

GOAT RAISING IN OREGON IS SUCCESS

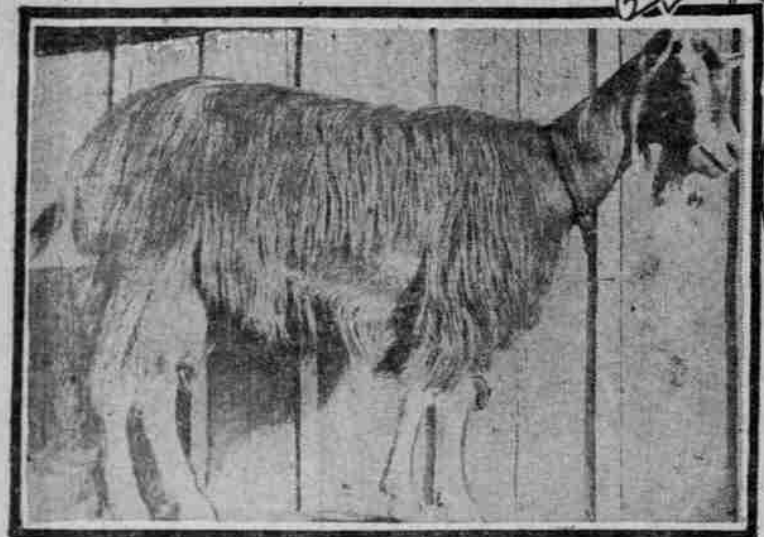
Many Breeders Engaging in Comparatively New Industry—Angoras Number 200,000, Milk Goats, 3000



Champion Angora Buck



Angora Breeding Doe



Toggenburg Milk Doe.



Saanen Milk Doe.



Nubian Milk Goat Buck.



Nubian Milk Goat Doe.

By A. C. Gage, Editor Angora and Milk Goat Journal, Secretary National Mohair Growers' Association.

GOAT-RAISING in Oregon has made definite progress in the past year. Not only have new herds been established, but sales of breeding stock to other states have been extended, with hitherto unequalled returns in cash to Oregon growers.

Both Angora goats and milk goats have increased in numbers. Dealing first with the fleece goats, or Angora species, which produce mohair, the number in the state has been estimated by W. R. Chapline Jr., chief grazing examiner of the forest service of the department of agriculture, as including nearly 200,000 animals.

Used principally for clearing land and keeping fence lines free of noxious weeds, there has been developed also a system of grazing on grain lands and fallow areas which has proved productive in a substantial way.

Illustrating this system, the experience of William Riddell & Sons at Monmouth, Or., may be related. They began some years ago to investigate results from running goats over fields after harvest. In an adjoining field of smaller extent they planted rape seed, which came strong in the fall. Alternating the goats on these fields they found that the following season showed increased yield of grain on acreage so handled.

In August, 1920, the writer went over the Riddell farms to observe the results secured. In one field, not "goated," the grain was less than 18 inches high and at harvest gave less than 14 bushels to the acre, average. Across the line fence, in a field where goats had been run, the grain was 50 to 60 inches high and yield was as great as 41 bushels to the acre.

Record Sales Made. U. S. Graun, president of the national Mohair Growers' association, has sent out of this state in the present year, from his farm at Dallas, 50 or more breeding sires, for which he received \$300 to \$500 per head.

John B. Stump & Sons, Monmouth, sold on September 22, 1920, a superior Oregon-grown Angora buck to O. Q. Marshall of Texas for \$2000, on telegraphic order.

At San Angelo, Tex., in June William Riddell & Sons exhibited a very fine sire, which was sold at \$1750, and was awarded prizes of \$250, making the value of the animal more than \$2000.

Eastern Oregon is beginning to recognize Angoras, several large herds being successfully established. Southern Oregon counties have considerable numbers, and the coast counties have been putting them on to greater extent. They find the abundant browse of Curry, Coos, Lane and Lincoln counties provides unlimited goat feed, with clearing accomplished by workers that do not strike and work nights and Sundays as well.

