

GOATS FOR MILK SUPPLY

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(Abstract)

Goats are being bred in the United States for the milk supply of small suburban households. Native goats do not give more than a quart or two a day but crossed with high bred animals of Swiss origin may be made to yield from three to six quarts daily. Goat breeders claim for them:

1. Immunity from tuberculosis.
2. A richer milk, containing more sugar fats and proteins than cow's milk, and more palatable when kept clean.
3. A finer emulsification of fats which makes the goats' milk superior to cow's milk for feeding babies.
4. A cleaner animal, easier to handle, and house, yet furnishing a valuable fertilizer in their droppings.
5. Cheapness of feed required to support, and also a ready means of clearing weeds, brush, and kitchen waste.
6. Greater production in proportion to weight by five times that the cow's yield, joined with value of hides and meat.

Difficulties in the way:

1. Goats are subject to several diseases if not kept clean.
2. Lack of proper stock, as natives are poor yielders, and importation of stock from Switzerland, France, Egypt, and Armenia, is not permitted because of foot and mouth disease epidemic in these countries.
3. To insure a constant milk supply, facilities for breeding are necessary, but is best afforded by several families combining to support a stud of registered bucks on a nearby farm outside of town, since the buck has a very disagreeable odor, not shared by the doe when she is kept clean.

The government has at last become interested and is experimenting in several stations so that in time we may have some accurate data from which to draw conclusions.