

WORLD GOATS

There are approximately 1.1 billion goats in the world. Most goats are raised in Asia (India and China), followed by Africa. The demand for goat products, including milk, meat, and other byproducts, is generally growing, particularly in the US.

There are over 300 breeds of goats worldwide. The Boer goat is one of the most popular goats raised for meat. The Saanen is the most popular dairy goat. The Nubian is a popular dual-purpose (meat + milk) breed. Worldwide goat meat (called chevon, cabrito, or "mutton") is an important source of protein. It is a staple in many regions of the world.



The world's dairy goat population is estimated to be over 200 million. Sixteen percent of goats in the US are raised primarily for dairy.

Goats produce about 2 percent of the world's milk supply, with developing countries producing 83 percent. They are the leading consumers of goat milk. Goat milk is often turned into cheese (chevre). Europe produces the most goat cheese. The US is the largest importer.



While unmanaged grazing (by goats) can be detrimental to the environment, increasingly goats are being managed to control unwanted vegetation. They help to prevent wildfires by grazing the fuel.



Miniature goats represent a small fraction of goats worldwide, but are popular in the US. They are kept primarily on smaller farms and in hobby settings.



While the exact percentage is unknown, a significant portion of the world's goat population is raised for both meat and fiber. Angora and Cashmere are the primary fiber goats. Mohair (produced by Angora goats) and cashmere are among the world's most luxurious fibers.

