

Getting Started in the 4-H Meat Goat Project

Selection

- Structure and Soundness
- Degree of Muscling
- Capacity
- Balance
- Style
- Degree of Finish (Fat Cover)

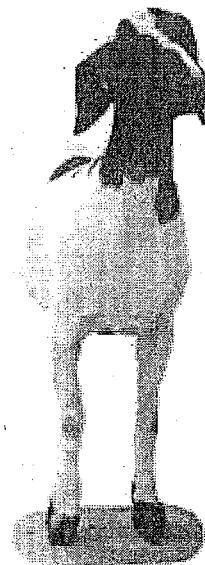
These are typically what judges base their rankings upon. The winning goat will have the right amount of each category mentioned above. The most important area is structure and soundness in the beginning because this will allow the rest to work its place in with the right feeding techniques and exercise routine.

Structure and Soundness

Consider:

- Feet and Toes
- Pasterns
- Knees
- Hocks
- Levelness of Top

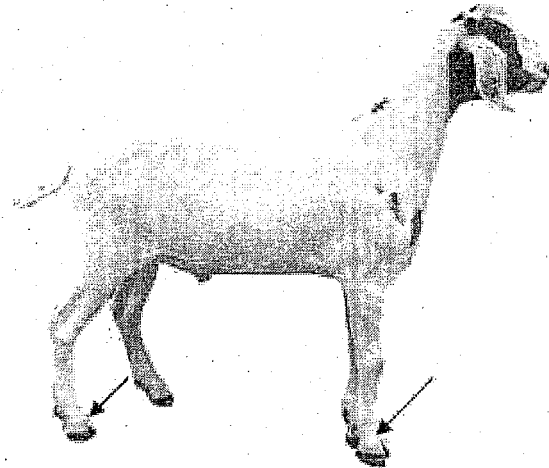
Feet and Toes



Big feet/
Even Toes
Good

Feet turned out/
Uneven Toes
Bad

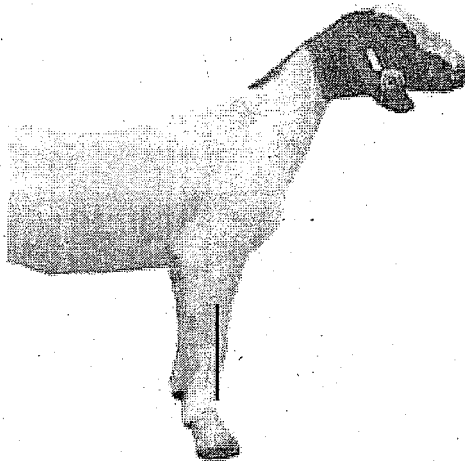
Pasterns



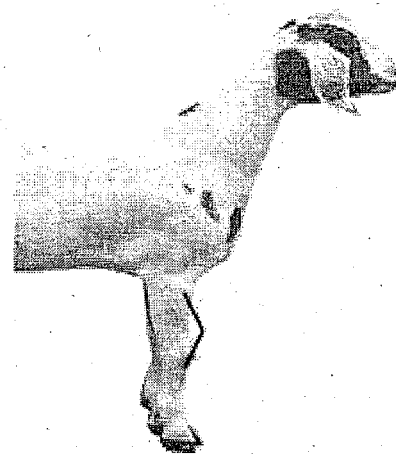
Strong Pasterns
Good

Weak Pasterns
Bad

Knees

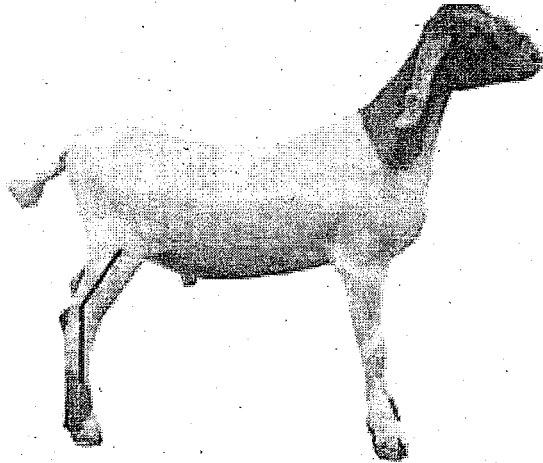


Straight Knee
Good

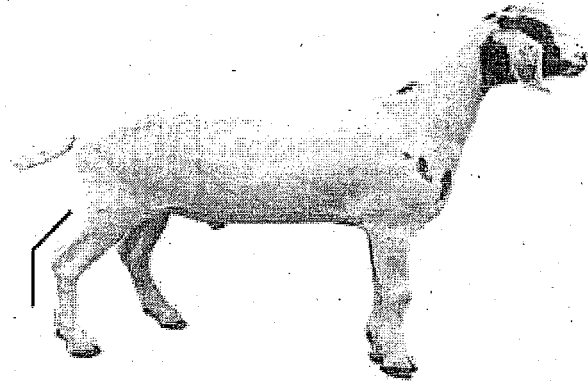


Buck-Kneed
Bad

Hocks

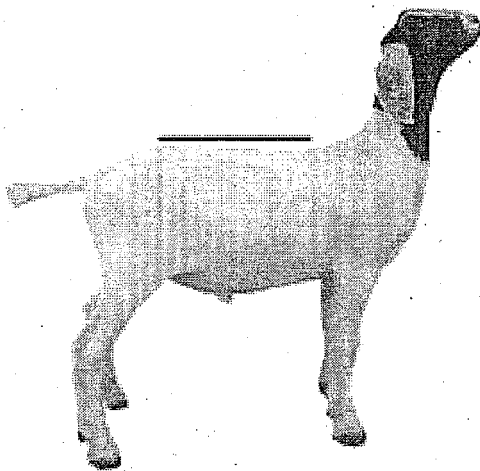


Nice set to hocks
Good

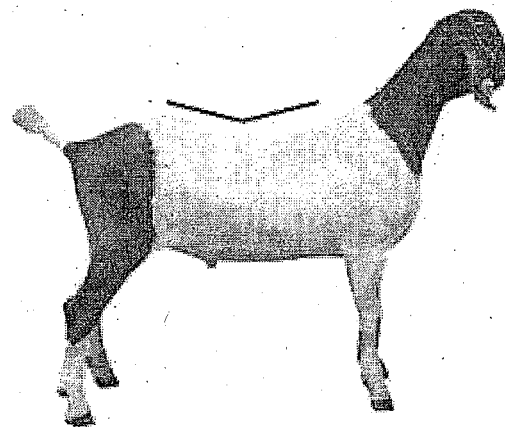


Too much set to hocks
Bad

Levelness of Top



Level Topped
Good



Weak Topped
Bad

If your goat is lacking any of these areas shown above it will affect the goat's future performance and longevity.

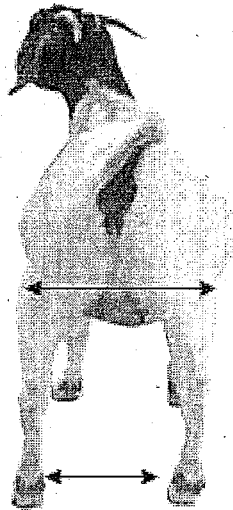
Degree of Muscling

Consider:

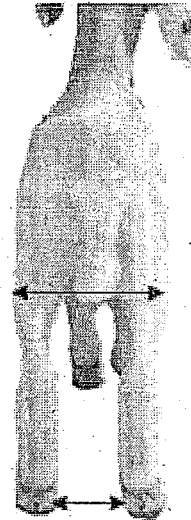
- Center Leg Width
- Width of Loin

- Length of Loin

Center Leg Width

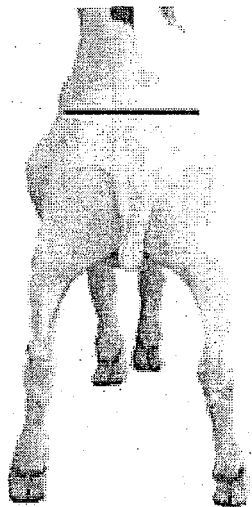


Wide/
Thick Muscled
Good

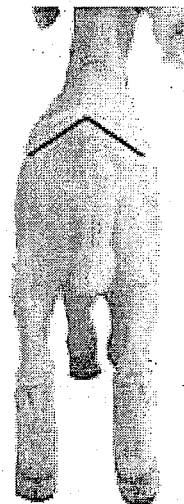


Narrow/
Thin Muscled
Bad

Width of Loin

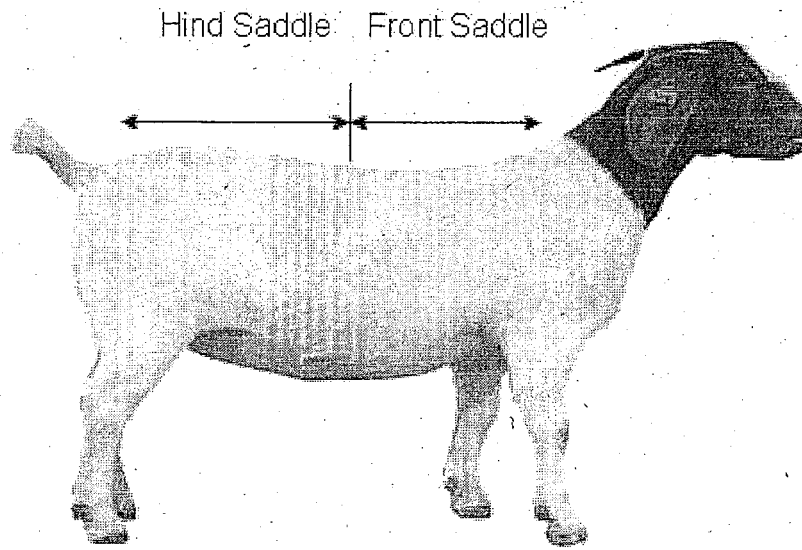


Wide and
Flat Over Top
Good



Narrow and
Steep Over Top
Bad

Length of Loin



- Hind saddle should be at least as long as front saddle.

Capacity

Consider:

- Body Width
- Body Depth
- Body Length

This is a major difference between wethers and breeding stock. It is important for your breeding stock to have a large capacity in order to produce young properly. It is also important in wethers to have adequate capacity for feed conversion.

