

Meat Goats

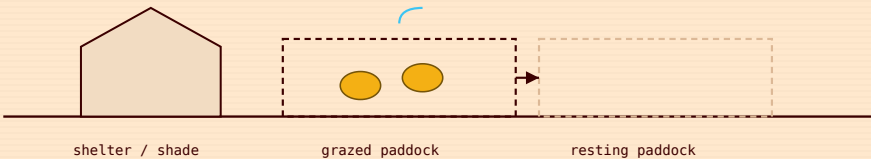
Capra aegagrus hircus · Meat breed (e.g. Boer)

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate
TYPE Livestock, kept for meat
PRODUCTIVE LIFE Processed 6–14 months depending on target

 SPACE 3–4m ² shelter, 150m ² + browsing area per goat	 DIET Pasture/browse + hay, less supplementary feed than dairy types	 WATER Constant fresh access	 TEMPERAMENT Generally calmer than dairy breeds	 LIFESPAN 10–12 years if kept beyond meat age
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01 Lower input than dairy goats

Meat breeds are generally hardier and need less intensive feeding and handling than dairy goats — no milking routine, and they thrive on browse with comparatively little grain.



02 Housing & setup

SHELTER	Dry, draft-free shelter, similar to dairy goats but a simpler setup is fine.
FENCING	Sturdy fencing at least 1.2m high — meat breeds are usually less escape-prone than dairy types but still capable.
BEDDING	Straw, changed regularly.

04 Health & problems

- **Worms** — monitor and manage as part of routine care.
- **Bloat** — introduce rich feed gradually.
- **Predator risk to kids** — secure paddocks, especially at kidding time.
- **Escaping** — check fencing regularly, though less prone to it than dairy breeds.

03 Daily care

- Provide good browse and pasture as the main feed base.
- Supplement with hay over winter or in poor pasture conditions.
- Trim hooves periodically.
- Keep in groups of at least two or three — goats are herd animals.

05 Production & harvest

PROCESSING AGE	6–14 months depending on breed and desired size.
YIELD	Roughly 40–50% of live weight as dressed meat, breed and condition dependent.
METHOD	On-farm or licensed processor, as with other meat livestock.
STORAGE	Fresh in the fridge a few days; freezes well for months.

06 Compatibility & considerations

GOOD WITH Other goats (herd animals) Land needing weed/scrub control	AVOID KEEPING WITH Being kept alone Unsecured toxic plants nearby	NOTE Excellent for clearing weedy or scrubby land as part of the production cycle — a useful dual role.
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