

## What is a TexMaster™ Meat Goat and Why should I consider owning one?

The TexMaster™ Meat Goat is a composite breed developed by Onion Creek Ranch in Lohn, Texas in order to meet the demands for a “premium” commercial goat. Using the genetics of their Tennessee Meat Goats™ which are larger, heavily muscled Myotonics carrying a 4:1 meat- to-bone ratio and crossing these TMG™ goats over Boer and other TMG™/Boer cross does over many generations the TexMaster™ breed was developed. The intention was to take advantage of the Myotonic traits of higher meat-to-bone ratios, excellent mothering skills, hardy, active offspring that are quick to get up and nurse (which is a very important trait especially in cold weather kiddings), higher parasite tolerance (there is no such thing as a parasite resistance breed), better feed conversions than other breeds which makes them an ideal choice in forage situations and just general overall hardiness traits. The TexMaster™ is more heavily influenced by the Myotonic breed over Boer but the Boer influence has its role in adding a faster growth rate over purebred Myotonics, which are a slower growing breed without sacrificing the meatier traits of the Myotonic. An excellent article on composite breeds and their advantages can be found at:

<http://www.noble.org/ag/livestock/compositebreeding/index.html>

The TexMaster™ Meat Goat is generally larger framed than a pure Myotonic goat. Some of the TexMaster™ Meat Goats do display the Myotonic traits of stiffening, which in no way has a negative effect on the meat quality, rather it gives the animal a higher meat-to-bone ratio than its non-stiffening herdmates. Those that do display the Myotonic traits will tend to grow somewhat slower, yet produce a much meatier animal.

The TexMaster™ Meat Goat should have adequate bone for their frame size, width in the chest, a deep body which allows for more rumen expansion to provide better forage utilization. Shorter, less dense leg bones and thinner hides mean less waste at slaughter which means more money as your buyers learn they are getting more product for their money.

TexMaster™ does tend to have the tighter fitting udder than breeds created with dairy influence which means no pendulous udders to get torn on thorns and underbrush as the goats are foraging. The Myotonic udders are small, tight fitting udders which are a “milk on demand” type udder. They tend to have a higher milkfat than dairy breeds but less volume. These type udders refill much quicker but do not produce the volume of milk a dairy or dairy influence breed might.

Most TexMasters™ carry the more docile personalities of the Myotonic breed. They are not as hard on fences as Boers. I’ve not known of any TexMasters™ to be fence jumpers (and if they carry the Myotonic trait of stiffening they cannot jump a fence) however, I am sure there are exceptions to this somewhere out there in the breed. These goats tend to have the intelligence of the

Myotonics by being very alert at all times to dangers. Does are especially protective of their babies ready to turn and fight any predator.

Does tend to produce twins or triplets. Quads are not unheard of and the occasional single will show up now and then. Number of offspring is dependent upon food availability, frequency of kiddings and overall general health of your herd. Good management is necessary in any breed. Without adequate forage, good protein sources, availability of good quality minerals, and clean water no animal will produce to its potential.

The TexMaster™ breed produces a “prime” slaughter kid with less cost to the producer and input of any other breed. We have had excellent experience crossing TexMasters™ over our dairy does and we are still receiving top dollar for these slaughter kids produced from the F1 crosses. If you are looking for the “premier” slaughter animal look no further.

We are seeing more and more TexMaster™ influence in the Market show wether production. Show producers are recognizing the greater muscle influence that the TexMaster™ provides and are using this breed in their show wether production herds. The TexMaster influence is purported to produce the “harder top lines” that the wether judges are looking for.

For further reading on the TexMaster™ breed please visit the developer of the breed at [www.tennesseeameatgoats.com](http://www.tennesseeameatgoats.com) or the authors website at [www.bendingtreeranch.com](http://www.bendingtreeranch.com)

Points to remember:

- Higher meat-to-bone ratio
- Hardy, excellent maternal traits
- More parasite tolerant than other breeds
- Less input yet produces more product

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