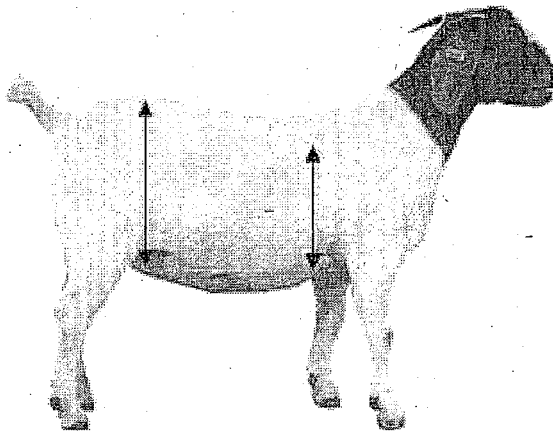
Body Width



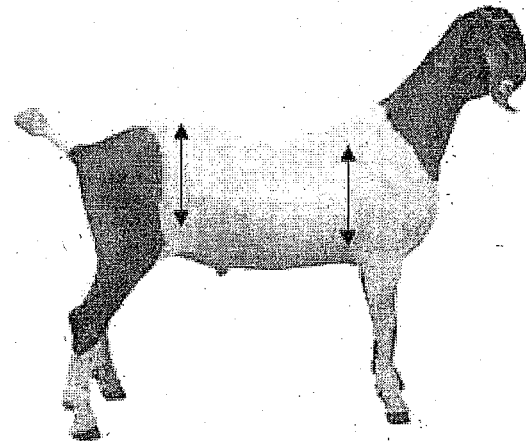
Wide Based
(Open-Ribbed)
Good

Narrow Width
(Flat-Ribbed)
Bad

Body Depth

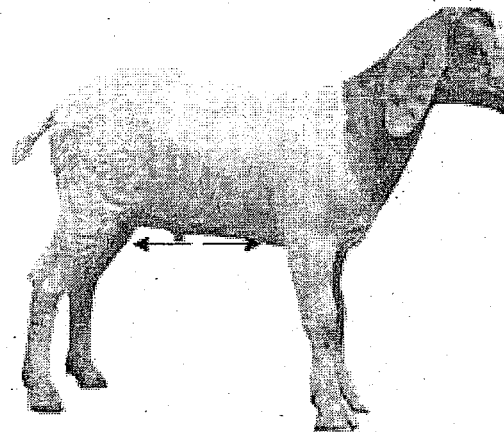


Deep Bodied
Good



Shallow Bodied
Bad

Body Length



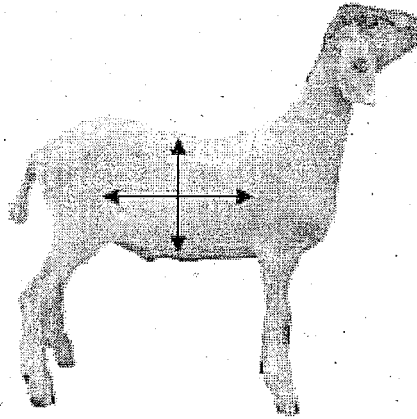
Long Bodied
Good

Short Bodied
Bad

Balance



*Unbalanced
Bad

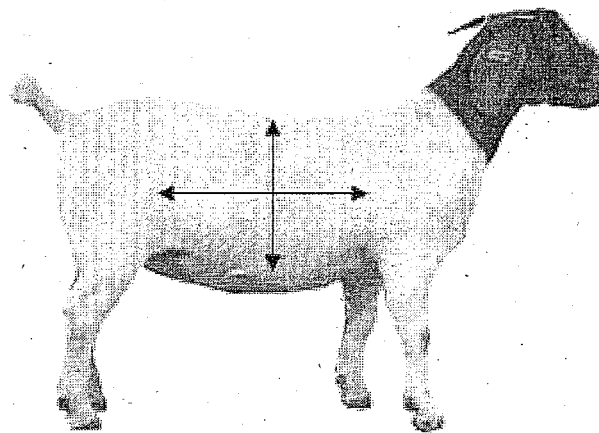


Narrow Based

Short and Shallow Bodied



Wide Based

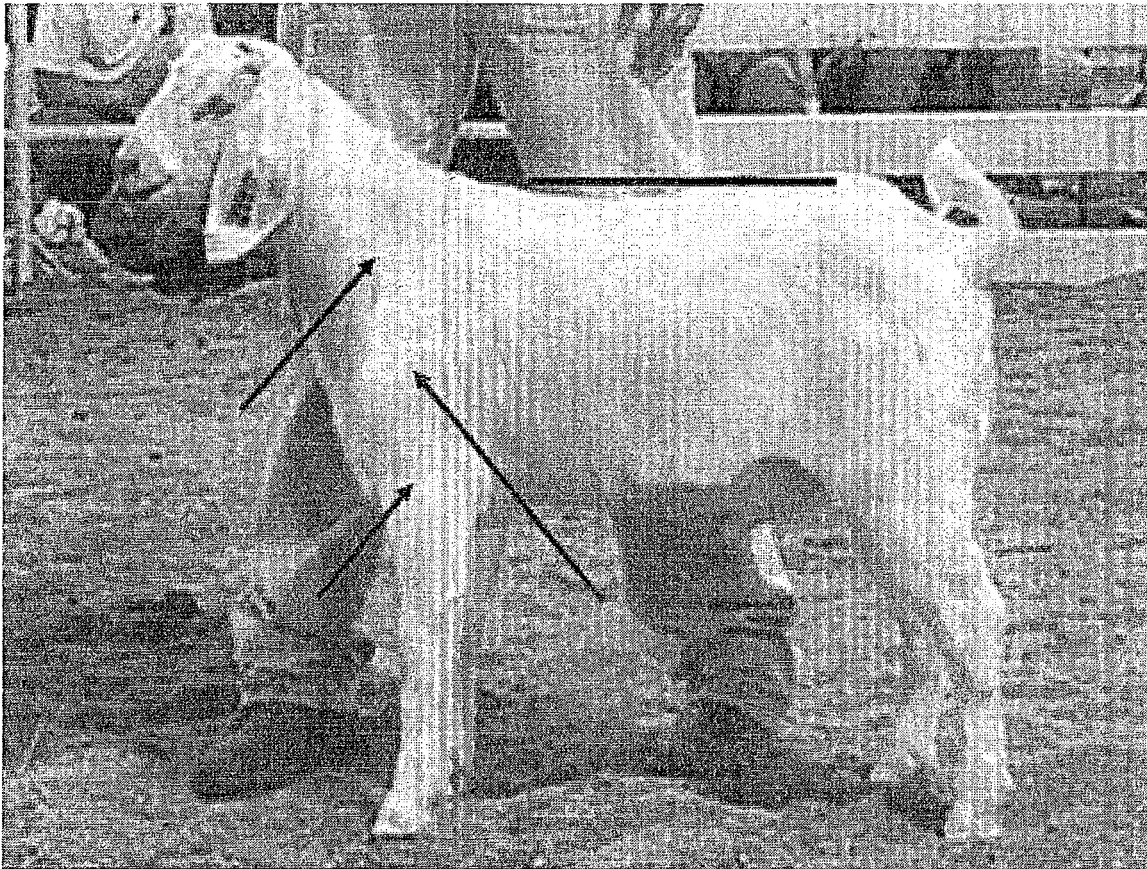


Good

Excellent Depth and Length of Body

Style

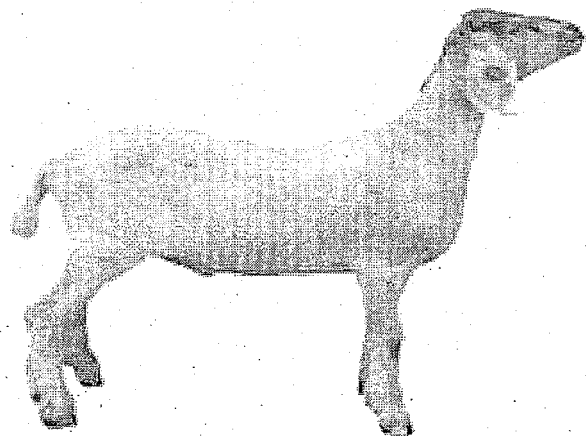
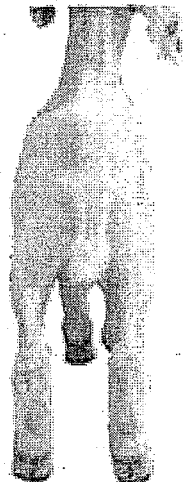
Very Good Style Goat:



- Long, level top line.
