

# Washington County 4-H Master Showmanship Fiber Goat Fact Sheet

## Breeds of goats used for fiber production

### Registered White Angora Goat

- Produces **Mohair** – a long fine hair produced in ringlets or locks, with a good shine or luster.
- Must be sheared.
- Only white in color.
- There is now a Colored Angora registry

### Cashmere producing Goats

- Cashmere is produced as an undercoat which may be combed or sheared.
- Cashmere must be **dehaired** separating the undercoat from the course outer hair, or called **guard hair**.
- Raw cashmere must show good **differentiation**, a variation in micron, between it's two coats.
- Cashmere must meet internationally set standards in fineness or **micron**, (must be under 18.5) and style. **Style** refers to amount of crinkle or crimp found in strands of the fiber.
- Cashmere goats may vary in color, but should not be spotted or marked like a pinto. This is called **broken color**, and affects the color of the undercoat.
- Undercoat is not the same color as guard hair, and is usually white, shades of light brown, or grey.

### Pygora Goats

- Developed by cross breeding registered Pygmy Goats with Registered White Angora Goats.
- Produces 3 types of fiber. Types A, B and C.
- **Type A** - mostly resembles Mohair, shows a long single coated ringlet. Should be fine & have luster. Must be sheared.
- **Type B** - a mix of fiber ranging between Cashmere and Mohair. May be sheared plucked, or combed
- **Type C** - Undercoat resembling Cashmere, should be matte in finish, and show only two coats with good differentiation. May be sheared, plucked or combed.
- Pygoras are square from withers to hoof, and withers to rump. Long graceful neck, alert with a dish face. They should not closely resemble either parent breed.

## How Fiber Goats are shown

Goats with horns (most often Cashmere producing) are shown with a halter and short lead.

Goats without horns may be shown with a collar and short lead.

Angora goats are sometimes shown without a halter or collar and are led with the hands and the use of their beard.

## Goat Facts

- Goats are browsers not grazers. Their best diet is a variety of brush, shrubs, weeds and grass.
- Gestation – 147 to 153 days
- You can count the front adult teeth of a goat, divide by two, and get an approximate age of the goat.
- Goats are a ruminant animal, with 4 compartments to their stomach;
  1. Rumen
  2. Reticulum
  3. Omasum
  4. Abomasum

## Goat Terms

- Doe – female goat
- Buck – male goat
- Wether – altered (neutered) male goat
- Kid – baby goat
- Doeling – female kid
- Buckling – buck kid
- Herd – group of goats
- Gestation – Period of time a doe carries her kids before giving birth to them.