Female goats are called "Nannies" or "Does"  
A male goat is called a "Buck" or a "Billy" 
A castrated male is called a "Wether"  
A baby goat is called a "Kid"  

- Goats were one of the first animals domesticated by man, dating back approximately 10,000 years.  
- There are three types of goats:  
  "Domestic goats": *Capra hircus*, which are raised and bred as farm animals,  
  "Mountain goats": *Oreamnos americanus*, which live in steep, rocky areas in the American Northwest, and  
  "Wild goats": include ibex, markhors and turs.  
- There are approximately 450 million goats around the world.  
- Goats can be used for their milk, meat, hair, and skins throughout much of the world.  
- Goats can live 12-14 years and have been known to live far longer.  
- Goats are members of the Bovidae family, which also includes antelopes, cattle, sheep and buffaloes.  

* Goats have a gestation period of 150 to 180 days.  
* The average birth rate is 2.2 kids per year.  
* The act of giving birth is called "kidding".

- Goats were one of the first animals domesticated by man, dating back approximately 10,000 years!  
- There are approximately 200 breeds of domestic goats worldwide!  
- The sizes of goats vary greatly. Nigerian dwarf goats weigh about 20lbs, Pygmy goats weigh from 53 to 86 lbs, while Anglo-Nubian goats weigh up to 250lbs.

**Popular Breeds:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dairy Goats</th>
<th>Meat Goats</th>
<th>Fiber Goats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpine, Guernsey, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Sable, Toggenburg</td>
<td>Spanish, Boer, Kiko, Mytonic, Savannah, Texmaster</td>
<td>Angora, Cashmere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Goats pupils are rectangular. This gives them vision for 320 to 340 degrees around them without having to move!

* Goats are herbivores (they only eat vegetation) and ruminants!  
* They have four stomach compartments and they digest their food in two stages.  
* The rumen can hold 4 to 6 gallons; the reticulum can hold up to 0.26 to 0.5 gallons; the omasum can hold up to 0.26 gallons and the abomasum can hold up to 1 gallon.  
* It takes 11 to 15 hours for food to pass through a goat's digestive system.  
* Goats are "selective opportunistic feeders" as they can change their feeding behaviors according to the season and diet availability.

Izabella Toledo, UF/IFAS Dairy Extension, Northeast District.  
Justina Dacey, Natural Resources & Agriculture, UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension.