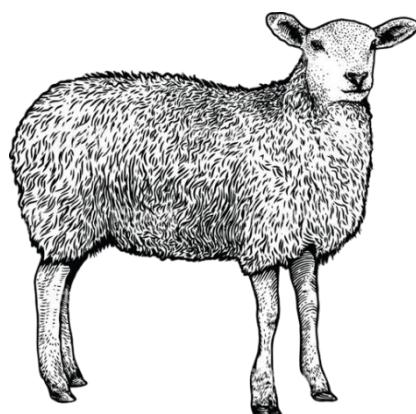
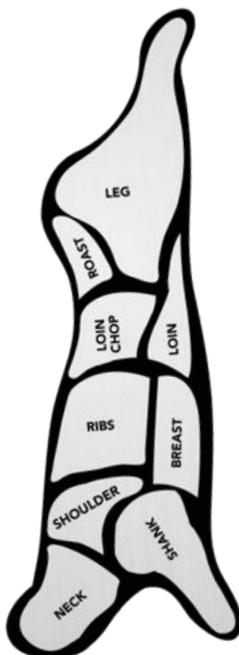


Understanding

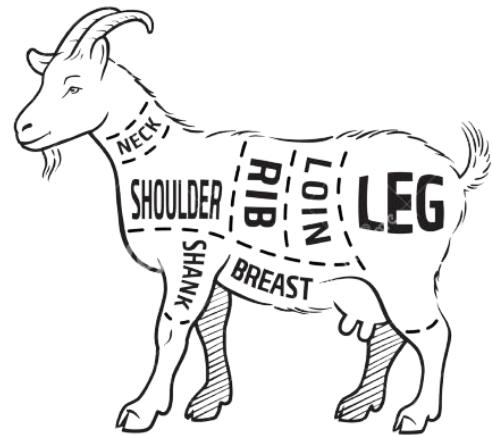
Dressing percentage

Dressing percent (DP; often called "yield") is important because it indicates the proportion of live weight that is contained in a carcass. Sheep have lower dressing percentages than cattle and hogs, due to the weight of their fleeces or coat. This also contributes to their greater variability in yield. Goats usually have lower dressing percentages than sheep due to having less fat and muscle.

Dressing percentage = (carcass weight ÷ live weight) × 100



For lambs, the normal range is 44 to 56 % with an average of 54 % for shorn lambs and 52 % for unshorn lambs. For calculations, 50 % is commonly used.



For goats, dressing percentage varies from 40 % in very young animals to 56 % in entire mature males. 45 % is a good average to use

Many factors can affect dressing percentage.

- Age
- Breed
- Diet
- Distance trucked
- Fleece or hair length/weight
- Gut fill
- Hot or cold carcass weight
- Hydration
- Internal and external fat (finish)
- Mud and manure
- Muscling
- Sex
- Size
- Species
- Stress
- Suckling
- Weaning
- Tails, testicles, and horns
- Time off feed
- What's left in or on carcass, e.g., head, organs