

FIBER GOATS

Although sheep are most often associated with fiber production, some of the most extravagant fibers are produced by goats. They include mohair from Angora goats and cashmere from many breeds of goats.



The Angora is a Turkish breed of goat. Its origins are unknown. It was introduced to the US in 1949. While Texas once dominated mohair production, South Africa is now the leader. Angora goats are typically sheared twice per year. Mohair is not as fine as cashmere, but yields are much higher. In 2024, the average fleece weight was 5.4 lbs. (in the US). The most valuable hair comes from a young goat, often from their 1st or 2nd shearing.



A Cashmere goat is a type of goat that produces cashmere “wool,” the goat’s fine, soft, downy winter undercoat.

Any goat except an Angora goat can grow cashmere, but those called Cashmere goats have been selectively bred to produce it in greater quantities. China and Mongolia are the world’s leaders in cashmere production. The average cashmere yield from one goat amounts to about 4 ounces annually, but there is a wide variation in yield. Cashmere goats are combed when they start to naturally shed their undercoat.

The Pygora is a cross between the Pygmy and Angora. The Cashgora is a cross between the Angora and Cashmere. The Nigora is the result of crossing Nigerian Dwarf Bucks with Angora does. The three crosses produce similar fibers as Angora and Cashmere goats.

