

Goats

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less milk than the Swiss breeds. The Swiss breeds, on the other hand, are similar to Holsteins in that they produce more milk with less butterfat. Fisher says that, in general, four quarts of milk per day is a good output for a goat. The range is anywhere from two to seven quarts a day.

"When you take the proportion of body weight to milk production, a goat is really a more efficient producer than a cow," he points out.

The time it takes the Fishers to do their milking is two-and-a-half hours. While there are milking machines

for goats, Jane doesn't like to use them.

"I think I can do the milking in less time by hand than with a machine," she explains. What she really dislikes about machines is the cleaning and sterilization of the tubes and various parts. To her, hand milking is just as easy.

"I keep telling him (Fisher) that when he retires, we'll get a milker," says Jane. Fisher works off the farm as a mechanic, so in the mornings it is Jane's job to do the work. In the evenings Fisher helps.

As with any milking operation, there is a set routine.

"Till I'm done, I open and close seven doors," explains Jane.

The opening and closing of doors permits the animals to

line up in the hall outside the milking parlor. In the parlor, the person doing the milking stands in a pit, and the goats stand on a ramp.

To begin the operation, Jane opens the pen doors, making the hall into an entryway where all 35 animals line up to wait their turn at being milked. When she is ready to begin, she opens one door to the milking parlor and a goat eagerly trots up the ramp. As soon as the animal is in place, Jane shuts the door again, so an overanxious goat doesn't try to get her turn in ahead of time.

When she finishes with the one animal, she opens another door that leads to a holding area and the animal walks out. Then, she opens the first door again, and lets a new animal in for milking,

and the whole process begins again.

They line up outside there, and wait their turn just like people, the Fishers explain.

As was mentioned, the milking takes about two and a half hours to complete. Then, of course, there is cleaning up and bedding to be done.

The milk is then stored in 40-quart cans and placed in a front opening milk cooler until the Fishers make their milk run to Pure Goat Products in Boyertown, where they sell their milk. For 35 goats, they get about two cans of milk per day, or 80 quarts of milk.

They also sell some milk locally.

"Oh, it's getting more and more popular all the time," exclaims Jane. "We have



Nothing is more irresistible than two little white kids. Adorable as they are, however, these are bucks which Fisher will sell at auction.

doctors who we don't even know sending people to us all the time!"

Although Fisher admits that not all the components of goat's milk are known, there are certain known qualities which make it easier to digest. First of all, it comes from the goat naturally homogenized.

"Oh, you'll get some cream on the top if you let it set for several days," says Jane. "But, very little," she adds.

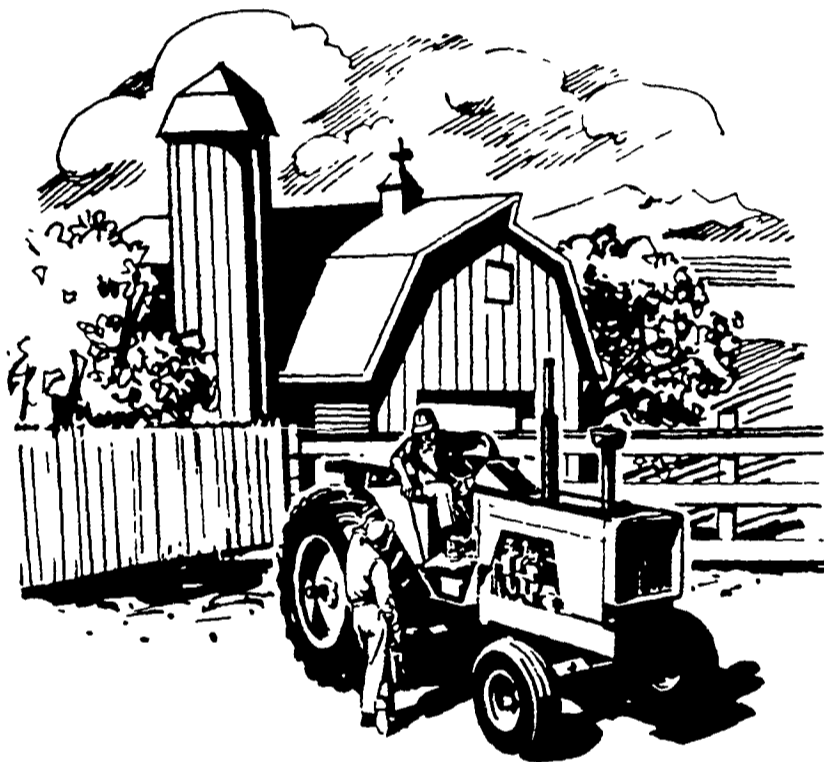
The major factor, however, which makes it easier to digest is that it produces a soft curd. Because of this particular asset, babies and people with ulcers are recommended to drink it.

The Fishers can cite several instances where doctors' patients have been virtually cured by drinking goats' milk.

One mother came to them with a 17-month-old baby

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