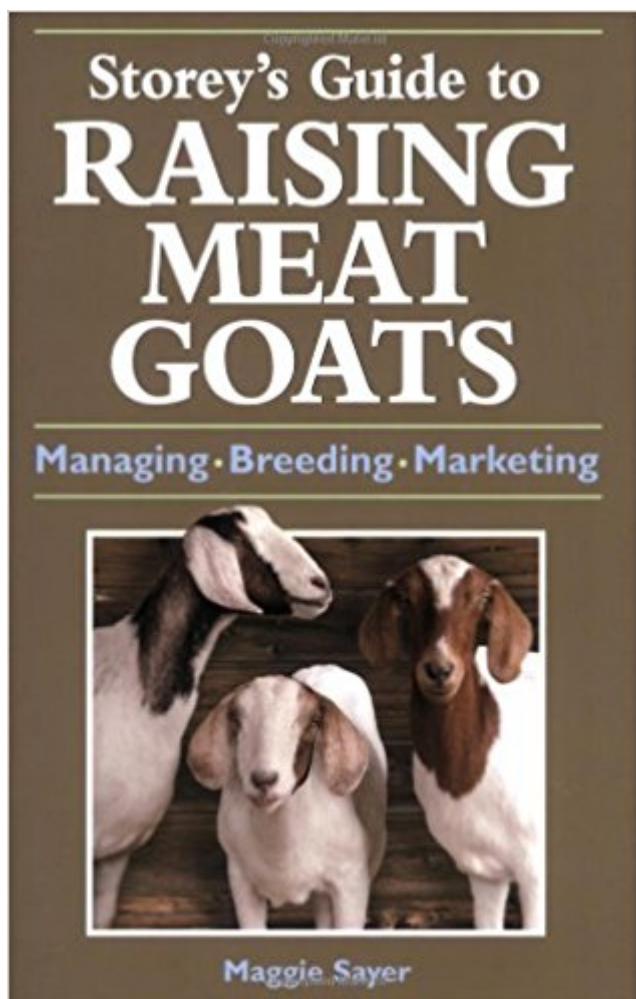


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# Storey's Guide To Raising Meat Goats



## Synopsis

Raising meat goats is an excellent proposition for today's livestock farmer. Niche or artisanal farmers looking for a profitable specialty should search no further than the simple goat. Compact, friendly, and efficient, meat goats do not require a lot of browsing land, and they can thrive on plants cows find inedible, such as nettles and thistles. Most important, demand for chevon (goat meat) far outweighs supply in North America. Imported chevon from Australia and New Zealand has more than doubled in the past decade and industry studies estimate that the market will continue to grow by 10 to 15 percent annually for the foreseeable future, making goat the fastest growing meat business in North America. Add to these numbers the fact that chevon is lower in calories and fat and higher in protein than other red meats, and the future looks bright indeed for goat producers. Now author Maggie Sayer adds Storey's Guide to Raising Meat Goats to the popular series that has guided countless farmers through the day-to-day tasks of animal care. Sayer thoroughly explains the basics of selecting a breed, buying the goats, and raising healthy animals. She explains how goats think and how to handle, house, and transport them properly. There is plenty of basic health-care information for preventing disease, addressing common ailments, and breeding safely. Finally, a wealth of information is offered on catering to ethnic populations and marketing the product. With this invaluable resource, experienced and novice farmers alike will find raising goats to be immensely satisfying and profitable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've been a big fan of Storey Guides for a long time and was excited to finally get my copy of this book, however, it turned out to be a huge disappointment. While the basic information is good, it's an amalgamation of what has been written in all the other meat goat books and articles. The big tip-off that this was not going to be a book about meat goat production was on page 16 with a shadow box entitled, "Choosing Not To Sell Goats For Meat". And this is supposed to meat a book about raising meat goats? Give me a break! There is very little information on actual meat production, yet the author includes an overwhelming amount of information on clicker training and breaking goats to drive a cart. Instead of 23 pages telling me how to set up a website and choose an ISP, I'd have like to seen information about working with a butcher to best package cuts and develop value-added products, such as sausage. Goat is showing up more and more at farmers markets, yet nothing is mentioned. At this point, I'm beginning to wonder if Maggie Sayer even eats goat meat. This book should have been titled Raising Pet & Show Goats.

Storey's Guide to Raising Meat Goats, is the best of the goat series published by Storey. As a professional goat breeder, I find it refreshing to pick up a book that is written in terms that beginners can understand and veterans breeders can appreciate! Other books on the subject of raising goats generally provide only a basic overview of goat husbandry, many lack specific details or current protocols for worming, vaccinations, and testing. Even though this book is referencing meat goats, I found that much of the information is also appropriate for dairy goats as well. This is one book that I recommend to my customers, and readers. It's great to have a recent publication that is written by someone that has actual goat knowledge.

Generally good and seemingly credible advice throughout this book. Its weakness is in what was left out. There are some important topics left relatively untouched. As a meat goat novice I was hoping to get some specific questions answered. Example: Castration of buck kids - advantages and disadvantages? Methods and how-to advice? Marketing wethers vs. intact bucks? Other basic things were left unsaid, like when to first breed a young female, timing breedings/kidding for meeting market and weather constraints, ear tagging and record keeping, etc. The various breed descriptions were brief and not very detailed, with exception of the boer breed description. That's another weakness of the book -- it's almost entirely centered around the boer breed with nearly all of the "Producer Profiles" focused on boer producers. I know the boer is the major meat breed, but I would have liked to see more discussion across the breeds. Finally, the Kindle version of this book is poorly formatted (if formatted at all). There seemed to be no alteration from the paper version of the

book to accommodate the unique features of e-readers. Sidebars, photos, captions, and footnotes are lumped-in indiscriminately, making it confusing and redundant to read. Ultimately I was left feeling that I could have learned just as much reading free online articles, blog posts, and message boards.

I was expecting an ordinary read....but found it to be the best small book on goats that I have ever encountered. A beginner could take this book and start their goat project. She covers everything that one needs to know ....including how to understand those under your care. Totally impressed! I can give them to my customers to ensure they are prepared to take care of their newly purchased goats.

I raised goats years ago. I bought this book because I'm planning to get goats again next spring and wanted a refresher on general goat care and breeds. This book has excellent information on the different meat breeds, selecting stock, and goat care. The chapter titled "Think Like a Goat" is my favorite because I like to train animals. This chapter very thoroughly explains how to establish dominance over goats, which is the most important step in training any animal. It also explains behavior that humans should avoid when working with goats. But beware potential buyers who are looking for detailed instructions on training goats for pack/draft work. My fellow Customer Reviewer Sandra K. Miller says this book has an "overwhelming amount of information on clicker training and breaking goats to drive a cart". In my opinion that is a significantly inaccurate review. This book only gives a fairly brief overview of those subjects. I was therefore disappointed because I actually wanted a book with an "overwhelming amount" of info on those subjects. I am NOT knocking the book over that, because the official book description does not claim to provide that info. I'm just warning potential buyers to take one of the negative reviews here with a grain of salt. The bottom line, this book provides exactly what its description says it will: it thoroughly explains the basics of selecting a breed and buying goats. It also explains how to raise healthy goats, how goats think and how to properly handle, house, and transport them. And it's an excellent resource for basic health care, preventing disease, addressing common ailments, and breeding safely. In my opinion it is a 5-star book on those topics.

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