

Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goats v1.2



About Global Animal Partnership's (G.A.P.) Animal Welfare Certified™ Program

G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Certified™ program assesses the level of welfare of animals on-farm, during transport, and at slaughter.

Through its very design as a multi-tiered program, G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Certified™ Program promotes continuous improvement in animal agriculture; engages a broad spectrum of producers; allows for wider product selection for greater consumer options; provides more detailed information about the level of welfare of farm animals; and informs consumers about the production systems they may choose to support.

Each set of tiered standards—from Step 1 to Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met before certification to that particular Step level is assigned. As the standard-setter, Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) does not conduct audits nor make Step-level certification decisions. Authorized, third-party certification companies perform the audits and issue Step certificates, as appropriate. As such, producers, consumers, and retailers alike can be confident that Step-levels are fair, accurate, and free of conflict of interest.

About G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goats

G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goats was issued on 6 May 2016. The development process included consultation with goat industry representatives and producers, guidance from animal welfare scientific experts, an extensive public consultative process, and review and approval by the Global Animal Partnership Board of Directors.

After three (3) certification cycles, the pilot standards will be reviewed and revised based on key learnings, as well as any new, relevant scientific findings. The post-pilot review and revision process will again involve guidance from scientific experts and producers, and public comment, before the draft revision is presented to the Board of Directors for final review and approval. Thereafter, the standards will be reviewed and revised according to the protocol outlined in the G.A.P. Policy Manual.

At any time throughout the above-mentioned period, G.A.P. may amend or clarify parts of the standard as issues with implementation arise, new technologies become available, or new scientific findings are made.

About Global Animal Partnership





Global Animal Partnership, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2008, brings together farmers, scientists, ranchers, retailers, and animal advocates—a diverse group with the common goal of wanting to improve the welfare of animals in agriculture.



For more information, contact us at info@globalanimalpartnership.org or 877.427.5783 (+1.202.540.9880 if calling from outside the United States).

Program Overview

The marketing claims in this Program Overview apply to every animal species G.A.P. has standards for, while the descriptions of the system and management highlights are specific to each species. The G.A.P. standards focus on animal welfare and are designed to only make an animal welfare claim. Having the G.A.P. animal welfare Step-level claim gives consumers a consistent message across species and helps with a general understanding of the system of production.

Meat goat farms and ranches are typically range-based systems. Goats naturally browse as well as graze and have a preference for being able to climb to seek browse material and as part of play and dominance behaviors. The G.A.P. standards recognize and provide for these behavioral needs. Furthermore, the meat goat industry is diverse, from grazing animals on marginal lands to pasture lands and this in part, defines how goats are managed. Given these unique circumstances there are only four step levels appropriate for this species. Generally, goats raised in Step 1 systems live on range, but may be removed for finishing. There is no Step 2 or Step 3 for goats. Goats raised in Step 4 systems cannot be removed from range for finishing. Step 5 goat systems are also range based, and no physical alterations are allowed. Goats that meet Step 5+ requirements spend their entire life on the same farm and are slaughtered on-site.



Step Level	Marketing Claims	Description of System	Management Highlights
	No crowding	Goats in Step 1 systems live on range and may be removed to a lot or yard for finishing.	Goats in Step 1 are raised in range-based systems. Goats may only be removed from range for finishing, or if weather poses a risk to welfare. When removed from range, goats must have enrichments and are either in outdoor pens or have access to the outdoors during daylight hours. At Step 1 only, there is an option for kids from G.A.P. Certified dairy goat operations to enter the G.A.P. program. This provides a use for these otherwise unwanted kids.
	Enriched environment		There is no Step 2 for meat goats.
	Enhanced outdoor access		There is no Step 3 for meat goats.
	Pasture centered	In Step 4, goats live on range and cannot be removed to a lot or yard for finishing.	Goats in Step 4 live on range throughout their entire life. If goats have to be temporarily removed from range to protect their welfare, special provisions are made for their care. The use of feedlots, or finishing lots is prohibited.


	Animal centered; no physical alterations	In Step 5, goats live continuously on range, and may only be housed during extreme weather conditions.	Goats live continuously on range for their entire life. There are no physical alterations, including castration and ear notching, permitted at Step 5.
	Animal centered; entire life on same farm	In Step 5+, goats live continuously on range and spend their entire life on the same farm (i.e. no transport).	Goats spend their entire lives on range at a single farm, and are slaughtered at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility.


How to Read these Standards

Standards applicable to a Step level are designated with a ● symbol in the corresponding Step column.

In the example below, the standard is required for each Step level applicable to the species. For goats this includes Step 1, 4, 5 and Step 5+:

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.4 Handling and Restraint							
2.4.2 	Goats must not be mistreated in any way. Mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, rough physical contact, kicking, hitting and dragging.  [2.4.2]: For the purposes of this standard prohibited dragging is defined as pulling a goat by its ears, tail or by a single leg, or pulling/pushing a goat with a mechanized vehicle. Catching and holding goats by a single leg e.g. with shepherd hooks is acceptable but pulling a goat like this is not.	●			●	●	●

Also, the  indicates the standard is considered a major non-conformance (see Section 4 Non-conformances and the G.A.P. Policy Manual for more details). This example illustrates that the standard is only applicable to Step 1:

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.1 Range areas and outdoor pens							
4.1.8	Goats may be removed from range areas to an outdoor pen for finishing. The time in an outdoor pen for finishing may not exceed 30 days per animal. Records must be kept.  [4.1.8]: This is in addition to any time when goats are removed from range ages to protect their welfare. See Standard 4.1.1 and particularly note c.	●					

The ⓘ symbol prefaces additional information provided to aid in the understanding of the standard:

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.4 Euthanasia							
1.4.1	All euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian or other trained person(s).	•			•	•	•
	ⓘ [1.4.1]: Producers will not be required to euthanize an animal in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal.						

Program Requirements

The following applies to each operation applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goats.

