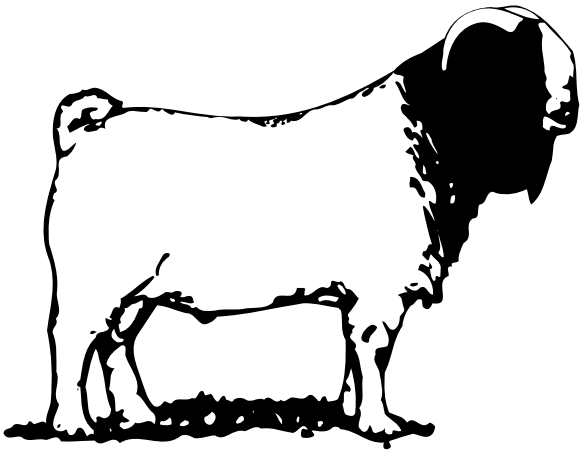
Canadian Meat Goat Association

canadienne de la chèvre de boucherie

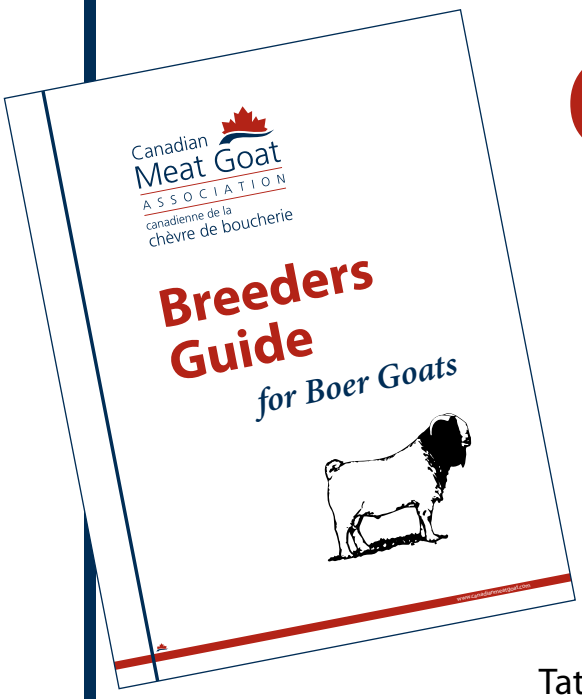
Breeders Guide

for Boer Goats



Canadian
Meat Goat
ASSOCIATION
canadienne de la
chèvre de boucherie

155, Ave des Erables
St.Gabriel.de.Kamouraska QC G0L 3E0
Tel (418) 315-0777
Fax (418) 315-0887
info@canadianmeatgoat.com
www.canadianmeatgoat.com



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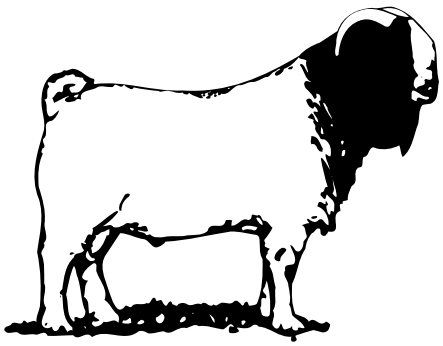

In 1992, an enterprising group of Canadian entrepreneurs was instrumental in the importation of Boer goat embryos into Canada from New Zealand and France, and later directly from South Africa. On November 27, 1993, the Canadian Boer Goat Association was formed through an ad hoc process involving seven charter members. On October 10, 1995, this Association was officially incorporated by Agriculture Canada under the Animal Pedigree Act, with official by-law approval coming on January 3, 1996. This approval provided sole authority as the only association approved to register Boer and Boer cross goats in Canada. The newly incorporated association, which had begun its registration process under the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, moved to Canadian Beef Improvement Inc., and eventually began self-registry out of the Association office in Glenwood, AB, Canada.

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of the Association is the establishment of breeding standards, the keeping of pedigree records and the registration of Boer and Kiko goats in Canada. Further purposes of the Association shall be:

- to promote Boer and Kiko goats as a long term, stable source of income in a diversified farming and ranching economy
- to improve Boer and Kiko goat genetics by identifying superior performance
- to encourage the improvement of meat goats in general
- to enhance consumer demand for chevon (goat meat) at the retail level

VISION: A long term profitable Canadian meat goat industry where meat, dairy, and fibre interests work together locally, provincially and nationally for the growth and development of the meat goat industry.

MISSION: The Canadian Meat Goat Association supports the development of a profitable meat goat industry in Canada by providing animal registration, industry promotion and education for the membership.

From the very incorporation of the Association, the requirement was put in place for mandatory DNA sampling on every purebred registration. The purpose of this was to build a data bank of DNA from which a program of random parentage verification testing could be based. Presently, random testing is done on 1% of all purebred registrations submitted.

The Canadian Boer Goat Association was the only Boer goat association in the world to have such a program, which was designed to maintain the integrity of Canadian Boer goat pedigrees.

The first CBGA-sponsored Boer Goat Sale was held in November of 1998 in connection with the Boer Goat Show at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, SK. Sanctioned shows with Canadian Boer Goat approved judges were started in 1999 with the first in July 1999 at Yorkton, SK. The Association has a judges training program to develop Canadian judges across the country.

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In 2001, the Association office was relocated to eastern Ontario, and bilingual services became available to Francophone producers. Since then, the Association has been working hard to offer all of its written materials, including the quarterly Canadian Meat Goat Journal and the web site, in both official languages.

In 2004, the membership of the CBGA voted to change its name to the Canadian Meat Goat Association and to expand its mandate to the broader meat goat industry in Canada. Since then, the Association has been developing educational and marketing tools for both commercial meat goat and purebred seed stock producers.

Other CMGA activities have included: a youth program, a buck test station, development of a type evaluation (classification) program, and representation at agricultural events across the country. The Association's Annual General Meeting is held early in the calendar year.

In 2009, the Association office was relocated to Saskatchewan, and the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation in Ottawa was contracted to process registrations and memberships. In 2013, the CMGA received official approval from Agriculture Canada to become the only registering body for Kiko goats in this country.

The Association owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the early pioneers of the Boer goat industry in Canada. Untold hours of volunteer labor and expense were donated to establish an organization and structure upon which to build the future industry. To this day, the Association depends on the commitment of its volunteer Board and committee members, who keep its many programs running.

The Boer Goat

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 fist 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.

Why join?

… be involved in paving
the way of the future for
the meat goat industry!

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Boer Goat Breed Standards

The goal of the CMGA Boer Breed Standards is to improve the breed and to increase productivity by identifying what the Association has deemed the Ideal Boer Goat. Although any animal may be registered if parentage is correct and it conforms to the minimum standard of a convex profile, roman nose and pendulous ears, the Boer Breed Standards provide a guideline for producers to follow when selecting breeding stock, herd replacements and show stock.

General Appearance

The Boer goat is a meat animal and should display volume with symmetry, giving a strong and vigorous appearance. All of the component body parts should blend together smoothly to form a refined, well-fleshed animal that stands squarely on its feet and legs and moves forward freely.

It is important that bucks be obviously masculine in appearance while does should display femininity. Bucks will tend to carry more mass through the shoulders and chest blending smoothly back to a muscular hindquarter while the doe's body has a wedged appearance showing lots of capacity for carrying young.

UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS:

- A doe or buck which gives the impression of being of the opposite sex

Head & Neck

The Boer Goat has a convex profile with a roman nose and pendulous ears of sufficient length to lay smoothly against the head without interfering with the eyes. Head must be of medium length, strong and feminine (masculine) in appearance. The muzzle is broad with large, open nostrils. The jaw is strong, even and correctly aligned with bite neither undershot nor overshot. The eyes are full and bright, and the forehead wide. Horns, if present, should be well spaced and curve back and out to allow full range of movement without rubbing the neck at maturity. The curve of the horns should follow the convex profile of the face. The neck should be proportional to the body size and thick at the base, blending smoothly into the shoulders and brisket.

UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS:

- Neck that is too long, short or thin
- Vertically folded ears

CULL DEFECTS:

- Crooked face (wry face)
- Dish face
- Disfiguring malocclusion (very crooked teeth)
- Total blindness
- Misalignment of jaws: overshot or undershot more than 5mm (1/5th of an inch)
- Helicopter, gopher, elf or erect ears (not a cull defect in percentage animals)

Coloring

Traditional Boer goat coloration consists of a white body with reddish brown on both sides of the head, the color patch being a minimum of 10 cm (about 4 inches) across in any direction. Ears must be 75% reddish brown; reddish brown may extend as far as the withers and brisket. The body may have a reddish brown mark not exceeding 15 cm (about 6 inches) across in any direction. Hairless areas must be 75% pigmented.

UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS:

- Weak pigmentation in the low hair and/or hairless areas under the tail, around the eyelids and mouth, etc. as this could lead to sunburn and possibly skin cancer.

Forequarters

The shoulders should be well muscled with an even covering of firm flesh set smoothly against the chest wall and withers. The withers should be slightly rounded and barely defined, evenly fleshed and blend smoothly into the chine. The brisket should be broad, deep, muscular and firm. The forelegs should be straight, strong and medium in length; they should be wide apart and squarely set, adequately proportioned to support the animal's weight. The feet should be sound, wide and pointed forward with a deep heel, level sole and closed toes. Strong pasterns are a must.

UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS:

- Shoulders too loose
- Toes pointed in or out
- Weak pasterns
- Feet that don't grow evenly

Body

The heart girth should provide ample respiratory capacity as evidenced by long, well sprung foreribs and a muscular chest floor along with fullness at the point of the elbow. The barrel should be uniformly long, deep and broad thus providing ample digestive capacity. Females should show a wedge shape widening towards the rear to evidence lots of room for carrying kids. The back should be strong and broad with an even covering of smooth, firm flesh. A strong, straight and nearly level topline is desirable. The loin should be well muscled, wide, long and thick.

UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS:

- Narrow heart girth
- Slab sided body
- Pinched behind shoulders
- Weak in the chine area (sway back)
- Lameness

Hindquarters

The rump should be long, broad and level from thurl to thurl, cleanly fleshed and have a slight slope from hips to pins. The tail head is slightly above and neatly set between pin bones with the tail being symmetrical with the body. The twist should be deep, full and firm with the escutcheon (rear udder attachment area) low and wide. The thighs should be deep, wide, muscular and firm. Medium length hind legs are desirable; they should be wide apart and nearly straight when viewed from the rear. When viewed from the side a vertical line could be drawn from the pins to the hocks to the dewclaw. The rear leg bones should be strong and adequately proportioned to support the animal's weight. Strong pasterns are a must. The feet should be sound, short, wide and pointed forward with a deep heel, level sole and closed toes.

UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS:

- Rump too short or too steep
- Flat buttocks
- Cow hocked
- Sickle hocked
- Posty legs (poor angulation)
- Weak pasterns
- Pigeon toed or splay footed

Mammary/Reproductive System

The doe's udder should be long and wide, extending well forward and showing adequate capacity without exaggerated size. The texture should be pliable and elastic, free of scar tissue and well collapsed when empty or dry. In the fore area the udder should be carried well forward, tightly attached, blending smoothly into the body. In the rear area the udder should be high, wide and strong with udder halves evenly divided and symmetrical with a strong medial suspensory ligament. The doe must have well defined, fully functional teats of desired length and size for nursing. Teats on both does and bucks must be free from obstruction and properly placed with a maximum of two well-separated teats per side. A buck must have two firm, fully descended testicles of similar size with a maximum scrotal split of 2.4 cm (1 inch) on a mature buck.

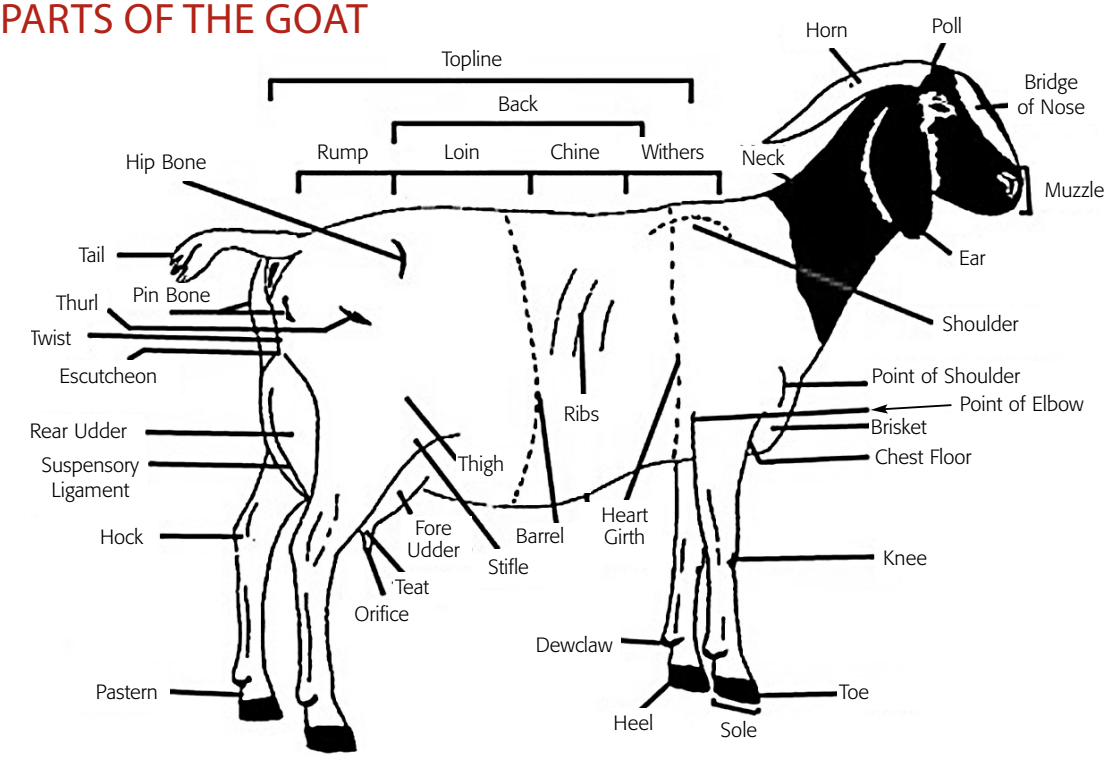
UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS:

- Poorly attached udder
- Teats too large (calabash teats)
- Teats too small for effective nursing

CULL DEFECTS:

- Hermaphroditism (displaying characteristics of the opposite gender)
- Teats that are joined or partially joined, including double teats, fish teats and cluster teats
- Bucks with only one testicle or abnormal testicles

PARTS OF THE GOAT



How to Register Boer Goats

1. Join the Canadian Meat Goat Association – membership is not a requirement to register goats, but fees for Active Members are half price. The membership application form is available on the **CMGA website** or from the CMGA Office. Membership applications and appropriate fees should be submitted to: Canadian National Livestock Records, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7; 1-877-833-7110. In addition, you can join online via **CLRC's website.**

2. If these are the first Boer or Boer cross goats that you are registering, you must first register your Herd Name and Tattoo Letters with the Association. This is a one-time fee and can be purchased separately, or is included in our **New Members Package**. A registered Herd Name precedes the names of all registered goats. Registered Tattoo Letters are tattooed in the right ear of all registered stock for permanent identification.

3. Complete an Application for Registration Form for each animal (see directions on the following pages). Applications are available on the **CMGA website** or from the CMGA Office. Up to two animals from the same birth may be registered on one form. For all purebred animals (including Canadian purebreds), a hair sample must be collected and stored at the farm to be provided upon request from the registrar (see **page 20** for further info). Percentage animals do not require a hair sample. Mail or email the completed form along with the applicable fees to CLRC.

Keep the herdbook current:

- If one of your registered animals dies, mail the original registration certificate to CLRC, indicating on it that the animal has "DIED" and the date so that they can update the Boer herdbook.
- If you sell a registered animal without its registration certificate (either as a commercial goat or as a cull), send the original certificate to CLRC, including the words "SOLD WITHOUT PAPERS" and the date.

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BOER GOAT APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

Print or type all information, except signatures

Leave Blank

MAIL TO: Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON Canada K1V 0M7

ANIMAL 1

☐ Embryo Transfer ☐ Artificial Insemination

STATUS: ☐ Traditional Purebred Boer (TR) ☐ Purebred Boer (R) ☐ Canadian Purebred Boer (CR) ☐ Recorded Canadian Purebred Boer (RCR)

☐ 50% (GR) ☐ 75% (GR) ☐ 88% (GR)

Does the animal have Traditional Boer colouring? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(white body, reddish brown on both sides of the head which is a minimum of 10 cm, ears must be at least 75% reddish brown; reddish brown may extend as far as withers and brisket; body may have a reddish-brown mark but it cannot exceed 10% of area.) ***If not, purebreds must be registered as either Purebred Boer or Recorded Canadian Purebred Boer (ie. R or RCR).***

Does the animal have a convex profile, Roman nose, and pendulous ears? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(this is the minimum requirement for any purebred registration.) ***If not, the animal cannot be registered, regardless of parentage.***

ANIMAL NAME: **(not more than 36 letters including spaces)**

TATTOO: RIGHT EAR | LEFT EAR

☐ **MICROCHIP** *or* ☐ **EAR TAG** RIGHT EAR | LEFT EAR

SEX: ☐ Male ☐ Female

CHECK ONE: ☐ Polled ☐ Horned, dehorned or disbudded

ANIMAL 2 (from same birth)

☐ Embryo Transfer ☐ Artificial Insemination

STATUS: ☐ Traditional Purebred Boer (TR) ☐ Purebred Boer (R) ☐ Canadian Purebred Boer (CR) ☐ Recorded Canadian Purebred Boer (RCR)

☐ 50% (GR) ☐ 75% (GR) ☐ 88% (GR)

Does the animal have Traditional Boer colouring? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(white body, reddish brown on both sides of the head which is a minimum of 10 cm, ears must be at least 75% reddish brown; reddish brown may extend as far as withers and brisket; body may have a reddish-brown mark but it cannot exceed 10% of area.) ***If not, purebreds must be registered as either Purebred Boer or Recorded Canadian Purebred Boer (ie. R or RCR).***

Does the animal have a convex profile, Roman nose, and pendulous ears? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(this is the minimum requirement for any purebred registration.) ***If not, the animal cannot be registered, regardless of parentage.***

ANIMAL NAME: **(not more than 36 letters including spaces)**

TATTOO: RIGHT EAR | LEFT EAR

☐ **MICROCHIP** *or* ☐ **EAR TAG** RIGHT EAR | LEFT EAR

SEX: ☐ Male ☐ Female

CHECK ONE: ☐ Polled ☐ Horned, dehorned or disbudded

DATE OF BIRTH: DAY | MONTH | YEAR

NUMBER OF KIDS IN THE BIRTH: TOTAL | BUCKS | DOES

SIRE

DAM

REG. NO. | **BREED**

REG. NO. | **BREED**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BREEDER (Owner or lessee of dam at time of conception)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER AT BIRTH (Owner or lessee of dam at time of birth) — **I.D. No.**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF IMPORTER — **I.D. No.**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT — **I.D. No.**

I HEREBY DECLARE that according to my private record, the above data is accurate to the best of my knowledge. — **I.D. No.**

X _____ SIGNATURE OF OWNER AT BIRTH OR IMPORTER — **APPLICATION DATE**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF DAM OR RECIPIENT

Please report all services. Attach A.I. Breeding Slips when possible.

BREEDING *or* IMPLANT INFORMATION	SERVICE DATE *or* PASTURE START DATE DD	MM	YY	PASTURE END DATE DD	MM	YY	SIRE NAME	REG. NUMBER	BREED
Last Service									
Previous Service									

I HEREBY DECLARE that according to my private record, the above named dam was served by the above named sire(s) on the dates specified above:

X _____ SIGNATURE OF OWNER OF SIRE

Completing the Registration Application Form

1. Fill out one application for registration for each animal, except if they are from the same birth and then up to two animals may be on one form. The same application is used for purebred or percentage Boer goats.

2. Group any additional necessary documentation with the application, as well as the hair sample envelope (for purebreds).

3. Fill in the application form carefully, making sure all information is correct and complete. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the application and corresponding extra fees. If you're having difficulties, contact CLRC at 1-877-833-7110 or the CMGA Office at 418-315-0777.

4. Please note that the CMGA offers discounts for multiple registrations submitted at the same time – the current fee structure is published on page 55, as well as on the **CMGA website**.

5. The new registration form has two areas to fill out information for two animals from the same birth. If you're registering only one goat, fill out the "Animal 1" section and leave everything beside "Animal 2" blank.

6. To fill out the application:

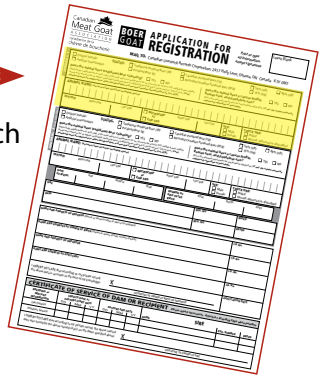
   - **ANIMAL 1 SECTION:**

     o **EMBRYO TRANSFER** – if the animal is a result of ET; attach all necessary documentation to the application.

     o **ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION** – if the animal is a result of AI; attach all necessary documentation to the application.

     o **STATUS:**

     - **TRADITIONAL PUREBRED BOER (TR)** – refers to purebred Boer goats which trace their lineage on both dam and sire lines back to Foundation Stock from South Africa (whether it came through New Zealand, France, Germany, Australia or wherever), and which conform to the breed standards as set out by the Canadian Meat Goat Association, ie. convex profile, Roman nose, pendulous ears, reddish-brown head and white body.



- **PUREBRED BOER (R)** – refers to a Traditional Purebred Boer goat which does not conform to the CMGA breed standards for colour, eg. white ears, reddish-brown patch exceeding 10% of body area, etc.

