



## South African goat breeds: British Alpine

**SCOPE:** This Info-pack provides a brief description of the British Alpine goat breed.

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

**Recommended citation:** Snyman, M.A., 2014. South African goat breeds : British Alpine goat. Info-pack ref. 2014/003. Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute.

### Type

Milk goat.



Photo: Britishalpines.co.uk

### Origin of the breed

The British Alpine was developed in Great Britain in the early 1900s. The breed was developed from the Toggenburg, native British goats, and Nubian genetics. Between 1924 and 1934 six females and three males, all of them bred from excellent milkers, were imported to South Africa.

### Description

British Alpines are large, tall, rangy goats. The rangy frame of the breed makes it well suited to browsing, and it does well on a bulky fibrous diet. The facial line is straight or slightly dished.

The body of the British Alpine goat is black with white markings ('Swiss' markings). White facial stripes stretch from above the eyes to the muzzle, while the edges and tips of ears, legs from the hocks and knees downwards, and both sides of the tail are also white.

The skin is fine and supple. The female coat is generally short, fine and glossy. The udder should

be wide and deep, firmly attached to the body over a wide area at both the rear and at the front.

Teats should be a comfortable size for hand milking, slightly tapering and pointing downwards.

Males are larger and heavier than the females. The hair is usually longer and coarser than that of the female, especially on the face, shoulders and hind legs and facial stripes can become indistinct in mature males. He should have a masculine appearance. The goats can be with or without toggles.



Photo: Britishalpines.co.uk

### Production norms

The does are good milk producers. They also exhibit a tendency to good winter milking and have an extended lactation period.

Milk production: 2.0 kg/day

Milk fat: 3.2 - 3.8%

Milk protein: 2.7%

## Products

- Milk and milk products, such as a variety of hard and soft cheeses and yoghurt.
- Goats Milk Soap and Goats Milk Lotions.



Photo: Goats-cheese.co.za



Photo: Milkgoats.co.za



Photo: Runamukgoats.com



Photo: Thefarmersgoat.weebly.com

## Normal production environment

They are best suited to temperate climates and perform poorly in regions with high humidity.

## References

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

- [www.milkgoats.co.za/milkgoat\\_society](http://www.milkgoats.co.za/milkgoat_society)
- [www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/goats/britishalpine](http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/goats/britishalpine)
- [www.britishalpines.co.uk](http://www.britishalpines.co.uk)