1. General

- The standards in this document are requirements.
- The operation must have read the standards and prepared for the audit or they cannot be certified.
- The audit schedule follows the goat farmer's calendar to ensure that over successive audits key management activities can be assessed. Three key management points that would be seen over successive audits are as follows:
 - young kids still with does (to a maximum of 3 months old)
 - older kids (probably weaned) OR gathering time OR preparation for breeding
 - winter housing/winter management on range areas - to focus on breeding stock, though older kids may also be present.

The operation can have their first audit at any of these points and subsequent audits would continue in sequence.

- Following this sequence means that re-certification will not necessarily be at a set time period, but will vary between 14 and 18 months. The maximum length of a single certification cycle is 18 months.
- Each operation must follow a chain of custody program that is also maintained by the slaughter facility and any further processor that will be using a Step-level label. The chain of custody program can be developed and implemented by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation. Details on chain of custody requirements are shown in the G.A.P.'s Policy Manual and also in Section 7.6 of this standard.
- The G.A.P. Policy Manual is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond what is included in the standards (see www.globalanimalpartnership.org). See also section 7, Additional Standards Documents, below.
- No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.
- A glossary defining specific terms and terminology used in these standards is located at the end of this document.

2. Applications

- Each operation is required to complete G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Meat Goat application each certification cycle.
- Each operation must identify all sites (either owned, leased, and/or shared) used to raise animals and all animals on the operation (including non-G.A.P. Certified animals) on their G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Meat Goat application.

- c. Applications, as well as this document and the G.A.P. Policy Manual, can be downloaded at www.globalanimalpartnership.org or by contacting your G.A.P.-accredited Certifier.

3. Audit and Certification


- a. Each operation must be audited once every certification cycle.
- b. In order for the certifier to determine how many audits to conduct, the term “operation” is used and is defined as (i) a single ranch or farm of single (i.e. doe-kid only) or multiple stages of production (i.e. doe-kid-finisher), or (ii) a feedlot/finishing location; or (iii) either of (i) or (ii) with more than one location that meets all of the following criteria:
- i. all staff and animals are under the direct supervision* of the main farm/ranch/feedlot/finishing site;
 - ii. the main farm/ranch/feedlot/finishing location owns all of the animals; and
 - iii. the main farm/ranch/feedlot/finishing location owns, rents or leases all the land and/or buildings where the animals are kept.
- *Direct supervision is defined as being when an employee of the main certified farm business is responsible for the animals on the farm/ranch/feedlot that is at a separate location to the main farm. If the person responsible for the management and care of the animals at a separate location to the main certified farm business is a contract farmer and not an employee, then that site is a separate operation – even if there is routine oversight from an employee of the main operation.*
- c. Operations must have goats on-site in order to be audited.
- d. If the operation has multiple locations, each location that raises a different stage of production must be audited as part of the certification process.
- i. For example, Ranch A is a breeding goat operation and also has 1 feedlot located 10 miles away. The feedlot is under direct supervision of the home ranch, and animals and property are all owned by Ranch A. In this example, the ranch is considered one operation, requiring one audit but both sites need to be observed because they each raise a different stage of production.
 - ii. However, if Ranch A’s feedlot also contract finishes, or buys in goats from other ranches, then each of the ranches supplying goats to Ranch A’s feedlot must also be audited if those goats are to be marketed as G.A.P. certified. Each ranch needs to have a separate audit and certificate.
- e. If the operation has multiple sites raising the same stage of production, then 50% of the locations must be audited as part of the certification process.
- i. For example, Ranch B is a breeding goat operation with ranches in both Oregon and Northern California. For the winter months only, Ranch B moves does and their kids to Northern California; the rest of the year Ranch B uses the home ranch in Oregon, and BLM land that borders the north side of the ranch. All sites and staff are under the direct supervision by the home ranch, animals are owned by the home ranch, and the Northern California ranch is leased by the home ranch. In this example, the ranch is considered 1 operation. In the initial audit, the home ranch would need to be audited plus either the Northern California ranch or the BLM land would need to be observed as part of a single audit. At re-certification, the home ranch would need to be audited plus either the Northern California ranch or BLM land (whichever one was not observed during the initial audit; and 50% of 2 locations is 1 location) would need to be observed as part of a single audit.
- f. If meat goats marketed as G.A.P. Certified are not raised on a single operation for their entire life, with different stages of production being managed by different operations, each operation must submit a completed G.A.P.’s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Meat Goat application and be audited and certified prior to marketing any product as G.A.P. Certified (see also 6 b. below).
- g. If the operation sources kids from a dairy operation, the dairy operation must be ‘G.A.P. Certified’.
- i. Dairy goat operations will not be assigned a Step-level, but will be designated ‘G.A.P. Certified’ if all of the relevant standards are met.
 - ii. The dairy operation must be audited and approved by the certifier at least once every 15 months.

Step 1 is the highest Step-level that can be achieved for meat goats that originate from G.A.P. Certified dairy operations. However, an operation may hold two different step levels – called a multi-step operation (e.g. one for the dairy sourced kids and one for the home-raised kids). For further information see the G.A.P.’s Policy Manual.

- h. At re-certification, any kids from dairy goat herds purchased by the G.A.P. Certified operation must come from a G.A.P. Certified farm if they are going to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified. G.A.P. realizes that this is a brand new standard, so G.A.P. is allowing back verification for **initial audits** under these pilot standards. Back verification is when animals – in this case kids from dairy goat farms – are certified to be included in the G.A.P. supply chain **after** they have been moved to the G.A.P. Certified meat goat operation, rather than the normal procedure where the dairy farm is certified **before** any kids can be moved. This applies to kids sourced from dairy goat farms **ONLY**.
- i. At the time of audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the operation and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with a Supplier may also be present at the time of the audit.
- j. Each operation applying for G.A.P. certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available at the time of audit, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. transport, rodent control and predator control).
- k. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another (e.g. a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity; slaughter facility), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the operation prior to the final Step determination.
- l. G.A.P. supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations. Please refer to G.A.P.’s Policy Manual and contact your Certifier for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- m. Auditors do not make Step-level determinations nor provide consultative service to producers on meeting standards requirements. Step-level determinations are made by reviewers or other agents of authorized certification companies.
- n. Step-wise differentiation cannot be awarded on the basis of sex. For example, does cannot be awarded a Step 5 and bucks a Step 4 simply because the males are castrated.
- o. If a standard has not been met for all animals on the operation at the time of initial audit, a Step-level will not be assigned until evidence is provided confirming that the standard has been met.
- p. If in a particular situation or circumstance, a standard as written might compromise the welfare of the animals in the producer’s care, the producer should contact their certifier to discuss applying to G.A.P. for a deviation.

