

# Dairy Goats

*Capra aegagrus hircus* · Dairy breed

**DIFFICULTY** Moderate

**TYPE** Livestock, kept for milk

**PRODUCTIVE LIFE** Milking after kidding, 8–10 months per lactation



**SPACE**

4–5m<sup>2</sup> shelter,  
200m<sup>2</sup>+ browsing  
area per goat



**DIET**

Pasture/browse +  
hay + dairy goat  
pellets while  
milking



**WATER**

Constant fresh  
access, high  
intake while  
lactating



**TEMPERAMENT**

Intelligent,  
social, can be  
escape artists

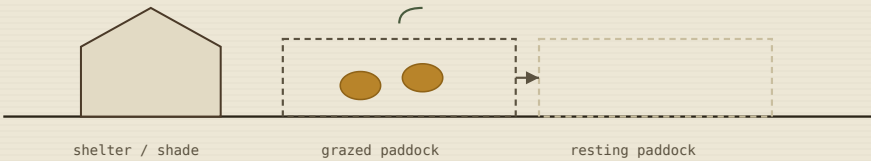


**LIFESPAN**

10–15 years

## 01 Rotate the browse

Goats are natural browsers rather than pure grazers — happiest with access to shrubs, weeds, and varied vegetation, and pasture holds up much better if you rotate them between areas.



## 02 Housing & setup

|         |                                                                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SHELTER | Dry, draft-free shelter — goats dislike rain far more than cold.                      |
| FENCING | Sturdy, well-secured fencing at least 1.2m high — goats are notorious escape artists. |
| BEDDING | Straw, changed regularly to keep the shelter dry.                                     |

## 04 Health & problems

- **Bloat** — from sudden access to rich, wet pasture; introduce new feed gradually.
- **Worms** — monitor and treat as part of a regular parasite management plan.
- **Escaping** — check and reinforce fencing regularly.
- **Mastitis** — keep milking routine consistent and udders clean.

## 06 Compatibility & considerations

**GOOD WITH**

Other goats (herd animals, need company)

Orchards for light browsing (with bark protection)

**AVOID KEEPING WITH**

Being kept alone

Unsecured toxic plants nearby (many common garden/ornamental plants are toxic to goats)

**NOTE**

Check exactly which plants on your property are toxic to goats before giving them free range — the list is longer than most people expect.

## 03 Daily care

- Milk twice daily at consistent times once in lactation.
- Provide varied browse plus quality hay, especially over winter.
- Trim hooves every 6–8 weeks.
- Keep at least two goats — they are herd animals and struggle badly alone.

## 05 Production & harvest

|           |                                                                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YIELD     | 2–4 litres of milk per day at peak lactation, breed-dependent.                   |
| MILKING   | Twice daily, roughly 12 hours apart.                                             |
| LACTATION | Around 8–10 months following kidding, then a dry period before the next kidding. |
| STORAGE   | Fresh milk in the fridge a few days; freezes reasonably well for cooking use.    |