

Types and breeds of sheep and goat

History of sheep:

Today's sheep descend from wild sheep (Mouflon) of Asia and Europe. Sheep are a source of fiber and meat it's first domesticated about 10,000 years ago and People used wool as much as 20,000 years ago.

Sheep are medium-sized herbivorous mammals that graze on grass and berries. Sheep are mainly farmed for their meat and wool but sheep are also occasionally farmed for their milk (although milking sheep is much rarer than milking goats or cows).

Origin of sheep in animal kingdom:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Genus: Ovis

Scientific Name: Ovis Aries

History of Goat:

Goats are believed to be the second animal domesticated following the dog. It is also believed that the first goats reached Egypt around 5000 B.C. and then spread south and west throughout Africa. Goats originated from the mountainous areas of west Asia and Eastern Europe.

Modern day common goats are known as domesticated goats and are thought to be very closely related to a sheep. For thousands of years goats have been used for their meat, hair, milk and skins. In some countries goats are also used to help with carrying heavy loads.

Origin of goat in animal kingdom:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Genus: Capra

Scientific Name: Capra Aegagrus Hircus

Sheep and Goat Terminology:

The following are common names and terminology used in describing sheep and goats.

1. A ewe is a female sheep.
2. A ram is a male sheep used for breeding purposes.
3. A doe is a female goat at any age.
4. A buck is a male goat at any age.
5. A kid is a goat of either sex under one year of age.
6. A yearling is a goat of either sex one year old or older but less than two years old.
7. A wether is a male sheep or goat castrated when it was young.
8. Lambing is the process of a sheep giving birth.
9. Kidding is the process of a goat giving birth.
10. Wool is a sheep's coat used as a fiber for products such as clothing.
11. Chammy is leather made from sheep or goats.

When the main purpose of a sheep or goat is meat consumption, we look at it not only to identify its basic external parts but also to identify the meat cuts on the animal.

Many other terms should be known in reference to meat cuts taken from sheep and goats.

a. Lamb is meat from a sheep under one year old (young sheep).

Mutton is meat from a sheep one year old or older.

Lamb is considered a delicacy.

b. Meat from a goat is referred to as chevon.



Breeds of sheep:






Sheep are raised for wool and meat; some provide milk for cheese-making.







Breeds can be classified according the type of wool they produce:


1-Fine wool 2-Medium wool 3-Long wool 4-Crossbred wool 5-Hair sheep

Fine wool breed:

	name	description	picture
1	Rambouillet	a large, long-legged white sheep with flesh colored lips	
2	Merino	white markings, flesh colored lips, medium size	
		Medium wool breed	

1	Suffolk	<p>Most common breed in the U.S. (40 percent of sheep population)</p> <p>Medium-wool polled breed</p> <p>Raised primarily for meat</p>	
2	Hampshire	<p>Large medium-wool breed</p> <p>Mild disposition and polled</p> <p>Rapid growth and efficient feed conversion</p>	
3	Shropshire	<p>Heaviest wool producers among medium-wool breeds</p> <p>Medium-sized</p> <p>Dual purpose breed suitable for both meat and wool</p>	
4	Southdown	<p>Medium- to small-sized breed</p> <p>Polled, medium-wool breed raised primarily for meat</p> <p>Early maturing breed</p> <p>Ewes have good lambing ability and average milk production</p>	
5	Dorset	<p>Medium-sized medium-wool breed</p> <p>Both horned and polled varieties (polled is more common)</p> <p>Ewes are good mothers and good milkers</p> <p>Second most common breed in the U.S.</p>	

6	Cheviot	Small-sized, medium-wool Polled Raised primarily for meat; produces a high-quality lamb carcass Hardy sheep developed in Scotland and England	
		Crossbred wool-type	
1	Corriedale	Open face and white hairs on the face, but dark lips and hooves are preferred. It was developed in New Zealand and Australia as a dual purpose (meat and wool) sheep.	
2	Columbia	Crossbred wool breed developed by the USDA in 1912 Produce large ewes with large lambs and good wool yield Survive well on range conditions of the western U.S	
		Long wool sheep	
1	Lincoln	is a large sheep, with mature ewes weighing 200 to 250 pounds	
2	Cotswold	has shaggy bangs, and the lips and nostrils are black.	
		Carpet Wool, Fur sheep	
1	Karakul	black or brown, fat tail	
2	Scottish	This is a very hardy hill breed from	

