

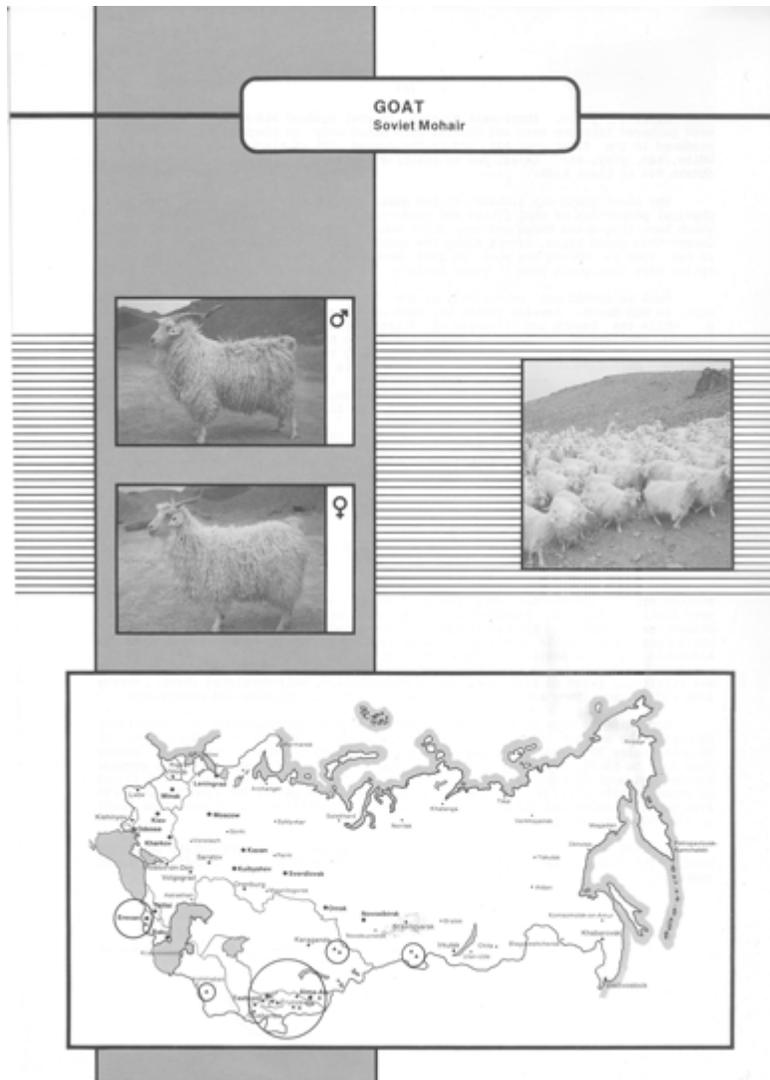
### DON-KIRGIZ CROSS

Local coarse-haired goats have been raised in many parts of Kirgizia since ancient times. These goats were used as a source of milk and meat; they produced very little wool. To improve them, they were crossed with Don bucks specially brought to Kirgizia. The Don-Kirgiz crossbred had quite satisfactory production characteristics. While wool goats are raised mainly in Batken, Jangi-Jolsk, Ala-Bukin and Alai districts, most Don-Kirgiz crossbreds are concentrated in the state farm Kysyl-Tu in Jangi-Jolsk district of Osh region. The goats in this farm are relatively large in size, have strong constitution, well-developed chest, strong legs and hooves. They are very well adapted to the local climate and environment.

According to data from the Kirgiz Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Research, the average live weight of males in autumn is 58.6 kg, of females 40 kg, of 18-month males 39 kg and of young females 28 kg. Wool content of the fleece varies from 54.5 to 89.2%, depending on the class-type, feeding and management. The average fineness of wool in breeding males is 18.1 m, of females 16.6, of young males 17 and of young

females 15.7 m. Average yields are 550 g from males, 360 from females, 255 from yearling males and 325 from yearling females. Fertility rate in seedstock herds is 120-150 kids per 100 females.

In 1981, the state farm Kysyl-Tu in Osh region had a goat population of 55 000 head. The bulk of wool sold to the state is of high quality (63-65% of first combing).



