



### Meat Goats Make 'Excellent Learning Projects' For Youth, Breeder Contends

"Goats really don't like tin cans, but they are a lot of fun.

"There's not anything better for a young person to learn about livestock and responsibility than owning a meat goat."

Jamie Garten of Garten Boer Goats at Abilene is emphatic in her certainty of the many assets of meat goats.

"Goats are sometimes particular eaters, but they can be quite personable, so children can safely care for them, and often really become attached to them," said Garten, who with her husband, Scott, has been and continues to be a successful show steer producer.



From early experiences with meat goats as their children's projects, Garten appreciated the Boer breed for toughness, adaptability, maternal instincts, inherent disease resistance and flavor of the meat.

"We have more than 100 does now. About a fourth of them are crossbreds to produce higher quality wether prospects," said Garten.

"We have searched throughout the country to find the best bucks, and we're especially pleased with our herd bucks in use now," evaluated Garten.

"But, correct diet is essential to a growing and fitting a top show goat. Goats really won't eat just anything," reiterated Garten, who is a goat feed dealer.

Boer goats are quite prolific, birthing up to four kids once a year. "Twins and triplets are quite common," according to Garten.

"One thing, the Boers are more resistant to disease than some breeds, and we keep on top of our vaccination program, so we really don't have that much trouble," Garten contended.

Production is marketed at the annual Garten Boer Goat Sale, advertised on 580 WIBW. About 50 head of wethers and does will be sold on the farm, Saturday, April 13, at 6:30.

On Sunday, April 14, the day after Garten's own sale, there will be a Gold Crown Futurity Sale, also advertised on 580 WIBW. This auction at the Garten Farm, too, will feature a handful of breeds with purchases eligible to compete for \$4,000 in prizes at the Kansas Junior Livestock Show this fall.

Although goat meat is not always readily available over the grocery counter, Garten said, "Goat is a low cholesterol white meat that is very healthy, and our children often prefer it over other meats.

"The meat goat industry has grown rapidly in recent years throughout the Midwest, and I only expect it to continue to expand," Garten predicted.

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**Padre says:**

**"The worst  
vice of a goat  
is his  
sincerity."**