- **CANADIAN PUREBRED BOER (CR)** – refers to a goat which is the product of four or more generations of breeding to a purebred Boer and conforms to the breed standards as set out by the CMGA. If either the dam or the sire is registered as CR, the offspring must also be registered as CR. Canadian purebred does must be at least 15/16 Boer (the female progeny of a 7/8 percentage Boer doe and a purebred Boer buck); Canadian purebred bucks must be at least 31/32 Boer.

- **RECORDED CANADIAN PUREBRED BOER (RCR)** – refers to a Canadian Purebred Boer goat which does not conform to the CMGA breed standards for colour.

- **50% (GR)** – refers to a doe which is the product of an unregistered or other breed of goat bred to a purebred Boer. Note: percentage Boer bucks are not registerable.
- **75% (GR)** – refers to a doe which is the product of a registered 50% Boer doe bred to a purebred Boer buck. Note: percentage Boer bucks are not registerable.
- **88% (GR)** – refers to a doe which is the product of a registered 75% Boer doe bred to a purebred Boer buck. Note: percentage Boer bucks are not registerable.

o The following two sections refer specifically to the registration of purebreds. According to the CMGA Boer Breed Standards, only purebreds that meet the minimum standard of a convex profile, Roman nose and pendulous ears may be registered in the herd book. eg. a Canadian purebred with gopher ears or a concave profile cannot be registered. Purebreds that do not conform to the breed standards for colour may still be registered because their parentage is correct, but they must be registered as a "recorded" purebred. Animals that are registered as R or RCR still have the same genetics as those that are TR or CR. They are still considered purebreds, they just do not have Traditional Boer colouring.

- **DOES THE ANIMAL HAVE TRADITIONAL BOER COLOURING?** – Mark "YES" if the goat has a white body, reddish brown on both sides of the head which is a minimum of 10 cm, ears at least 75% reddish brown, reddish brown may extend as far as the withers and brisket, body may have a reddish-brown mark but it cannot exceed 10% of area. If this is not the case, mark "NO"; all purebreds that do not have Traditional Boer colouring must be registered as either Purebred Boer (R) or Recorded Canadian Purebred Boer (RCR). Percentage animals are not required to have Traditional Boer colouring.
- **DOES THE ANIMAL HAVE A CONVEX PROFILE, ROMAN NOSE, AND PENDULOUS EARS?** Percentage animals are still eligible for registration even if they do not conform to this standard. However, if the animal to be registered is a purebred and does not have a convex profile, Roman nose and pendulous ears, it cannot be registered, regardless of parentage.

- **ANIMAL NAME** – this has two parts: the first is the registered herd name of the owner or lessee of the dam at the time of breeding; the second is the name or number to identify the animal within the herd. eg. Misty Acres Zelda, or Misty Acres Zelda 25Z, or Misty Acres 25Z. The animal name can be no more than 36 letters, including spaces.
- **TATTOO** – For the right ear this should consist of the herd letters (which must be registered with the CMGA). For the left ear this should consist of an identifying number for this animal within the herd, plus the year letter for the year of birth of the animal being registered. eg. 25Z (Z is the letter for 2012; 2013 is A, 2014 is B, 2015 is C, etc.). The list of approved year letters is available on CMGA's website, in the Registration and transfers section.
- **MICROCHIP OR EAR TAG** – Enter ear tag information (whether in the right or left ear) and microchip number, if used. This is not a requirement for registration and may be left blank.
- **SEX** – indicate whether male or female.
- **CHECK ONE** – indicate whether the animal was born with or without horn buds. ie. polled or horned (includes dehorned or disbudded).

- **ANIMAL 2 SECTION:** For second animal from same birth. See above for explanation of each box. If registering only one animal leave this section blank.

- The rest of the boxes on the form apply to both Animal 1 and Animal 2:
  - **DATE OF BIRTH** – day, month, year. eg. 25 - 03 - 2012.
  - **NUMBER OF KIDS IN THE BIRTH** – the number of kids in the birth, whether alive or dead. Indicate total number, as well as gender.
  - **SIRE** – name of the father of the goat being registered. **REG. NO.** – is the number for the sire issued by CMGA at registration with the prefix TR, R, CR or RCR. **BREED** – if not Boer, indicate breed, or fill in as "Grade".
  - **DAM** – name of the mother of the goat being registered. **REG. NO.** – is the number for the dam issued by CMGA at registration with the prefix TR, R, CR, RCR or GR. **BREED** – if not Boer, indicate breed, or fill in as "Grade".

- **NAME AND ADDRESS OF BREEDER** – this is the owner or lessee of the dam (the mother of the goat being registered) at the time of breeding. **I.D. NO.** – is the CMGA membership number, found on the membership card as well as on the CLRC website.
- **NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER AT BIRTH** – this is the owner or lessee of the dam at the time of kidding. **I.D. NO.** – is the CMGA membership number, found on the membership card as well as on the CLRC website.
- **NAME AND ADDRESS OF IMPORTER** – if the animal being registered has been imported. Note that the importer must be listed as the owner of the animal on the foreign registration papers before it can be considered for registration with the CMGA. The original foreign registration certificate must be attached to the application for registration. **I.D. NO.** – is the CMGA membership number, found on the membership card as well as on the CLRC website.
- **NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT** – this is the person applying for the registration, usually the owner or lessee of the dam at the time of kidding. **I.D. NO.** – is the CMGA membership number, found on the membership card as well as on the CLRC website.
- **SIGNATURE OF OWNER AT BIRTH OR IMPORTER** – The name(s) here should coincide with, or have signing privileges for, the name(s) in the "Owner at Birth" or "Importer" boxes.
- **APPLICATION DATE** – date the application is submitted to CLRC.
- **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF DAM OR RECIPIENT** – give the date of breeding or dates the doe was exposed to the buck, along with the buck's information.

To transfer animals already registered with a foreign registry:

Submit to CLRC:
- the completed Application for Registration Form; *and*
- the animal's original registration certificate issued by the foreign herd book, showing the applicant to have ownership.

All foreign-registered imported animals must be tattooed with the herd letters and year tattoo that correspond with the foreign animal's registration certificate. When filling out the CMGA Application for Registration Form, please ensure that the tattoos listed match the animal's tattoos exactly, including the letters "USA", if present.

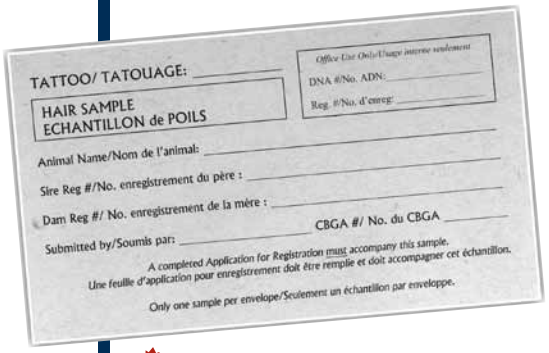
Animals born outside Canada are eligible to be registered with the Canadian Meat Goat Association provided that all the same requirements are met as what would be the case for animals born in Canada, including DNA on file at the prescribed location.

Collecting Hair Samples

for DNA Storage and Parentage Verification

Hair samples are required on ALL purebred Boer goats, whether Traditional or Canadian (bred-up). The CMGA completes a randomly selected full DNA parentage verification test on at least 1% of all purebred animals being registered each year. Please Note: It is essential to take every possible measure to NOT contaminate the hair sample. The hairs that are placed in the sample envelope must all be from only the animal described on the envelope. Potential contaminants include hair from other animals and fecal matter. The CMGA suggests that you take two separate hair samples and keep both on file in case the one you send if your animal is selected for random testing is lost or damaged. Hair sample envelopes are available from CLRC 1-877-833-7110.

1. Hair samples should be taken from an area where the coarsest and longest hairs are located; we recommend the tail brush.
2. Brush the area well to remove all loose hair, dirt, manure.
3. PULL (do NOT clip) 30-40 hairs. Grasp the hairs close to the skin and pull firmly. You may find a pair of pliers useful for this – but be sure to clean them between animals.
4. Examine the ends of the hair strands for the presence of root bulbs. The lab requires hairs with the follicles (roots) attached. If the majority of the hairs do not have root ends, discard the hair and pull another sample.
5. Place the hair in the sample envelope and seal it tightly closed. Immediately label the envelope with the animal's tattoo and the other required information. Unlabelled or incompletely identified samples will not be accepted.
6. Repeat the process for each animal to be tested. Clean your hands of any hair or debris between animals to prevent cross-contamination.


TATTOO/ TATOUAGE: _____

HAIR SAMPLE
ECHANTILLON de POILS

Office Use Only/Usage interne seulement

DNA #/No. ADN: _____

Reg. #/No. d'enreg: _____

Animal Name/Nom de l'animal: _____

Sire Reg #/No. enregistrement du père : _____

Dam Reg #/ No. enregistrement de la mère : _____

Submitted by/Soumis par: _____ CBGA #/ No. du CBGA _____

A completed Application for Registration must accompany this sample.
Une feuille d'application pour enregistrement doit être remplie et doit accompagner cet échantillon.

Only one sample per envelope/Seulement un échantillon par enveloppe.

7. Hair samples should be stored with the owner of the animals in properly labeled PAPER envelopes and NOT in plastic bags. Store them in a temperate and dry place. Under these conditions, they can be kept for years. Figure out your own filing system to be able to find them rapidly upon request of the CMGA registrar.

Tattooing Goats

In order to be registered, purebred and percentage Boer goats must be permanently identified with a tattoo in the ears. Your herd's registered tattoo letters will be tattooed in each goat's right ear, and the number of the goat and the year-of-birth letter in each goat's left ear.

It is advisable to tattoo kids within a few days of their birth – ideally before the doe and kids are released from the claiming pen into the general herd. This ensures that the kids are attributed to the correct mother!

You will need:

- Tattoo pliers can be purchased from farm co-ops or supply companies. Tattoo digits come in different sizes; 5/16 inch is the standard size for goats. The digits can be purchased separately or in sets. The tattoo pliers hold the letters and numbers which are outlined by needle-like projections. These projections puncture the ear and the tattoo ink enters the puncture holes, resulting in permanent markings that are visible for identification.

  - Green ink is the best colour to use on dark ears. Ink comes in paste and liquid forms; the liquid sometimes comes in a roll-on dispenser.
  - Rubbing alcohol and gauze pads.
  - Toothbrush or nailbrush.

How to tattoo:

- Place the correct number and letters in the pliers. Always check to see if they are in the correct order by first testing on a piece of paper. You can only tattoo once - No touch-ups allowed!
- Restrain the animal securely. Tattooing is usually a two-person job, and proper restraint ensures the best possible tattoo.
- Choose a flat area about halfway down the inside of the ear, avoiding the ridges of cartilage and the large blood vessels.
- Clean the dirt and wax from the inside surface of the ear with an alcohol-soaked gauze pad.

- Some breeders apply ink to the ear and to the pliers before tattooing; others just to the pliers. You may want to try it both ways before settling on the method that works best for you.
- Clamp the pliers down hard and fast to make sure the skin is punctured. The animal will struggle and cry out (it hurts – but only for a second), but persist and press hard to ensure a deep, lasting tattoo. This is where your assistant pays off in holding the animal as still as possible.
- Remove the pliers and rub tattoo ink generously into the puncture holes using a toothbrush or nail brush.

