

What is a Goat Share?

You own a share of a goat. A Nubian goat can produce up to 7 gallons of milk per week. We sell shares based on the milk production of a given goat. One goat share receives about ½ gallon of raw goat milk per week.

Why a Goat Share Program?

In Virginia it is illegal to buy and sell raw milk, but it is NOT illegal to drink fresh milk from a goat that you own. We provide a service for you by feeding, caring, and milking your goat.

What is the Cost?

You can purchase a share of a goat for \$40.00 (undivided interest) in a goat. It is a one-time cost. If you decide to leave the goat share, you may sell back your share of the goat for \$40.00 less any outstanding balances owed. One goat share entitles you to ½ gallon of raw milk per week. If you need more than ½ gallon, you may buy more shares. The boarding fee pays for labor and expenses involved in feeding and caring for your share of the goat. Costs may be subject to increase. The boarding fee cost is currently \$40.00 per month per share.

How do I get started?

You may sign up on Chicama Run's website (<http://www.chicamarun.com>) or you may come out to the farm to sign up. Once we receive the contract and payment, you will own a share of a goat.

The Role of Chicama Run, LLC

1. Chicama Run, LLC will determine the number of shares available and then sell the shares to individuals.
2. Chicama Run, LLC maintains a majority share and control of all goats in the herd.
3. Chicama Run, LLC reserves the right to buy, sell and replace goats as needed.
4. Chicama Run, LLC will take care of the goats and milk the goats on a daily basis. The daily care and costs (including veterinarian, feed, and milking supplies) are covered by the monthly boarding fee charged to each share-holder.

Your Role as a Share Holder

1. Gives Chicama Run, LLC full management and control of the goat share(s) purchased by the boarding agreement.
2. Pays a monthly boarding fee, which covers the daily care, feed, milking supplies, veterinarian care, etc of the goat represented by the goat share(s).
3. Boarding fees will be paid monthly by automatic debit (PayPal or credit card) prior to receiving any milk for that month. Boarding fees not paid with 30 days will void the Boarding Agreement and the share(s) will revert back to Chicama Run, LLC.
4. Milk from your goat cannot be sold to others (it is illegal)
5. Understand that the milk is RAW MILK and NOT PASTURIZED.

What kind of goat am I buying?

Currently we have Nigerian Dwarf and Nubian goats which give a rich milk, high in butterfat content.

What are my goats fed?

Our goats are out on pasture when possible or fed locally grown hay. They are also fed a locally processed feed while being milked.

What kind of grain do you feed?

The locally grown grain mixture is made up of corn, alfalfa (when available), oats (when available), vitamins and minerals. They are only given grain while they are being milked.

How will my milk be handled?

We drink this milk too so we take extra care! All utensils and milking equipment are stainless steel and cleaned and sanitized before and after each milking. We HAND-MILK each goat twice per day. We thoroughly wash the udder and teats and then milk until the goat is completely empty to assure good milk production. Then we wash the udder and teats again to prevent bacteria from going in the open teat. Then the milk is immediately taken into the house, strained, chilled in an ice bath, and then stored in glass containers at 35 degrees F.

Are Antibiotics or Hormones Used?

We do NOT use any hormones. Antibiotics will be used as a last resort and NEVER given as a preventative measure. The milk will not be used if antibiotics are given until the hold off period is over.

How do I get my milk?

Your part as a goat share member is to pick up your milk at the farm every Saturday. Always phone or email if you will not be making your normal weekly pick up. We recommend using a cooler to transport your milk home! This is critical during the summer. If your milk warms up on the way home, shelf life will be reduced.

What about the jars?

The cost is \$10.00 for four-quart glass jars and lids (two for you to take home and two for your next milk pick up). We ask that you do a general cleaning of the jars before trading out each week, though we will wash each jar and lid as well. Please do not return jars smelling of sour milk!

How long does a goat produce milk?

A goat produces milk after birthing. A goat is normally milked for about 300 days and then is dried up for 65 days prior to giving birth again. This means there will be a 65-day period in the year with no milk. The goat's milk output normally starts out high then tapers off. Production also drops drastically because of hot weather or illness, so your milk share may be less if problems occur.

How can I pay?

We accept PayPal subscription payments or you may pay by credit card for monthly recurring payments. If you would like to pay by check, you are required to prepay in 3 or 6 month increments.