



# *The Goat Source*

## March 2005 Vol. 2, No. 3

Hello , Here is your March issue of The Goat Source News. Thanks for subscribing!

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### *Maker Meat Goats, an American Breed*

The Moneymaker meat goat was started in America in 1996 by Bob and Dusty Copeland of Copeland Family Farms. They began with the idea of creating a breed that would use the 3/8ths 5/8ths genetic formula that has been so successful in the livestock breeding industry. Brangus cattle are one example of this successful cross.

Bob and Dusty had great success in cattle using 5/8ths Angus/3/8ths Holstein cross cows bred to Simmental bulls, weaning 700+ averages in their calves. They used this formula in their sheep flock to produce weaning weights of 130 pounds in 4 months on lambs. When they decided to jump into the meat goat market, they wanted to utilize this same successful formula to create a breed designed exclusively to wean twins at 4-5 months at higher than average weights. The formula is basically this, breed high milk number large framed dairy to a duo purpose yet meaty animal, then cross onto an exclusively meat animal.

Many universities are experimenting with these type crosses to get hybrid vigor and faster weight gains. The problem with this type of breeding program, you need to keep several flocks.

The F1 flock is, in their, case Sannen does bred to a Nubian buck. The Sannen was chosen for its high milk numbers and large frame; however it is a very lean animal, so the Nubian was chosen to give it more meatiness. These "Saanubians" are extremely large, with does averaging over 200 pounds at three years and standing over 6 feet in height when stretching up to reach leaves in trees. These are uniformly white animals.

In the F2 flock, only twins raised as twins are kept. These "Saanubians" are then bred to a 50% Boer/ 50% Saanubian using the highest indexing does to produce the top 50/50 bucks. This flock is then chosen for twinning, length of loin and depth of twist and leg circumference.

The F3 results in a 25% Boer, 75% Saanubian. This is the flock that produces the Moneymakers when bred to a 100% Boer buck. Again only twins are kept that were raised as twins. These does are roan spotted or solid roans

The F4 MoneyMaker does are indexed on their first freshening as are all other does. These are uniformly colored heads and white bodies like the Boer; they peak at 5 months, with many averaging over 100 pounds.

The F5 is a terminal generation; MoneyMaker does bred to a Boer buck with all kids being slaughtered. Kids are uniformly colored heads and white bodies.

When asked what they would recommend for people just starting out in meat goats they replied. "Buy the best animals you can afford, and then pick 2 or 3 traits you want to set in your herd and stick to it until you reach your goal". "Always remember to look for goats that will do well in your feed conditions, don't buy high powered milk does and expect them to milk on poor grass and weeds. In brush and desert conditions Spanish goats or Kikos might be a better choice."

Article courtesy of Copeland Family Farms <http://www.goatmeats.com/>

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### ***This Month's Quiz...***

What Country did Boer goats originate in?

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### ***Market Reports Anyone ?...***

Try this link for up to date market reports...

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmnpubs/>

## **Answer to the March Quiz...**

The Boer goat appeared in South Africa, in the early 1900's. The South African Registry was established in 1959, and the Boer is the only goat breed included in the National Mutton Sheep and Goat Performance Testing Scheme.

That's all for now!! See you next month....

## *Leslie, The Goat Source*

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