



The Lorraine goat



Photo : Breeder Jubert (55)

Population :

600 animals recorded including 550 females in 2014

Characteristics:

Weight of the males: 70 to 90 kg
Weight of the females : 50 to 65 kg

Milk production :

Length : 270 days
Quantity : 500 to 800 L

Qualities :

Milk oriented, hardiness, exploration capacity, adapted to outdoor farming system, good valorisation of the fodder, alimentary flexibility

Contact : Association of the « friends of the Lorraine goat »

www.chevredelorraine.fr

Origin and breeding area.....

Since a long time Lorraine is a crossroads of human migration because of its location. This geographic characteristic explains nowadays the diversity of the Lorraine goat origins. The breed was created on the basis of the common goat. The voluntary introduction of foreign animals by the Regional north-east Corporation for Acclimatization or the involuntary introduction during war, have resulted in the formation of the current population. Designated by the name of common goat for a long while, it took the name of the goat of the Lorraine country before eventually being named the Lorraine goat in 90s. This breed can be found in 4 Lorraine's departments as well as in neighboring departments such as the Ardennes, the Haute Marne, the Haut Rhin, the Haute Saône and in Belgian Lorraine.

History of the breed...

At the end of the XIXth century two kinds of very different husbandry system are practiced in Lorraine. Most of the goat population is bred in small groups in family farms. Those farms breed the goats for the milk, the meat and sometimes for work. Goats are also used for the additional suckling of children or

orphan animals. They are able to suddenly change their diet and can adapt to seasonal resources. This kind of husbandry system was looking for animals obedient and easy to milk with a persistence of the lactation. In this system goats are milked nearly all along the year.

In the second husbandry system, goats are bred with sheep and cows in a transhumance system. Easily tamed, the goats are appreciated to drive the herds in pasture and for their ability to eat the plants left by sheeps. These goats are well adapted to the walk. This ability is maintained in this type of nomadic grazing where the milk production was modest and more seasonal than in the family farms. During the productivist period in the 70s these husbandry systems become scarcer and most of the breeders opted for the introduction of more productive breeds like the Alpine goat. In 2006 the Lorraine goat population counted only 78 individuals.

After a census, the breeders gather in an association which is the basis of a quick development of the number of animals and the number of breeders.

Characteristics.....

The size of the goats is fairly standard with an average weight of 53 kg for a height at the withers of 68 cm, 73cm for the Billy goats at 18 months. There is a diversity of the

phenotypes because of the many origins that composed the breed. However the type which dominates is distinguished by a grey flecked coat. The animals with long hairs are the most sought.

Conservation program.....

The association of « the friends of the Lorraine goat » was founded in 2007. It arouses an unprecedented enthusiasm for the breed. The aim is to maintain the diversity while developing the productive qualities in order to allow the breeders to live thanks to their husbandry. Moreover a charter sets out the extensive character of this husbandry. The breed was recognized in October 2012 by the Ministry of Agriculture.