4. Non-conformances

- a. If an operation fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical.
- b. If an operation receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification decision (see G.A.P.’s Policy Manual).

In the example below, the  indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a major non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard is still not in compliance, then it would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see G.A.P.’s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
Source / Breed							
1.1.1 M	Operations must not intentionally use genetically modified or cloned goats, their progeny, or semen.	•			•	•	•

In the example below, as there is no M beside the standard, this means that the standard is classified as a minor non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard was still not in compliance, then it would be considered a major non-conformance (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.16 Domestic Animals on the Operation							
2.14.2	Goats must not come into contact with any potentially toxic substances, such as those used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, and/or pest control.	•			•	•	•

- c. If an operation is issued a non-conformance, it needs to be addressed and the response submitted to the certifier by the operation within 3 weeks from the date the certifier issues the audit report, and be accepted by the certifier as an acceptable response to the non-conformance, before a certificate is issued. If the operation does not respond to the non-conformance within 3 weeks, it will result in a shortened certificate (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).
- d. Any non-conformances that occur with breeding animals may affect the final Step-level of their offspring. If individual offspring cannot be identified, the entire group of market animals from those breeding animals may drop or lose Step-level.

5. Step Differentiation within the Standards

- a. Each Step level—Step 1 through Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met to be certified to that level. If an operation, for example, meets some but not all Step 4 (or higher) requirements, but 100% of the requirements for Step 1, the G.A.P. certification will be Step 1 (see also 5.d. below).
- b. There is no Step 2 or Step 3 for goats.
- c. Step differentiator standards are those that do not apply to all steps. Goats can achieve Step-levels 1, 4, 5 and 5+. Any standard that does not apply to all of those levels is a Step differentiator standard. In the example below 2.10.1 only applies to Steps 1 and 4 and 2.10.2 only applies to Steps 5 and 5+.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.10 Weaning Age							
	Kids must be weaned no earlier than an average age of 12 weeks.	•			•		
2.10.1	<p>i [2.10.1 a]: Artificially reared kids are excluded from this standard.</p> <p>i [2.10.1 b]: As an example, an operation kids between January 15 and March 31. 70% of does kid in the first six weeks with the remainder evenly spread over the last few weeks. All kids are weaned on June 15. Some individual kids will be less than 12 weeks old on this date, but the average weaning age is over 12 weeks. This operation is in compliance.</p>						
2.10.2	Kids must be weaned no earlier than an average age of 16 weeks.					•	•

① [2.10.2]: *Artificially reared kids are excluded from this standard.*

- d. At renewal, if an operation that had previously been certified to any Step level fails to meet a standard specific to their Step-level, it will drop to the applicable Step level, or lose certification as appropriate, unless the Certifier applies their discretion to issue a non-conformance **if and only if**:
 - i. the standard that is out of conformance is not a repeat from the previous audit; and
 - ii. the Certifier is confident the operation will be able to achieve and maintain the level specified in the standard; and
 - iii. the operation is only out of conformance with one standard.

6. Step-levels

- a. Step-level certification information (see Section 7.6) must travel with goats whenever they are being moved off of the operation. This includes goats being transported from one operation to another, from an operation to a slaughter facility, from operation to a collection point, or from collection point to a slaughter facility.
- b. For goats the following standards cover breeding stock and continue through finishing (i.e. breeding + the entire life of the animal). All locations except the slaughter facility must carry the same Step-level, or the lowest Step-level is applied to the marketed product. The slaughter facility must pass a review (see c. below), as there is no Step-level option for slaughter facilities. As well, all operations need to be audited (i.e. all stages of production) prior to marketing product as G.A.P. Certified.
 - i. For example, 10 operations owned by different operators raise goats marketed under a single name, and product is not segregated according to operation. Prior to marketing product as G.A.P. Certified, all 10 operations need to be audited (i.e. all stages of production). Of those 10 operations, seven operations are certified to Step 4, and three operations to Step 1. Because goats in this system move to different operations and operations have different Step levels, all products from all 10 operations would have to be marketed as Step 1.
- c. Any slaughter facility being used by G.A.P. Certified operations where product will be marketed as G.A.P. Certified, must pass a desk-based review of their third party animal welfare audit rather than an on-site audit (See Section 8: Slaughter Requirements). A complete copy of the current third party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group must be provided to the G.A.P.-accredited certifier to verify this Section. If the operation is part of a group, the group may submit the slaughter facility's current third party animal welfare audit to the certifier for a review that would then cover all the farms in the group. The Slaughter Section only applies to entities that are marketing animals as G.A.P. Certified (e.g. finishing operations, producer group, co-operative, marketing entity).
- d. If the review of the slaughter facility's third party animal welfare audit finds that there are non-conformances with the G.A.P. slaughter standards, the person responsible for determining where animals are slaughtered must be the point of contact with the slaughter facility to resolve this. For example, if an individual farmer decides where their G.A.P. Certified livestock are slaughtered, they must work with the facility to ensure any slaughter non-conformances are corrected. If, however, the individual farmer provides livestock to a producer group or marketing entity and has no part in the decision of which slaughter facility to use, then the producer group or marketing entity must work with the slaughter facility to resolve conformance issues.
- e. If an operation sets out to raise both G.A.P. Certified goat and non-G.A.P. Certified goat on the same site (e.g. a finishing operation that has multiple programs), this is defined as a split operation. This is different from having fall out animals on-site (see bullet 6f below). In order to qualify as a split operation, a strict segregation protocol must be in place and approved by the certifier prior to a G.A.P. certification decision being issued. The segregation protocol must include all of the following components (See G.A.P.'s Policy Manual):

