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Goat production handbook



Published by:
The Ministry of Agriculture and Goat Breeders Society of Jamaica

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Designed and Produced by the:
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Published by:
The Ministry of Agriculture and Goat Breeders Society of Jamaica



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- **Goat Breeders Society of Jamaica**
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Selection

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Selecting the Right Goat

- **Select from a reputable producer.**
- **Select good milkers.**
- **Starters should not buy kids since they take long to be productive and might die.**
- **Purchase pregnant or lactating does.**
- **Do not purchase old does since their productive life might be short.**
- **Do not start with purebred - use native or crossbred unless you have experience of goat keeping and also a sufficient feed base.**
- **Purchase from herds free from diseases - ask for records.**
- **Check overall appearance - coat should be glossy, skin free of scabs, sore and dandruff.**
- **Avoid a fat doe as she may be a poor milk producer.**
- **Check for sound hooves and teeth.**
- **The animal should be representative of the breed, and in good health.**

The following characteristics must be taken into consideration

Skin:

Pliable with a smooth hair coat.

Feet:

These should be sound without cow hock, straight but not post legged or sickle hocked, no toe in or toe out, and with pasterns.

Mouth:

All front teeth should be intact, no undershot or overshot jaw.

Eyes:

Bright and alert.

Ears:

Characteristic of the breed.

Colour:

Characteristic of the breed.

Horns:

Polledness in males associated with, Hermaphroditism should be able to differentiate between disbudding and naturally polled.

Testicles:

Firm and well balanced.

Backline:

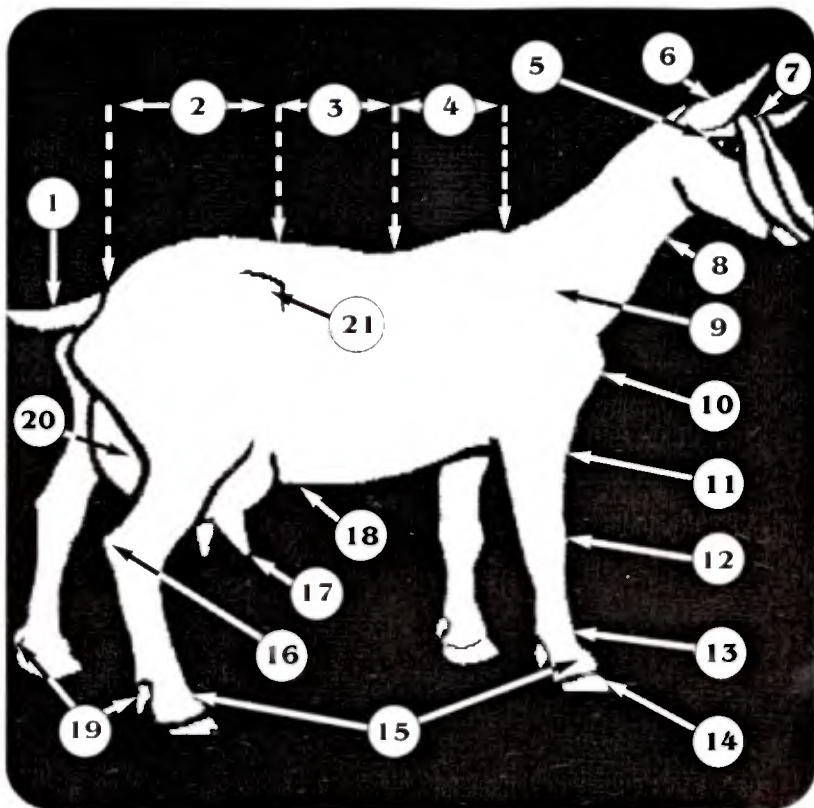
Straight with gently sloping rump.

Mammary Development:

Good with no supernumerary teats. It should not be pendulous or extending below the hocks-joint. Teats should be cone shaped and not bulb shaped. Udder should not be acutely halved.

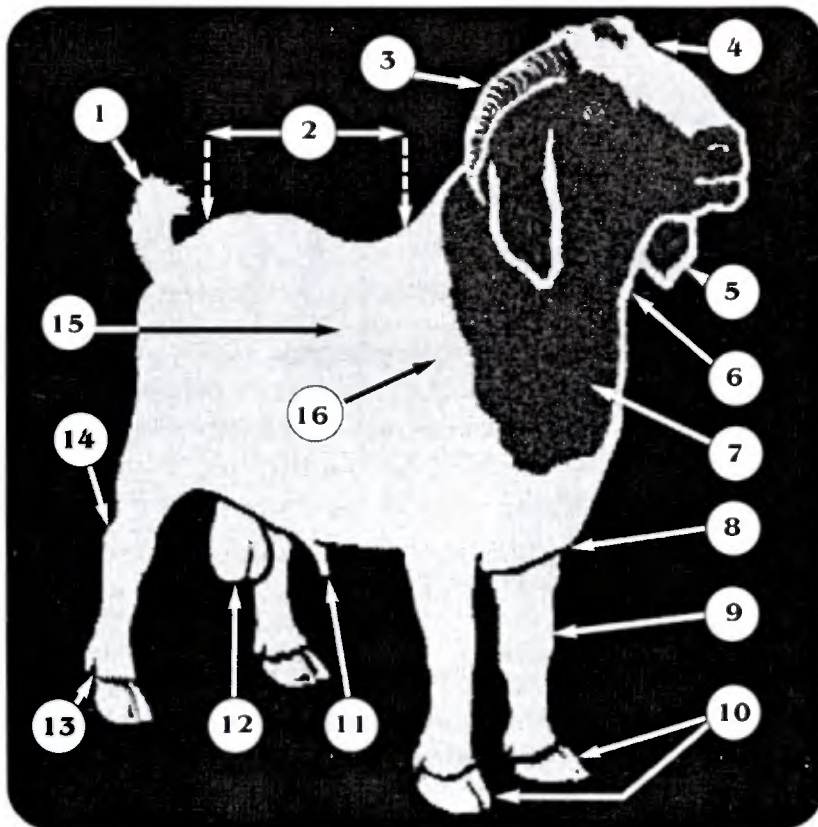
Head:

