

# The Salem District Raises the Finest Angora Goats Produced in the World, and Our People Are Keeping More and More Milk Goats, and Still More Are Needed

## "THE CASE FOR THE GOAT IN OREGON," PRESENTED BY A. C. GAGE, PUBLISHER OF THE INDUSTRY'S PAPER

There Are 133,000 Goats In Oregon, and This State Has Been Producing Breeding Stock For Thirty Years, and It Is An Industry Yet In Its Beginnings — Six Million Yards of Mohair Plush Travel the Country As Covering For the Railway Sleeper Seats—The Growing Milk Goat Industry—A Doe That Gave Twenty-four And a Half Times Her Weight in Milk in a Year.

(The following article was kindly furnished to The Statesman for its Salem slogan issue on Goats by A. C. Gage, publisher of the Angora and Milk Goat Journal, an international publication devoted to goats, with headquarters in the Board of Trade building in Portland, Oregon. He is an authority on everything pertaining to goat breeding. The article follows:)

One hundred and thirty-three thousand goats in Oregon. This is the number accredited by the census, 1920. Less than in 1910, it must be conceded, but there are reasons.

Principal among the reasons is the lack of care given to goats as compared to sheep. In the years of pioneering with goats in Oregon, it was common to hear a farmer say, "Let them have the run of the timber and the slash-sides—they will take care of themselves." Even now some of the old-timers in Polk, Marion and Linn counties will argue this point with emphasis and conviction in favor of the non-herding system.

It is not the present purpose to discuss this item, but to indicate that the most successful Angora men have decided in favor of better care. Losses resulting from improper handling have caused numbers of Angora flocks to be abandoned.

Other flocks have been used in brushing, finished the job and been sold for meat or shipped out of the state. The prime importance of Angoras, at least in Oregon, is in helping the farmer to bring new acres under the plow. Ed Carey, Jersey cattleman and a

member of the legislature, says the best clearing he had ever had done was done by Angora goats. He had employed Russians, Italians and other races of men to slash and grub new land. His goats did the work better and more thoroughly, at the same time fertilizing the soil and growing a crop of hair.

Market conditions have given the industry a bump in the past year, along with the jolt in the sheep business, but the future of goat-raising in the northwest is not in doubt.

Perhaps the most needed effort in the interest of goats is an educative campaign to make the products of goat raising more widely known. There are almost endless lines of fabrics made of goat hair. It is used in wigs, both theatrical and judicial. Milady's collar often owes its beauty and lustrous quality to the fleece of the humble goat. From overcoatings to finest dress goods, the hair of the goat (mohair) is employed. Imitation fur trimmings, so near the reality of fur that they are often believed to be the pelts of animals, adorn the coat collars of fashionable women. Six million yards of mohair plush travel the country as covering for the railway sleeper seats.

One of the makers of this plush told the writer some years ago that the mohair plush gathers up the lint and dust from the clothing of travelers, and that the vacuum gets it at the end of the run. No other material so completely comes up to requirements. "We keep on experimenting," he added, "because if any other fabric

supplants mohair in this use, we want to be the ones to do the supplanting."