Year letters

Each calendar year is assigned a year letter, and animals born in that year receive that letter as part of their individual tattoo, in their left ear. For example, if your herd letters are ABC, these will be tattooed in the goat's right ear (and in the right ear of all goats born on your farm). In the left ear, the goat will receive the year letter and a number unique to that animal for that year. If the animal were born in 2012 (year letter Z), you might number that year's kids 1Z, 2Z, 3Z, etc. An animal's full tattoo actually consists of the combination of the two ears: ABC 1Z.

The year letter is assigned by the Association:

YEAR	TATTOO LETTER
2018	F
2019	G
2020	H
2021	J
2022	K
2023	L
2024	M

Re-tattooing

Although tattooing is considered a permanent form of identification, tattoos can become illegible for a variety of reasons. To sell or show registered stock, the com-plete tattoo must be legible. Therefore, when a tattoo becomes no longer readable, the animal should be re-tattooed.

If you need to re-tattoo, CLRC requires the following procedure: re-tattoo the infor-mation necessary above or below the original tattoo, then submit an amended reg-istration form, the original registration certificate, and the fee of $25.50 + GST/HST for a certificate re-issue to CLRC. With the amended registration form, illustrate what is left of the old tattoo along with where and what was re-tattooed.

Ear Tags

All registered Boer goats – whether purebred or percentage – must be tattooed. This is fine for the purposes of permanent identification, but unless you have only a few animals, you will also need some means of identification you can read without having to catch the animal. Collars and tags work well for dairy animals, but a horned goat (or a branch or a stick) may catch a goat's collar and strangle it. Therefore, most meat goat breeders use ear tags.

Ear tags come in a number of different sizes and many colours. The best tags for goats are sized for sheep – cattle tags are much too big for goats. They can be ordered with printed numbers, or blank to be written on with a special pen. Some breeders use different colours to identify males from females, different years of birth, purebreds from percentages, degree of purity, or whatever makes sense for that production unit.

The tags consist of two parts (male and female), which are set into a piercing tool somewhat like a pair of pliers. The ear is inserted between the two parts of the tag, and when the pliers are tightly closed, the ear is pierced, and the male part of the tag becomes locked in the female part.

Tags should be inserted as high as possible on the ear (close to the head), just below the fold, to ensure the best retention rate. The ear seems to be thicker just below where it folds downwards. Avoid large ridges of cartilage, bigger blood vessels, and the animal's tattoos when selecting a spot to tag.

It is best to tag kids when they are very young in order to reduce the chance of a mistake in identification, and to promote faster healing. Kids will struggle and call when the piercing is done – but it is a fast process that seems to have little lasting effect on the animal when done well. An assistant can be useful in holding the animals.

Prepare the ear by removing dirt or manure, then swabbing both sides with alcohol or another disinfectant recommend by your veterinarian. Similarly, swab the two halves of the tag. Locate the target spot on the ear, and position the pliers. If you are using a tag with a button on one side, put the numbered half on the top (outside) of the ear so that it will be visible. Perform the tagging with a strong, quick movement. The kids will cry and struggle. Release the tag from the tagger (practice this before you start tagging – it can be tricky) – and that's it!

Be sure to record the animal's information (dam, sex, etc) and the tag number right away for your ongoing records.

National Goat Identification Program

The Canadian National Goat Federation (CNGF) is working with other national commodity groups as well as federal and provincial governments to establish the standards and policies that will create a National Agriculture and Food Traceability System (NAFTS). Traceability systems in Canada are based on three basic elements: animal identification, animal movement and premises identification.

Why is national ID important?

A national ID program for goats offers benefits for the entire value chain – from producers to industry to consumers. Establishing an animal ID program for goats is critical to the industry's sustainability and growth.

The ID program is also essential to maintaining our domestic and international markets in the future. As well, it's necessary in helping the goat industry to grow and adapt to a changing marketplace where all agricultural commodities are coming under scrutiny for traceability, food safety and animal health. The goat industry is part of this community and needs to be prepared as well.

An animal ID program is essential to achieving traceability and is proven to facilitate emergency response and provide on-farm management benefits. The information gathered through national ID allows the industry to respond effectively to any emergency that would require traceability for things such as disease, tainted product and weather emergencies such as flooding, tornados, etc.

To order you tags, contact the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) at 1-877-909-2333 or info@canadaid.ca. You can also order online on the CCIA website at tags.canadaid.ca.

What's In A Name?

Naming CMGA-registered goats

What's in a name? Well, in the case of registered purebred Boer and percentage Boer goats, quite a bit. Naming your animals can be a lot of fun – but there are some steps to take and rules to follow before you can break out the baby name book!

First step: herd name and tattoo letters

Before you can register the offspring of your goats, you need to first select and register a herd name and tattoo letters for your farm. This is a one-time process, whereby you submit three choices each for herd name (prefix) and tattoo letters, the CLRC office verifies that these are unique, and then assigns them to you. Please note that a herd name is different from your farm name – though in many cases they can be the same.

For example, your farm may be called Appledown Boer Goats. This would be the name you market your products or animals under, and you might even have it registered or trademarked for business purposes.

A herd name is used in naming registered animals of your breeding – a prefix. In most cases, the entire farm name is too long to be used as part of the animal name. Further, the CMGA prohibits the use of words such as: goat, Boer, acres, farm, etc as part of a herd name – they result in names that are too similar and too long. So, a good choice of herd name for our hypothetical farm would be "Appledown". If this were approved by the CMGA, then every animal you register from your own breeding would be called "Appledown Whatever".

To name or number?

Some producers enjoy the process of selecting names for their animals; others don't. Fortunately you have the choice of whether to name or not. If you'd rather not, then you may simply assign numbers (most often corresponding to the animal's tattoo) as the given name, e.g., Appledown 124P.

Offspring of purchased bred does

The rules for naming seem simple enough for animals of your own stock, born on your own farm. However, producers are often confused about naming kids when a doe is bought already pregnant, and the kids are born at a farm other than where they were conceived. So here is some clarification.

The breeder of an animal is the person(s) who made the choice to mate a given doe to a given buck. This person is typically the person who owned the doe at the time of service, unless the doe was leased to someone else. In the later case, the person who leased the doe is the breeder (assuming she was not bred before she was leased). The responsibility for the mating, then, lies with the breeder who made the selection, and it is for this reason that the resulting kids will carry the name of the breeder's herd before their individual name or number. In addition, the breeder's CMGA ID number will appear in the breeder field on the registration certificate.

What happens, then, if the doe in question was sold after being bred, but before kidding? Well, the bylaw still applies – regardless of who owns the dam when the kids are born. An example: Say Appledown Boer Goats bred the doe Appledown Eve to the buck Appledown Adam, and then sold a pregnant Eve to Bananacroft Farms. The kids were born at Bananacroft, and so will be tattooed with Bananacroft's tattoo letters (e.g., BAN). However, Appledown is still the original breeder, and so the kids must be named Appledown Whatever.

Purchasers wanting their contribution to the safe arrival of the kids to be acknowledged often add their own herd name or herd letters to the kids' names, but it must be after the original breeder's name: Appledown Bananacroft Whatever, or Appledown BAN Whatever. Keep in mind, however, that there is a limit to the length of any animal's name – which may cause a problem for those of you with long herd names.

Vendors concerned about their herd names being associated with kids they intend to cull, or who result from accidental matings, for example, may protect their reputations by stipulating that the resulting kids not be registered at all.

The only exception to this article in the by-law was the registration of Foundation stock resulting from imported embryos prior to December 31, 1995. In these cases, the owners of the recipient does were allowed to use their own herd names.

If you are ever in doubt about a naming (or other) issue, please do not hesitate to contact the **CMGA Office**.

Breeding Up
to Canadian Purebred Status

The Canadian Meat Goat Association has made provisions for registering crossbred (or "percentage") Boer goats. This allows breeders to upgrade the status of their existing domestic doe herds to "Canadian Purebred" in four generations.

Percentage Boer does can be registered as 1/2, 3/4, 7/8 and then 15/16 or "Canadian Purebred". Bucks must be 31/32 pure (97%) before they can be registered as Canadian Purebred. Lower percentage bucks are not registerable.

So, how do you go about "breeding up"?

First you need a registered purebred Boer buck and some does. The does can be grade or registered goats of any other breed. Breed the does to the buck – the resulting kids will be 1/2 (50%) Boer. To register the female offspring (the males are not registerable), see page 13 of this Guide. The application form is the same for purebreds and crossbreds.

When the 1/2 Boer does are bred to another registered purebred Boer buck, the resulting offspring will be 3/4 (75%) Boer. Again, only the doe kids can be registered.

The 3/4 (75%) does, bred to a registered purebred Boer buck, will produce progeny that are 7/8 (87%) Boer. As before, only does can be registered.

Another breeding of the 7/8 (87%) does to a purebred Boer buck will produce 15/16 (94%) Boer kids. Doe kids resulting from this cross are registerable as Canadian Purebreds, providing they conform to the breed standards.

When a Canadian Purebred (94% or greater) doe is bred to a purebred registered Boer buck, the kids are 31/32 (97%) Boer, and both does and bucks may be registered as Canadian Purebred Boer.

Note that the process of breeding up can also be done with the opposite cross: non-registered males bred to purebred registered females. As before, only female offspring are registerable. Males can be registered once they reach 97% (31/32) pure Boer.

The term "Recorded Canadian Purebred" is used to identify a Canadian purebred Boer goat which qualifies as to pedigree, but does not conform to the breed standards for color. The offspring of Canadian Purebred Boers crossed with Traditional Purebred Boers will always be Canadian Purebred.

Canadian Purebred animals are eligible to show in all Purebred classes at shows, and are considered equivalent to Traditional Purebred Boers in all ways.

Why breed up? Cost, availability and genetic potential!

The number of domestic goats in Canada is much higher than the number of purebred registered Boers, and the cost of these animals is generally lower. Breeding up allows the producer to create a herd of purebred Boers at a lower initial cost with the added advantage of hybrid vigour and the infusion of selected genetic traits such as: milk production, mothering ability, and hardiness.

Buyers and Sellers:
Write It Down!

The Canadian Meat Goat Association is incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act, which is Federal Law. According to the Act, the seller of a registered animal must provide registration papers transferred into the new owner's name within six months of the date of sale. This is the law and will be enforced by the RCMP.

Even if you are very good friends with the seller, get a receipt showing the date of purchase, name, registration number and tattoo of the animal you are purchasing, price, terms, etc. If it's a kid with papers still to come, be sure to write the kid's tattoo (exactly as it appears on the animal) and birth date on the receipt as well as the registration number of the dam and sire.

Although most breeders are very reputable, misunderstandings can occur. By having all of the terms of the sale in writing, both the buyer and the seller are protected and this benefits everyone.

If an animal is to be sold by agreement without papers, the seller should protect himself/herself against future claims by having the buyer sign a statement that he/she understands the papers will not be available for that animal.

If a buyer wishes to handle the transfer of the animal himself/herself, the seller must protect himself/herself by having the buyer sign a statement to that effect that the buyer assumes responsibility to submit the registration certificate and signed transfer form to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation for processing.

