



**CANADIAN
MEAT GOAT
Association**
CANADIENNE
de la CHEVRE
de BOUCHERIE

The Boer Goat

The Boer goat is a true meat animal, developed and bred for carcass quality.

Over 50 years ago, using the goats available to them, several goat breeders in the Eastern Cape of South Africa developed a true meat type goat. They called this goat "Boerbok" which, in Afrikaans, means "farmer's goat". Striving for good conformation, fast-growing kids, high fertility rates, hardiness, and adaptability, these early South African breeders have brought the present-day Boer goat very near to the ideal.

In 1987, Boer goat genetics from South Africa were exported to Australia and New Zealand. Both countries significantly increased their number of Boer goats through breeding during the five-year quarantine.

In 1993, a New Zealand company, Landcorp Farming Inc., worked with Olds College in Olds, AB to bring the first Boer goat genetics to North America. Canadian farmers became involved, purchasing frozen Boer goat embryos, and the Canadian Boer goat industry began. The following year, frozen Boer goat embryos were imported directly from South Africa, where the Boer goat

population numbers over five million. What had taken South African breeders over 50 years to create had arrived in Canada in a single year!

Canada now has some of the best meat

goats in the world, and Canadian breeders continue to strive towards the perfect meat goat. Farming is a business, and a farmer must produce an animal or crop which will ensure the best production and profit for his climate and soil conditions, without weakening the natural resources of the area. This is where the Boer goat fits in.

Because goats are browsers, rather than grazers, they can utilize range and pasture land that is unsuitable for other livestock. As well, Boer goats are suitable for companion grazing with cattle, as they provide little competition for available forage.

In Canada, goats have traditionally been kept for milk and fibre, with meat being mostly a sideline (excess kids or cull animals). The Boer goat was imported into Canada for the same reason that Charolais beef cattle were – for the meat! The Boer goat is a true meat animal, developed and bred for carcass quality. The Boer goat has had great impact on the meat goat industry worldwide, providing a viable choice for new producers as well as existing farmers wishing to diversify.

Boer goat genetics have increased meat goat productivity worldwide. As the Canadian meat goat industry grows to meet Canada's proven demand, the Boer goat will continue to be front and centre.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is pleased to participate in the production of this publication. AAFC is committed to working with our industry partners to increase public awareness of the importance of the agriculture and agri-food industry to Canada. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the Canadian Meat Goat Association and not necessarily AAFC's. / C'est avec plaisir qu'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC) participe à la production de cette publication. Avec nos partenaires du secteur nous nous engageons à sensibiliser davantage les Canadiens et Canadiennes à l'importance de l'agriculture et l'industrie agroalimentaire au pays. Les opinions exprimées dans cette publication sont celles de l'association canadienne de la chèvre de boucherie et non pas nécessairement celles d'AAFC.