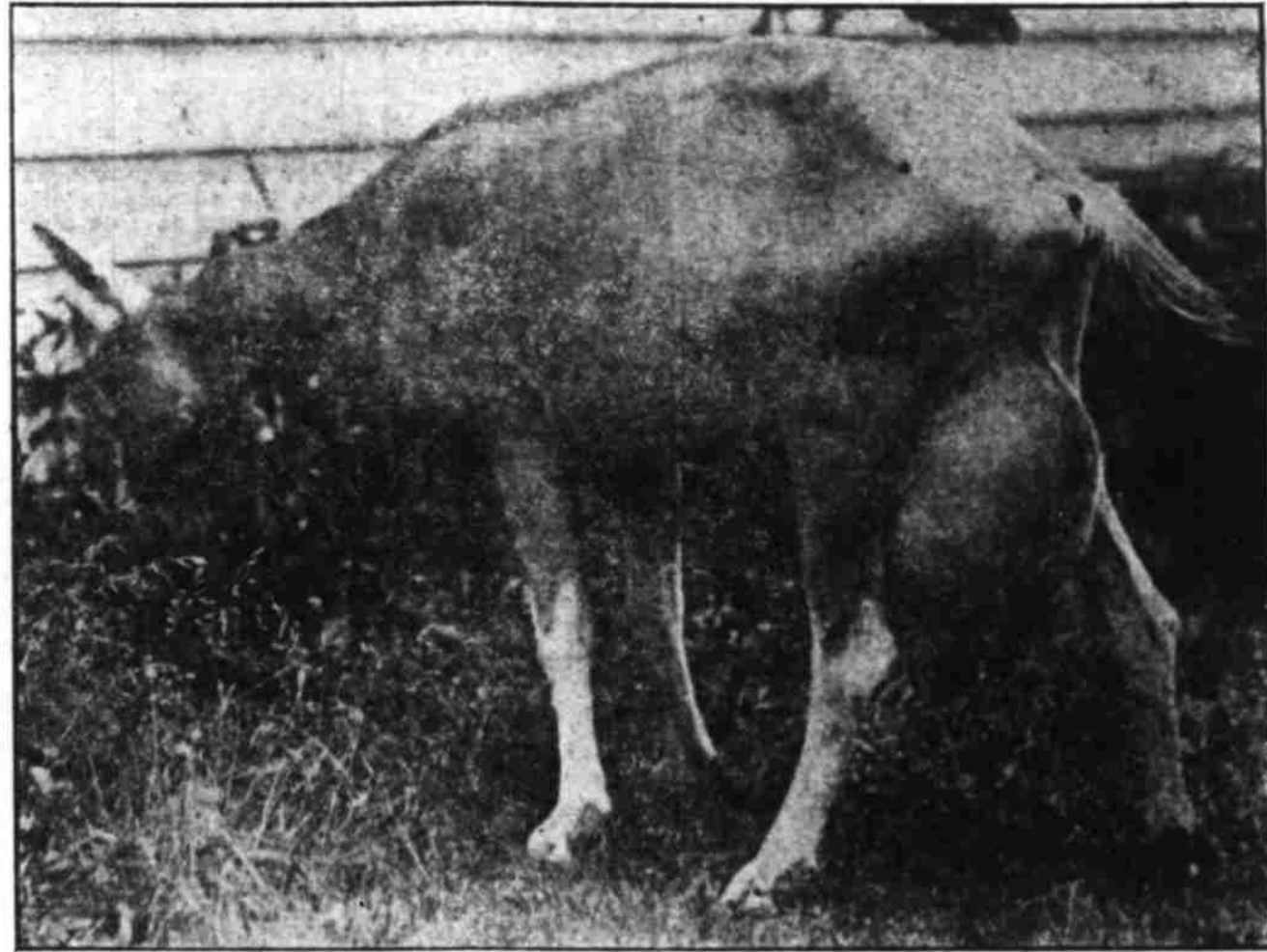
Oregon has been producing breeding stock for 30 years that is in demand from other mohair growing states. It is an industry yet in its beginnings and is capable of much increase on the cut-over areas of the northwest.

Milk goats have taken permanent place in Oregon. Salem has a number of creditable herds. Portland has a milk goat dairy and several smaller herds supply goat milk to consumers.

Goat milk is richer in butterfat than cow milk. The average goat will give probably one quart daily, but the selected animals often produce a gallon a day. There are individual goats which under sworn test and inspection have given daily yield of over 16 pounds (two gallons). The best recorded production of a milk doe shows 46½ pounds of milk in 341 days. This doe was owned by Winthrop Howland of Redlands, California. The figures are from the Angora and Milk Goat Journal, Portland, for March, 1921.

A doe owned by the University of California farm at Davis, Cal., gave twenty-four and one-half times her body weight of milk in one year, on official test records.

Bringing the milk goat into the scheme of domestic economy is one of the educative problems of the future in Oregon. The Oregon Milk Goat association is preparing resolutions asking the Oregon Agricultural college directors and faculty to establish a demonstration herd of milk goats at Corvallis.



Pure Bred Toggenburg Milk Goat.

with a lot more to boot. No farm should be without goats, as they are a labor saving animal. They destroy all kinds of weeds and thistles, keep the brush land cleared, which saves many dollars for hand labor of slashing, etc. Nothing is better for your stump land, as they keep the sprouts trimmed off the stumps, which has a tendency to cause decay, and within a few years the stumps can be easily removed.

Why not get the best of Angoras to do this work and save extra

expense and labor and see the big returns they bring net to you.

