

History of the American Boer Goat Association

The development of the Boer goat in the early 1900's can be traced to the Dutch farmers of South Africa. Boer is a Dutch word meaning farmer. With meat production setting the selection criteria, the Dutch farmers developed the Boer goat as a unique breed of livestock. The Boer goat has a rapid growth rate, excellent carcass qualities and is highly adapted to different environments.

Through the subsequent decades of selective breeding, the Boer goat gained its genetic superiority and nobility, laying the foundation for what is today's American Boer goat.

The first full-blood Boers were brought into the United States in 1993, the same year the American Boer Goat Association was formed. Since that time a tremendous amount of interest in breeding Boer and Boer influence goats has exploded in the United States.

The Boer goat is commonly a goat with a white body and a red head. Docile, high fertility and a fast growth rate are some of the traits that set the Boer goat apart in the purebred and commercial segments of the American meat goat industry. Mature Does can weigh between 190- 230 lb and mature Boer bucks can weigh between 200 – 340 lb.



The demand for high quality, lean, healthy red meat is the one of the underlining forces behind the development of the American meat goat industry. With an eager base of ethnic consumers, the demand for goat meat continues to grow in the United States each year. The importation of goat meat into the United States is estimated over 30 million dollars annually.

Today, the American Boer Goat Association offers a variety of opportunities in marketing, education, commercial industry and youth. The American Boer Goat Association is the largest Boer association in the world with membership over 7,000 annually. The association registers over 45,000 head annually. The total meat goat industry value is estimated between 150 million to 400 million dollars annually.

From a small beginning in 1993, the impact of the Boer goat has significantly changed the American meat goat industry. Discover your opportunity with the American Boer Goat Association...

American Fullblood Classification

Fullblood Does and Bucks



From the first imports into the United States in the early 1990s , Fullblood Boers have played a large role in the growth of the American Boer Goat Association and the meat goat industry. In the early 1990s, Fullblood Boer goats were imported into the United States from countries such as New Zealand, and then later directly from South Africa. The Fullbloods became the genetic base for future generations as well as the improvement of the native goats within the United States.

The foremost level of genetics with ABGA herdbooks is the Fullblood classification. Fullblood Boer goats are required to originate from 100% fullblood parents either imported or American born from imported genetics. Fullbloods are enrolled into the ABGA herdbook as 100% Boer genetics. Fullbloods also qualify for the American Boer Goat Association's Sanctioned Show Program and Ennoblement Points System.

American Purebred Classification

The American Purebred classification encompasses a wide range of percentages for does and bucks. The American Purebred genetics are used in many different applications and environments. Commercial producers use Boer bucks to improve the carcass and growth capacity of their native goat herds. Other producers use the American Purebred genetics as methods to infuse improved traits into their herds.

The American Purebred herdbook is grouped into two classifications by percentage of the individual animal. This grouping or classification determines the level, award program and sanctioned show eligibility for the animal. The American purebred group applies to does and bucks under the following:



- Does between 93.7 percent up to 99.9 percent are eligible for an American Purebred registration.
- Does from the American Purebred classifications are eligible to produce registered offspring.
- Does between 93.7 percent up to 99.9 percent are eligible to show in Fullblood classes under the ABGA sanctioned show program.
- Bucks between 96.8 percent up to 99.9 are eligible for American Purebred registration.
- Bucks from the American Purebred classification are eligible to produce registered offspring.
- Bucks between 96.8 percent up to 99.9 are eligible to show in Fullblood classes under the ABGA sanctioned show program.

American Percentage Classification



The American classification encompasses a wide range of percentages for does and bucks. The American Purebred genetics are used in many different applications and environments. Commercial producers use Boer bucks to improve the carcass and growth capacity of their native goat herds. Other producers use the American Purebred genetics as methods to infuse improved traits into their herds.

The American herdbook is group into two classifications by percentage of the individual animal. This grouping or classification determines the level, award program and sanctioned show eligibility for the animal. The percentage group applies to does and bucks under the following:

- Does between 50 percent up to 93.6 percent are eligible for a percentage registration
- Does from the percentage classification are eligible to produce registered offspring.
- Does between 50 percent up to 93.6 percent are eligible to show in percentage classes under the ABGA sanctioned show program.
- Bucks between 50 percent up to 96.7 are eligible for a record of pedigree.
- Bucks between 50 percent up to 96.7 can't produce registered offspring.
- Bucks between 50 percent up to 96.7 can't show under the ABGA sanctioned show program.