- Long, clean neck sitting on the shoulders.
- Clean breast.
- Smooth shoulder blending nicely from the neck to forerib.

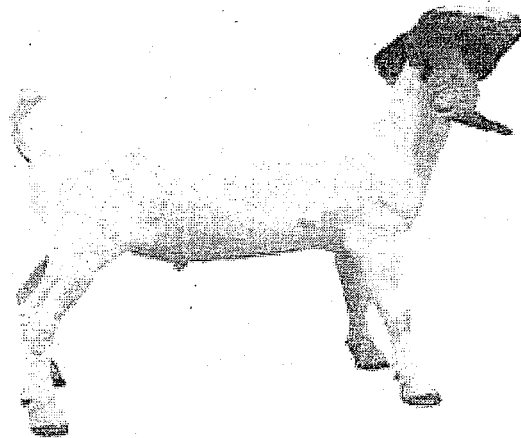
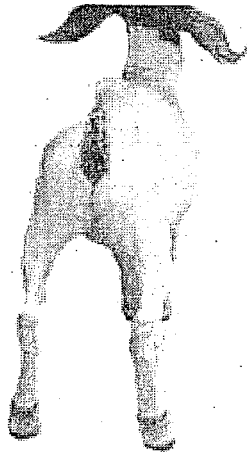
Degree of Finish

- **Lean, but unthrifty:**



This is a common when the goats are past their prime or have had health issues. Also, many owners try to maintain their goat's prime weight by not allowing them to consume the proper diet; in result to this many goats come out appearing rung out.

- **Lean with bloom:**



This is the look desired to have when exhibiting your goat. This goat appears to have the 12 o'clock look, as it appears youthful and healthy.

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