

**Restoration of the Carpathian goat in Poland**

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The Carpathian goat is an old local breed found in the 19th century in the Polish Carpathian Mountains. The intensification of agriculture and breeding and the associated replacement of local breeds by more productive breeds has made the Carpathian breeds almost extinct. In 2005, small herds of Carpathian goats were found in Poland. The purchased goats, their offspring and herd bucks were moved to a farm belonging to the National Research Institute of Animal Production.

Carpathian goats have harmonious body conformation with normal udders. The goats have shapely heads, long necks and thin horns directed upwards and backwards. They have beards and often characteristic wattle on the neck. Ears are long, narrow and lively. Many males and females have a characteristic fringe above the eyes. The trunk is well built, with an even back and sloping hindquarters. Bucks have wide horns twisted in a characteristic clockwise spiral as well as an abundant mane and beard. Carpathian goats are medium-sized animals. Females have a withers height of 60 cm and weigh 30-35 kg. The respective values for bucks are 70 cm and 50 kg.

Carpathian goats are white with a semi-long hair coat and occasional down undercoat, which splits on mid-back, evenly falling on both sides of the trunk. Guard hair length averages 20.75 cm in goats and 31.0 cm in bucks.

Daily milk yield at peak lactation exceeds 3 litres with lactation yield averaging 470 kg. The milk obtained contains 2.8% protein and 3.4% fat on average. Sexual maturation is early with prolificacy of 150–160%.

This breed is resistant to adverse environment and very well adapted to living in submontane climate. It performs well in small backyard herds. Carpathian goats are very docile and friendly, which makes them suitable for agritourism farms. As regional and organic products, the cheese, milk, meat and skins obtained from Carpathian goats can be the mark of the region and make its tourist offer more attractive.