




Grades of Goats and Lambs for Northeast Markets

The advisory board of the NESGMP proposed that grading standards be developed for goats and lambs for the special marketing conditions that exist in the Northeastern United States. An advisory board committee composed of Susan Schoenian, Mike Thonney, and Susan Truehart Garey with Joe Regenstein as Chair suggested the following guidelines based on the USDA live goat selection criteria for institutional meat sales.

USDA goat standards

	<p><u>Select 1</u> Goats possessing minimum qualifications are moderately thickly muscled throughout. The back and loin are moderately wide and shoulders and hips are moderately neat and blend smoothly into the body. There is a slight fullness or plumpness over the rib, loin, rump and legs that contributes to a somewhat rounded and moderately refined appearance.</p>
	<p><u>Select 2</u> Goats possessing minimum qualifications are slightly thickly muscled throughout. The back and loin are slightly wide with loin, rump, and leg almost flat with little or no evidence of fullness. The hips and shoulders are somewhat smoothly laid in, but appear slightly prominent and contribute to a slightly refined appearance.</p>
	<p><u>Select 3</u> Goats possessing minimum qualifications are thinly muscled throughout. The back, loin, and rump are narrow with a slightly sunken appearance. Legs are tapering and narrow with hips and shoulders somewhat prominent. Goats usually show either heavy bones and thin fleshing associated with coarseness or small bones and angularity denoting over-refinement.</p>

Cull Goats possessing cull qualifications are very thinly muscled throughout. The back, loin, and rump show little indication of muscling and have moderate to great shrunken appearance. Legs are very tapering and narrow with hips and shoulders very prominent. Goats are often those culled for inadequate frame size or body capacity or those with reproductive deficiencies.

For more information go to <http://www.boergoats.com/clean/articleleads.php?art=308>