Remember that an animal can only be sold as a purebred if it has original Canadian Meat Goat Association registration papers and the tattoo on the animal's ears exactly matches the tattoos shown on the papers. If you are buying kids that don't have papers yet, do not take them home if they are not tattooed and insist on getting a copy of the registration papers for the dam and papers or a breeding certificate for the sire. Be sure that the animal or dam of the animal you are purchasing is actually owned by the seller according to the papers. Only the registered owner can transfer the animal into your ownership.

CMGA Code of Ethics

Following is the Code of Ethics of the Canadian Meat Goat Association. The role of the Association and its breeders is to promote Boer goats as a long term, stable source of income in a diversified farming and ranching economy and to provide genetically improved meat goats to the commercial meat goat industry. The breeder represents the Boer Goat breed and meat goats in general. The Association has established a concise, reliable Code of Ethics which its members are encouraged to use as a standard or guide. The Board of Directors will not be involved in disputes between a non-adhering seller and any buyer unless that matter is covered in the Association Bylaws. We encourage you to carefully consider the contents of the Code and make it part of your Boer Goat program.

Foreword

This code is designed to give equitable treatment to both buyer and seller alike and to create justifiable buyer confidence in Boer goat sales. The complete code together with a glossary of terms commonly used is given so that all members of the CMGA may become familiar with it. Based on the premise that the buyer is entitled to get value received, the Code does not contain anything that the responsible breeder does not adhere to in his every day private treaty and auction sale practices.

A. Glossary

1. OPEN: A doeling that has never been exposed to a buck either through natural service or artificial insemination. A doe that has not been exposed to a buck either through natural service or artificial insemination since her last kidding.
2. BRED: A female that is known to have been served by a buck either by natural breeding or artificial insemination. It is not guaranteed that the female is safe in kid to that service.
3. PASTURE EXPOSED: A female that has been running in the pasture with a buck and has been exposed for the time stated. This does not necessarily mean that this female is safe in kid.
4. SAFE IN KID: A female that has been declared pregnant by a competent licensed veterinarian or is declared by the seller to be carrying kid(s) at the time of the sale. This does not guarantee a live kid birth or that the kid is not or will not be mummified.

5. FERTILITY TESTED: A buck's semen has been tested by a competent licensed veterinarian or by a recognized breeding center. The buck's live sperm count and motility qualifies the buck to be a satisfactory breeder. A fertility test by itself does not fulfill the breeding guarantee of a buck.
6. BREEDER: The owner or lessee of the dam at the time the dam was served.
7. OWNER: The individual, partnership, or corporation in whose name an animal is registered.
8. CMGA: Canadian Meat Goat Association.

B. Breeding Guarantees

1. All guarantees are between the buyer and the seller.
2. The CMGA shall not be liable for any guarantees given by a seller of Boer goats.
3. BUCKS: Should any buck 15 months of age or over fail to prove a satisfactory breeder after being used on does known to be breeders, the matter shall be reported in writing to the seller, enclosing a report prepared by a licensed veterinarian, within 6 months following the date of purchase or date of first exposure, or 6 months after the buck has reached 15 months of age. The seller will then have the right and privilege of 6 months to prove the buck a satisfactory breeder. In no event shall the seller be responsible for more than the purchase price of the buck in question. No guarantee regarding the freezing ability of a buck's semen is made or implied in the sale of a buck unless covered specifically in a written contract.
4. FEMALES: All females except kids at side are guaranteed to be breeders. If at the end of 6 months, after proper exposure, the buyer is unable to get a female settled, he may return the animal at the buyer's expense to the seller provided he has first notified the seller in writing. The seller, at his option, may replace the female with one of equal quality, refund the purchase price or elect to prove her to be a breeder. Should he elect to prove her a breeder he has 6 months to do so. If he fails to get her settled, replacement or refund becomes mandatory.
5. The exception to this rule is doelings under eighteen (18) months of age. The guarantee extends until they are twenty-one (21) months of age. If not settled by that time, procedure is the same as with open does. The breeding time in both instances may be extended by mutual agreement, but the purchaser must notify the seller within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the 6 month breeding time for does and twenty-one (21) month age limit on doelings.

6. SUCKLING KIDS: All suckling kids are assumed to be given to the purchaser and no guarantee of any kind applies to these kids. Kids at side also serve as evidence that the mother doe is a breeder without further guarantee, provided, however, that the kid is less than 6 months old. In the event of a kid at side which is older than 6 months the kid must be guaranteed to breed.
7. If a female is sold as being "safe in kid", it is regarded as an asset that is reflected in the sale price. If she proves not to be, the seller owes the buyer an adjustment. The sire must be as represented, if not, replacement or refund is mandatory.
8. If a female is sold as open, and the female is proven either by palpation or the birth of a kid to have been bred prior to the sale date, the seller owes the buyer an adjustment. In such case, the buyer should notify the seller when he becomes aware of the pregnancy.
9. If any question is raised as to the parentage of an animal it will be settled by DNA parentage testing done through the University of California Davis (California, U.S.). The tests will be paid for by the buyer. If the animal is found to be not as indicated on the pedigree, the seller will reim-burse the buyer for the tests and an adjustment or replacement of the animal satisfactory to the buyer, or a refund of the purchase price becomes mandatory.
10. In the event of injury to, or sickness of an animal or serious nutritional deficiency which may have a detrimental effect on the animal's breeding ability after the date of purchase, the breeding guarantee on the animal may become null and void. A claim under this provision should be supported with a report by a licensed veterinarian.
11. GENETIC DEFECTS: In the event a buck, sold by a member adhering to the Code of Ethics is officially indicated by the CMGA as a carrier of a genetic defect within 2 years of the date of sale, a refund of the purchase price of the buck by said member is mandatory.
12. Under no circumstances will a seller be liable for more than the price of the animal.

C. Grievance Cases

1. The CMGA shall not take any stand or become involved in any disputes between buyers and sellers unless the dispute specifically involves the pedigree, registration and/or transfer.

2. In the event of a dispute involving the pedigree, registration or transfer of an animal, the Executive Committee shall review the circumstances and recommend action to the Board of Directors. Between Board Meetings, and if time is of the essence, the decision of the Executive Committee shall suffice.
3. Procedures to be followed in grievance cases where the above stated policies allow CMGA involvement are given in the by-laws of the Association.
4. After due consideration of the circumstances pertaining to a grievance case, the Executive Committee may recommend to the Board of Directors that certain action is required on the part of the member in question. After these recommendations are considered by the Board, the Board may request certain actions be taken by said member. If the member in question fails to comply with the Board's instructions, the member may be subject to suspension or expulsion. Any member who adheres to this Code of Ethics must agree to be bound by the decision of the Board in such an instance.

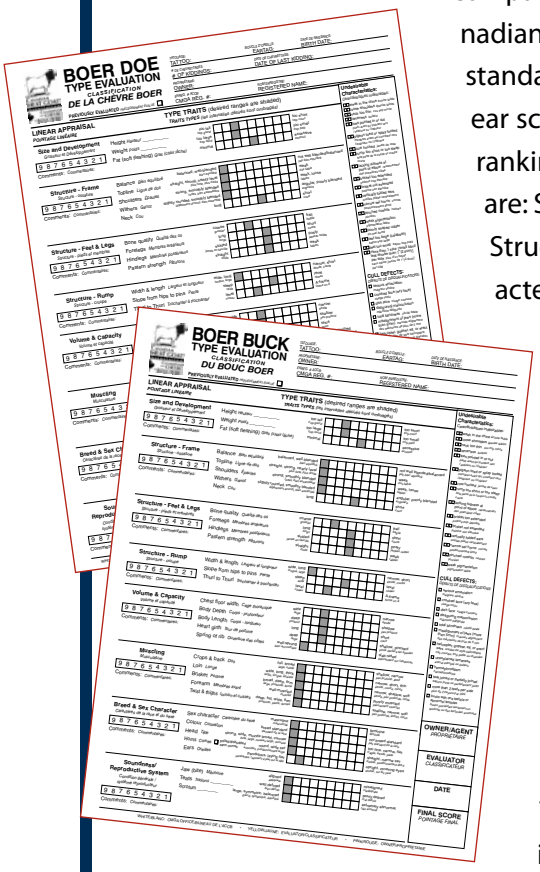
D. Buyer's Responsibility

1. The buyers themselves have some responsibility to assure the proper conduct of a sale whether private treaty or public auction.
2. Buyers should become familiar with the Code of Ethics and the Glossary of Terms.
3. It is the buyer's responsibility to ensure himself that the member he chooses to buy goats from adheres to this Code of Ethics in his sales, both private treaty and public auction.
4. In accord with this Code, announcements from the ring will take precedent over any printed matter. Buyers should listen carefully to all announcements made by the auctioneer, sales manager or owner governing the sale including specific announcements made on individual animals.
5. Buyers are bound by the same health requirements that governed the seller.
6. Returned animals must also be in reasonably good pasture condition.
7. Determination as to any animal's eligibility to be shipped into his home area is the responsibility of the buyer. Knowledge of the foregoing by the buyer can avoid misunderstandings and enable him to become a more competent buyer.
8. The buyer should check the tattoo of the animals he purchased to ensure that the tattoo that appears on the ear corresponds with the printed information in the catalogue and on the registration certificate.

CMGA Type Evaluation Program

What is Type Evaluation?

Type Evaluation (or Classification) is a program that has been utilized for many years by other livestock groups (primarily the dairy industries). Type evaluation is the comparison of an individual animal (and its parts) against the ideal Canadian Boer Goat – according to the current CMGA scorecard and breed standards. The breeder is provided with an official form, indicating a linear score between 1 and 9 for each of the type traits, with a final score ranking the animal as compared to the ideal. The type traits evaluated are: Size and Development, Structure (frame), Structure (feet and legs), Structure (rump), Volume and Capacity, Muscling, Breed and Sex Character, and Soundness/Reproductive System.



How is Type Evaluation useful?

Type Evaluation programs can be of assistance to both purebred and commercial producers. These programs help producers identify specific strengths and weaknesses of individual animals in their herd, and as a result, can help lead to overall herd and breed improvement. Productivity, longevity, and disease resistance have been shown to have a direct relationship with good conformation.

Type Evaluation results can also be used as a marketing tool, making selling and purchasing at a distance easier to do.

I already show my animals, why would I want to have them classified?

While showing is an excellent promotional tool and a good way to have your animals judged, it differs in one very major way from a Type Evaluation program. At a show, animals are only compared to the other animals that are present at that venue. Therefore, goats which may be judged Grand Champion, may not necessarily epitomize the qualities of the Boer breed, but are only the best of what was exhibited that day.

In a Type Evaluation Program, each animal is judged against the IDEAL Boer goat – consequently, the results from an evaluation have much more merit than a championship ribbon in terms of recognizing traits to assist in potential genetic improvement.

