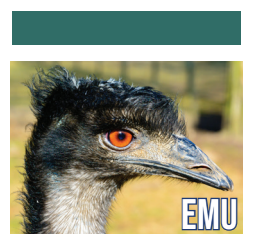
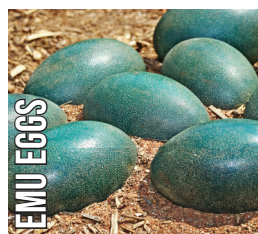
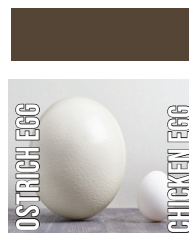
What are Quails?

Quail are small, plump, ground nesting birds in the *Phasianidae* family. Quail can fly short distances, but they spend most of their time on the ground. Some quail are found on farms and domesticated for their meat and egg production. The most common domesticated type of quail is the Japanese quail. Quail are used for their meat, feathers, and high-quality eggs. Quail eggs are high in iron, protein, and vitamins!

FUN FACT: Quail can lay 10 to 20 eggs per clutch.



BIRDS



SPECIALTY ANIMALS

AQUACULTURE

What is Aquaculture? Aquaculture is the production of aquatic animals and plants under controlled conditions including fish, shrimp, salmon, trout, tilapia, aquatic plants, algae and other organisms. Aquaculture can take place in the open ocean, in ponds, bays, greenhouses, and can even take place in a pool. Globally, more than half of all seafood now comes from aquaculture. Aquaculture is the fastest-growing form of food production on the planet, growing at an annual rate of 6%. The projected growth of aquaculture in the United States between 2010 and 2030 is 40%. Aquaculture is primarily divided into two groups: freshwater and marine.

AQUACULTURE PURPOSES

- Food Production for human consumption
- Rebuilding populations of endangered species
- Habitat Restoration
- Wild Stock Enhancement
- Production of Baitfish
- Fish for Zoos and Aquariums

WHAT IS AN AQUACULTURIST?

Aquaculturists raise an assorted selection of aquatic plants and animals in controlled or semi-controlled settings. Raising these organisms can be for production of food, for stocking public bodies of water, home aquariums, or for biomedical applications. Aquaculturists stock production units (ponds or tanks), ensure adequate nutrition, monitor water quality, check for diseases, harvest plants or animals, and maintain equipment. They may also supervise workers, plan production schedules, purchase feed and equipment, and plan harvesting, processing, and marketing.

Source: USDA Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Careers



AQUACULTURE TERMS:

Trout: Trout are mainly freshwater fish that grow very fast. Most trout can survive water temperature as low as 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

Crustaceans: Crustaceans form a large, diverse group of invertebrate animals which include crab, shrimp, and lobsters.

Baitfish: Baitfish is a common term used to describe small fish used as bait for sport fishing. Golden shiners, goldfish, and fathead minnows are examples of fish raised as bait.

Mollusks: Mollusks are a large group of invertebrate animals. Snails, clams, and squids are examples of mollusks.

Ornamental Fish: Attractive, small, and colorful fish that are typically kept in an aquarium.

Catfish: Catfish are one of the most common fish we eat. There are many different species of catfish available. They are rapidly growing and accounted for just over \$1 million in sales in 2017.

Sport or Game Fish: Sport or game fish are raised to become replenishment stock for natural sport fisheries including trout, bass, pike, catfish, walleye and muskellunge.



TROUT



CRUSTACEANS



CLAMS



BASS



GOLDFISH



CATFISH



ORNAMENTAL FISH

FACT: The most common fish species farmed worldwide are carp, salmon, tilapia, and catfish.

THE
IAA
FOUNDATION
www.iaafoundation.org



Illinois
AGRICULTURE
in the ClassroomSM
www.aginthe classroom.org