

MEAT GOAT Terminology

By Judy Kaye

As meat goats become more widely accepted in the livestock market industry, I have found that people feel self-conscious on how to talk about them. Each species has its own "language" and goats do too. Here are some goat terms to help you become more familiar. I encourage you to keep it simple and when all else fails use the term you are most comfortable with for your species. It is far easier to translate that to goats than for you to get flustered about not knowing the exact term.

Gender

Billy or Buck: Male intended for breeding. Term varies by region. Show stock breeders prefer Buck.

Doe or Nanny: Female goat over a year of age. Term varies by region. Show stock breeders prefer doe.

Buckling: Young fertile male up to two years old

Doeling: Young female up to two years old

Dam: Doe who has produced offspring

Sire: Buck who has produced offspring

Wether: castrated male

Horns

Dehorned: Goat who has had its horns cut off

Disbudded: Goat who has had the hornbuds removed, typically burned off. This is usually done around 2 weeks of age.

Horned: Goat has horns that have not been removed. Most common on breeding goats.

Scurs: Horns that have been disbudded, but have grown back. Typically most fairs will not allow scurs longer than 2". Check your rule books.

Tipped: Horns that have been flattened at the ends so they are not sharp or pointed.



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Carcass

Market Ready: USDA Prime or Choice quality with 12th rib back fat range:

.08 - .12 most desirable

.12 - .22 back fat acceptable

average or greater confirmation and cutability.

Not Market Ready: Good or lower quality grade with 12th rib backfat range: <.08 or >.22; underfinished goats grading USDA good or lower, below average confirmation or cutability.

Other

Brace or Drive: When the goat pushes so his muscles feel firmer. Front feet must be on the ground.

Breeder: Owner of the doe at the time of conception.

Britch: Goat term for twist. Area from anus down to split of legs evaluated for muscle thickness.

Milk Teeth or Kid teeth: First set of teeth goat gets; usually last for a year. They must be present to show in most market shows.

Pigment: This is the coloring of the skin under the tail. It should be dark in color.

Registered

Fullblood: 100% Boer goat

Purebred: Is bred up from a Cross/Percentage bred 94%, 97%, 99%. A purebred will never be a Fullblood.

Percentage: Is a cross bred goat. Percentages are described by the amount of Boer 50%, 75% or 88% Boer.

Grade or Commercial: Not registerable; heritage unknown; produce market wethers; used as recipient does.

Colors

Traditional: Red head, neck, with a white blaze

Red Head: All red head

Big Caped: Red neck extends past the shoulder

Black Hood: The head and neck are black

Red: Entire animal is red/brown

Black: Entire animal is black

White: Entire animal is white

Paint: Animal is either red/brown/black with white markings

Red Hipped/Red Pants: White body with a red marking on the hip or rear end

Belted: Solid Red or Black with a white belt around the middle

Spotted: Big round spots covering the animal, usually light spots on solid

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

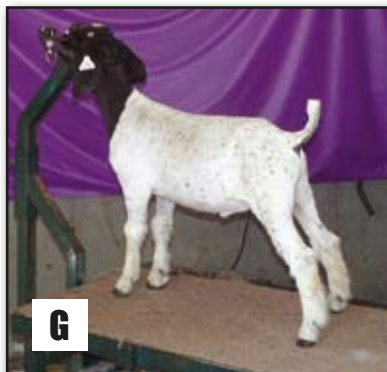
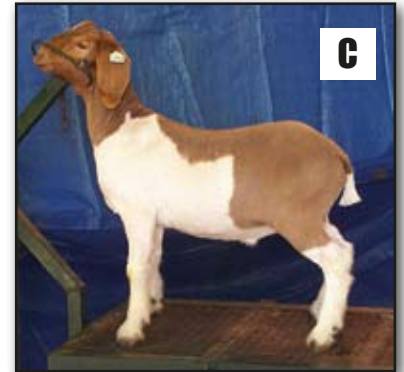
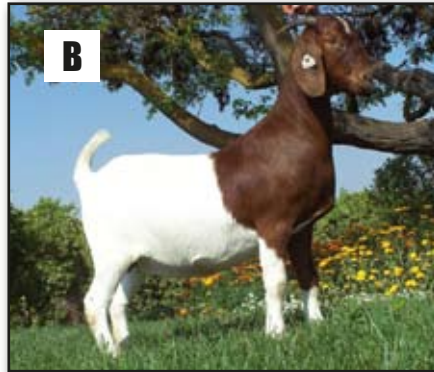
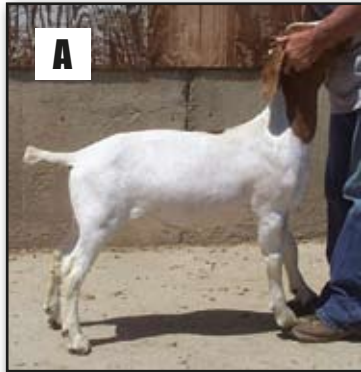


Color Patterns

Since goats are often unique in their markings, it is helpful and sounds knowledgeable to use their markings when you are talking about them. This would be especially true when giving oral reasons. Except for "Cape" which is a big marking that covers

the neck and onto the shoulder, the other terms are very straightforward. Just call 'em as you see 'em!

For the purpose of illustrating some common markings, and for fun, here is a matching game for you to do. Match the numbered color/markings to the letter on the photos.



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*For information on these shows,
contact Judy Kaye*

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1 ABGA Show

*For information on this show,
contact Iris Lerena*

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- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Black _____ | 7. Red head _____ |
| 2. Red _____ | 8. Big Caped _____ |
| 3. White _____ | 9. Spotback _____ |
| 4. Black hood _____ | 10. Belted Paint _____ |
| 5. Black hocks _____ | 11. Paint _____ |
| 6. Red leg _____ | 12. Red tail _____ |

Quiz answers are on page 60.

Showing trends in different regions dictate that only traditionally marked or solid white goats are acceptable; for some reason dark solids and paints are dumped. I prefer to be color blind and choose the animal that combines the best structure, rib shape, muscle and condition. All goats are the same color once you take the hide off, and this is a meat animal. The focus should be on the carcass, not the color of the hair.

To the other extreme, some people breed exclusively for color. The "hot" color right now is spotted goats. Anytime you select for a single characteristic, you give up all the other good things you may have developed in your breeding program.

If you have a question you would like to ask, do not hesitate to send me an email: wrr@jps.net. Or checkout my website: www.whiterailranch.com.

PS



HAVE YOU BEEN READING? — ANSWERS

*Answers to the Goat
Identification Quiz on Page 36:*

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. D | 4. G | 7. F | 10. J |
| 2. K | 5. I | 8. B | 11. C |
| 3. E | 6. L | 9. A | 12. H |

