



# **National Agricultural Youth Show**

## **Mohair Goat Manual**



**2024**

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## **1. A BRIEF HISTORY**

The central part of Asia Minor was long before the birth of Christ the original home of the Angora goat, also known as the Mohair goat. According to some sources, the Angora developed from *Capra acgagrus* - the original wild goat of Persia.

Turkey eventually became the main producer of Mohair and it was known that Mohair of the highest quality was produced in the province Angora, which is located on the Black Sea. All the Mohair produced in Turkey was spun and woven by the farming community of the country. The material was then exported to Europe. In 1820 the Sultan of Turkey for the first time allowed the export of raw mohair and in 1835, Britain started spinning mohair. In 1839 the demand for mohair increased sharply and Britain bought the whole Turkish clip of 80 million kg. To meet the increased demand, the Angora goat was crossed with the Kurd- or ordinary goat, which unfortunately caused a kemp fibre in the fleece.

In 1838 Colonel Henderson, of the firm, Dixon & Co., received the first batch of 12 Angora rams and one ewe - all virtually pure bred - imported to the Cape. During the voyage, six rams died and it was found that the remaining six rams were impotent on arrival, probably because they were castrated by the Turks before shipping them. The female, however, during the journey lambed, and her offspring ram was used in the Caledon area to upgrade the indigenous Cape goat of that time. Over the next forty years many rams and ewes were imported - unfortunately not all of the same outstanding quality. These imports went on until 1880, when further exports were stopped by Turkey. Due to the diligence and skill of the South African producers, who made the best use of the Angora goats which were imported from Turkey before 1880, rapidly expanded the Angora goat industry in South Africa, both in terms of production and quality. In 1857, the South African Mohair production delivered only 395 kg and in 1912 it had risen to 10,648,525 kg. The main Mohair production countries in the world today are the United States (mainly Texas), Turkey and South Africa (including Lesotho). During the past few years there was a continuous and gradual increase in the world production of mohair.

## **2. BREEDING**

Efficient production and reproduction, mainly depends on the size, conformation, vitality and adaptability of the Angora goat.

### **2.1 CONFORMATION**

#### **Head**

The head, in its entirety, must be masculine, (not coarse), with character and a neat formation. It should be fairly wide between the eyes and jaws that fit well together. The head should be covered with short, soft hair of a good quality. The ears should be medium-sized, hanging and slightly pointed to the front, covered with short, soft hair. The horns of the ram must be oval, strong and turning backwards and spreading - not too close to the neck and the points must tuck. The horns of the ewe are rounder and lighter and they need a neat deflection to the neck turning outward. The minimum space between the horns in rams and

ewes should not be less than 3 cm, measured 5 cm from the base of the horns. It is also important that there are no coloured hairs present, e.g., no black hair in the ears or red eye lashes.

### **Forequarter and Legs**

The neck should be moderately long and in proportion to the rest of the body, fairly deep and wide to neatly join at the shoulders. A broad deep chest with well vertebrated ribs is the ideal. The hump should be fairly wide and the shoulders well fleshed and firmly join the hump and shoulders in a straight line with the back. Strong and straight front legs, with strong pasterns and well-formed hooves are required.

### **The Top line (Middle)**

A straight, strong back, with broad loins and a straight, strong flat and neat back loin - connection is ideal. The torso must be large and deep, with good vertebrate ribs. The back, loins and torso form the middle of the animal, the length, width and depth thereof, contribute most to the size and general appearance of the animal.

### **Hindquarters and hind legs**

The rump should be as broad as possible and fairly level and more or less in a straight line with the spine and hump. Sufficient space between the aitchbones is necessary. The inner- and outer thighs should be as muscular (fleshy) as possible. The hind legs strong and straight and the pasterns firm, and the hooves well formed. The tail should be straight on the rump, curly and covered with soft characteristic mohair.

### **General appearance, size and true to its breed**

The ideal Angora must be strong and vibrant, with a symmetrical conformation (i.e., different parts of the body in relation to each other). The desired weight of an adult ewe is 36 to 45 kg and that of an adult male 65 to 82 kg. The animal should reveal all the desirable properties of a well-bred and refined breeding line.

### **Reproductive Organs**

The reproductive organs of rams and ewes should be developed normally and show no defects. Any abnormality of the genitals should be regarded as a disqualification.

## **2.2 HAIR COVERING**

### **Length**

The ideal is a good, even length throughout the whole fleece, since it has an influence not only on the amount of hair produced, but also on the value of the fibre for processing. Under normal circumstances a well-bred Angora grows 2.5 cm hair a month, but additional growth is very desirable as Angoras in South Africa are clipped at least twice a year.

