



GOATS

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- ▶ Goat production is an important rural industry that contributes significantly to Australia's economy.
- ▶ When you buy local produce you're helping to support Australian farmers and their families.



©Lipstick for goats blogspot

ORIGIN OF THE GOAT

- ▶ The origin of all goats can be traced to the Zagros Mountains that are in Iraq, Iran, and Turkey.
- ▶ It is thought that goats were first domesticated 10,000 years ago!
- ▶ There are over 250 types of goats today.
- ▶ The entire biological family of goats is referred to as the Bovidae. Goats belong to the subfamily of Caprinae, which also includes sheep!



A photograph of several goats in a fenced pasture. In the foreground, a brown goat with white markings on its legs and a white goat are facing the camera. Behind them, other goats of various colors (brown, black, white) are visible, some grazing and some standing. The ground is dry and brown, and a fence line is visible in the background.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE GOAT

- ▶ Goats were the first animal to be used by humans for milk. People all around the world eat and drink milk products from goats more than any other animal.
- ▶ Goat milk is now very popular in the production of skin care products such as soap and moisturizer.
- ▶ Goats are often shaved for their hair which can be turned into carpets, scarves, winter hats, suits, sweaters, coats, socks and home furnishing! In some places in the world goats are used to pull carts and carry heavy loads.

GOAT TERMINOLOGY

- ▶ A female goat is called a doe or Nanny.
- ▶ The male goat is called a Buck or Billy.
- ▶ A baby goat is called a Kid.
- ▶ A group of goats is called a herd.
- ▶ Goats are very social creatures and become lonely if left alone for long periods of time.
- ▶ Pregnancy lasts around 5 months.
- ▶ The doe can have 1 to 6 kids per litter, but it is much more common to have a small litter of 1-3 kids.
- ▶ The act of giving birth is called kidding--no, we are not kidding lol.
- ▶ Kids can be born with or without horns and are usually able to stand within minutes of birth and will be walking not long after.





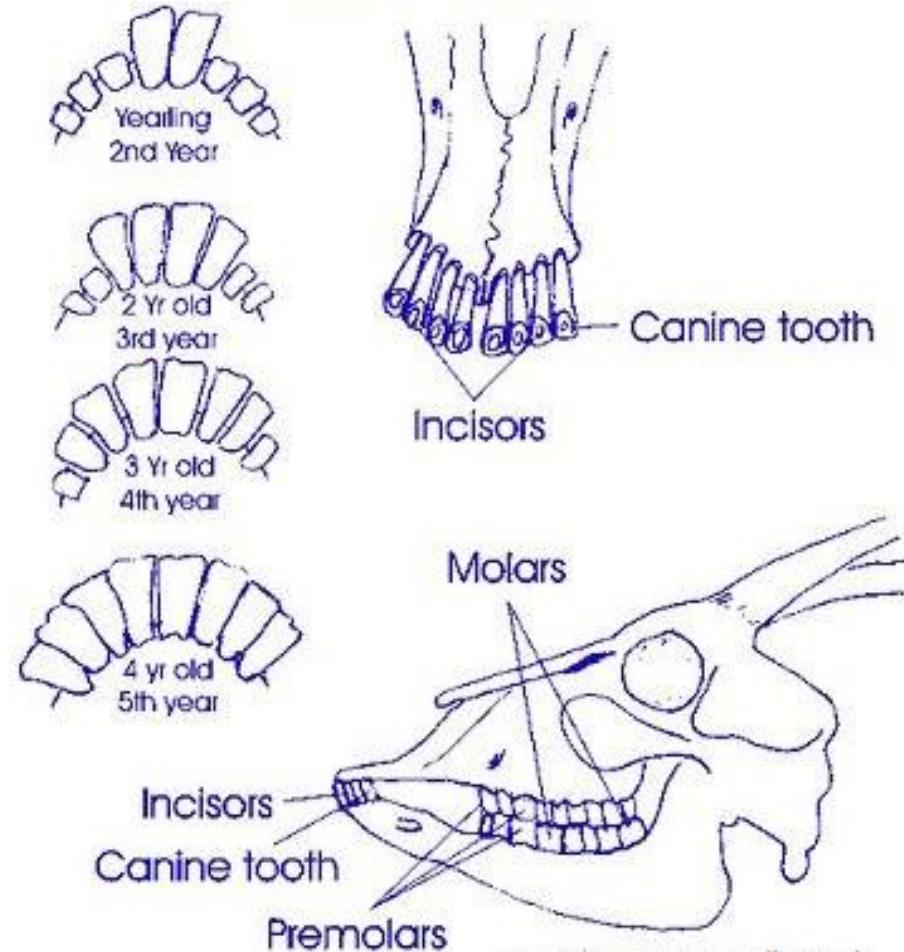
SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT GOATS