Mohair has been in bad position in the market this year, prevailing prices having slumped along with

wool. Growers, however, are holding their clip in many cases. The Eddyville pool of 30,000 pounds is stored in the warehouses of Clifford Brown, Salem, awaiting an upward turn in price. Albany and other centers have considerable stocks unsold.

Eugene is the center of quite a mohair-growing district, with nearly 200 goat owners in Lane county. Fabrics from mohair are manufactured in the Atlantic states and include fur trimmings, upholstery plushes, dress goods, men's suitings, auto tops, press cloth for oil extraction and varied other materials. It has great durability and is increasing in popularity.

There are two features that make Oregon-grown Angoras superior to those produced in other states. Climatic conditions make it possible to grow a longer staple and a bigger animal. Results of these two advantages are: Long staple enters into fabrication of ladies' switches, judicial and theatrical wigs and supplies head covering for literally millions of dolls; size and good body conformation of Oregon goats make them sought after by breeders in other states and account for the high prices paid.

Goat Men Organized. Organization of the Oregon Mohair Goat association at the state fair, 1919, has given impulse to the efforts of growers to extend the industry in Oregon. H. B. Steiner of Sikee, Curry county, is secretary.

Legislation is under consideration to be presented at the next session. Included in this remedial work as outlined, are revision of the law governing sale of goat meat, compulsory dipping, eradication of marauding animals, inspection by counties, preparation and marketing of goat hides.

Co-operation of state colleges and agricultural agents will be asked in the work of extending employment of Angora goats on the outcrop areas of the state.

Angora raising under good management holds good possibilities in Oregon. About the biggest recommendation a milk goat can get arises from the experience of mothers who have saved the lives of babies by using the milk of the goat. Neurotics, invalids and dyspeptics by scores have attested the value of the product. The point most people overlook, however, is that if it is good for sick folk it is equally good for well people.

The price of goat milk keeps it from general use. Forty cents a quart seems high compared with the 16 or 17 cents charged by the much-bettered dairymen who sell cow milk to the householder.

There are in Oregon about 3000 milk goats. Increasing numbers have been brought here from California and the southwest. One cannot easily escape the joke and the amusing badinage that has attached itself to the goat in the public mind. There is nevertheless a

serious, practical economic side to the question which merits consideration of all who use milk for any purpose. It makes ice cream of delicious quality; it exceeds other milk in content of butter fat; it is whiter than cow milk. Goat milk is not a carrier of the germ of tuberculosis. This has been positively decided by the United States government tests.

Misunderstood and unknown to city dwellers, except as the creature of vacant lots, starved, and the object of scorn and derision, the little milk goat has had a doubtful path to tread in her approach to popularity. It is yet only an approach, remember, because the milk goat is a novelty to most of us.

It is only 15 years or so since the real, aristocratic "nanny" made her debut in American domestic life. She was imported from Switzerland and the British isles. Such goats as were here prior to that time were scrub goats—no pride of birth and lineage.

Different Breeds Employed. Three principal breeds are employed in America—the Toggenburg, Saanen and Nubian. Switzerland provided

the first two breeds. England sent the first to bring milk goats to this state, built up from an oriental or African foundation.

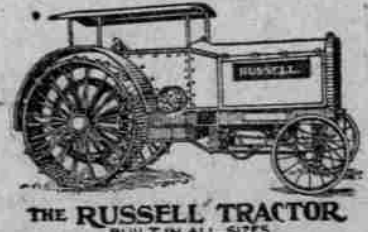
Three Swiss importations have come to the United States in the last year. The British Goat society has for many years maintained the purity of its breeding records.

In America there are more than 13,000 registered milk goats recorded in the two principal associations, the American Milk Goat Record association and the International Nubian Breeders' association. At the present ratio of increase their numbers will within a few years form a considerable part of the livestock population of America. They multiply freely, two and three at each kidding or lambing time. The period of lactation is from three to seven months, although individual goats have recorded a continuous flow of more than two years.