	Blackface	Scotland. The mature weight is 105 to 155 pounds. It has an open face, black or mottled black and white.	
3		Hair sheep: can be hard to tell from goats without a chromosome count (goats have 60, sheep have 54 chromosomes). Sheep have interdigital glands and a tail that hangs down, while goat tails go up when the goat is running and goats lack the glands	

Common types of goats:

There are more than 300 breeds of domestic goats.

Selection of a specific breed for production depends on the grower's personal needs and goals.

A. Angora goats originated in Turkey and are well adapted to areas not fit for other livestock.

Angoras are almost totally white at maturity and produce up to 7 pounds of mohair each year.

Angora goats are horned, with long, droopy ears.

At maturity a buck weighs between 125 and 175 pounds, and a doe weighs between 80 and 90 pounds.



B. Dairy goats can produce 5 pounds of milk per day.

They supply 1.8 percent of the milk supply in the world.

Goat milk has more minerals than cow milk and is easier for small children and elderly people to digest.

The most common breeds raised in the United States, in order of their popularity, are French Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Saanen, and Toggenburg.

1. French Alpine goats are known as good milkers and have no distinct color.

However, they are commonly shades of fawn, gray, brown, red, and black, or combinations of these colors. This breed has short hair. French Alpines are larger-sized goats with a rangy look.



2. LaMancha goats are known for their external ears.



Two types—the “gopher ear” and the “elf ear”—are distinctive breed characteristics.

This breed has high milk production.

3. Nubian goats are all-purpose goats, useful for meat, milk, and hide production. They are not heavy milk producers, but their milk has a high-average butterfat content. Nubian goats have long ears.



4. Saanen goats originated in Switzerland. They are known as



heavy milk producers. Saanen goats are white or light cream in color, with white preferred. The hair should be short and fine.

Saanens perform best in cooler conditions.

5. Toggenburg goats are a medium-sized breed from Switzerland.

They are known to be the oldest credited dairy goat breed. this goats have excellent udder development and high milk production. The color is solid, varying from light fawn to dark chocolate. and have erect ears.



Iraqi Sheep breeds:

1-Awassi sheep:

- Represent 60% of Iraqi sheep
- It is distributed in Iraq, Syria, Jordan and south turkey.
- Had the ability to adapt the harsh condition and high temperature
- Production of milk 106-121 kgm/ year
- Length of the milk season 134-142 days
- % of fat in milk 5.4
 - Twins 8.8 -15.6%
- Fertility 85% - 75
- No horns in female while male had.
- Its wool like a carpet.



2- Karadi sheep

- Distributed in north of Iraq
- Ram weight 80-100kg while ewes 60-70kg
- Had good ability to resistance the harsh condition
- Male and female without horn
- Its wool like a carpets



3- Arrabi sheep

- Oldest type of sheep in Iraq
- Distributed in south and east of Iraq
- It have the ability to resist the thirst and hunger and bad condition
- Ram weight 55-60 kg while female 41-50
- The wool is less rough than awassi and Karadi
- High percent of twins (15-17%)

Some Arabian sheep breeds:

1-Assaf sheep

- He grew up in Palestine since 1955.
- It is cross breed result from Awassi and east freizian
- Good meat production
- Milk production 250-500 kg/year
- Good fertility rate, 3 birth each 2 year



2- Barki sheep

- Grow up in Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea.
- Long period of fertilization 300 day
- Good Mothering Ability
- Characterized by different colors common white color with black face and legs
- Small in size and produce rough wool



3- Somali sheep

- It is hair sheep
- Breeding in Somali for meat production
- Male and female without horn
- Fat accumulate in pelvic region