### SOVIET MOHAIR (Sovetskaya sherstnaya)

During 1936-37, 700 Angora goats were imported from the USA for crossing with local and Angora goats in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenia). By selective breeding of the crosses under conditions of extensive husbandry a new breed was produced which was recognized in 1962 under the name "Soviet Mohair".

Soviet Mohair goats are characterized by sufficiently strong, dry constitution and small size. They are energetic, active and easily tolerate long-distance drives.

Goats of this breed have a light narrow head covered with short hair.

Female goats have small thin horns; in males the horns are much better developed. Ears are usually large and drooping. The neck is thin. The body is moderately long, flat and covered with a long fleece, hanging down in curls or screw-like locks which touch the ground. The limbs are clean, strong, with regular position in most animals, and covered with short hair up

to the hock and knee joint. The skin is thick and pliable, loosely covering the body.

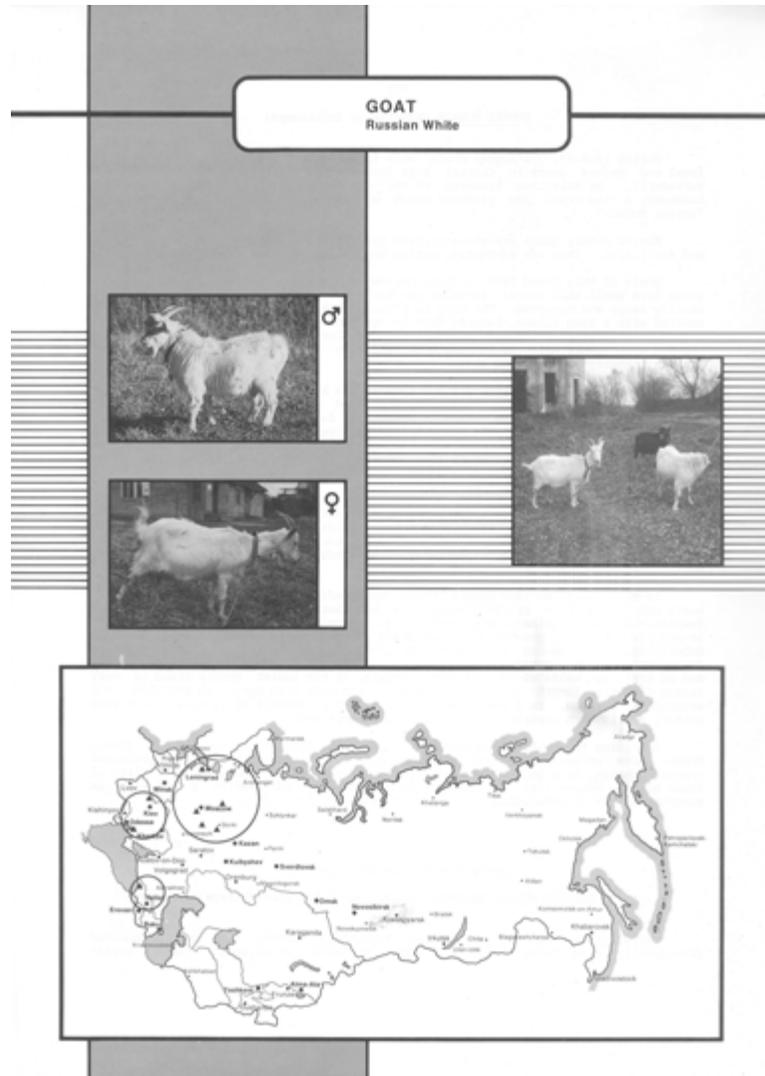
At birth, male kids weigh 3.1 and females 2.8 kg. Twins weigh 10-15% less than singles. Over 4-5 months of lactation, with good feeding and management, females produce nearly 120 kg of milk, which is sufficient for normal growth. Soviet Mohair goats, elite and first-class, have the following live weight: in Uzbekistan, females 37 kg (range 25-40 kg), breeding males 52 kg (range 40-60 kg); in Tajikistan 38 (37-43) and 59 (58-62) kg respectively; in Kazakhstan 39 (38-43) and 60 (58-65) kg respectively.