Some people think that the pure blood goats are more care than the common stuff, but that is a mistake, as I have raised both and know from my own experience. In lots of cases, I find that the kids are much stronger than in my flock of years ago, and that they do not require as much care when they are strong this way.

—W. D. GILLIAM.  
Dallas, Or., March 7, 1921.

and plays the part of a busy scavenger in holding down or cleaning up the Canada thistle and other obnoxious weeds and shrubs, deserves an honored place in the animal kingdom.

I have kept from 50 to 250 Angora goats for the past 43 years, and feel that I owe a few words of defense in behalf of this valuable animal, and a word of encouragement to my fellow farmers who have vine and brush land you wish to reclaim.

There is an unwarranted prejudice spread by careless or inexperienced farmers against the goat, stating that no fence will hold it; that it will go over any fence; that it will go over the top of a barn, and almost climb a tree; that it is so troublesome that it will not pay to keep it on your farm. Such talk as this coming from a farmer who has had goats, has intimidated many persons from giving the animal a fair chance, consequently thousands of acres of our fair state are yet in brush and worthless shrubs and vines that should have been for many years in cultivation, and have thus retarded the progress of our great state.

To the enemy of the goat may I ask you: Will the fence that holds your bull, hold your old hen and chickens; or will your poultry fence hold your bull? Will the fence that turns your hogs hold old Dobbin from the cornfield?

Some may say the goat is so destructive when he gets out! Yes, they are, but not more so than my cows or horses when they get into the cornfield or orchards. However, there is always someone ready to apologize for Bossie or the horse, but vengeance only for the goat.

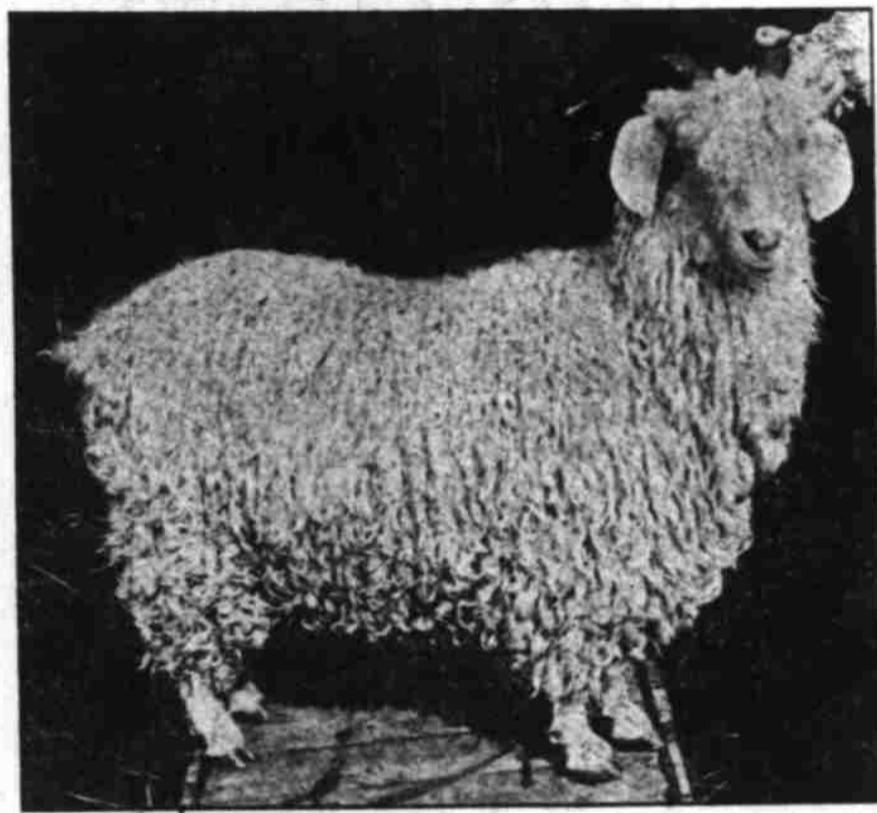
The resources from the Angora are semi-annual. The fleece, which brings from \$1.50 to \$5, according to the grade of the animal and demand for mohair. The increase of wethers affords the pelts for gloves and valuable rugs, while the flesh is healthful and not unlike venison.

Before concluding I shall venture to offer a few suggestions regarding proper fences and care of the animal.