- i. A written policy describing how G.A.P. Certified animals are segregated from non-G.A.P. Certified animals; AND
 - ii. How they are be physically separated; OR
 - iii. How they are identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification (i.e. a colored tag where one color is used for program animals, and another color is used for non-program animals).
- f. If an operation has fall out animals (animals within the herd that were intended to be G.A.P. Certified but do not meet the requirements of the Standards and cannot be marketed as such), these animals must be noted on the certificate as ineligible (see identifying ineligible animals per G.A.P.'s Policy Manual). Per Standard 2.3.8, all fall out animals must be physically segregated or identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification.
 - g. As outlined in the G.A.P. Policy Manual , split operations will not be issued certification to the operation as a whole, rather certificates will specify the certified G.A.P. Certified portion of the split operation.
 - h. As per Standards 1.1.6 and 7.6.5, kids from dairy goat operations that are certified as meeting G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations v1.1 may be bought into meat goat herds under this standard but **ONLY** at **Step 1**.
 - i. Cull breeding animals selected for slaughter can be marketed as G.A.P. Certified if they meet all the standards.

7. Additional documents

Note: The most current versions of the documents listed below can be downloaded at www.globalanimalpartnership.org.

- a. As noted above, G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goats v1.2 is accompanied by G.A.P.'s Policy Manual.
- b. As per bullet 2a each operation is required to complete G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Meat Goat application each certification cycle.
- c. In addition goat operations that utilize collection points must, as per Standard 7.6.4, ensure that these are G.A.P. Certified according to G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Sheep and Meat Goat Collection Points v1.1.
- d. Collection Points must also complete G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Meat Sheep and Meat Goats Collection Points application each certification cycle.
- e. Goat operations that use transport companies with drivers and/or loading crews that do not hold a current third party goat transport quality assurance certificate must ensure that the transport company (or companies) they use complete a G.A.P. Transport Personnel Responsibilities, Training and Procedures form. This document must be completed for each certification cycle. See also the information notes at the start of Section 6 – Transport.
- f. Further, Step 1 goat operations that source kids from dairy farms as per Standard 1.1.6 must, as per Standard 7.6.5, ensure that these are G.A.P. Certified according to the G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations v1.1.
- g. Dairies that supply kids to meat goat operations must complete G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Dairies Supplying Kids to Meat Goat Operations application each certification cycle prior to an on-farm audit occurring.
- h. As per bullet 6c above, for entities that are marketing animals as G.A.P. Certified (e.g. finishing operations, producer groups, co-operatives or marketing entities) a complete copy of the current third party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group must be provided to the G.A.P.-accredited certifier.
- i. Prior to labeling any product as G.A.P. Certified the marketing entity must ensure that they meet labeling regulations for the country in which they are selling.
- j. The use of the G.A.P. label/logo must meet the requirements of G.A.P.'s Labeling Guide.
- k. Before retail-ready packaged products are labeled as G.A.P. Certified, operations must contact G.A.P.'s Labeled Products Authorization Program at lpa@globalanimalpartnership.org for details of the application and approval process.
- l. The documents listed above can be downloaded at www.globalanimalpartnership.org or received by contacting your G.A.P.-accredited certifier.

