DAIRY GOAT FACTS



- * In the United States, dairy goats are found in every state. According to the USDA, as of January 1, 2020, there are 440,000 milk goats in U.S.
- * Florida milk herd consist of 9,000 goats (NASS 2020).
- * Overall, 10.0 percent of U.S. goat operations focus primarily on dairy production.

BREEDS



*Hardy, adaptable, thrives in any climate



* Produce milk with high butterfat and protein



* Calm, produces well in various climates and conditions



* Calm disposition



* Small, produces milk with high butterfat



* High milk production and calm



* High milk production and calm



* One of the first purebred imported to U.S.

Nutrition Facts in One Cup of Goat Milk (8 ounces)

Calories	170
Protein (g)	9
Fat (g)	10
Carbs (g)	11
Lactose	11
Calcium	330

MILK

Uses

- * Goat milk is used for drinking and also to make cheese, yogurt, ice cream, butter, and beauty products.
- * Because of its unique nutritional and biochemical properties, goat milk is preferred by people with cow milk allergies and gastrointestinal disorders.

Production

- * Milk Production ranges from 1,200-2,600 pounds per doe per year depending on feeding, genetics and other management practices.
- * Lactation average is 284 days.

Dry Period

- * Does should have at least a 60-day dry period to allow their mammary systems to prepare for the next lactation.
- * Does that do not have a long enough dry period will have a lower milk production in the next lactation cycle.

Quality

- * The key to producing quality milk is a sanitary environment, properly cleaned and maintained milking equipment/supplies, following proper milking procedures and milking does with healthy udders.
- * Two major parameters monitored as indicators of goat milk quality are somatic cell counts (SCCs) and bacterial levels in milk.
- * In general, milking young goats before old goats and milking goats without mastitis before milking goats with mastitis is recommended to reduce new infections and improve milk quality.

Milking Procedures

- * The production of high-quality milk depends on routinely following the proper milking procedures.
- . Three methods are generally used to milk dairy goats:
- * By hand, collecting milk in a bucket;
- * By using a milking machine and collecting the milk in a bucket;
- * By milking machines in a parlor, collecting milk directly into apipe system and bulk tank.

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