The goat does not require as strong a fence as many other animals, but it must be perpendicular—yes straight up and down. My preference is a panel fence 16 feet long of 1x4-inch stuff, six pieces with four strips of same kind to support panel, first space at bottom three inches, and increase spacing so the top board will be five feet high, after which stretch a light barbed wire six or eight inches above the top piece. My preference for this fence is because the goat never gets his head fastened as it sometimes does in a wire fence. Moreover, the latter is more extensively used, and if properly built will always turn the goat. The rail fence requires much more skill in its construction. Build the rails directly over each other. Have the butts of the rails even that face the pasture. Build it at least 5-1-2 feet high with six-foot stakes in the corners fastened with wires at top and bottom. Remove all logs, stumps and leaning boards or rails from the fence you build of any style named. If you do not remove the stump or log, build a backstop on the fence equal to the elevation of the log or stump.

Let me impress it on you to carefully observe these precautions, for if you fail, Billy-goat will take advantage of you, and credit his outing to your carelessness. They are very observant little animals, and can detect a pig-hole in the fence as readily as a stump or leaning board. If carefully handled the goat is a very docile animal, but it can be scared until it acts like a wild deer or nervous Jersey cow.

Your barns should be furnished with racks for hay or straw. The base of the rack should be at least one foot wide to protect the little kid that will creep under it to go to sleep. The baseboard of the goat shed should be at least one foot high to prevent the young kid from going out until it is strong enough to follow the nanies. Care should be taken to bank the outside of the board so the kid can easily get back. The shed should be in the pasture so that the goat can at any time seek its shelter. The nanie, like a cow, nurses her little one, puts it to sleep and then goes off to feed.



Aged Angora doe that won first and grand champion at the 1918 Oregon State Fair, at the age of four years. This spring, at the age of seven years, she sheared eleven pounds (12 months' fleece). Bred and owned by W. D. Gilliam, Dallas, Oregon, Rt. 2.



Merle Gilliam Holding Kid Angora

## "BILLY" EGAN HAS BEEN A GOAT BREEDER NEARLY HALF A CENTURY

The Senior Member of the Family Which Holds Forth At Mt. View Farm in the Rich Bottom Lands Below Salem, Pays a Tribute to the Beautiful Angoras — Resources Are Semi-Annual.

(The familiar name by which he is known to his intimates of Hon. W. H. Egan has no reference to the male members of his Angora herd. He is "Billy" to them because his first baptismal name is William. A year ago, Mr. Egan paid an epistolary tribute to the beautiful Angoras, which, with especial reference to the beginner, the writer believes, will bear repetition in this Salem slogan issue

of The Statesman on Goats. Following is the letter:)  
Editor Statesman:  
That much abused and slandered little animal—  
That beautiful creature with its long silken spirals—  
That busy little fellow that works for nothing and boards himself; that transforms the brush and vineyards to tracts of verdant succulent grass; that changes the tangled wildwoods to woodland

## SALEM FURNISHES PRACTICALLY ALL CHAP SKINS OF NORTH AMERICA

The Cow Boys Who Ride the Ranges and Participate In the Round-ups Get Their Fancy and Distinctive Adornments From the Skins of the Angora Tanned And Made Beautiful in the Capital City of Oregon.

Most readers of The Statesman have admired in more or less degree the "chaps" of the cowboys who ride the plains and pastures after the elusive "slick-eared" and participate in the round-ups of the cattlemen, or who imitate them in less exciting riding after the beeves of the butchers, or who participate in the show round-ups such as the one held annually at Pendleton.

Well, practically all the skins of all the "chaps" that cover the legs of all these real or imitation or show cowboys are tanned and prepared in Salem, Oregon.

Quite a distinction, is it not? And quite a distinctive industry.

C. Lachele, of the Angora Rug company, was the pioneer in this industry.

They slaughtered and the meat shipped to Portland, but some is consumed in Salem. It is regarded as a delicacy by many people. The meat brings from 5 to 10 cents a pound wholesale.

Mr. Lachele was in the tanning business in Santa Cruz, Cal., for 15 years before coming to Salem. He also cleans and tans Angora and other skins and makes them into rugs, robes, furs, etc. for local patrons. The making of auto robes from Angora skins has become quite a business.

Not Enough Skins Here.

A Statesman reporter, visiting the place of Mr. Lachele on Monday, found that gentlemen and his helpers busy taking out the skins of Angora goat skins that had been shipped to him from long distances—

Because he cannot get enough Angora skins suitable for his uses near at home. So he must prepare inferior ones brought from long distances, purchased in eastern markets, to look as much like the superior Willamette valley Angora skins as is possible.

