



South African goat breeds: Angora goat

SCOPE: This Info-pack provides a brief description of the Angora goat breed.

KEY WORDS: Type, Origin, Description, Production, Products, Distribution, Numbers.

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Type

Mohair goat.



Photo: Gretha Snyman

Origin of the breed

The Angora goat originated in the district of Angora in Asia Minor. In 1838, a Colonel Henderson imported the first Angora goats to South Africa – a doe and 12 bucks. Six of the bucks died on board the ship, and the rest were infertile. Luckily the doe gave birth to a male kid. These two goats were taken to Caledon where they were used for upgrading with indigenous goats. Between 1857 and 1868, further Angora goats were imported with great effort, while more were imported later, before the sultan of Turkey prohibited any further exports. Angora goat numbers increased rapidly and in 1912 there were about 4.4 million Angora goats in SA. The industry had many ups and downs over the decades, mainly due to fluctuating mohair prices. The Angora Goat Breeders' Society was established in 1892 and is known today as the Angora Ram Breeders.

Description

The Angora is a small mohair goat. Both sexes are horned. The ears are heavy and drooping. The hair and body is white. An excess of colour in the horns, hooves, ears and the skin is not allowed.

The fleece should be uniform with regard to length and fineness, have a good lustre, solid style and good character, and be free from kemp or coloured fibres.



Photo: Hans Greeff

Production norms

Angora goat reproduction

Trait	Average
Does kidded / 100 does mated	80
Kids born / 100 does kidded	120
Kids born / 100 does mated	95
Kids weaned / 100 does mated	80

Angora goat weights and hair production

Trait	Average
Weight:	
Birth weight (kg)	3.2
Weaning weight (kg)	17.5
8-month weight (kg)	21.0
12-month weight (kg)	23.0
16-month weight (kg)	25.0
Adult doe weight (kg)	36.0
Adult kapater weight (kg)	36.0
Hair production:	
Kids 1 st shearing (kg)	0.7
Kids 2 nd shearing (kg)	1.1
Young goats (kg)	1.8
Adult does	3.6 – 3.8 kg per year (2 x shorn)
Adult kapaters	4.0 kg per year (2 x shorn)

Products

- Mohair - The most valuable characteristic of the Angora as compared to other goats is the value of its mohair. They produce a fibre with a staple length of between 12 and 15 cm every six months. Mohair is very similar to wool in chemical composition but differs from wool in that it has a much smoother surface and very thin, smooth scale. Consequently, mohair lacks the felting properties of wool. It is a strong fibre that is elastic, has considerable lustre, and takes dye very well.



Photo: Cologneandcotton.com

- Mohair products – Mohair is a luxury fibre and its main application is in the fashion world as designer menswear and ladies wear. It is also used in hand and machine knitwear, for socks, tracksuits, uniforms and raincoats. It is also used in household textiles, such as blankets and rugs, carpets and curtains.



Photo: Capemohair.co.za

- Meat - The meat is quite acceptable, particularly from young goats in good condition, and some people consider it a delicacy. The carcasses are characteristically thinner fleshed and the dressing percentages correspondingly lower than those of sheep that have been fed in a similar manner.

Normal production environment

Coastal bush veld to mixed sweet and sour bush veld.

Breed numbers

There are currently 44 Angora ram breeders registered with the Angora Ram Breeders society, and about 800 commercial producers. There are 644 000 Angora goats in South Africa, which produce 2.32 million kg of mohair annually.

References

This info-pack was compiled from various sources of information. The text may contain extracts from the following:

www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/breeds/goats/angora/
www.angoras.co.za