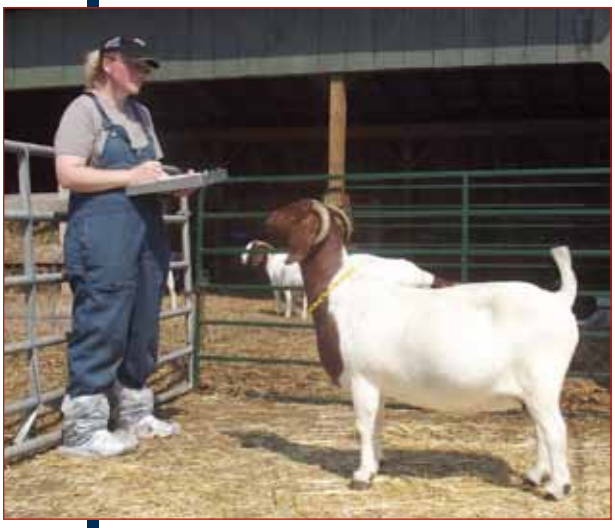
Type Evaluation is also an asset to those who either can not, or chose not, to show. It provides an opportunity for an official evaluation of an animal on farm without the logistical problems of attending a show and the possible biosecurity risks of moving one's animals to a common venue.

Who can participate in Type Evaluation?

Any CMGA member in good standing whose membership fees are paid in full for the current year can participate.

What animals can be evaluated?

Both registered Percentage and Purebred animals can be evaluated. Tattoos will be checked by the evaluator and must be legible. All animals must have their original registration papers on site.



Breeders also have the option to have unregistered animals evaluated. The evaluator will mark all of the individual type traits, but will not calculate a final score.

Does must have kidded at least once in order to be evaluated and must have kidded within one year of the evaluation.

Bucks must be at least one year old.

CMGA Scorecard for Purebred and Percentage Animals

(revised May 2003)

		DOES	BUCKS
GENERAL APPEARANCE:	**TOTAL POINTS**	**40**	**40**
A) QUALITY AND CONDITION Deep bodied, well muscled with a smooth even covering of firm flesh and showing vigour. Strong bone, healthy hair, loose and pliable skin. Graceful and powerful walk with impressive style. Back should be wide, straight and nearly level. Does should be feminine and have a well defined wedge shaped body when viewed from the side. Bucks should be masculine. Color should be traditional coloration consisting of white body with reddish brown on both sides of the head, the color patch being a minimum of 10cm across in any direction. Ears should be 75% reddish brown; reddish brown may extend as far as the withers and brisket; body may have a reddish brown mark not exceeding 15cm across in any direction. Hairless areas must be 75% pigmented.		(20)	(20)
B) BREED CHARACTER HEAD & NECK. Convex profile with a roman nose and pendulous ears of sufficient length and laying flat against the head, not interfering with the eyes. Head must be medium length, strong and feminine (masculine) in appearance. Muzzle broad with large, open nostrils. Jaw strong, even and correctly aligned with bite neither undershot nor overshot. Eyes full and bright, forehead wide. Horns, if present, should be round and curving to rear and out enough to allow head movement without the horns excessively rubbing the neck. The curve of the horns should follow the convex profile of the face. Dehorned animals shall not be penalized. Neck should be proportional to body size and thick at base, blending smoothly into shoulders and brisket.		(10)	(10)
C) SIZE AND DEVELOPMENT According to age, preference being given to animals showing superior growth and muscle development without excess soft fleshing.		(10)	(10)

		DOES	BUCKS
FORE QUARTERS:	**TOTAL POINTS**	**15**	**15**
A) SHOULDERS Strong and well muscled with even covering of firm flesh; shoulder blades set smoothly against chest wall and withers.		(4)	(4)
B) WITHERS Slightly rounded and barely defined with even flesh covering; blending smoothly into the area of the chine.		(4)	(4)
C) BRISKET Broad, deep, muscular and firm.		(3)	(3)
D) FORELEGS Medium in length, wide apart, squarely set, straight with strong bones. Adequately proportioned to support weight; feet sound, short, wide and pointed forward with a deep heel, level sole and closed toes. Strong pasterns are a must.		(4)	(4)
BODY:	**TOTAL POINTS**	**15**	**20**
A) HEART GIRTH Large heart girth resulting from long, well sprung (wide, flat, long and widely spaced) foreribs; wide muscular chest floor between front legs; fullness at point of elbow, thus providing ample respiratory capacity.		(3)	(5)
B) BARREL Uniformly long, deep and broad thus providing ample digestive capacity.		(4)	(5)
C) BACK Broad and strong with even covering of smooth, firm flesh. Topline strong, straight and nearly level.		(4)	(5)
D) LOIN Well muscled, wide, long and thick.		(4)	(5)

HIND QUARTERS: TOTAL POINTS	DOES 15	BUCKS 20
A) RUMP Long, broad and slightly sloping with smooth even covering of flesh. Hips wide apart and level with back. Thurls wide apart and nearly level from thurl to thurl. Pins wide apart and lower than hips. Tail head slightly above and neatly set between pin bones. Tail symmetrical with body.	(5)	(5)
B) TWIST AND THIGHS Twist deep, full and firm. Escutcheon low and wide. Thighs deep, wide, muscular and firm.	(5)	(5)
C) HIND LEGS Medium length; wide apart and nearly straight when viewed from the rear, nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern when viewed from side. Hocks wide apart when viewed from rear and showing correct angulation when viewed from side. Bones strong and adequately proportioned to support weight. Strong pasterns are a must. Feet sound, short, wide and pointed forward with a deep heel, level sole and closed toes.	(5)	(10)

MAMMARY/ REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM: TOTAL POINTS	DOES 15	BUCKS 5
A) UDDER CONDITION AND CAPACITY Long, wide, extending well forward and showing adequate capacity without exaggerated size. Pliable and elastic, free of scar tissue, well collapsed when empty or dry.	(5)	(0)
B) UDDER ATTACHMENT In the fore area carried well forward; tightly attached without pocket; blending smoothly into body. In the rear area high, wide and strong; udder halves evenly divided and symmetrical with strong medial suspensory ligament.	(5)	(0)
C) TEATS A doe must have teats of desired length and size for nursing; well defined. A doe's and buck's teats must be free from obstruction; squarely and properly placed. Maximum of two teats per side. Teats must be totally separated and functional.	(5)	(2)
D) SCROTUM A buck must have two firm, fully descended testicles of similar size with a maximum scrotal split of 2.4cm/one inch on a mature buck.	(0)	(3)
TOTAL POINTS: ALL SECTIONS	**100**	**100**

List of disqualifications *(revised May 2003)*

- misalignment of jaws: overshot or undershot more than 5mm
- total blindness
- crooked face (wry face)
- dish face (concave)
- disfiguring malocclusion (very crooked teeth)
- helicopter, gopher, elf or erect ears (not a disqualification in percentage animals)
- serious emaciation
- lameness (if due to recent injury must be cleared by vet committee)
- hermaphroditism (displaying characteristics of the opposite gender)
- teats that are joined or partially joined, including double teats, fish teats and cluster teats
- bucks with only one testicle or with abnormal testicles

On-Farm Performance Testing: *Are You Ready?*

BY CATHERINE MICHAUD, AGR

Thanks to collaboration from Dr Ken Andries, the CMGA has made the Goat Herd Improvement Program (GHIP) from Kentucky State University available to all Canadian meat goat breeders. This on-farm performance testing program, which was free to participants, allowed for meat goat herd production data to be adjusted and helps breeders to use these adjusted performance data in the selection of better quality replacement individuals. Some articles referring to this topic have already been published in the Meat Goat Journal and the CMGA Office already has received many requests for participation in the Program, which demonstrates the interest of Canadian breeders in measuring what they do in terms of the performance im-provement of their herds. Participation in the Program requires effort, discipline and a few preparatory steps in order to get the maximum information from the precise adjusted data which will give breeders the real portrait of the performance of their herds. This program has now been put on hold pending the completion of the genetic evaluation programme. Breeders can still prepare and start collecting data on their farms so that they can eventually submit them to the genetic evaluation program. The following paragraphs will help you to deal with preparatory steps for data collection as well as understand the importance of the process.

You can't improve what you can't measure!

If there's only one sentence in this whole article to remember, it's this one! Selection on production performance implies that production must be measured in order to be improved. The accuracy of measurements recorded by the breeder will return precise adjusted data. The recording of data also gives the capacity to measure long term trends and change direction as needed. This supplies the necessary information in order to better market animals and provide indicators as to where the breeder stands and where he's heading.

Several steps are necessary to prepare for precise data collection that will reflect an accurate profile of the performance of the herd:

1. SET GOALS FOR YOUR FARM

Establish short and long term goals. Achieving some of these goals will take more time and several production cycles will be needed before being able to observe significant effects. Some selection criteria will improve more slowly than others and some will be subject to more or less influence by the environment in which the goats are raised. For example, improvement of kids growth will be influenced by maternal qualities of the doe and can also depend on feed quality which kids have access to in order to fulfill their protein, energy, vitamin and mineral needs. By making sure that all these needs are satisfied through feed, the breeder will make sure that feed will not limit the expression of the growth potential of these kids. On the other hand, for some breeders, access to quality feed at a reasonable cost can be a problem. They will be then able to select animals in their herd that can have better performance under feeding conditions that will prevail in their herd.

This also brings breeders to establish realistic goals related to management conditions that are effective in their herds. Is the goal of attaining 250 g of birth to weaning daily gain for goat kids realistic according to the feeding program? Is the goal of obtaining 1.5 litters per year realistic according to the type of herd management? Realistic also means that the breeder must consider his starting point. For example, if his goal is to improve multiple birth rates and if the majority of his does are historically giving birth to singles, it's possible that the probability to achieve this goal rapidly by selecting replacement does only coming from his herd will be low. He can accept to improve that criteria on the long term, or he can choose to buy does with the desired performance records from another breeder.

Goals also need to be measurable, for example: I would like my kids to achieve a daily gain of 250 g per day, as opposed to I would like to improve the daily gain of my kids. All breeders would like to improve their herd performance, but they need to specify by how much.

2. DISCUSS THESE GOALS WITH OTHERS INVOLVED IN YOUR FARM

If the breeder shares the management of the farm with others (spouse, kids, employees), selection and management goals must be communicated and clarified for all. Because Lili and Bob, two goat kids abandoned by their mother who systematically refuses to nurse her kids, who are then bottle fed, and would follow you everywhere and are so kind, may most likely leave the farm at market weight in the meat truck with their mother, but should probably not be kept as replacement stock on the farm!

3. ESTABLISH A PRECISE AND UNIFORM METHOD FOR GATHERING DATA

It's important to establish a precise and uniform performance measurement method, i.e. that measurements always be done the same way in order to be able to compare data. For example, kids' birth weight is always taken within 24 hours of birth with a defined and calibrated weigh scale. When I reach this point of my discussion on the topic (and it's one of my favourite parts), I always ask participants if they have a scale. The majority of them will proudly raise their hand. Then I ask who owns a scale that effectively works. Some participants will abstain raising their hand, and from the remaining participants who have their hand up I ask who has a scale that effectively works and that you are absolutely sure of the weight displayed. From the participants with their hand still up, I ask how do they know. Some will answer that they know their own weight and that they jump in the scale before starting weighing their kids and that they make sure that it's their weight that is displayed. Well this is a start because it shows they are concerned about scale calibration. But usually a farmer's weight will vary within the year in regards to intensity level of farm activity (summer versus winter). I have seen farmers lose up to 10 pounds in the summer. Ten pounds on a 40 pound kid is a 25% error margin! So I suggest to identify an object with a non variable weight that they could use to perform scale calibration (for example it could be a training weight or a concrete block).