### **Fineness**

Fineness of the hair and the uniformity thereof is the most valuable trait Mohair can process, as not only the fineness of the spun thread depends on it, but also the lightness and attractiveness of the woven material. Fineness and the uniformity thereof in the fleece of the adult animal are extremely important.

## Quality

The quality of Mohair is determined by style and character. Style is the spiral appearance of the strings and character is the wavy appearance. In good quality goats there should be a good combination of style and character.

Mohair of good quality has a soft, yet firm feel. It contains sufficient protective wool oil and is bright and shiny and wavy, twisted, firm blunt ended strings of uniform size throughout the entire body.

### **Fullness of coverage (density)**

The density of the hair covering is indicated by the percentage of skin surface that is covered with fibre, and is determined by:

- a) the number of fibres per unit skin surface and
- b) the fineness (diameter) of the fibres.

## **3. LOCATION**

South Africa produces 50 - 60% of the world's mohair and thus makes the RSA the biggest producer of Mohair. The Eastern Cape and neighbouring regions of the Western Cape is the main centre of Mohair production in the Republic of South Africa. The districts Willowmore, Aberdeen, Graaff-Reinet, Jansenville, Steytlerville, Pearston, Somerset East and Cradock, has the highest concentration of goats. Further distribution includes the districts Oudtshoorn, Uniondale, Prince Albert, Beaufort West, Murraysburg, Bedford, Adelaide, Middelburg, Colesberg, Tarkastad Hofmeyr, Albania, the bush areas of Uitenhage, Alicedale and the Sundays River Valley. Isolated herds are found in Northwest and Northeast Cape and the Southern parts of the Free State. Lesotho is the country that produces the second most mohair in the world.

## **4. NUTRITION OR FEEDING**

A mix of shrubs and Karoo scrub present the ideal grazing conditions for Angora. Angora goats have a fondness for thorny plants commonly found next to dry watercourses. Since goats have a natural tendency to climb, they make good use of ridges and hills that is less accessible to other small stock species. After an initial adjustment period of about one year, goats do well on grassland, especially where red grass is predominant. The goats do well on planted pastures such as, lucerne, wheat and oats, provided that a strict dosing programme is followed to prevent internal parasites.

## 5. BASIC FLOCK WELFARE

### 5.1 General

Normally goats in South Africa get clipped twice a year at intervals of every 6/6 or 5/7 months. In some extremely dense, overgrown areas, Angora goats should be clipped every four months. Hair that is shorter than 12 cm goes to the carded yarn industry and therefore has a much lower market value. During clipping the following rules can be applied advantageously. These rules are important to ensure that fleeces remain clean and neat before clipping.

- a) Animals in full fleece should never be driven on wet dewy veld. This causes excessive hair contamination.
- b) Angora goats should be driven to the shearing shed in small herds of about 50 each. In this way it is ensured that the goats are more evenly dispersed and the hair is less contaminated.
- c) The animals should be taken to a dry camp a day before shearing in order to prevent contamination of the hair as a result of diarrhoea and dirt.
- d) Noise should be avoided as the animals are nervous and mill around, causing the goats get diarrhoea, and the hair is contaminated.
- e) The castrated goats must first be clipped in the morning. It gives the ewes opportunity to dry their rear ends in the sunshine.
- f) The animals must first be separated into groups, namely kids, young goats, adult ewes and castrated goats. It simplifies the shearing process and the classing of the hair thereafter.
- g) The shearing floor must be well washed or brushed, and the catching pens with soil as cover must be wet- sprayed to let the dust settle.
- h) It is desirable to clip beforehand the short hair of the belly, short hair on the legs, curls and stained hair, as this will speed up and ease the classification process.
- i) Animals should be kept for about six weeks in a sheltered camp within easy reach of a barn, shed or pen after shearing, so that the animals can be quickly provided with shelter in case of unfavourable weather conditions.

### 5.2 Health

**5.2.1 Internal parasites:** Angora Goats are also susceptible to internal parasites like sheep. Hair worms, Brown–stomach worm and Bankrupt Worms are the most problematic.

Symptoms:

- Pale mucous membranes
- Loss of weight, appetite
- Diarrhoea.

By regularly taking faeces samples from the goats, a veterinarian can establish what parasites are present in the sample and deworming medicine can be dosed accordingly to eradicate the parasites.

**5.2.2 Coccidiosis:** Coccidiosis is found in damp humid conditions, for example in wet soil where a water crib leaks. Coccidiosis is easily identified in faeces samples but also when goats have a low growth, weight loss and sometimes diarrhoea with a grey colour. The goats must be treated with a drug that would counteract.

