



# BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

## BABY FARM ANIMAL CELEBRATION: YOU'VE GOAT TO BE KIDDING ME!



This might sound a little silly, but did you know baby goats are called kids just like people? We call male goats bucks or billies. Does, the mother goats, have a gestation period of 150 days or 5 months. They typically have twins, but singles happen too. When does have kids, it's called kidding. Kids usually weigh between 4 and 8 pounds at birth. Goats have two halves to their udders, so they have two teats. They will come into their milk after their kids are born.

The amount of milk they produce depends on their breed. Dairy breed goats can produce up to 500 gallons of milk per lactation. Doe lactation {lactation is the time the doe is producing milk} is usually about 305 days, so that's 1.5 gallons a day at most! Kids can be weaned from their mothers as early as 2 weeks after birth to as long as 4 months. 4 months.

Kids will eat more than just their mother's milk. Goats are browsing animals meaning they will taste almost anything and decide to eat it or not. The myth that goats eat tin cans is false, but they may chew on it without swallowing. Goats and kids prefer to eat vines, shrubs, and weeds and unlike sheep, they prefer those to grasses. Goats can even eat some poisonous plants like nightshade and poison ivy!



# YOU'VE GOAT TO BE KIDDING ME!



At Billings Farm we have three goats. Dolly is a Nigerian Dwarf, Maid Marian is a mix of Alpine, Angora, Nigerian Dwarf, and Saanen, and Rory is an Alpine. All our goats are considered dairy breeds, but they have not been bred yet, so they don't produce milk.



Goats have a lifespan of 15-18 years and in that time, they get up to a lot of work! Some goats are used for dairy production, some are for meat, some for fiber, and some are used to land management. That's a versatile species!

# GOAT PRODUCTS

Nigerian Dwarf, Alpine, and Nubian goats are all dairy breeds. They produce milk that can be used for many different products. Goat milk is naturally homogenized meaning the cream does not separate. This quality makes goat milk excellent for making soaps and lotions. Goat milk can also be turned into cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream, and of course plain milk!



Angora and Cashmere goats are fiber breeds. These goats produce a fine, soft undercoat that can be combed out and used in clothing and yarn. Cashmere is 8x warmer than wool.

Boer, Savanna, and Texmaster goats are all meat breeds. These goats are raised to be eaten. 63% of the world's population eats goat meat though in the United States chicken and beef are consumed more often.

Goats are excellent at eating and because of that they can be used to manage land. Conservation grazing is the practice of letting a herd of goats clear the land of any unwanted vegetation. In California goats are used to clear the land of dry brush to keep forest fires under control.



# GOAT STATS!



Goat pupils are rectangular giving them 340-degree vision compared to humans with only 210.	Goats were tamed by people over 9,000 years ago!
There are 300 different breeds of goats.	Goats have a 4 chambered stomach just like cows.
Goats have 32 teeth on their bottom jaw.	The US has over 3 million goats.
Mountain goats can jump 12 feet in a single bound.	Angora goats produce 8-16 pounds of fiber every year.

# GOAT MATCHING GAME

Write the clue number next to the goat kid you think it matches!



Alpine



Nubian



Angora



Boer



Nigerian Dwarf

1. I have VERY small ears.
2. I'm brown and white and I'm one of the goats mentioned earlier as a meat breed.
3. I'm the same breed as Rory from Billings Farm!
4. My hair almost looks curly.
5. I have very long ears that hang down around my face.
6. I'm one of the smallest goats and I'm super cute as a kid!



Nubian

# ANSWER KEY

**Alpine** = I'm the same breed as Rory from Billings Farm!

**Angora** = My hair almost looks curly.

**Lamancha** = I have VERY small ears.

**Boer** = I'm brown and white and I'm one the goats mentioned early as a meat breed.

**Nigerian Dwarf** = I'm one of the smallest goats and I'm super cute as a kid!

**Nubian** = I have very long ears that hang down around my face.