Balanced in length, width, depth, with broad muzzle ensuring ability to consume large amounts of forage.



The Points of a Good Doe

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Tail | 11. Forearm |
| 2. Rump | 12. Knee |
| 3. Loin | 13. Shank |
| 4. Chine | 14. Hoof |
| 5. Eye | 15. Pasterns |
| 6. Ear | 16. Hock |
| 7. Forehead | 17. Teats |
| 8. Neck | 18. Milk veins |
| 9. Shoulder | 19. Dewclaws |
| 10. Chest | 20. Udder |
| | 21. Hipbone |



The Points of a Good Buck

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Tail | 9. Knee |
| 2. Backline | 10. Hooves |
| 3. Horn | 11. Penis |
| 4. Forehead | 12. Testicles |
| 5. Ear | 13. Pasterns |
| 6. Neck | 14. Hock |
| 7. Chest | 15. Body (Ribs) |
| 8. Brisket | 16. Shoulder |

Determine the age of goats by its incisors

The teeth as shown in Figure x can estimate the age of the goat. Beware of purchasing goats with all its permanent teeth and never buy a goat with excessively worn or broken teeth.

3 months:

all temporary pinchers or "milk teeth"

9 to 15 months:

2 permanent teeth.

2 years:

4 permanent teeth.

3 years:

6 permanent teeth.

4 years or older:

8 permanent teeth.

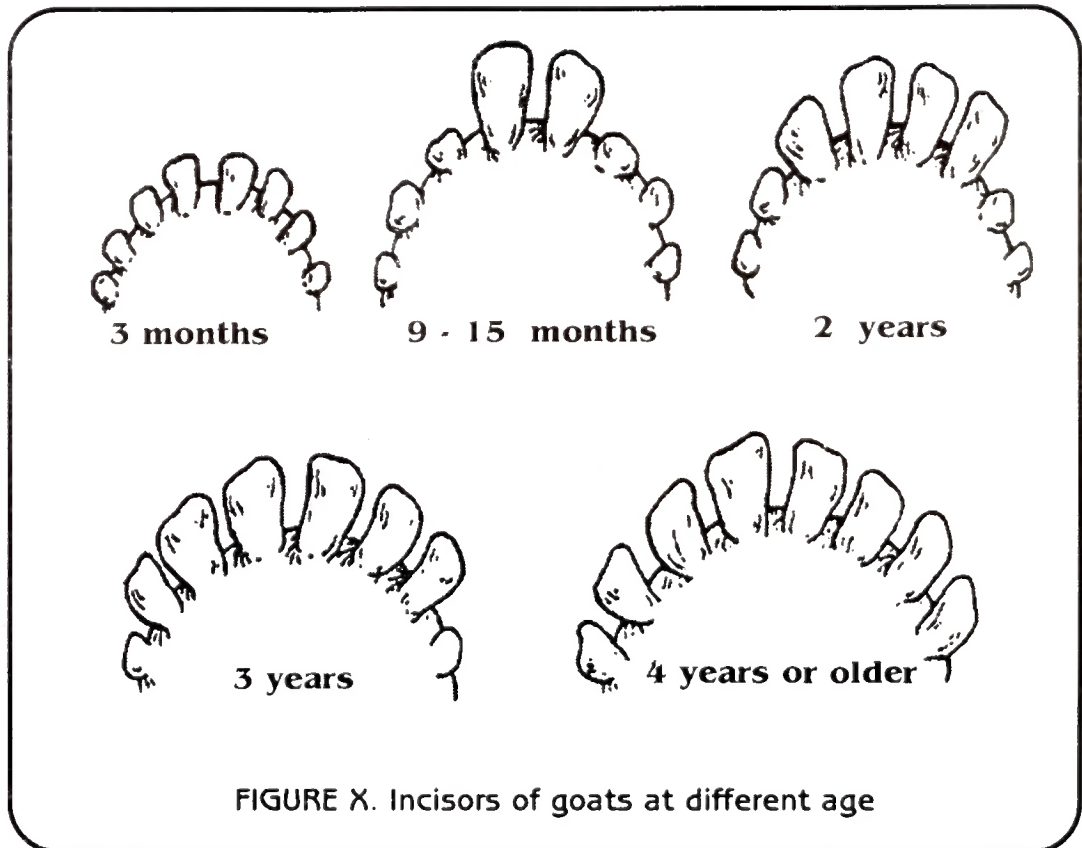


FIGURE X. Incisors of goats at different age

BREEDS AND BREEDING

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The Alpines were first introduced into Jamaica around 1945/46 from England. It is thought that the Alpines brought in from the USA in 1948 could be the French Alpine. It is however evident that both breeds are present in Jamaica.



Alpine