The weigh scale is surely one of the most important tools to measure on farm performance; it's one of the producer's best friends! The scale must be taken care of; it needs maintenance and calibration before use, but also during its use if there are a lot of animals to be weighed.

You're now ready to gather performance data

Critical data to collect when participating in an on-farm performance program are:

- Birth data: dam and kid ID, birth date and weight*, sex of the kids, type of birth
- Weaning data: weaning date and weight
- Other information: breed or cross, sire ID, age of dam (in years)

**If the birth weight is not available, data still can be used. Adjusted data will not be as accurate, but still useful. Birth weight will then be calculated by comparing weight per day of age (final weight/days on test) as adjusted. Other information will be used to perform adjustments.*

Data are compiled on the kidding data sheet and when all litters from a given 'kidding-group' of does have been weighed, the file is returned to Dr Andries for analysis. A 'group of does' is defined as those kidding within a 60-day interval of each other. The rationale for this group evaluation is that the environment (climate and feeding program) in which kids are raised changes over time. Therefore, it is not fair

to compare litter performances from spring-kidding does to fall-kidding does to winter-kidding does. The properly adjusted litter weight at weaning for each doe will also reflect the age of dam at parturition, number of kids born in the litter, number of kids weaned in each litter, and sex of kids in each litter.

What is returned to the breeder?

When data have been analysed, the following data are returned to the breeder:

- Birth and weaning weight adjusted for type of birth/rearing, sex and age of dam
- Weaning weight adjusted to a 90 day standard
- Birth and weaning weight performance ratio
- Dam summary showing: number of kids born/weaned, total actual and adjusted birth and weaning weight for each doe
- Sire summary showing (if sire ID has been provided): actual and adjusted average birth and weaning weights, for each sire used, and number of kids he sired at birth and weaning

During analysis, the computer program first calculates the average adjusted litter weaning weight for the group and, secondly, compares each doe's record to this average, and assigns it a 'Ratio' figure. For example, if the group's average adjusted litter weaning weight figure was 100 lb, and doe A posted a 125 ratio, she was 25% above (better than) her group's average performance. If doe B posted an 80 ratio, she was 20% below (poorer than) the group-average performance for this figure. Ratios shown could be used to select keeper-does and to choose keeper-kids from particular does. Breeders must remain conservative when doing comparison between different groups because of the seasonal influence on performance. They should look at the group averages first for guidance.

These ratios allow breeders to apply selection pressure in regards to their particular situation (herd size, expansion/reduction plans, cash-flow needs, prospective sales, expected feed supply, resource limitations, etc) and goals set. The average commercial herd typically replaces about 20% of its does every year. If the breeder doesn't purchase replacement animals, he must save 5% more replacement doelings to account for those that won't get to breeding age and another 5% to account for culls due to conformation. For example, if a breeder with a 100 head doe herd reproducing at an acceptable rate of 175% kid crop weaned is raising his own replacement does, among the 175 kids born, there will be 80 or so doelings surviving from which to choose the 30 replacement doelings. These replacements should come from does with a ratio of over 100, better yet, from the top third, but only if the individual doelings warrant saving (ie. poor conformation, production performance, etc.).

The Sire Summary will provide data on kids coming from a given 'group of does' sired by two or more sires. If the breeder has used only one buck to breed these does, he will not be able to obtain ratios for that group because this ratio is comparing the performance of kids in regards to their individual sires. Crucial performance calculations for bucks are the adjusted 90 day weaning weights. The Sire Summary also shows the number of kids weaned (having 90 day weights) from a given sire as compared to the number of his kids born.

What traits can be improved?

The breeder can count numerous traits out of which he can choose to respond to selection goals he has set. These include production traits like multiple birth rate, birth to weaning/market/breeding growth, mothering abilities and carcass traits such as rendering or grading. There are also health traits like parasite resistance or foot health issues. Breeders can also look at feed conversion and conformation traits. Also, the breeder who wants to improve technical performance of his herd will need to consider economically important traits, those that have the most impact on his enterprise's bottom line.

Traits that have the most economic impact on his enterprise are reproduction traits. They're the most important traits for all livestock enterprises, except for feedlots. Improvement of production performance as well as economic performance necessarily requires the improvement of goat productivity and if a breeder wants to improve this, he will first base his selection on reproduction traits such as fertility rate, birth rate and number of kids born. The second most important trait for all livestock enterprises, regardless of market, is growth. We talk here about birth to weaning growth which puts emphasis on mothering qualities of does, or weaning to market growth which highlights the growth and feed conversion qualities transmitted by the sire. Health traits must also be considered, most importantly for small ruminant breeders. Health has a significant impact on reproduction and growth. For example, parasites will impair growth performance of market kids and have an influence on getting does back into good body condition after weaning. We can also think about Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) which could become a cause of condemnation of carcasses at the abattoir. Some health traits should be part of selection goals in regards to the actual health situation that prevails in the herd.

Carcass quality traits (grading, yield) can give the impression that they're economically important for market kid breeders, but the fact that payment for carcasses is not done according to an objective evaluation grid where carcass characteristics are considered, means it becomes hard to select sires according to these criteria. However, carcass yield could be considered for producers who also market, cut and process their carcasses.

In conclusion

Implementing an on-farm testing program requires a certain amount of breeder preparation at the goal definition level and the sharing of these goals with all of those who take care of herd management. Effort, discipline and patience are needed for this implementation because expected effects will arrive little by little as production cycles progress. The breeder must be willing to apply selected selection criteria for a long enough period in order to see results.

In selecting replacement individuals with the best performance, the breeder must also consider structure and physical traits of his goats. On this point, the CMGA Type Evaluation Program can be a good phenotypical selection tool.

Analysed and adjusted performance data that are returned to breeders can be used not only to improve their herd performance by selecting the best replacement individuals, but also to promote their goats to potential buyers.

Performance data must be paired with economic data to observe the impact of selection goals on the financial health of the enterprise. Breeders will then be able to evaluate the increased number of dollars brought per goat by improving, for example, goats' fertility rate, or to estimate the increased kilos of meat (or market kids) sold per year by improving, for example, the number of kids weaned per litter. At all times, breeders should know the impact of their choices on their production cost.

Finally, if breeders are measuring their performance, obtaining credible data and using these data to select their animals according to best performance, they have increased their chances of obtaining animals which demonstrate improved performance because they will improve what they have been measuring… and these are the basics of an on-farm performance program.

Thanks to Dr Ken Andries from Kentucky State University for his collaboration in providing so much content in order for me to write this article.

Why join?

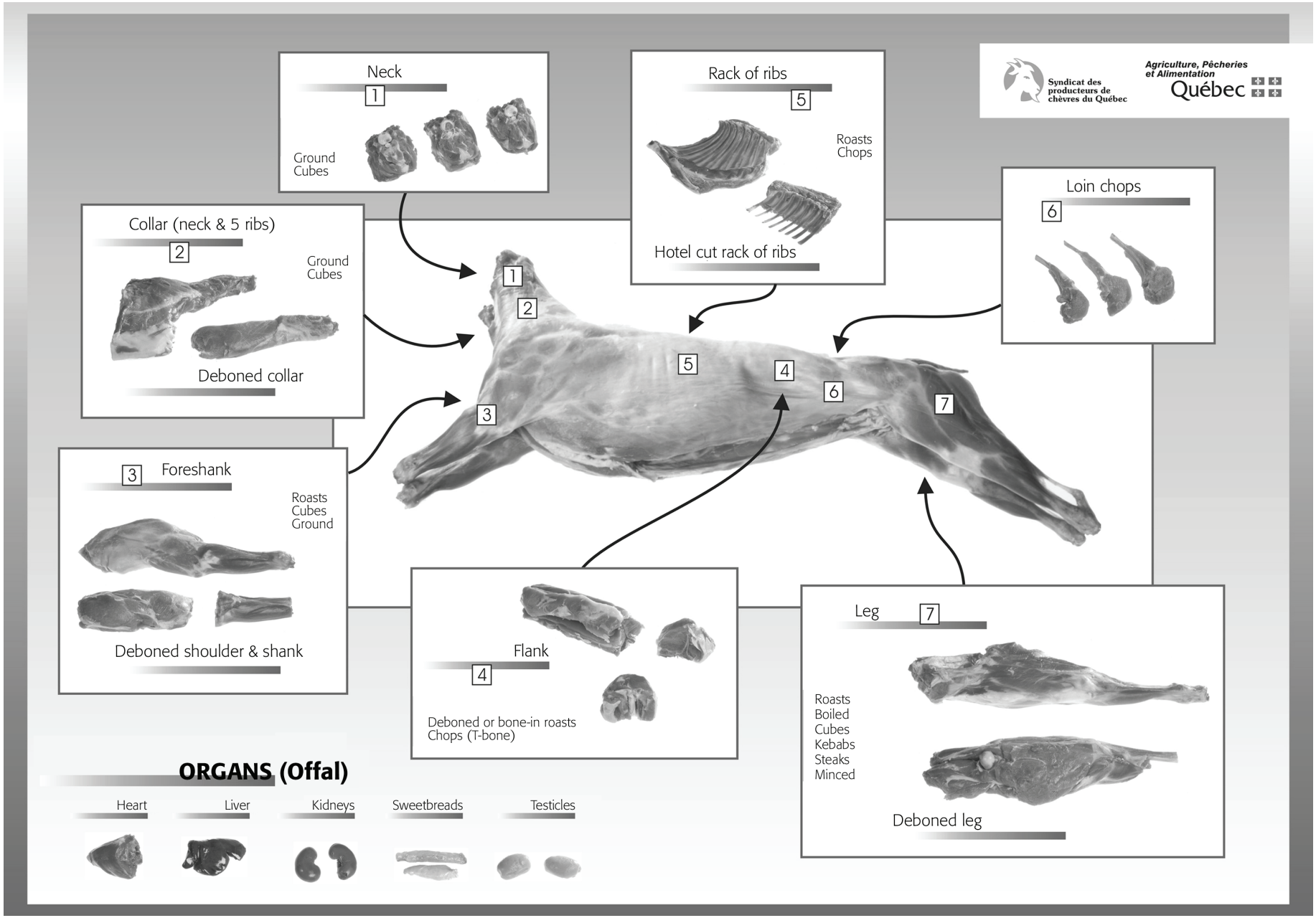
… be involved in paving the way of the future for the meat goat industry!