Soviet Mohair goats produce homogeneous semi-coarse mohair of Angora type, consisting of long twisted lustrous staples, very strong, elastic and resilient. On the best breeding farms in Uzbekistan mohair yields are as follows: adult elite females 2 kg, first-class 1.8 kg; elite female yearlings 1 kg, first-class 0.8 kg; male yearlings 1.1 and 1 kg respectively. From adult elite breeding males average mohair yield is 2.9 kg, first-class 2.5 kg.

In Tajikistan, average mohair yields on breeding farms are 1.9 kg from female goats and 2.3 kg from breeding males. In Kazakhstan they are 1.8-2.1 from adult females; the best animals give 2.8-3.1 kg. Pure fibre yield is 75-85%. Staple length for one year's growth, in adult goats is 18-20 cm in Kazakhstan, 19-22 cm in Uzbekistan, 18-20 cm in Tajikistan and 16-18 cm in Kirgizia. Fibre fineness decreases with age. Mohair of yearlings is 56-58s quality, of adult females 44-46s and of breeding males 40-44s quality.

Mohair of the Soviet Mohair breed is very strong (breaking length 12-14 km). It gets stronger with age: in yearlings the strength is 13.8 km, in 5-year-olds 15 km. In this respect it is equal to Angora mohair, and is much superior to sheep and local goat wool.

According to the breed census, on 1st January 1980 there were 509 153 Soviet Mohair goats on collective and state farms. Their mohair in all its technical characteristics, is a good raw material for the manufacturing industry. Fertility of these goats, however, is not high: the average per 100 females is 118 kids in Kazakhstan, 109 in Uzbekistan, 116 in Tajikistan and 115 in Kirgizia.



Dairy Breeds (Molochnye porody)  
RUSSIAN WHITE (Russkaya belaya) and GORKI  
 (Gorkovskaya)

Dairy goats, of the Saanen and Toggenburg breeds, have been imported periodically from Switzerland and other European countries; these breeds undoubtedly contributed much to the formation of various groups and varieties of goats specialized in milk production. In addition, people in both the European and Asian parts of the USSR have been raising milk goats for centuries. Separate groups of goats have formed under the influence of various feeding and management methods, and on the basis of different origins. Dairy goats in central and northwestern Russia, have strong, dry constitution and a harmonious conformation characteristic of the milk type. They have a light and narrow head. The neck is long and straight and the sacrum wide. The udder is big and smooth; quarters are proportionally developed and teats are wide-set. The legs are strong. The position of the front and hind limbs is regular. The skeleton is strong. The coat is

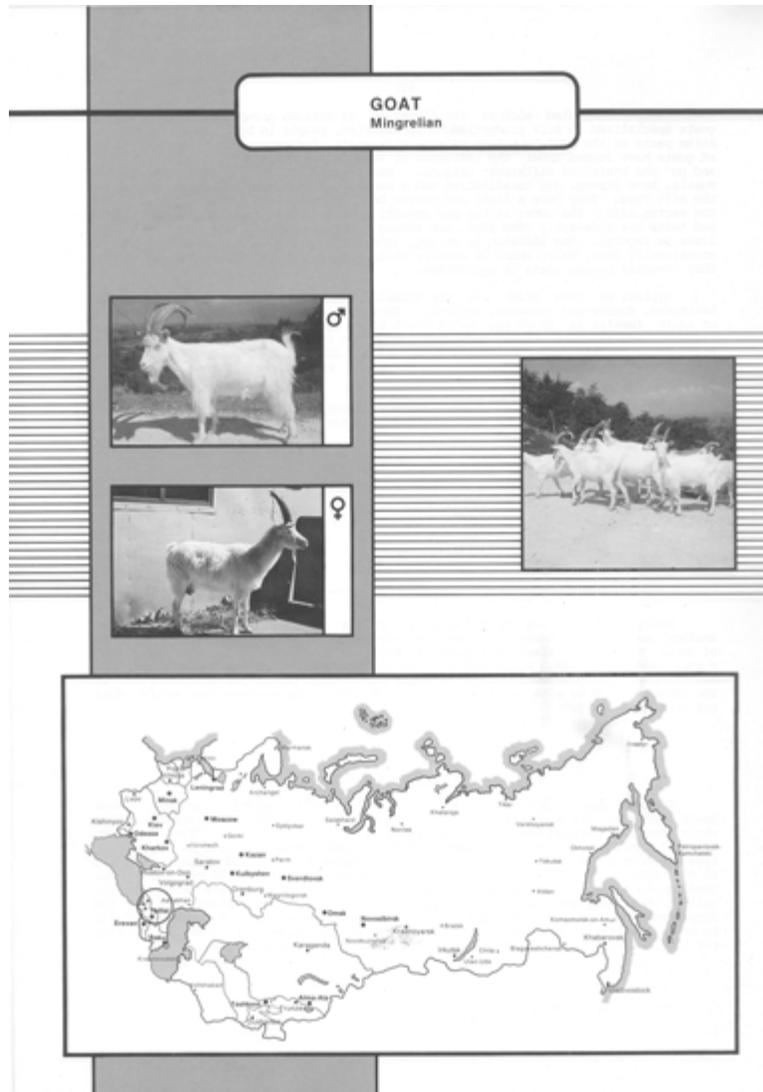
composed of coarse short, or occasionally long, hair, which is usually white. Animals may be hornless or horned. They resemble Saanen goats in appearance.

Typical of this group are the animals found on private plots in Gorki, Leningrad, Moscow and Yaroslavl regions. They are typical milk goats. Live weight of adult females is 50-60 kg, males 60-75 kg. They average 550 kg of milk per lactation and the best animals up to 1 000 kg. Fat content is high - 4.2-5.3%. Milk goats are prolific: 100 females give birth to 190-220 kids. Some goats kid twice a year. Cases have been recorded of up to six normal kids at one kidding.

Table 6.2 MEASUREMENTS OF MILK GOATS FROM THE CENTRAL PART OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (cm)

Area of raising	Height		Oblique body length	Chest girth behind shoulder blades	Width	
	at withers	at sacrum			between shoulder joints	at hips
Gorki region	61	63	67	75	-	15
Tatar ASSERT	61	64	63	75	14	14
Yaroslavl region	64	65	66	75	-	-

Dairy goats in the North Caucasus, Crimea and Central Asia are somewhat smaller, have hair of various colours but are inferior in productivity to the goats of Gorki, Moscow, Yaroslavl and Leningrad regions. There are goats there which have a wool undercoat and, consequently, double utility: they are milked and, in addition, yield about 100-150 g of wool per head. Milk yields per lactation are in the range 250-400 kg with a fat content of 3.5-5.5%. The average live weight does not exceed 40-42 kg.



### MINGRELIAN (Megrelskaya)

Somewhat apart stand the dairy goats raised in private plots in Georgia. These goats belong to the Mingrelian breed, because they are natives of Mingrelia, from where they have spread over practically all districts of Georgia. There are two distinct types among Mingrelian goats: highland and lowland. Goats of the former type are mostly large animals. Live weight of females is 45 kg and height at withers 65 cm; live weight of males is 60-70 kg and height at withers 70 cm. In summer these goats are pastured in the high mountains; in winter they are driven to the valleys where they are also kept on pastures and only in bad weather they are fed supplements of coarse concentrates. In 5-6 months of lactation they produce 200-250 kg of milk. Fertility is not so high as in the Russian White goat, normally 160 kids per 100 females. They are usually horned but are occasionally polled. Animals of the second type are raised mainly in valleys and lowlands in urban and rural settlements. They are kept in small fields and regularly receive additional feed in the form of vegetable residues and concentrates.

Goats of this type are small. Females weigh 35-38 and males 45-50 kg. In a 7-month lactation they produce an average of 300 kg of milk. However, many of them can produce up to 500 kg. A characteristic feature of Mingrelian goats is the shortness of the coat. The length of guard hair does not exceed 3-4 cm and undercoat is practically non-existent. Their colour is brown, varying from light to dark. According to the breed census, on 1st January 1980 the population of Mingrelian goats on collective and state farms was 14 170.

Relatively low milk yields are characteristic of the majority of the dairy goat population in our country. These goats are concentrated mostly in private plots and, consequently, are not involved in efficient selection programmes.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

(In Russian)

- Orekhov A.A. Productive goat breeding. Kolos, Moscow. 1974.  
Orekhov A.A. Goat breeds: their distribution by zones in the country. Ovtsevodsvo, No. 3. 1980.  
Zelenski G.G. Goat breeding. Kolos, Moscow. 1971.