- ▶ The natural lifespan for goats is around 8 to 12 years but in some cases, goats can live for over 15 years.
- ▶ Kids are usually very social with other young goats. They especially, love to run around, jump on and off everything, and bug their mums and siblings for attention. Lucky for them, they are just cute enough to get away with it.
- ▶ Like other species in both the family **Bovidae** and subfamily **Caprinae**, goats are herbivores. This means that their diets are made up entirely of vegetation.
- ▶ Goats are very agile and can jump very high. Some goats can jump as high as 1.5m! All over the world goats are known as great climbers and can often be found climbing trees, hills, rocks, and even rooftops. Goats are referred to as “browsers,” which means that they love to reach the highest, most delicate part of a plant. This is why they are often seen standing in trees or on rocks higher off the ground.
- ▶ Goats are very light sleepers that wake up at any sound, which is why people rarely see them sleeping. Sleep is not the most important thing to a goat. It's said that wild goats don't sleep because of the constant threat from predators. This is not actually true; wild goats will sleep if they can find a safe sheltered spot.
- ▶ Domesticated goats sleep about 5 hours a night and will take short naps during the day. Goats prefer to sleep huddled together. Kids are always the cutest when they are asleep right?

GOAT TEETH

- ▶ Goats have teeth that are specifically made for chewing and grinding all the different types of food that they come across.
- ▶ On their lower jaw, goats have 8 **incisor** teeth used for biting off leaves and branches.
- ▶ Goats have 24 **molars** on the lower jaw, as well, that they use to grind up their food.
- ▶ On their upper jaw, however, goats do *not* have teeth; instead, they have a special pad, called a **dental pad**, that helps them rip and tear their food!
- ▶ Although goats are usually friendly and happy animals, if they get irritated (especially in animal nurseries), they are not afraid to give visitors a little nibble!
- ▶ Always be respectful and kind when interacting and petting these cute creatures!



GOATS MILK



HEALTH BENEFITS OF GOATS MILK

- ▶ Goats milk is easy to digest
- ▶ Most lactose intolerant people can drink it as it contains 89% less of the A1 casein protein.
- ▶ 28-33% higher in calcium and fatty acids
- ▶ High in protein and low in fat
- ▶ Can aid in lowering cholesterol and the management of intestinal disorders.
- ▶ Goats milk make fantastic soap and moisturizer. Its gentle so is perfect for dry irritated skin.
- ▶ It's proven to help combat skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis and rosacea. Its anti-inflammatory properties are beneficial to our bodies inside and out.



PIGMY GOATS

- ▶ Pygmy goats are a domesticated goat that can be found all over the world because of its unique ability to adapt to different climates.
- ▶ These goats are mostly kept in farms for their milk or as pets since they are so adorable, friendly and playful.
- ▶ Pygmy goats have been kept as pets for almost 7500 years.
- ▶ People who keep Goats as pets often build playgrounds to keep them entertained.

GOAT YOGA



► Pygmy goats are so cute and popular online now. Due to their love of climbing they are used for the new crazy trend of "Goat Yoga." Looks like fun right!





HEALTH CARE, PESTS & DISEASES

- ▶ Animal health, welfare and biosecurity are all important stages of the livestock production chain. If managed poorly each can have adverse impacts on productivity.
- ▶ Biosecurity programs for farming industries are designed to prevent the spread of infectious disease and contain disease outbreaks when they occur.
- ▶ Parasites and disease impact on all animals, including Alpacas. Animals affected by disease may not always show obvious clinical signs.
- ▶ Biosecurity is important at the national, regional and property level.
- ▶ Producers are governed by Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. State and territory governments are responsible for animal welfare laws and their enforcement. These are enforced through animal welfare or prevention of cruelty to animals' legislation.