**5.2.3 External parasites:** These include ticks, red lice and blue lice. These parasites cause the skin to itch and can further cause the goats to scratch themselves and damage their fleeces. Anaemia is caused by ticks and blue lice sucking blood. Goats can be dipped or a pour-on product can be used to kill these parasites

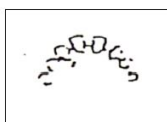
### 5.2.4 Other diseases

- a) **Pasteurella:** this disease is almost like pneumonia. Goats must be vaccinated to prevent it.
- b) **Enzootic abortion:** This disease causes ewes to abort or give birth to weak kids. Ewes must be vaccinated before the mating season.
- c) **Clostridial diseases** like pulpy kidney and lamb dysentery. This disease is caused when the ration suddenly changes, for example when ewes will be moved from the field to other pastures before lambing. Goats should be vaccinated twice a year against these diseases.

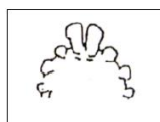
### 5.3 Age determination in goats

The upper jaw is made of hard cartilage and the animal's age is determined by the lower teeth.

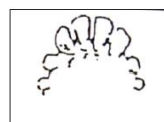
- ± 14 months a lamb changes and the animal gets 2 permanent teeth.
- 2 years/ 24 months the sheep has 4 permanent teeth.
- 3 years/36 months the sheep has 6 permanent teeth.
- 4 years/48 months the sheep has 8 permanent teeth (full mouth)



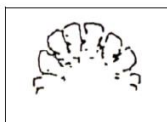
Eerste jaar



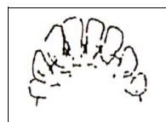
Tweede jaar



Derde jaar (2-3 jaar oud)



Vierde jaar (3-4 jaar oud)



Vyde jaar (4 jaar oud)

Animals must be 6 months and older to show.

## 6. DIPPING OF GOATS

In order to prevent infestation of lice or to kill parasites goats need to be dipped. Great care should be taken with the mixing of concentrations and the different dip mixes, as well as the regular replacement of contaminated dip. Mohair that has been stained by dips, or lost the

natural feeling, has a lower market value. The sooner the animal is dipped after clipping, the better, because the dipping is likely to close the pores on the skin of the clipped animals and as a result reduces the effect of cool, wet weather on the animal. Furthermore, dipping has the additional advantage that it increases the cleanliness of the hair and improves the feel. Then goats are dipped before clipping in a detergent and then rinsed in clean water.

## 7. CLASSIFICATION OF MOHAIR

### Length

Length and the uniformity of the length, determines the method of production through which mohair will be converted to come teased yarn or woollen yarn. Mohair, less than 12 cm, is normally too short for teased yarn industry and will be mixed with cheaper wool for the production of woollen yarn.

### Fineness (fibre diameter)

Fineness, and uniformity of the fineness, is the most valuable feature of Mohair. With all other characteristics being equal, this is the feature that will not only determine the fineness of the spun yarn, but also the weight and texture of the finished woven fabric. Apart from all other factors, the fineness of mohair directly is determined by the age of the goat.

#### a) Kid hair - Symbol K

This is the first clip of hair at about six months that produces the finest by the Angora goat, with an average fineness 22-25 micron. The second clip at the age of about 12 months has an average fineness of 26-28 microns.

#### b) Young goat hair - Symbol YG

This is the third clip from the Angora goat at the age of from about 18 months, with an average fineness of 29-33 microns.

#### c) Adult mohair - Symbol H

His is hair being clipped from adult goats at the age from two years and older, with an average fineness of 34-40 microns.

### Quality

There are three recognized grades of quality for all age groups, namely:

#### a) **Super**

Super quality Mohair consists of all good hair with very good style and character, and good colour, free from seed, stains and coloured fibres, and is virtually free from rough and kemp fibres. **Symbol: "S"**

#### b) **Average**

Average quality Mohair consists of hair with fairly good style and character. A tendency to open and straight strings a reasonable colour with some kemp, practically free from seed and free of coloured fibres. **No symbol**



### **c) Poor**

Poor quality Mohair consists of all goat hair and is short of style and character. The appearance is dull and lustreless, it consists of straight strings and is hard to the touch with coarse kemp as well as some seeds present, but are free of coloured fibres. Poor Mohair consists of all the weakly bred, matted fleece and weathered back hair. **Symbol: "M"**.

## **8. PREPARATION BEFORE THE SHOW**

The main purpose of the show is to create good exposure with superior animals. It is also to measure the quality of your animals against animals from other breeders. Select your show animal some time in advance of the show, to allow the animal to be tamed and to forge a bond between you and the animal.

