Here Come The American Reds

The American Red is the vision of Chris Luton and 7 foundation breeders to develop a livestock designed, field and range hardy meat goat that has muscle definition with a moderate to semi heavy bone, and red in color here in the US. The intent of the American Red goat is to make a positive contribution to livestock producers and the meat industry that will eventually be a designated meat goat breed developed in the USA. The American Red will be developed as a composite breed raised in a livestock environment exactly the way other breeds were developed in the countries they were imported from. This project will be created by the same method and criteria that all the imported breeds that the American goat raisers have started their registries, associations and Meat Goat industries from.

We're blessed to have the counsel from two great South African Boer and Khalahari Red breeders to coach us, Jaco Vd Merwe and Conrad Herbst. For some breeders, the high goal may be to aim at South African Khalahari Reds within the American Red herd. These producers may be aiming at the phenotype of the SA Khalahari Red, but will never compromise the livestock, production animal of the American Red. A fantastic range hardy Red might be missing something within its phenotype to make the Khalahari Red Studbook, but will function perfectly as a livestock performer within the American Red. Therefore, the value is kept at a profitable place by being a livestock American Red. Through this offshoot of the program, they may create an American Red that can be dual registered in the SA Studbook as a Kalahari Red through the US-South African Boer Goat Breeders Alliance.

The program began with 8 founding breeders. The foundation team of American Red breeders and producers all have the same goal, which is to produce quality livestock managed, field and range hardy meat goats. In 2022, between these 8 breeders, there will be close to 300 solid American Red does having kids hit the ground. Also in 2022, there will be the opportunity for the industry to be able to purchase the X1 batch of American Red kids that make final grade. They will be microchipped, DNA'd and registered with The American Meat Goat Registry. The producers joining the vision are simply meat goat producers targeting the commodity of goat meat. Together we'll be aggressively selecting animals that perform to excellence in order to produce a performance driven meat goat from the most muscle defined meat goats available.

Since The American Red is a composite breed, producers are using many types of goats to achieve the correct type of goat that will thrive in their environment. These producers are giving their input from livestock experience on breed development. Most producers are using proven solid Red Boer sires over Boer, Savanna, Spanish and Kiko cross does. Foundation sires are selected as near perfection as possible, and the foundation does also receive a thorough examination to pass as breeding stock. Critical selection and vicious culling will be strongly encouraged to ensure that only the desired traits are passed on without accepting faults.. From these groups using critical selection the First Generation cross is achieved, called the X1 generation. Some producers will then choose the best bucklings, once graded at 12 months, and cross over their half-sisters Each producer can build their American Red composite from whichever breeds they so desire. Once these producers have their program well enough along, American Red breeders can swap genetics within the overall program.

The American Red goat uses the X-Factor designed by Dwight Elmore. The X-Factor is a filial classification system that gives a defined generational path for both bucks and does which can eventually lead to purebred status. For does it is X4 and X5 for bucks which become purebreds.
The American Meat Goat Registry, https://AMGR.org is the home of the American Red meat goat breed and its pedigree tracking. This chart is a great reference to understand the generations, but AMGR's software will automatically calculate this for each breeder registering American Red goats. The X-Factor is built into the AMGR pedigree registration number as well to quickly identify the generation of the animal.
For any questions about the X-Factor, please ask Dwight Elmore and for any questions concerning pedigree tracking, you can use the contact form on https://www.amgr.org/index.cfm#contact.

To use the chart, choose the column of the female used in the mating and the row of the male you are using. Where they intersect is what the X-Factor will be for the resulting progeny. Not a single foundation breeder will have "Purebred" American Reds immediately. It will take several generations of mating to achieve "Purebred" status, thus increasing the odds greatly that the traits we are building into this breed can be relied upon by both fellow breeders and commercial meat goat breeders alike. We are using this system for several reasons. It is to increases the assuredness that the breed

standards are bred-in for generations before we reach the status of Purebred. This will also serve as a speed bump against the promotional "game players" and goat traders trying to make a fast dollar just on the hype of something new. The American Red is something we are developing. To the dismay of the livestock trading opportunists, that just because a goat is red will not give it the registerable integrity of an American Red.

The X-Factor system assures that a future purebred comes from parents (both the topside and the bottom side of the pedigree) that had been selected to strive towards our Breed Standard. This virtually guarantees breeding for beneficial type before being able to produce purebreds. The American Reds are more than just red Boers, red Spanish, red Savannas or any other type of red crossbred goat. These are going to be red goats that are adapted to each person's region and or management style while punctuating real world goat traits that lead to better profitability, efficiency, and economics. The American Reds provide an opportunity for true animal breeders to create something that many promotes talk about but may not necessarily produce. The combination of the X-Factor system used with each breeder's integrity towards our breed standard allow us this opportunity.

A complete explanation of Breed standards can be found at www.amgr.org. The American Red Goat is an animal with symmetry, with a strong, vigorous appearance and fine quality. The doe must be feminine and the buck masculine. The size and set of ears, horns and facial profile, weight, height, degree of cashmere in the winter are varying traits. Important traits to the breed are adaptability, effective foragers, fertility, strong maternals, longevity and tolerance of difficult conditions, although these are more difficult to measure and describe.
Each American Red producer will be able to develop their red herd with the composite they choose.

Some breeding focuses could be
- high relative forage intake
- low inputs
- high practical fertility
- doe efficiency
- optimal milk production
- high forage conversion
- maximum meat:bone ratio
- climatic adaptation
- parasite/disease resistance
- easy care
- temperament
- mothering ability
- easy kidding

Here's a list of the foundation breeders who have seen the vision of the American Red. This has been a team effort that the Lord Jesus has birthed and has directed us to completion.

Dwight Elmore- Sterling, KS
Ramey Watkins- Edmonton , KY
Phil Seay- Graham, NC
Steve Massey- Lawrenceburg, TN
Lloyd Ward- Sheffield, Texas
Matt Brandt- Huntsville, AR
Chris Luton- Stendal, Indiana
Todd & Dana Evans- Cowley, WY