Professional men have been attracted to the milk goat from the evidence of its usefulness. Medical men particularly have advanced the business of goat-keeping by recommending the milk in their practice.

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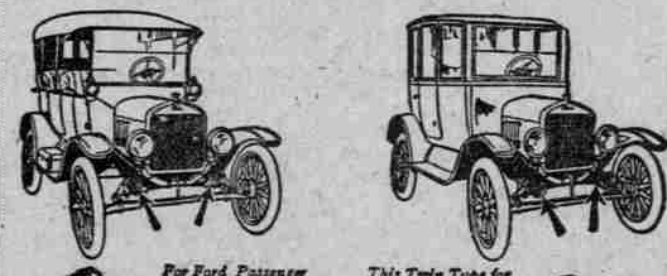
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Albert Teal of Falls City, one of the first to bring milk goats to this state, has found that average lactation yield of the goat is about two quarts, though some give over a gallon daily when fresh.

Cheese made from goat milk is produced along the Columbia river and by various growers of the state. Of these makers the most successful is perhaps Michael Montcalin, who has produced Roquefort from goat milk having all the excellence of the imported article.

Various commercial enterprises have sprung up in the last five years to handle the product of the milk goat, the most recent a goat dairy company, incorporated for \$5000, to deal in goats and their milk. Deliveries are made under city inspection, as with cow milk, and the herd includes about 150 animals.

The Oregon Milk Goat association has been organized with 50 members, who meet at Central library the 15th of each month. Thus milk goat keeping may be said to have passed the initial stages in Oregon, and it gives promise of becoming a recognized industry.



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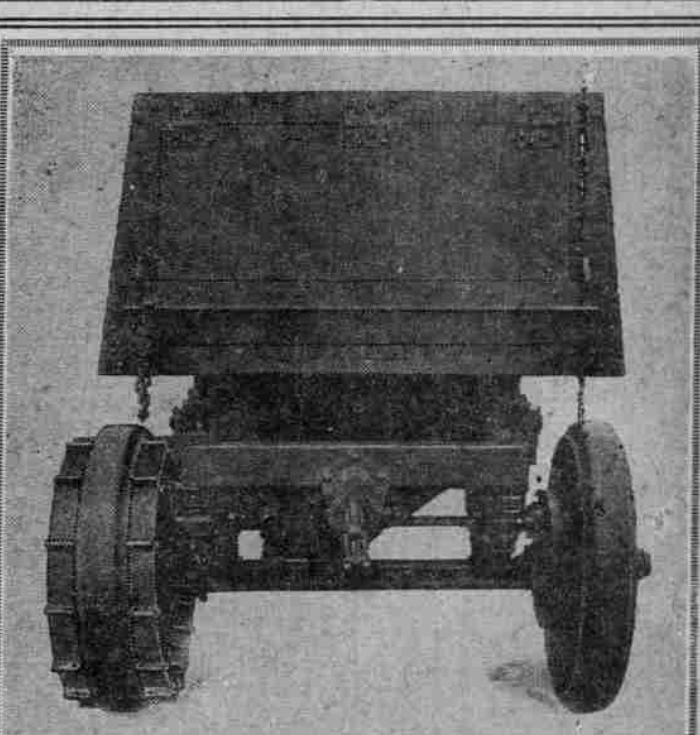
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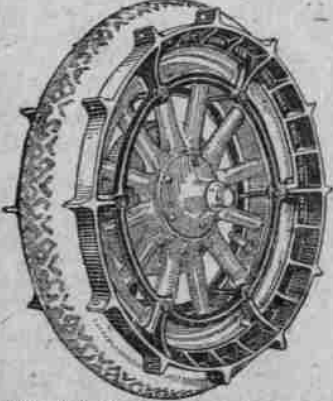
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