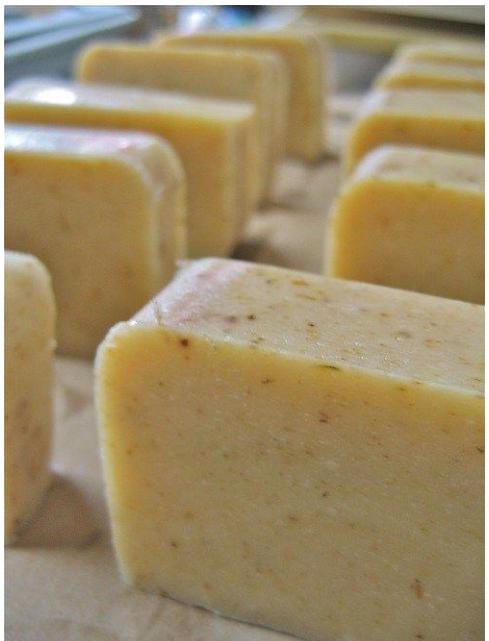
RISKS & CHALLENGES

- ▶ Like any primary production enterprise there are risks associated with commercial production of Goats. Some will be outside of a producer's control however experienced producers are usually able to manage these risks.
- ▶ Risks include the loss of vital export markets. The COVID-19 outbreak had a massive impact on a lot of our export markets.
- ▶ Disease and pests, it is extremely important that we maintain Australia's freedom from major diseases through strict quarantine laws and procedures.
- ▶ Here in Australia weather events such as drought, fires and flooding take a huge toll on our farming communities. They really need our support.

POP QUIZ



- ▶ The goats origin has been traced to _____ and dates back to _____.
- ▶ The male is called a _____ or _____.
- ▶ The female is called a _____ or _____.
- ▶ A baby goat is called a _____.
- ▶ A group of goats is called a _____.
- ▶ A goats natural lifespan is _____ years.
- ▶ Goats in the wild don't sleep at all TRUE/FALSE.
- ▶ Goat yoga has been practiced for hundreds of years TRUE/FALSE
- ▶ Goats milk is used to produce many skin care products such as _____
- ▶ Why do you think it is important to buy local Produce?



