

**MEAT GOAT NOTES****No.1 - 2014**

## **Consider Breeding Your Does to Target Ethnic Holidays Where Goat Meat Is Part Of The Traditional Holiday Feast**

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As our major meat goat market is ethnic-based, the following calendar should help producers make decisions on their farms, such as breeding and finishing schedules, to better target these different ethnic populations and the class and type of animals they most desire (age, weight, sex, etc). By paying attention to these Holidays where goat meat is part of the traditional feast, goat producers should be able to increase their returns, as it is well known that goat prices increase around these Holidays because of increased demand for goat meat.

### **Western or Roman Easter**

Type of goat wanted - Fleshy, milk fed kids with relatively light colored meat, 3 months old or younger. Kids weighing less than 20 lbs are generally disappointing to buyers due to low meat to bone ratios and high carcass drying losses. Kids gaining less than 10 lbs per month or 1/3rd pound per day after accounting for birth weight are generally not fleshy enough to be considered prime. There generally is a slight price (per lb of live weight) penalty for kids weighing over 40 lbs. Acceptable weights generally range from 20 to 50 lbs with 30 lbs considered optimum by most buyers.

### **Eastern or Greek Easter**

Type of goat wanted - Similar to Western Easter kids. A slightly larger milk fed kid (i.e. around 35 lbs) is considered optimum.

**Start of Ramadan (Muslim)** - can vary by a day depending on the actual sighting of the moon over the United States that year

Type of goat wanted - male and female kids with all their milk teeth (i.e. not older than @ 12 months). Males can be whole or castrated. Overly fat kids are discriminated against. Optimum live weight is about 60 lbs but weaned kids from 45 - 120 lbs. are accepted by different buyers.

**Id al Fitr (Muslim)** - The Festival of the Breaking of the Ramadan Fast.

Type of goat wanted - same as for Ramadan.

**Id al Adha (Muslim)** - The Islamic Festival of Sacrifice.

Type of goat wanted - Prefer yearlings (i.e. animals with one set of adult teeth) that are blemish free. Animals with broken horns, open wounds, torn ears or physically unsound generally do not meet the criteria. In some cases, castrated animals or lambs with docked tails are frowned upon.

**Other Holidays** when goat meat is commonly consumed include Christmas, the July 4th weekend, and the numerous Caribbean holidays in August - Carnival, Carifest, Jamaican Independence Day, etc.

The Christmas market is for milk-fed kids. These types of kids are rare, because these kids must be produced by out-of-season breeding in May for October kiddings. Kids as light as 18 lbs are readily accepted and quality control is generally not as exacting as on Easter kids.

Goats for July 4th weekend are animals suitable for barbecue, generally cabrito kids or young bucks, does, and wethers with 1 or no sets of adult teeth.

Optimal goats for the Caribbean holidays are young, smelly 60 lb bucks. However, older animals of all sexes are often in demand and customers may prefer to buy them rather than pay the extra price for prime young bucks.

The Chinese market for goat according to Frank Pinkerton, PhD, is "limited to the six colder months. The preferred weight range is 60 to 80 pounds live, and goats in good health are required."

The Hispanic market for goat is for 20 to 35 lb live weight milk-fed kids for cabrito, and larger animals for seco de chivo.

## **Explanation of Holidays**

### ***Muslim Holidays***

Ramadan is the ninth month of the year in the Islamic calendar. A fast, held from sunrise to sunset, is carried out during this period.

Eid-al-Fitr is a festival that ends the fast of Ramadan. In Arabic "Eid" means "festival" or "festivity." It is a festival of thanksgiving to Allah for enjoying the month of Ramadan. It involves wearing finest clothing, saying prayers, and fostering understanding with other religions.

Eid-al-Adha is second in the series of Eid festivals that Muslims celebrate. It concludes the Hajj and is a three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah (God).

Muharram is the first month for the Muslim year. Its first day is celebrated as New year's Day.

Mawlid al-Nabi is a celebration of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

*While the two Eid Festivals are always on the same day of the Islamic calendar, the date on the Western calendar (the Gregorian calendar) varies from year to year due to differences between the two calendars, as the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar and*

*the Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar. Furthermore, the method used to determine when each Islamic month begins varies from country to country. Future dates listed are only estimates.*

*Muslims come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds: South Asia, South Central Asia, Arab, and African American.*

### ***Jewish Holidays***

Passover is a holiday beginning on the 14th of Nisan (first month of the religious calendar, corresponding to March–April) and traditionally continuing for eight days, commemorating the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt. Also called *Pesach*.

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. It is marked by solemnity as well as festivity.

Chanukkah is the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights. It is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev.

*Jewish holidays are celebrated on the same day of the Jewish calendar every year, but the Jewish year is not the same length as a solar year on the Gregorian calendar used by most of the western world, so the date shifts on the Gregorian calendar.*

### ***Christian Holidays***

Easter is a Christian feast commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion. The Orthodox Eastern Church calculates Easter somewhat differently, so that the Orthodox Easter usually comes several weeks after that of the West.

*Eastern Orthodox Christians come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds: Greek, Russian, Egyptian, Romanian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Armenian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Albanian, Ethiopian, Syrian, and American.*

## Ethnic Holiday Calendar 2014 - 2018

Holiday	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Chinese New Year	31 Jan	19 Feb	8 Feb	28 Jan	16 Feb
Mawlid al-Nabi/ Prophet's Birthday	13 Jan	23 Dec	14 Dec	1 Dec	21 Nov
Western Roman Easter	20 Apr	5 Apr	27 Mar	16 Apr	1 Apr
Eastern Orthodox Easter	20 Apr	12 Apr	1 May	16 Apr	8 Apr
Passover/Pesah	15-22 Apr	4-11 Apr	23-30 Apr	11-18 Apr	31 Mar-7 Apr
Start of Ramadan/ Month of Fasting	28 Jun	18 Jun	6 Jun	27 May	16 May
Eid al-Fitr/ Festival of Fast Breaking	29-31 Jul	18-21 Jul	7-9 Jul	26-28 Jun	15-15 Jun
Rosh Hashanah	24-25 Sep	4-5 Sep	3-4 Oct	21-22 Sep	10-11 Sep
Eid al-Adha/ Festival of Sacrifice	4-7 Oct	23-26 Sep	11-14 Sep	1-4 Sep	22-25 Aug
Muharram/Islamic New Year	25 Oct	14 Oct	2 Oct	20 Sep	10-11 Sep
Chanukkah or Hanukkah	17-24 Dec	7-14 Dec	12 Dec- 1 Jan	13-20 Dec	3-10 Dec
Christmas	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec

Source: [www.interfaithcalendar.org/index.htm](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/index.htm)