Canadian Meat Goat ASSOCIATION

canadienne de la chèvre de boucherie

155, Ave des Erables
St.Gabriel.de.Kamouraska QC G0L 3E0
Tel (418) 315-0777
Fax (418) 315-0887
info@canadianmeatgoat.com
www.canadianmeatgoat.com

CUTS OF CHEVON (GOAT)



National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard

FOR THE GOAT INDUSTRY

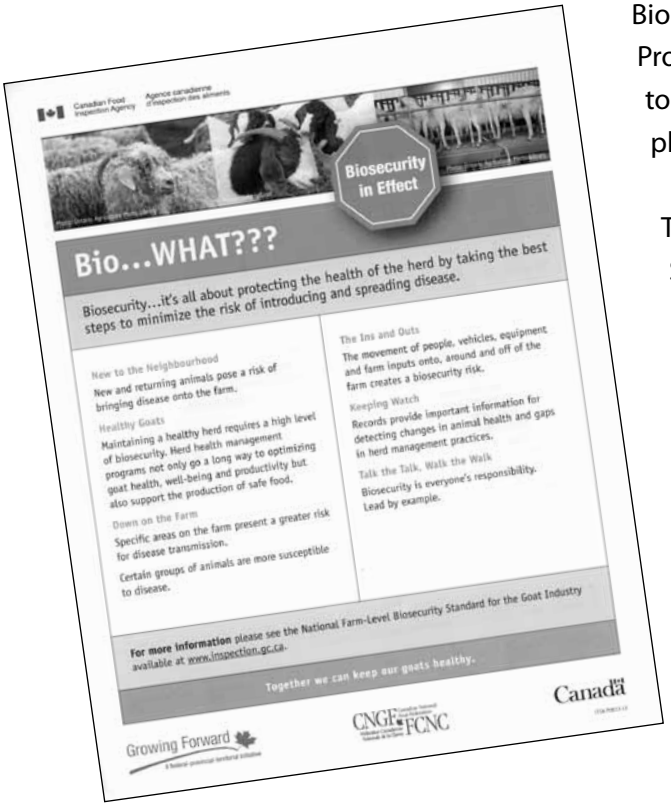
Canada's goat producers recognize the need for sound on-farm biosecurity practices to manage disease risks in order to protect the health of their herd and operation and, by extension, the national herd and the industry.

The National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Goat Industry describes practical and effective on-farm biosecurity practices which can reduce the risk of disease, when properly applied and followed, and which are of a low cost to the producer to implement. Developed over two years, in consultation with goat producers, industry and government, the Standard is designed specifically for the Canadian goat industry and is applicable to farm-level operations of all types and sizes. Its focus is on practices and procedures that reduce the risk and impact of disease in goat operations.

The Standard is built on six key areas of concern relating to on-farm risk reduction:

- sourcing and introducing animals;
- animal health;
- facility management and access controls;
- movement of people, vehicles and equipment;
- monitoring and record keeping; and
- communications and training.

Under each key area of concern are more detailed descriptions of biosecurity target outcomes. In addition, the accompanying Biosecurity Planning Guide for Canadian Goat Producers provides additional information to assist producers in preparing biosecurity plans specific to their own farming operation.



The general practices and guidelines of the Standard are voluntary. Adherence to the principles set forth in this Standard can control and reduce the risk and impacts of endemic diseases and of an emerging disease or foreign animal disease (FAD) in the Canadian herd. Managing risk is something goat producers do every day. The Standard is a tool that provides broad guidelines for disease risk management that are practical and science-based, and specific to the goat industry.

For a copy of the National Standard or to learn more about biosecurity visit the CFIA's website at www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity.

Goat On-Farm Food Safety

The Goat On-Farm Food Safety (GOFFS) program has been developed by the Canadian National Goat Federation to provide producers with the tools and resources to demonstrate that the food we are producing is safe.

The program examines all areas of production and outlines good production practices (GPPs) that are designed to minimize food safety risks and produce a safe, high-quality product. The program was created based on a HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points, pronounced "haa-sip") approach, a management system both nationally and internationally recognized in the agriculture and agri-food industries as a means to identify food safety risks during production and control measures to reduce those risks. HACCP is simply a systematic approach using both science and simple common sense to identify and prevent hazards.

In using HACCP to create a program that is easily adapted to any goat farm, there are three types of hazards recognized:

- Physical (e.g. broken needles)
- Biological (e.g. E. coli, salmonella)
- Chemical (e.g. antibiotic residues)

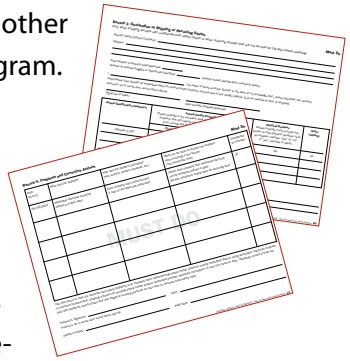
The GOFFS Program provides GPPs that can be used on any farm to reduce the risk of food safety hazards. Within the program, some GPPs are labelled as Critical Control Points (CCPs), using a goat head logo. A CCP is a point, step or procedure where loss of control may result in a food safety hazard, and where control can be applied to prevent, eliminate or reduce the hazard to an acceptable level.

For example, a critical control point almost every producer will encounter is following drug withdrawal times on animal health products to ensure animals are shipped to slaughter free of potentially harmful residues. This is just one example of a precautionary step producers are already doing as part of the food supply chain.

The GOFFS program provides goat producers with the opportunity to access markets that might otherwise be closed without the assurances offered by such a

program, and demonstrates to consumers that producers have exercised due diligence during production. The Program is an excellent way to further the goat industry and invest in your business as a producer.

The Producer Manual has been reviewed and accepted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as a credible, national on-farm food safety program for the goat industry. It is your guidebook to the GOFFS program. It includes information on all GPPs, CCPs, record keeping forms, and other information that will be helpful to producers implementing the program.



FAQs

How will the GOFFS Program benefit me?

Implementing the GOFFS program on-farm will provide producers with the tools to anticipate potential problems and devise trouble-shooting techniques to reduce risks. It provides you the opportunity to demonstrate the many precautions you are likely already using to produce a safe product. Your involvement tells everyone that you are committed to safe food production and could allow for greater market access in the future. Further, participation in the program could be a valuable tool for direct sales and marketing.

Is the GOFFS Program mandatory? The GOFFS Program is a voluntary resource available for producers who choose to participate. Your level of involvement is up to you.

What is involved? The first step is to take a short training workshop that will be offered in your area once the CFIA has approved the program as technically sound. The workshop will introduce you to the basics of food safety and provide you with the tools to apply the program on-farm. Good Production Practices (GPPs), which are found in the GOFFS Producer Manual, are practical steps producers can take to mitigate food safety risks.

The next step is on-farm implementation of the program and the GPPs outlined in the manual, along with documentation of the steps you are taking to produce a safe product. To become fully recognized on the program, an on-farm audit by a qualified individual with practical onfarm experience must take place.

The complete manual and GOFFS program record forms are available for download on the Canadian National Goat Federation website:
http://www.cangoats.com/index.php?pageid=467.

Canadian Goat Organizations

ALBERTA GOAT ASSOCIATION (ABA)
Box 5202, Westlock, AB T7P 2P4 Tel (403) 443-2874
abgoatbreeders@gmail.com • www.albertagoats.com

BC GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (BCGBA)
529 Holiday Rd., Fanny Bay, BC V0R 1W0
info@bcgoat.ca • www.bcgoat.ca

CANADIAN GOAT SOCIETY (CGS)
PO Box 31084, Willow West, Guelph, ON N1H 8K1 • 226-332-3166 tel
info@goats.ca • www.goats.ca

CANADIAN NATIONAL GOAT FEDERATION (CNGF)
info@cangoats.com • www.cangoats.com

GOAT ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA (GANS)
Tammy Barkhouse
tammybarkhouse@icloud.com • www.goatsnsdotcom.wordpress.com

MANITOBA GOAT ASSOCIATION (MGA)
manitobagoats@gmail.com
https://sites.google.com/site/manitobagoatassociation1a/home

ONTARIO GOAT (OG)
449 Laird Rd., Unit 12, Guelph, ON N1G 4W1
info@ontariogoat.ca • www.ontariogoat.ca

NEW BRUNSWICK GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
arniesteeves58@gmail.com • https://facebook.com/NBGBA/

REGROUPEMENT DES ELEVEURS DE CHEVRES DE BOUCHERIE DU QUEBEC (RECBQ)
25, rue des Lupins, st-Cyrille-de-Wendover, QC J1Z 2L7
(819) 818-9324 tel • info@recbq.com • www.recbq.com

SASKATCHEWAN GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (SGBA)
https://saskgoatbreeders.com • info@saskgoatbreeders.com

Online Goat Resources

- www.albertagoats.com/publications.php
  The Alberta Goat Breeders Association and Alberta Lamb Producers have produced some excellent informational documents available for download on the AGBA website, including:
  - Sheep and Goat Management in Alberta
  - An Introduction to Managed Grazing for Sheep and Goat Producers
  - AGBA Market Research Report
  - State of the Alberta Goat Industry

- www.ansci.cornell.edu/goats/meatgoat_management.html
  Goat Management from the Animal Science Department of Cornell University

- www.sheepandgoat.com
  Maryland Small Ruminant Page includes a variety of information on the health and management of sheep and goats.

- www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/production/goat
  Goat health and management information on Manitoba Agriculture website

- http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=fbf621ab-abe2-4aa3-adf4-dbba4b4b3a2d
  Economics of Meat Goat Production on Saskatchewan Agriculture website

- www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/goat/health.html
  Goat health management and biosecurity on Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food website

Types of CMGA Memberships:

New Member Package ($105 +GST/HST):

- includes 1st year membership fee, your choice of registered Herd Name and Tattoo letters (New Members Only)

New **Junior** Member Package ($50+GST/HST):

- includes 1st year membership fee, your choice of registered Herd Name and Tattoo letters (New Junior Members Only)

Active Members ($80 +GST/HST):

- have the right to vote, hold office and give notice to amend the CMGA bylaws
- can register and transfer animals at members' rates
- can advertise in the Canadian Meat Goat Journal at members' rates
- receive the Canadian Meat Goat Journal and are listed in the annual Membership Directory in the Journal

Junior Members ($25 +GST/HST):

- individuals who have not yet attained the age of 18 years (as of January 1 of the year of membership)
- can register and transfer animals at members' rates
- can advertise in the Canadian Meat Goat Journal at members' rates
- receive the Canadian Meat Goat Journal and are listed in the annual Membership Directory in the Journal
- are eligible to attend the AGM and associated conferences at no cost

Associate Members ($55 +GST/HST):

- receive the Canadian Meat Goat Journal and are listed in the annual Membership Directory in the Journal
- can advertise in the Canadian Meat Goat Journal at members' rates

SEND MEMBERSHIPS TO:

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation
2417 Holly Lane, Suite 201, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 Phone:
1-613-731-7110 • Fax: 1-613-731-0704
email: lauralee.mills@clrc.ca website: www.clrc.ca

Canadian Meat Goat Association
canadienne de la chèvre de boucherie

Canadian
Meat Goat
ASSOCIATION
canadienne de la
chèvre de boucherie

155, Ave des Erables
St.Gabriel.de.Kamouraska QC G0L 3E0
Tel (418) 315-0777
Fax (418) 315-0887
info@canadianmeatgoat.com
www.canadianmeatgoat.com