



BASIC BREEDING MANAGEMENT

for Boer goats

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

The Boer goat is an 'improved' meat goat that was developed in South Africa by the Boers (Dutch farmers). The word *Boer* means 'farmer' in Afrikaans.

The American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) is the main registry for Boer goats in the United States. The ABGA recognizes three groups of Boer and Boer-influenced goats, recording them in three separate herdbooks: American, American Purebred, and Fullblood.

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|---------------------|--|
| American – | Does- 1/2 to 7/8 Boer Bucks- 1/2 to 15/16 Boer |
| American Purebred – | Does- 15/16 Boer and up Bucks- 31/32 Boer and up |
| Fullblood – | 100% Boer – these goats' ancestry can be traced back to registered South African stock |

By always breeding to a fullblood Boer buck, you can constantly upgrade the quality and percentage Boer of your herd. To encourage this, the ABGA will only register offspring of a purebred or fullblood Boer buck.

BREEDING:

- Most goats are seasonal breeders, so usually can only conceive from late summer through - winter – from August through February for most goats.
- Goats' gestation period is 5 months, which is 145-155 days.
- Boer goats should be at least a year old and weigh about 100 pounds before being bred. Breeding goats younger than this can stunt them, and lead to malnutrition and severe health and kidding difficulties.
- Goats reach puberty early, and bucks can begin breeding their sisters by 3 months old. As a result, either castrate the bucks or separate them from the doelings by 3 months.
- Kids are usually left on their dam for 3 months. We prefer to wean them in a pen adjacent to their mother. This greatly reduces the stress of weaning, helping them to continue eating and growing and reducing stress-related illness.

TERMINOLOGY:

Dam – mother

Sire – father

Buck – male

Doe – female

Wether – castrated male

Yearling – a goat (either sex) about one year old

Doeling – a doe kid under a year old

Buckling – a buck kid under a year old

Gestation – pregnancy

Parturition – kidding / birthing

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