Cuts of a Meat Goat

- Neck
- Shoulder
- Leg
- Loin
- Rib
- Hindshank
- Flank
- Breast
- Foreshank
Judging Goats

Major attention should be given to size (growth indicator), soundness, length, and muscling when selecting does and market goats. All goats should be able to move free and easy, and be free of any mouth disorders.

- **Structural Correctness**
  - Head should be erect and the neck should extend out of the top of the shoulders
  - Travel and stand wide and straight on both front and rear legs, and the legs should be placed squarely under the body
  - Strong level top, and a long rump with a slight slope from hooks to pins
  - Heavy boned and strong on pasterns

- **Muscle**
  - Generally, the wider the stance, the more muscle
  - Examine the loin, rump, fore-quarters, and hind-quarters for shape and dimension
  - Deep, heavily muscled leg and rump
  - Widest part of the leg should be the stifle area, when viewed from behind
  - Broad, thick back and loin that is firm and hard handling
  - Wide through chest floor, with bold shoulders and a prominent forearm muscle

- **Volume and Capacity**
  - Relationship of body length to body depth and body width
  - Long bodied, with adequate depth and spring of rib

- **Style/Balance**
  - Eye appeal of all body parts and how they blend together
  - Blending of neck into the shoulder, the shoulder into the rib cage, the rib cage into the loin, the loin into the rump

- **Finish/Condition**
  - Amount of fat present

- **Growth**
  - Reflection of the overall skeleton size and development

- **Confirmation**
  - Combination of structural correctness and muscling which refers to the frame and shape of the animal
Goat Judging Terminology

Skeletal Correctness

**Advantages**
- Tracks wider and truer in front/rear
- Exhibits more style and correctness when traveling
- More desirable slope to the shoulder
- More correct/desirable set to the pasterns
- Neck blends more smoothly into the shoulders
- More fluid/flexible stride
- Smoother, cleaner through the shoulders
- More nearly level from hooks to pins
- More width between the fore/rear legs
- Legs placed more squarely under the body
- More desirable size/number of teats
- More structurally correct on its feet and legs
- Straighter/more correct in the foreleg when viewed from the side
- Greater length and extension through the front end
- Appears to offer more future growth and outcome
- Appears to be faster growing
- More overall dimension and capacity
- Broad through the chest floor
- More circumference of heart
- More substance of bone
- Squarer on its feet and legs
- Truer tracking
- Deeper in the heart girth
- More angle to the shoulder
- More functional udder
- Stronger and more level in its topline
- More correct bite
- Longer, freer striding
- Larger framed
- Larger, growthier
- More size and scale
- Wider chested

**Criticisms**
- Shoulder blades set tighter against the chest wall
- Short, tight strides off both ends
- Restricted in its movement
- Less future and outcome
- Narrow through the chest floor
- Pinched behind the shoulders
- Sharp over the rack
- Parrot Mouthed
- Monkey Mouthed
- Weak topped
- Weak on its pasterns
- Hocks in
- Splays out/toes out in front
- Steep rumped
- Post legged
- Sickle hocked
- Straight shoudered
- Small framed
- Quick patterned
- Narrow gauged
- Narrow chested
- Frail
Muscle

**Advantages**
- More expressively muscled
- Thicker topped
- More muscle expression in shoulder/forearm loin/rump/leg
- More uniform width from hooks to pins
- More volume of muscle
- More natural thickness
- Thicker in loin/lower leg
- Wider tracking
- Thicker, squarer rump/hip
- More forearm muscling
- Deeper through the twist
- Wider from stifle to stifle
- Heavier muscled
- Meatier topped

**Criticisms**
- Light muscled
- Flat legged
- Flat/narrow loin
- Tapered into lower leg
- Narrow tracking
- Tapers from hooks to pins

Balance

**Advantages**
- More style and balance
- Cleaner patterned
- Nicer balanced
- More eye appealing
- Nicer profiling
- Smoother
- More level top/hip/rump
- Squarer hip/rump

**Criticisms**
- Coarse
- Steep hipped/rumped
- Poorly balanced
- Weak topped

Volume

**Advantages**
- Deeper ribbed
- More opened up in her rib
- Longer, deeper bodied
- More spring of rib
- Big ribbed
- Big bodied
- More capacious
- Higher volume
- Bolder sprung
- Broody made doe
- Higher weight per day-of-age

**Criticisms**
- Flat ribbed
- Tight ribbed
- Least rib shape
- Constricted in the fore rib
- Short bodied
- Shallow bodied
- Early maturing
- Lower weight per day-of-age
Femininity

**Advantages**
- Exhibits more femininity through the front end
- More femininity through the head, neck, and shoulder
- Blends smoother through the neck-shoulder junction
- Smoother blending through the front end
- Blends smoother from shoulder to fore rib
- Longer, cleaner necked
- More angular fronted

