

# ANGORA GOAT BREEDING UNIT ESTABLISHED

E. B. Stanley, M.S.

## Foundation Stock Obtained From Texas; Special Study To Be Given To Grading Up Range Goats; Goat Industry Shows Promise

**B**REEDING experiments with Angora goats have recently been inaugurated by the Animal Husbandry Department of the University of Arizona for the purpose of establishing a type of Angora goat adapted to Arizona conditions that will yield a uniform fleece of quality conforming to the discriminating market demand. Ten pure bred Angora does have been purchased to form the foundation of a pure bred flock from which it is planned by selective breeding to fix a more desirable type of animal adapted to Arizona conditions. The does were selected from the flocks of Mr. B. M. Halbert and Mr. Earl Earwood both of Sonora, Texas, which are recognized as two of the most outstanding Angora goat flocks in the country. It was thought advisable to secure the Texas goat because of the advance which has been made in that State by some breeders in West Texas in breeding an animal which carries a sufficient quantity of oil under the arid conditions that prevail there, a factor that is considered to be heritable and associated with fineness of hair. Climatic and range conditions in the goat country of Texas bred goats were selected in preference to the Oregon Angoras. The foundation animals were selected on their merits as representing the most improved and desired characteristics for mohair production. By rigid culling and selection those animals showing a pre-

dominance of characters sought for will be used in fixing the objective type. Among the objectives of the experiment are:

1. Elimination of kemp fibers.
2. Greater fineness of fibers and their uniform distribution.
3. Increase the oil content of the fleece.
4. Greater size.

### Grading-up Studies

In conjunction with the more technical phases of the selective breeding studies, observations will be made of the results of breeding pure bred Angora bucks to average Arizona range does. A special object of this work will be to study the inheritance of the factor for oil. Fifty range does have been secured and will be mated with bucks of known breeding. Careful records will be kept of the improvement in the different characteristics of body and fleece development.

### Goat Men Interested

A great deal of interest has been manifested by the mohair producers in Arizona in the proposed breeding experiments. Mr. J. P. Weatherby of Klondyke, Arizona, gave four registered does and a buck to the University Farm, the first animals of this kind to be acquired by the University of Arizona. Other breeders have taken a very active part in showing the need for systematic and careful work in the breeding of Angora goats for a more desirable type. The urgent and widespread need on the part of goat men for guidance in their breed-

ing practices was evidenced in a resolution passed by the Arizona Wool and Mohair Growers' Association, asking the University to take steps in establishing a goat and sheep breeding station at Prescott.

### Sheep Unit Planned

During the coming year it is planned to make a similar start with sheep for the purpose of studying the various breeding problems in wool and lamb production which confront the Arizona sheep men.

### Angora Goats in Arizona

Within a comparatively recent period of years the raising of Angora goats for mohair production in Arizona has developed into an industry of considerable prominence and importance. Arizona, with approximately 200,000 Angora goats, stands third in the total number produced in the United States. The Angora goat is especially adapted to extensive range areas in this State embracing the counties of Mohave and Yavapai principally with more or less isolated sections in Graham, Pima, Pinal and Cochise counties. Because of their unique dietary habits, these animals thrive on rough brushy sparsely grassed ranges so that they conflict but rarely with cattle and sheep for range. This feature makes possible a continued material development in the range goat industry. A minimum of investment, low operating costs, moderate climate, and yearlong grazing seasons are additional factors contributing to the growth of mohair production in Arizona.

The Angora goat of all of our farm animals has received the least consideration in the improvement of its economic qualities. It was not until 1920 that the Union of South Africa reversed its policy of prohibiting the exportation of rams. The world's largest and best supply of mohair is grown in Turkey and South Africa. The Turkish mohair is slightly superior to the South African product though importations of goats from Turkey have not been permitted by that country. The inferiority of the domestic mohair is due to the introduction of common goat blood by early importers to increase the stamina and size. Within the last decade

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Young Angora Goats

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Will you please give me a good fattening ration to be used for crate feeding broilers.

—Mrs. J. F. T.

Answer: In our experimental work at this station we find that a mixture composed of 2 parts corn meal, 2 parts ground barley, 2 parts cottonseed meal, 7½ semi-solid buttermilk has given very satisfactory results. The gains averaged from 25 to 33% over a 10- to 12-day feeding period. Liquid buttermilk or skimmilk can be substituted for the semi-solid buttermilk. This material should be made in the form of a batter at a consistency which will permit it being poured from the container. The birds should be starved for twelve hours be-

fore the first feeding. They should be fed lightly at first and the amount increased until they are on full feed about the third day. It is suggested that the feeding period not continue longer than twelve days.

—H. B. Hinds, Ass. Poultryman.

Question: What is the advisability of planting a part of my property, on the Yuma Mesa, to Valencia oranges?

—E. V. B.

In answer to your letter relative to the advisability of planting a part of your property on the Yuma Mesa to Valencia oranges. From the temperature standpoint, I believe the Yuma Mesa is well suited for the growing of Valencias. They will bear more heavily than Navels, although from a market standpoint they will meet more competition than the Navel. I believe, however, that through their heavier production and with the present tendency of the Navels on the Mesa to produce very light crops that the lower price which may be received from the Valencias will be more than offset by their heavier production.

I believe we could use to advantage an early seedless variety of the Valencia type and quality which will produce a heavy crop of fruit at a season as early or earlier than the Navel. We have one or two varieties under trial at our station which may meet these specifications. I refer particularly to the Hamblin seedless. We have no trees in production as yet, so are unable to determine their behavior.

—A. F. Kinnison, Horticulturist.

## SWEET POTATOES IN ARIZONA

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early market may be harvested as soon as they reach marketable size regardless of the stage of maturity. If the potatoes are to be stored they should be mature before digging. However, if an early frost occurs, the vines should be removed or the potatoes harvested regardless of the stage of maturity.

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the automobile industry has become one of the largest consumers of mohair and has created a marked stimulus in mohair production. The almost complete dependence upon mohair as the sole source of income has led Angora goat breeders to devote particular attention to the production of a heavier and better product. Improvement comes slowly and only after careful systematic management. The complexity of constructive breeding practices makes it highly impractical for the commercial producer to effect an established improvement.

A predominance of kempy, objectionable, low quality mohair is produced. Goatmen are generally undecided as to the type of mohair the mills require. Only slight differentiation has been made in the market price for varying degrees of quality. A wide divergence of opinion exists among breeders of the ideal type of standard to breed to. The future welfare of the industry is greatly dependent upon the production of an improved standardized product. This work is proposed to aid in furthering the improvement of mohair in general and especially to ascertain the essential qualities necessary in the production of a more desirable product and to fix them in a goat adaptable to Arizona conditions.

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