He would much prefer skins only of the Angoras raised here in this valley—for he takes a pride in his work, and the local skins are much better for the uses of his far-flung trade.

He thinks the people of the Salem district ought to raise a great many more Angora goats, and that they would find profit in doing so. The best Angora goats raised in the world are bred right here. This is by nature the best Angora goat district in the world.

The Angora Rug company has its office and factory at 1230 Ferry street, where Mr. Lachele has been in business for 13 years. He really created the demand for Angora skins. He formerly purchased large skins here as low as 75 cents each. He is now paying \$3 to \$3.50 for extra choice skins.

These are mostly used for the "chap" trade—cured in the natural color and various other colors, mostly black.

Salem has almost a monopoly of the chap-skin industry and supplies 4000 to 5000 skins annually to that trade; a large proportion of them being shipped to Canada.

The Salem output furnishes practically the entire consumption of North America.

Last year, 1920, Mr. Lachele was not able to secure nearly enough skins—showing a ready market for a larger production of Angoras.

The business has enjoyed a steady, healthy growth.

The Angora Rug company buys hundreds of live Angoras; has

Additional Slogan  
Matter on Page 4



Angora Yearling, Showing Full Fleece, 18 Months Old.

## PRIME ANGORA SKINS AND MOHAIR WANTED

We pay the highest market price for these products; also for other raw furs.

## AUTO ROBES, RUGS and FURS

We tan, clean and dye furs, and "make them up" into auto robes, rugs and furs. We also tan beef hides and horse hides for robes. These raw skins are very cheap now, so this is a good time to have them made up. Bring us your custom work. Our prices are reasonable and work guaranteed.

## ANGORA RUG CO.

Tanners of Furs and Leather

1233 Ferry St. SALEM, OR. Phone 683

## W. D. GILLIAM OF DALLAS HAS BEEN IN THE INDUSTRY 35 YEARS

He Has Found by Experience That It Pays to Have Pure Bred Angoras and to Give Them Good Attention — Great Individual Yields of Mohair by His Silver Fleeced Favorites.

Editor Statesman:  
I have been in the goat industry for the past 35 years and have handled both the common and pure blood Angora goats, and have found that it does not pay to keep anything but the very best and breed for the betterment of the flock, which is well worth the energy.

At the time I started to raise goats they were very poor as to the quality of mohair. At that time little was thought of the quality, as it seemed the only val-

ue goats had was for grubbing, but all the same I purchased the best bucks I could find to head my small flock, as I thought there was a chance for improvement.

About 1905 I purchased my first registered doe, then I strived harder than ever to get better bucks, as the does themselves were not first class, but were good for that time. My motto in breeding has been good constitutions, also density and fineness of fleece free from kemp, and I feel

that I have not worked in vain. I find that it is cheaper to keep the best, as the scrub goat eats just as much as the pure bred and the care is about the same, but at the time of sale, a great deal more is realized from the pure blood. Before I bred up my flock, my does sheared from three to five pounds, which was not of the best quality and not much length; now my yearlings shear from five to nine pounds with also a good length of staple; my does shear as high as 11 pounds.

I have a doe that took first and grand champion at the state fair at the age of 4 years, and this year, at the age of 7 years, she sheared 11 pounds. (12 months growth.)

My stud buck at the age of 3 years this year sheared me 17 pounds (12 months growth), which goes to show what pure bred Angoras will do.

The Willamette valley is well adapted to the goat industry, as the winters are not severe and there is always feed throughout the year. During the winter months I feed clover hay with oats and provide a warm dry shed for them; during the kidding season a little more care is given the does, but the kids are strong little fellows, and the most important thing is to see that the udder has been opened, and the kids will do the rest. I keep the kids in the shed until about two weeks old; after that they are able to follow their mothers and take care of themselves. When about six weeks old they are turned out to pasture, where they learn to grub and be real goats. Goats take very little extra care for the big profit they bring to their owner.

The common goat would be a thing of the past if the buyers would demand the best of stock and improve their flocks by purchasing the best of sires. It seems a little expensive at the time, but with good stock you soon make back all you paid out.



Five months old doe kids owned by W. D. Gilliam, Dallas, Oregon, Route 2.



Pure Bred Nubian Milk Goat.

(Continued on page 4.)