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1 ANIMAL SOURCE AND HEALTH

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.1 Source / Breed							
1.1.1	Operations must not intentionally use genetically modified or cloned goats, their progeny, or semen.	•			•	•	•
1.1.2	Natural breeding, vaginal and cervical artificial insemination (AI) are the only breeding methods permitted.	•			•	•	•
1.1.3	Laparoscopic AI is prohibited.	•			•	•	•
1.1.4	Breeding stock selection criteria must include, at a minimum: a. foot and leg health; b. udder conformation; c. mothering ability; d. temperament; e. kidding ease.	•			•	•	•
	<p>i [1.1.4]: Criteria for retaining or purchasing breeding stock in order to avoid welfare problems must be explained at the audit. Examples could include selection of does for milk production and rejection of animals for breeding that display poor conformation.</p>						
1.1.5	Breeding stock must be selected for the type of system in which they are raised.	•			•	•	•
	<p>i [1.1.5]: This is to ensure that offspring will be well suited to deal with and adapt to the farm environment such as cold, heat, rain etc.</p>						
1.1.6	Sourcing market animals is permitted as long as they only come from the following sources: a. dairy goat farms; b. farm to farm sales; c. video auctions.						
	When kids are sourced from dairy farms, the source farm must be G.A.P. Certified. Sourcing market animals from sale or auction barns is prohibited. When market goats are purchased through farm to farm sales or video auctions the source farm must either already hold a current G.A.P. certificate OR on-site audits of the source farm must occur prior to animals shipping to the operation.	•					
	<p>i [1.1.6 a]: In the future, G.A.P. will have a G.A.P. Dairy Goat Standard but in the meantime, kids not retained for dairy purposes may be brought into the G.A.P. Meat Goat Program as long as the dairy operation is also audited – see Standard 7.6.5 and G.A.P.’s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations v1.1.</p> <p>i [1.1.6 b]: The dairy goat operation will not be assigned a Step-level, but rather will be granted a pass/fail designation and will hold a ‘G.A.P. Certified’ certificate that entitles them to sell to Step 1 G.A.P. operations ONLY.</p>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.1 Source / Breed Continued							
1.1.7	<p>Sourcing market animals is permitted as long as they only come from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. farm to farm sales; b. video auctions. <p>Sourcing market animals from sale or auction barns is prohibited.</p> <p>When market goats are purchased through farm to farm sales or video auctions the source farm must either already hold a current G.A.P. certificate OR on-site audits of the source farm must occur prior to animals shipping to the operation.</p>						
1.1.8	<p>Sourcing replacement female breeding stock from non-G.A.P. Certified operations is permitted as long as the number bought in per year does not exceed 20% of the total herd size and only doelings are bought in from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. farm-to-farm/direct sales; b. video auction; c. dedicated breeding stock sale held at sale barns or auction barns. <p>i [1.1.8 a]: A <i>doeling</i> is a female goat that has not yet produced a kid. Pregnant doelings may be purchased but note that they cannot be transported in their last trimester (see Standard 6.2.2).</p> <p>i [1.1.8 b]: Farms that are undergoing expansion, or which have suffered losses due to disease, predation or other problems, and need to exceed the 20% allowance should contact their G.A.P.-accredited Certifier for further details.</p> <p>i [1.1.8 c]: It is G.A.P.'s intention in the future to require that all purchased breeding stock also come from G.A.P. Certified operations; however, at this time, it is recognized that imposing this requirement would be an impediment to securing appropriate genetics, therefore sourcing some breeding stock from non-G.A.P. certified operations is allowed.</p>						
1.1.9	<p>Sourcing male breeding stock from non-G.A.P. Certified operations is permitted as long as they only come from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. farm-to-farm/direct sales; b. video auction; c. dedicated breeding stock sales held at sale barns or auction barns. <p>i [1.1.9 a]: Source operations for breeding males are not required to be G.A.P. Certified at this time. However, any other animals must be sourced from G.A.P. Certified operations, aside from the percentage of replacement doelings specified in Standard 1.1.8.</p> <p>i [1.1.9 b]: It is G.A.P.'s intention in the future to require that purchased breeding stock also come from G.A.P. Certified operations; however, at this time, it is recognized that imposing this requirement would be an impediment to securing appropriate genetics, therefore sourcing breeding stock from non-G.A.P. Certified operations is allowed.</p>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.1 Source / Breed Continued							
1.1.10	Any non-G.A.P. Certified animals purchased under the requirements of Standards 1.1.8 and 1.1.9 must be uniquely identified in a way that differentiates them from G.A.P. Certified animals. <i>① [1.1.10]: Non-G.A.P. Certified animals purchased under the requirements of Standards 1.1.8 and 1.1.9 may produce G.A.P. Certified offspring, but cannot themselves be marketed as G.A.P. Certified. See also 6 (h) in the Program Requirements.</i>	•			•	•	•
1.2 Medication							
1.2.1	Animals that are given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or sulfa drugs are prohibited from being marketed as G.A.P. Certified. <i>① [1.2.1 a]: This standard applies whether these products (or medications) are given therapeutically or sub-therapeutically.</i> <i>① [1.2.1 b]: See Standard 1.3.1 for prompt treatment of animals.</i> <i>① [1.2.1 c]: This standard applies to both breeding stock and market animals. Treated breeding stock may stay in the Program and potentially produce G.A.P. Certified offspring until the point of sale or slaughter but could not themselves be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.</i> <i>① [1.2.1 d]: Indirect treatment of a market animal does not trigger the prohibition on marketing as G.A.P. Certified noted in this standard. An example of indirect treatment is when a doe suckling a kid is treated with antibiotics. Any potential transfer of antibiotics through the milk would be considered indirect treatment.</i>	•			•	•	•
1.2.2	A protocol must be in place to identify and ensure that any animals given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or sulfa drugs are not marketed as G.A.P. Certified.	•			•	•	•
1.2.3	Off-label / extra-label use of medicines is prohibited unless prescribed by a veterinarian. <i>① [1.2.3 a]: Veterinarian prescription documentation may be acquired via email or fax.</i> <i>① [1.2.3 b]: Parasiticides and vaccines are not included in this standard.</i>	•			•	•	•
1.2.4	Expired medication is prohibited.	•			•	•	•
1.3 Treatment and Management of Sick or Injured Animals							
1.3.1	Sick or injured goats must be treated within 24 hours of discovering the illness or injury. <i>① [1.3.1 a]: Timely treatment is critical. G.A.P. understands that some goats are managed in extensive systems and this may impact the time taken to handle the situation.</i> <i>① [1.3.1 b]: Treatment may include herbal or homoeopathic remedies when these have been shown to be effective.</i>	•			•	•	•
1.3.2	Sick or injured goats that are not responding to treatment must be euthanized according to Section 1.4. <i>① [1.3.2]: This could include severely lame goats (see Appendix I for scoring) that have failed to respond to treatment.</i>	•			•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.3 Treatment and Management of Sick or Injured Animals <i>Continued</i>							
1.3.3	Records must be kept of any treatment (medication, vaccinations, alternative remedies, probiotics etc.) to any individual animal or group of animals, including: a. any substance administered (product); b. animal or group identification; c. date and method of administration.	•			•	•	•
1.3.4	Veterinarian-prescribed treatments must be administered according to veterinarian guidance.	•			•	•	•
1.3.5	Any sick and/or injured goats must be segregated from healthy animals when necessary.	•			•	•	•
	📌 [1.3.5 a]: <i>Goats are herd animals and in cases of minor health problems are more likely to recover when they can be treated within the herd setting. However, if goats are unable to function as a normal member of the herd, e.g. cannot keep up with herd movements or are unable to eat or drink without special provision or if they are infectious, it will be necessary to segregate them from the rest of the herd.</i> 📌 [1.3.5 b]: <i>Segregation can be within an existing pen, paddock or a designated sick/hospital pen/area.</i>						
1.3.6	Segregation of sick or injured goats within the existing pen, or in a designated area/pen must meet the following requirements: a. the equivalent indoor space allowances detailed in Section 4.5; b. the thermal comfort of segregated goats must be maintained. This may require the use of shelter, bedding or ventilation fans as necessary; c. the air quality of any indoor segregation pen must be maintained as per Section 4.7; d. slatted floors are prohibited; e. pens must allow goats to freely access feed and water with consideration for a sick goat's needs.	•			•	•	•
	📌 [1.3.6 a]: <i>Space allowances apply whether the segregation pen is on range or in a barn or other shelter.</i> 📌 [1.3.6 b]: <i>Sick or injured goats that are managed in indoor pens are not required to have enrichments or access to the outdoors.</i>						
1.3.7	Segregated sick or injured animals must be monitored at least twice daily.	•			•	•	•
1.3.8	Any sick and/or injured animals must not be shipped off-farm as an alternative to treatment. Animals must be treated and if they do not fully recover, may be shipped direct to the slaughter facility if they are ambulatory and fit for transport. If recovery does not seem likely, the animal must be euthanized per Section 1.4.	•			•	•	•
	📌 [1.3.8 a]: <i>In cases where goats are non-ambulatory and/or moving the animal may increase distress or suffering, goats must be euthanized first and moved following confirmation of death.</i> 📌 [1.3.8 b]: <i>See Standard 6.2.1 on conditions when goats are not fit for transport.</i>						

1.3.9	Operations must have an internal and external parasite control program that can be implemented if parasites are impacting animal health and welfare.	•			•	•	•
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STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.3 Treatment and Management of Sick or Injured Animals <i>Continued</i>							
1.3.10	Products containing organophosphates cannot be used on goats. ⓘ [1.3.10 a]: This applies to organophosphates in dust, rubs, sprays, ear tags, feed or mineral blocks. ⓘ [1.3.10 b]: Organophosphates include products such as diazinon (e.g. Dryzon) spray or malathion backrub. Acceptable alternatives include synthetic pyrethroid products such as Atroban (spray) or Back Side (pour on).	•			•	•	•
1.4 On-Farm Euthanasia							
1.4.1	All euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian or other trained person(s). ⓘ [1.4.1]: Producers will not be required to euthanize an animal in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal.	•			•	•	•
1.4.2 ⓘ	Euthanasia technique(s) must cause rapid insensibility and be immediately followed by death. ⓘ [1.4.2]: The operation must be able to articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of death, and the physical parameters that confirm this.	•			•	•	•
1.4.3	Animal handling associated with euthanasia must minimize distress experienced by the animal prior to loss of consciousness. If it is necessary to relocate an animal to conduct euthanasia, only kids or ambulatory animals, where movement would not cause distress, discomfort or pain may be relocated. ⓘ [1.4.3]: A kid may be moved if it can either walk, or be carried without causing distress; an older or larger animal may be moved onto a conveyance such as a tarp, sled, or cart and that conveyance may be dragged or moved.	•			•	•	•
1.4.4	The person performing euthanasia must remain with the animal(s) until death is confirmed.	•			•	•	•
1.4.5 ⓘ	If an animal is identified as requiring euthanasia, this must be carried out within 24 hours. ⓘ [1.4.5]: Timely euthanasia is critical. G.A.P. understands that goats may be managed in extensive systems and this may impact the time taken to handle the situation.	•			•	•	•



STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.4 On-Farm Euthanasia <i>Continued</i>							
1.4.6	Acceptable methods of euthanasia for goats include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. shot to the head with a firearm; b. penetrating and non-penetrating captive bolt guns in accordance to the manufacturer's specifications. The captive bolt gun's use must be immediately followed by a secondary method to ensure death (such as exsanguination or pithing); c. barbiturates or barbituric acid derivatives administered by a veterinarian or by personnel who are registered with the relevant authority. If pregnant animals are euthanized using this method, and the fetus is not to be saved, then additional time (as much as 20-25 minutes) is required to ensure death of the fetus. 	•			•	•	•
	<p>① [1.4.6 a]: <i>If an operation plans to use a method of euthanasia not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to use in order to meet this standard.</i></p> <p>① [1.4.6 b]: <i>For hornless goats, the proper site for gunshot or placement of captive bolt is at or slightly behind the poll aiming toward the angle of the jaw (i.e. base of tongue). For heavily horned goats, the proper site is high on the forehead aiming toward the spinal canal or, alternatively, at or slightly behind the poll (i.e. behind the bony ridge between the horns) aiming toward the angle of the jaw or base of the tongue.</i></p>						
1.4.7	Euthanasia equipment must be maintained, cleaned and stored according to manufacturer's specifications.	•			•	•	•
1.4.8	All euthanized goats must be immediately removed from housing and/or outdoor areas.	•			•	•	•
	<p>① [1.4.8]: <i>It is the responsibility of the operation to dispose of dead animals according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations. Removal can include burial, or composting in a designated area that will not put other livestock (such as kids, weaker animals) at risk from transmission of diseases and predation.</i></p>						

2 ANIMAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.1 Herd Management							
<p>① <i>These standards do not require records to be kept for day-to-day management of animals but only when health or welfare issues arise (e.g. lameness)</i></p>							
2.1.1	Goats not on range areas (e.g. temporarily housed or in finishing lots) must be observed and monitored at least once daily. Records of any health or welfare issues that occur must be kept.	•			•	•	•
2.1.2	First time does, does who have required assistance at kidding, or had other kidding problems, must be observed and monitored at least once per day when kidding. Records of any health or welfare issues that occur must be kept.	•			•	•	•
① [2.1.2]: See Section 2.9 regarding kidding requirements.							
2.1.3	All goats, not covered by Standards 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 must be seen at least weekly. Records of any health or welfare issues that occur must be kept.	•			•	•	•
<p>① [2.1.3 a]: While G.A.P. encourages more frequent observations, it is understood this may not always be possible in extensive operations.</p> <p>① [2.1.3 b]: When goats are managed in extensive systems G.A.P. understands that it cannot be guaranteed that every individual animal is seen during checks but operations must still go out at least weekly to monitor their herds.</p>							
2.2 Kid Management (including artificially reared kids and kids sourced from dairy operations)							
① See Standards 1.1.6 and 7.6.5 for the requirements for sourcing kids from dairy goat herds for Step 1 operations ONLY .							
① If milk replacer is used it must meet the requirements in Section 3.4.							
① Artificially reared kids are exempt from the requirements for range area access – see information note at Standard 4.1.1							
2.2.1	Kids must receive colostrum as soon as possible after birth.	•			•	•	•
① [2.2.1]: This can be achieved by checking that kids have suckled naturally or by human intervention e.g. bottle or tube feeding colostrum.							
2.2.2	Kids sourced from dairy operations must be placed on the G.A.P. Certified operation by 72 hours of age. A record must be kept.	•					
2.2.3	Kids, including kids sourced from dairy operations, must be fed milk, milk replacer, or be grafted onto a doe.	•			•	•	•
① [2.2.3]: As per Standards 3.4.1, 3.4.2 and 3.4.3 mammalian, avian and fish by-products are prohibited in goat feed – including milk replacer. There are commercially available milk replacers that do not contain any prohibited by-products. If the operation has any difficulty sourcing these they should contact G.A.P.							
2.2.4	Artificially reared kids and kids sourced from dairy operations must be fed milk or milk replacer at least twice per day.	•			•	•	•

