

Dairy Goat Breeds Information Chart

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by Sue Weaver

Full-sized Breeds	Origin	Color	Size	Ears	Coat	Profile	Butterfat
Alpine French	French Alps (but considered a Swiss breed)	Several recognized colors encompassing every color except solid white or brown with white Toggenburg-like markings	Medium-large; does at least 30 inches tall	Erect	Short to medium	Straight or dished	3.5 percent
LaMancha	United States (California)	Any color or pattern	Medium-large; does at least 28 inches and 130 pounds	Absent or very small external ear Gopher ears: up to 1 inches with no cartilage Elf ear: up to 2 inches but with cartilage	Short and glossy	Straight	3.9 percent
Nubian	England (called the Anglo-Nubian)	Any color or pattern	Medium-large; elegant; does at least 30 inches and 135 pounds; meatier than other dairy breeds	Long, pendulous; ideally reach 1 inch beyond muzzle when flat	Short, glossy, fine	Convex (Roman-nosed)	4.8 percent
Mini-Nubian	Switzerland	Chamois (bay-colored) with black dorsal stripe, udder, belly and lower legs; head is nearly black with two white stripes on sides of head	Medium; does at least 28 inches and 120 pounds	Erect	Short	Straight	3.7 percent
Saanen (SAH-nen)	Switzerland	White or pale cream	Large; big-boned; does 30 to 35 inches and 150 pounds	Erect; medium-sized, preferably pointing outward	Short	Straight or slightly dished	3.4 percent
Sable	Switzerland	Colored version of Saanen; now considered a separate breed	Medium-large; big-boned; does 30 to 35 inches and 150 pounds	Erect; medium-sized, preferably pointing outward	Short	Straight or slightly dished	3.4 percent
Toggenburg	Switzerland	Any shade of brown; white stripes on sides of face; white stripes on inside of lower legs; white stripes on sides of tail	Medium; big-boned; Does 30 to 32 inches and 125 pounds	Erect; medium-sized, preferably pointing outward	Short to medium	Straight or dished	3.2 percent

Learn more about dairy-goat operations from goat care to breed selection in the July/August 2009 *Hobby Farms*.

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Miniature Breeds	Origin	Color	Size	Ears	Coat	Profile	Butterfat
Kinder	Snohomish, Wash., USA, using Nubian and Pygmy genetics	Any	20 to 26 inches, mature does; a maximum of 28 inches for mature bucks	Long and wide, resting below horizontal and extending to the end of the muzzle or beyond when held flat against the jaw line	Short, fine textured	Straight or dished	5 to 8 percent
Mini-Alpine	United States, using Alpine and Nigerian Dwarf genetics	Same as full-sized Alpine	23 to 29 inches for mature does; 24 to 31 inches for mature bucks	Erect	Short to medium	Straight or dished	Usually slightly higher than full-sized Alpine
Mini-LaMancha (Mini-Mancha)	United States, using LaMancha and Nigerian Dwarf genetics	Any	23 to 27 inches for mature does; 24 to 29 inches for mature bucks	Absent or very small external ear Gopher ears: no cartilage Elf ear: short but with cartilage	Short and glossy	Straight	Usually slightly higher than full-sized LaMancha
Mini-Nubian	United States, using Nubian and Nigerian Dwarf genetics	Any	23 to 29 inches for mature does; 24 to 31 inches for mature bucks	Long, pendulous	Short, glossy, fine	Straight or (preferably) Roman-nosed	Usually slightly higher than full-sized Nubian
Mini-Oberhasli	United States, using Oberhasli and Nigerian Dwarf genetics	Same as full-sized Oberhasli	23 to 27 inches for mature does; 24 to 29 inches for mature bucks	Erect	Short	Straight	Usually slightly higher than full-sized Oberhasli
Mini-Saanen and Mini-Sable	United States, using Saanen or Sable and Nigerian Dwarf genetics	Same as full-sized Saanen or Sable	23 to 29 inches for mature does; 24 to 31 inches for mature bucks	Erect; medium-sized, preferably pointing outward	Short	Straight or slightly dished	Usually slightly higher than full-sized Saanens and Sables
Mini-Toggenburg	United States, using Toggenburg and Nigerian Dwarf genetics	Same as full-sized Toggenburg	23 to 25 inches for mature does; 24 to 27 inches for mature bucks	Erect; medium-sized, preferably pointing outward	Short to medium	Straight or slightly dished	Usually slightly higher than full-sized Toggenburgs
Nigerian Dwarf	United States, from West African ancestors	Any, although Pygmy-specific markings are penalized	Ideal size of mature does is 17 to 19 inches; acceptable: does up to 21 inches. Ideal size of mature bucks is 19 to 21 inches; acceptable: bucks up to 23 inches. Ideal weight is around 75 pounds.	Erect	Soft, with short- to medium-length hair	Straight	6 to 10

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