

# US Meat Goat Breeds

Meat goat breeds in the United States include Boer, Kiko, Myotonic, Savanna, and Spanish. Nubian, Pygmy, and Kinder are also considered to be meat or dual-purpose breeds.



The Boer is the **most popular** breed of meat goat in the US. It originated in South Africa. The first fullblood Boers were brought to the US in 1993. The breed has significantly impacted the US meat goat industry.



The Kiko was developed in New Zealand and subsequently introduced to the US. The breed is **better adapted** to the humid southeastern US than the Boer. It has no standardized appearance. The lack of showing has made the Kiko more performance-oriented.



Spanish goats have been around the Americas for centuries. They descend from the goats brought over by Spanish explorers and clergy in the 1500s. The Spanish goat is **landrace** and varies in appearance. Over the years, Spanish goats have been called brush, wood, or scrub goats.



Savannas are a relatively new breed to the US. They have all white coats, with black pigmentation to protect them from the sun. They are very similar to Boers but are considered **more maternal** in nature.

The Myotonic or “fainting goat” is indigenous to the US. It is characterized by **myotonia congenita**, a condition that causes it to stiffen (fall over) when it is startled or excited. Myotonics are the **heaviest muscled** goat breed, the result of their myotonia.



The Nubian is a popular breed. It is considered to be **dual-purpose** (meat + milk). Nubians are large framed and carry more flesh than other breeds of dairy goats.

The Pygmy is a **dwarf breed** that originated in West Africa. While they are more often raised as pets in the US, they are primarily a meat goat. The Pygmy crossed with the Nubian is a Kinder goat. The Kinder is medium in size and considered to be a dual-purpose breed (meat + milk).