		① [2.2.4]: See information point in Standard 2.2.3.					
STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.2 Kid Management <i>Continued</i>							
2.2.5	Artificially reared kids and kids sourced from dairy operations that are fed via self- or automatic feeders must be provided with at least one nipple per animal.	•			•	•	•
2.2.6	Artificially reared kids and kids sourced from dairy operations must be provided with access to fresh clean water by 1 day of age and forage by 7 days of age.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.2.6 a]: Forage may include pasture. ① [2.2.6 b]: This does not presume that forage forms a major part of the kids' nutrition at this young age, but forage (which may include pasture) must be offered to kids in addition to their feeds of milk replacer and/or other supplements.						
2.2.7	Artificially reared kids must be raised in groups.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.2.7]: If there is a single orphan or dairy kid, a compatible companion animal should be found if possible, but if it is not possible this standard does not apply.						
2.2.8	Feeding equipment must be kept clean.	•			•	•	•
2.3 Animal Identification							
2.3.1	Breeding animals must be uniquely identified.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.3.1]: Unique identification is defined as the ability for a G.A.P. auditor to easily identify between different breeding animals. For example, ear tags, RFID/EID, tattoos, or photo IDs (of unique markings/coloration) are acceptable forms of identification. Ear notching of breeding animals at Steps 1 and 4 is acceptable (see Standard 2.3.4) – while G.A.P. prefers the use of ear tagging for animal identification over ear notching it is recognized that notching may be used, especially in areas where tags may be lost.						
2.3.2	Market goats must be either uniquely identified or identified by group or lot tag.	•			•	•	•
2.3.3	Animals can have no more than one dangle tag per ear.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.3.3]: RFID tags/ EID tags, and metal clip tags are not considered ear tags for this standard, and are permitted in addition to other ear tags.						
2.3.4	Ear notching must be performed with an ear-notching tool made for this purpose or a surgically sharp knife.	•			•		
	① [2.3.4]: Ear notching tools may become blunt over time and must be replaced as needed.						
2.3.5	Ear notching must not exceed 10% of the area of the ear.	•			•		
2.3.6	Ear notching is prohibited.					•	•
2.3.7	Hot and freeze branding, including horn branding, is prohibited.	•			•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.3 Animal Identification Continued							
2.3.8	Any 'fall out animals' (i.e. animals that do not meet the Pilot Standards for Meat Goat) cannot be marketed under G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goat. All fall out animals must be physically segregated or identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification (i.e. a colored tag where one color is used for program animals and another color is used for fall out animals). If these individual animals cannot be identified the entire group will be deemed to be out of Program.	•			•	•	•
2.4 Handling and Restraint							
① Producers will not be required to demonstrate goat handling at the time of the audit. However, auditors will discuss handling protocols and will need to see any equipment used to handle and restrain animals.							
2.4.1	Goats must always be handled calmly. ① [2.4.1]: Examples of calm handling include using low-stress handling aids such as nylon flags, rattle/shaker paddles, shepherd/goat hooks, sorting sticks or using the point of balance (flight zone) to move goats.	•			•	•	•
2.4.2	Goats must not be mistreated in any way. Mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, rough physical contact, kicking, hitting and dragging. ① [2.4.2] For the purposes of this standard prohibited dragging is defined as pulling a goat by its ears, tail or by a single leg, or pulling/pushing a goat with a mechanized vehicle. Catching and holding goats by a single leg e.g. with shepherd hooks is acceptable but pulling a goat like this is not.	•			•	•	•
2.4.3	Goats must never be lifted solely by their horns. ① [2.4.3]: It is acceptable to use goat's horns to hold or steady a goat but not to lift it off the floor solely by its horns.	•			•	•	•
2.4.4	Stock dogs can be used to guide goats, but must be trained and controlled at all times. ① [2.4.4]: Dogs must be properly trained. Dogs that bite or jump on goats are unacceptable.	•			•	•	•
2.4.5	Squeeze chutes/cradles must be operated in a manner that does not cause injury to goats.	•			•	•	•
2.4.6	Goats must not be restrained for longer than the time necessary to complete a treatment or routine procedure. ① [2.4.6 a]: For example, goats must not be left in a squeeze chute while personnel are on a break. ① [2.4.6 b]: See Standard 2.9.5 for information on restraint for fostering.	•			•	•	•
2.4.7	The time that goats are inverted or held other than in the normal standing position must be minimized.	•			•	•	•
2.4.8	Lariats and lassos are only permitted when used by trained personnel.	•			•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.4 Handling and Restraint <i>Continued</i>							
2.4.9 	The use of electric prods is only permitted as a last resort. If prod use is necessary, the prod may only be used on the muscles of the hindquarters. Goats must be given time to respond to the prod before it is re-applied, if this is necessary.	•			•	•	•
① [2.4.9]: Last resort is defined as when the health and welfare of the goat or the handler is at risk.							
2.5 Body Condition							
① See Appendix II for body condition scoring scale.							
① To determine compliance with this Section the auditor will carry out a body condition score assessment as part of the farm audit.							
2.5.1	All goats must have a minimum body condition score of 2.	•			•	•	•
① [2.5.1]: See Appendix II for 5 point scoring system.							
2.5.2	Goats with a body condition score of less than 2 must be receiving additional management to increase their body condition score. Any animal not responding to management, where their body condition has deteriorated further, must be euthanized according to Section 1.4.	•			•	•	•
2.6 Disbudding and Dehorning							
① Disbudding is defined as the removal of the horn-producing cells in kids where the horn buds are still free-floating and not yet attached to the frontal bone of the skull. See Standards 2.6.2, 2.6.3, 2.6.4, 2.6.5 and 2.3.8. The age at which horns develop in goats is dependent on both breed and gender. For this reason, disbudding should take place as soon as the horn bud can be felt. Clipping hair from the horn area may be helpful to identify size and location of horn bud.							
① Dehorning is defined as the removal of horn buds once they have attached to the skull. In most breeds this starts to occur around 28 days of age.							
① Disbudding is known to cause pain and discomfort, and operations are strongly encouraged to administer, at a minimum, pre-operative local anesthetic and post-operative analgesia.							
① During the initial audit, already disbudded/dehorned animals will not be disqualified, however, the operation must agree to meet the requirements listed below moving forward.							
2.6.1 	Dehorning is prohibited.	•			•	•	•
2.6.2	If kids are disbudded only the following methods are permitted: a. caustic paste; b. hot iron.	•			•	•	•
① [2.6.2]: All other methods of disbudding are prohibited. The use of rubber rings to remove horns is considered dehorning and prohibited under Standard 2.6.1.							