Make sure your animals are free of internal and external parasites by de-worming and dipping at the right time. Make sure in your selection that the animal carries no defects or diseases, (free of sores, wounds, foot problems, etc.).

Hooves should be trimmed correctly a month before the show. Do not cut too deep as this may damage the nerves, and this will cause lameness.

## **9. EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

- Halter or Nylon rope
- Bucket
- Towel
- Face cloth
- Shampoo
- Brush (big and small)
- Toothbrush
- Small scissors
- Big scissors or sheep shear
- Rasping File
- Sandpaper
- Raw linseed oil
- Small cloth (oil)

### **GENERAL**

At normal shows the Angora goat will be strictly judged by their heads, conformation and hair. The quality of the hair is very important and therefore it is not washed. To improve the quality of the goats' hair they need to be regularly dipped before the show, at least once a month and again just before the show. Goats can be dipped in washing liquid or just clean water. Hair length for shows must be between 45 to 150mm for Youth Show. All rules of showmen apply, even during wash and preparation (e.g., attitude). The Ring Steward will say when to start and stop. For Shows goats 6 months and older is used.

## 10. GUIDELINES FOR WASHING:

1. Secure the goat with a short, firm quick-release knot.
2. Fill the bucket half full with water.
3. Unpack washing items neatly on a towel.
4. Wait until you are instructed to start.
5. Use the toothbrush too clean the goat's teeth.
6. Start left side and then right side. Do not work over the goat.
7. Start front to back.
8. Use the washcloth (wet, but not dripping) to wipe around the mouth, nose and around the eyes and the ears. Wipe off the horns too. Finally, clean under the tail.
9. Pour a little shampoo into the bucket and scrub knees and hooves till clean. Use the bigger brush to clean dirt and the smaller brush to clean between the hooves.
10. Work carefully when bending your goat's leg to make your work easier. always bend the front leg back and the back leg forward.
11. Dry with cloth or towel.
12. Thoroughly clean your washing bay, yourself and your goat.
13. Optimise the time available to clean your goat, until being instructed to stop. This ensures that you are ready for preparation.

## 11. GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION

No hooves are trimmed during the show; it must be neatly cut and ready ahead of time.

1. The Juniors prepare on the LEFT SIDE of the goat and the Seniors on the RIGHT SIDE of the goat. It remains so even if the goats are shared.
2. Secure the goat with a short, firm quick-release knot.
3. Unpack your equipment for preparation neatly.
4. Start as soon as the Ring Steward gives the order.
5. Trim hair around the mouth. The judge must be able to see that the hair is trimmed shorter.
6. Trim the hair around the eyes, but do not trim the eye lashes.
7. Trim inside and around the ears with a small pair of scissors.
8. Trim the goat's fringe so it presents neatly.
9. Trim the hoof hair lines neatly. Also trim the hair around the by-claws neatly.
10. Trim locks and discoloured hair behind the tail with the big scissor/ sheep shear. Hair between heels can be trimmed in order to present better when she walks. If your goat does not want to stand still when trimming the tail hair, you may push your goat against the railing or stand wide legged over your goat to hold your goat still.
11. Use the rasping file to file the horns neatly round. You may through a towel over the goat's neck to prevent the horn shavings to fall on the hair.
12. You can put a cloth over the goat's neck so that the dust does not end up in the goat's hair. Sand the horns and hooves smooth with sandpaper.
13. Use small cloth to apply raw linseed oil to horns, hooves and claws.
14. Now start "raking" your goat with your fingers through the goat's hair around all straw, sticks etc. to remove.

15. Check that everything has been removed from under the goat's stomach.
16. Make sure you and your workplace are neat and clean.

## 12. GUIDELINES TO SHOWMANSHIP

During the showman you are judged as handler and not the goat. Make sure you choose the right goat that suits you. **NO PARTICIPANT WITH A WATCH, GUM, EARPHONES, JEWELRY, CELL PHONE OR WITH MAKEUP ON WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE RING OR AREA.**

The following should be observed:

- Concentration is VERY important; you have to forget about everybody outside the ring.
- Maintain EYE CONTACT with the Judge.
- NEVER move between your animal and the Judge.
- Look at your as well as your goat's cleanliness and neatness. Make sure your goat is clean of all straw. Make sure you wear the correct clothing as stipulated in the Rules and Regulations. Tuck your shirt in and make sure your boots are clean before entering the ring.
- When you enter the ring, you need to be on the left side of the goat and your right hand on the left horn AGAINST the head and the left hand under the animal's jaw. Do not pull on both horns (a young goat's horns can break off). Look 50% at your goat and 50% at the Judge when entering the ring.
- Move clockwise until the Judge or Ring Steward signals you to stop. Stay to the left and do not cut corners.
- When you stop, use your foot to position the hind legs. Lift goat's forequarters slightly and release slowly to position the forelegs correctly. Never move the goat's legs with your hands.
- Your feet are placed slightly apart, on either side of the goat's front legs. The goat's front legs must form a straight line with the buttons of your shirt.
- When you are satisfied, look up. When you look up, it means you are ready and can be judged.
- The Judge will now ask you to show the goat's front, back and side. In all instances, you must not move from your location, not forward, backwards or sideways.
- Respond quickly to the instructions. Use your **open** hand as a lever to push the animal right (not your knee). The other hand remains on the goat's horn.
- The Judge will ask you to show your animal. Leave your animal and try to keep the goat steady and in a place where the Judge can observe it as best as possible (not too close or too far). Do it without clapping your hands. Maintain eye contact and if the Judge moves to the right or to the left, move further away from the goat and the Judge. **Do not move between the Judge and the goat, at all times must the goat be between you and the judge.**
- At the command "you may catch" push the goat to the nearest corner. Catch the goat at the LEFT REAR LEG with your RIGHT HAND above the goat's heel. if you can catch the goat by the neck, you may do so, but then you must take the horn. Under

no circumstances should you catch the buck by the hair or horn. If you can catch the goat without cornering it, you can do it, but if you miss it, it will definitely penalise you.

- Move clockwise against the railing and stand in YOUR position.
- Correct the goat's legs and look up.
- The Judge will again ask you to turn your animal in the different directions. The movements will be faster.
- The Judge may ask you to exchange your goat to someone else's if a goat is difficult to handle.
- • If the judge asks you to open your goat's mouth, use your left thumb and forefinger, turn the goat's head towards the judge and then use the fingers to push the goat's upper and lower lip apart. First look at the goat's teeth yourself and then show it to the judge.
- Learn to tell the different ages of the animals if you are asked. Ideally you should know your manual by heart, because the Judge can also ask other questions. Also know your goat's body.

### 13. GUIDELINES TO GROUP SHOW.

- In each group there are three participants. Arrange yourselves from tall to short or vice versa. The person in the middle gives the signals but not too loud.
- Groups should be UNIFORM and COLLABORATION should be good.
- Clothing and shoes must preferably be EXACTLY the same. Remove all watches and girls should wear the same hair elastics and hairstyle should be similar. Belts must be the same and shirts must be tucked in.
- When you enter the ring, you need to be on the left side of the goat and your right hand on the left horn (AGAINST the head) and the left hand under the animal's jaw.
- Move clockwise as a group and keep the distances between you the same. Maintain eye contact with the Judge. Look 50% at your goats and 50% at the Judge.
- When you stand still, correct the goats' legs. Everyone needs to stand beside the goat's left shoulder, with your feet placed slightly apart. If one of the animals is difficult to handle, the other members of the group should wait until everything is under control.
- The person in the middle should signal (a clicking sound of the tongue or a short soft command) and all at same moment should look up.
- The Judge will now ask you to turn the goats (side, front, back).
- The group must do everything correctly and in harmony. Always keep the distances between the three of you the same.
- If you are asked to display the animals, try to remain standing in the same order as you were as far as possible.
- Push the goats to the Judge, and maintain eye contact. Keep the goats in an area where the Judge can see the goats (not too close or too far) in the best possible way. Do it without clapping your hands. Maintain eye contact and if the Judge moves to the right or to the left, move further away from the goats and the Judge. **The goats must always be between the three of you and the Judge. Do not move in between the Judge and the goats.**

- When you catch, push the goats in the nearest corner. Catch with right hand above left heel. Do it simultaneously. Preferably don't catch the goats by the horns. **CATCH YOUR OWN GOAT.** Move in the sequence back to your place clockwise around the ring.
- Correct the goats' legs and look up.
- You will now be asked to turn in different directions, but at a quicker pace.
- Respond quickly and concentrate. Note the distances between the group members and the ring.
- If the Judge asks you to open the goats' mouths, use your left hand's thumb and forefinger, turning the goats' heads towards the judge, and then use the fingers to separate the goats' upper and lower lip from each other. The movement or action must also be done in simultaneously.

**THE GOLDEN RULE: Youth Shows are not like any other sport;  
your attitude and passion count a lot and therefore you should  
enjoy every moment and just do your best.**