

USDA grades of goats

There are no quality grades for goats. USDA grades for goats are based on conformation (muscling) only. They are Selection 1, Selection 2, and Selection 3. Selection 1 goats have a high proportion (by weight) of meat to bone. Selection 3 goats have a low ratio of meat to bone. The grades apply to both live goats and goat carcasses.

1

Selection 1 live goats and/or carcasses have a superior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be thickly muscled throughout the body.

2

Selection No. 2 live goats and/or carcasses have an average meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be moderately muscled throughout the body.

3

Selection No. 3 live goats and/or carcasses have an inferior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. The legs, back and shoulders are narrow.

Some buyers will also put in a 4th grade for unthrifty goats: utility or cull.

Selection Classification Comparisons



Selection 1 1⁵⁰



Selection 2 2⁵⁰



Selection 3 3⁷⁰

- Each selection grade can be divided into 100 parts. Grades are usually assigned to the nearest 10 parts, e.g., 2⁵⁰.
- Grades are applied across weights, sexes, ages, and breed types.
- Even though fat covering is not supposed to be a consideration, muscles with some fat covering tend to look thicker.