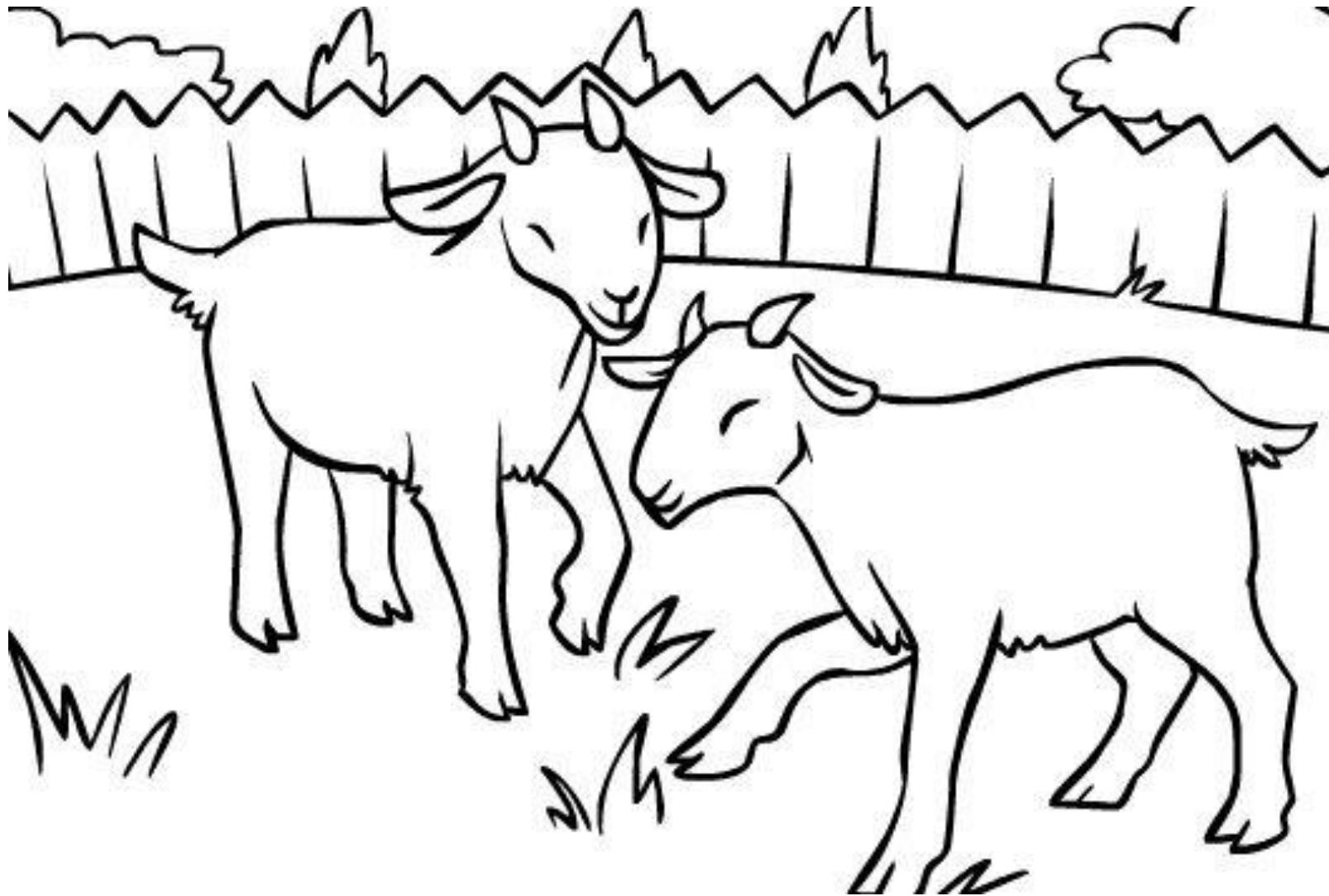
RESEARCH TASK

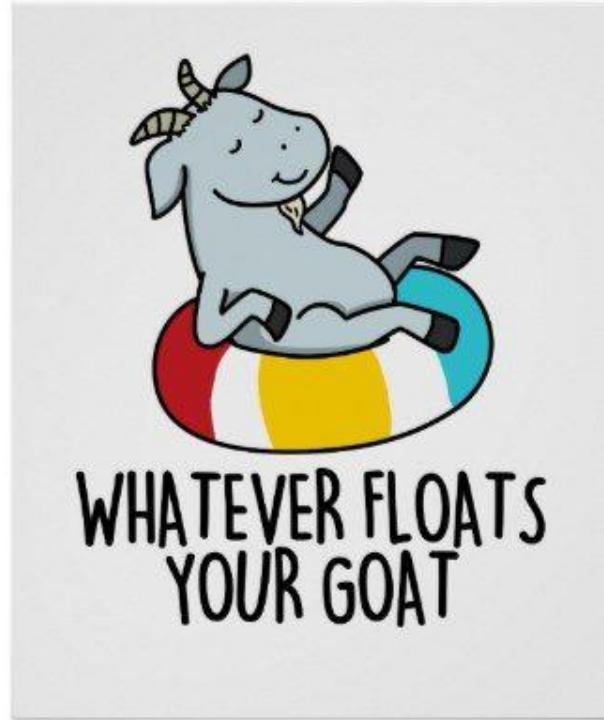
- ▶ How many goat related products can you think of
- ▶ Find a goat soap recipe
- ▶ Does Australia export any goat products?
- ▶ What Australian goat product producing businesses can you find
- ▶ Design your own goat playground

RESEARCH NOTES



GOATS





WHATEVER FLOATS
YOUR GOAT



RESOURCES

[Wikipedia](#)

[QLD Gov Dep of Agriculture and Fisheries](#)

[NSW DPI](#)