**Criticisms**
- Coarse fronted
- Coarse shouldered
- Too masculine
- Wasty fronted
- Short necked

Handle/Finish

**Advantages**
- Freshest handling
- Most correct in his/her finish
- Most uniform in his/her finish

**Criticisms**
- Stalest handling
- Dry/sharp handling over rack/loin
- Harsh handling
National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

November 17, 2015

Boer Goat Does

Rank these does in the order they should be selected as potential replacements for a purebred Boer goat herd in the southern U.S. Primary income is derived from the sale of breeding stock (bucks and does) to commercial producers. Fifteen percent of female progeny will be kept as replacements. The remainder of the progeny will be fed out and marketed to various ethnic markets at a variety of final weights.

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Contemporary average 46 72
National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

November 15, 2016

Boer Goat Does

Rank these does in the order they should be selected as potential replacements for a purebred Boer goat herd in the southeast U.S. Primary income is derived from the sale of breeding stock (bucks and does) to commercial producers. Fifteen percent of female progeny will be kept as replacements. The remainder of the progeny will be fed out and marketed to various ethnic markets at a variety of final weights.

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Contemporary average 46 72
Example Market Goat Reasons

I like the Market Goats 1243.

When first analyzing this class, it breaks into two pairs where 1 and 2 just rise to the top of the class. They are the wide chested, stout forearmed, product oriented wethers that should rail the most total pounds of product. But within this pair, I sided with edge of skeletal width found in one. He’s dimensional over his rack and down his top, and progresses to the stoutest pin set and thickest lower leg. Now, certainly I’d like to see him set squarer from hock to ground, and 4 corrects that problem and is still super shapely. But, he’s just one that narrows up underneath compared to 1.

But still in my middle pair he’s the wider made, bolder sprung wether which lays the foundation for him to open up with more shape over his rack and loin and more circumference of leg. Now certainly 4 is a tall shouldered, long fronted wether. But when studied for genuine width and rib shape, the flatter ribbed 4 gets out powered by the expression found in 2.

But still its fundamental meat animal shape and structural width that keeps 4 over 3. He is the wider, stouter made wether who is wider over his rack and loin, and stouter out of his hip and leg. He just offers more product and should be more profitable on the rail. Now, certainly 3 is one you appreciate for being extended. But, he’s the narrowest built, lightest muscled wether who needs to have more muscle and expression to move up in this class.

This class splits into pairs quite easily. 3 and 4 are clearly the wider built better designed and heavier muscled options. In this pair, 3 just excels the pair in terms of being the shallowest and roundest ribbed. He is also the absolute heaviest muscled being the widest chested. Also from above he has the most shape down his top. Now the paint goat lays his shoulder smoother onto his body, longer hipped, and appears to have the more attractive hind leg set. However he doesn’t appear to have the total volume of muscle as the class winner.

The middle pair is simple. 4 is simply stouter bone and bigger footed and heavier muscled from every angle. Primarily being stouter hipped and more shapely through his lower stifle. 2 is certainly the absolute longest bodied, and offers a nice look from profile, and is really level made. From behind though, he appears to be the narrowest pinned, and flattest through his lower leg that’s why he must stay in the final pair.

The bottom pair can have a little debate, but 2 is simply the higher cutability, leaner wether. He is more tucked up in his chest, shallower bodied, and is stronger patterned as well. I do understand that 1 appears to be more massively muscled, but he is extremely plain in his muscle shape, the frailest boned, and extremely weak on his rear pasterns so he is last.
Breeding Does

I ranked the breeding does 2-1-3-4. I started with the two powerfully constructed, high volumed does of the class. Of the pair, I prefer 2's balance and attractiveness to place her over 1.

The black headed doe is longer bodied and longer through her head and neck. When viewed from the side, she is more correctly balanced, being especially deeper in her flank and rear rib. As an added bonus she is longer and freer striding. The 1 doe certainly shows more volume of muscle through her lower and outer leg, yet she is more masculine in her look, having a coarser head and neck.

Nevertheless, 1's advantages in capacity and muscle places her over 3. The red kneed doe is especially wider through her chest and lower skeleton and shows a more prominent turn to a deeper rib. At the same time, she is the meatier topped doe that is wider through her hip and leg, while also exhibiting a more powerful forearm. I understand 3 stands squarer off of her hind legs, but she is flat ribbed and tapers through her hip and leg.

Even so, 3's structural correctness sorts her over four in my final pair. The red legged doe is more nearly level down her top and out of her hip. She blends smoother through her neck-shoulder junction. When set in motion, 3 is the truer tracking doe that is stronger on her pasterns. Recognizing that 4 is a wider made doe, I still marked her fourth as she is weak on her pasterns and easy in her top.