2.6.3	If kids are to be disbudded using caustic paste, the procedure must occur at a maximum individual kid age of 7 days. Records must be kept.	•			•		
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STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.6 Disbudding and Dehorning <i>Continued</i>							
2.6.4	If kids are to be disbudded using hot iron, the procedure must occur at an average age of 14 days with a maximum individual kid age of 21 days. Records must be kept.	•					
① [2.6.4]: <i>Earlier disbudding of kids sourced from dairy operations is strongly encouraged. See also Standards 2.6.7 and 2.3.8.</i>							
2.6.5	If kids are to be disbudded using hot iron, the procedure must occur at an average age of 7 days with a maximum individual kid age of 10 days. Records must be kept.				•		
① [2.6.5]: <i>See Standards 2.6.7 and 2.3.8.</i>							
2.6.6	Disbudding is prohibited.					•	•
2.6.7	Disbudding may only be performed outside of the ages specified in Standards 2.6.4 and 2.6.5 if it is performed by a veterinarian using pre-operative local anesthetic and post-operative analgesia.	•			•		
2.6.8	Tipping the ends of horns is only allowed when non-living horn material (i.e. the top part of the horn that is not innervated with blood vessels and/or nerve tissue) is removed.	•			•	•	•
2.7 De-wattling and De-scenting							
2.7.1	De-wattling is prohibited.	•			•	•	•
2.7.2	De-scenting bucks is prohibited.	•			•	•	•
2.8 Castration							
① <i>Castration is known to cause pain and discomfort, and operations are strongly encouraged to administer, at a minimum, pre-operative local anesthetic and post-operative analgesia.</i>							
① <i>The average castration age of the herd is calculated by reviewing the spread of kidding dates and the date of castration.</i>							
2.8.1 ^H	If kids are castrated, the procedure must be completed prior to an average age of 14 days with a maximum individual age of 21 days. Any kid castrated that is older than 21 days must adhere to Standard 2.8.5 or Standard 2.3.8. Records must be kept.	•					
① [2.8.1]: <i>Earlier castration of kids sourced from dairy operations is strongly encouraged.</i>							
2.8.2	If kids are castrated, the procedure must occur at an average age of 7 days with a maximum individual kid age of 10 days. Any kid castrated that is older than 10 days must adhere to Standard 2.8.5 or Standard 2.3.8. Records must be kept.				•		
2.8.3	Castration is prohibited.					•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.8 Castration Continued							
2.8.4	If kids are castrated, only the following methods are permitted: a. rubber rings/bands; b. scalpel; c. bloodless clamp (burdizzo).	•			•		
	① [2.8.4]: If an operation plans to use a method of castration not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to on-farm use in order to meet this standard.						
2.8.5	Castration may only be performed outside of the ages specified in Standards 2.8.1 and 2.8.2 if it is performed by a veterinarian using bloodless clamp (burdizzo) or scalpel with pre-operative local anesthetic and post-operative analgesia.	•			•		
2.9 Kidding							
2.9.1	The number of assisted kiddings must not exceed 10% per kid crop. Records must be kept.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.9.1]: The number of assisted kiddings for this standard does not include cesarean sections. These are covered in Standard 2.9.2.						
2.9.2	Cesarean sections: a. must not exceed 1% of kiddings per kid crop; b. a record must be kept; c. pain relief must be provided for surgery and recovery.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.9.2]: For small herds of 100 animals or less, the tolerance is one (1) animal that has to have a cesarean and not the threshold percentage in the standard.						
2.9.3	Areas used for kidding, whether inside or out, must not put the doe or kid at risk of illness or infection.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.9.3]: Whether kidding takes place on range or indoors, areas must be clean and not contaminated with manure.						
2.9.4	Kids that are orphaned, or those not receiving sufficient nutrition from the doe must receive additional care.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.9.4]: Kids from multiple births should be checked carefully to ensure the doe can care for them all. See Section 2.2 for further details.						
2.9.5	Continual restraint of a doe for purposes of fostering is prohibited.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.9.5 a]: Restraint includes continual tethering or confining the doe in a specially designed pen (an adopter pen) that restrains her (usually by the neck) to prevent her rejecting a grafted or foster kid.						
	① [2.9.5 b]: Temporary restraint (around 10-15 minutes per feed) for the purpose of allowing a foster kid to suckle is permitted.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.10 Weaning Age							
<p>① <i>The average weaning age of the herd is calculated by reviewing the spread of kidding dates for each kid crop and the date of weaning.</i></p> <p>① <i>If the welfare of an individual doe or kid would be negatively affected by meeting the standards in this Section, earlier weaning is permitted. A record of any early weaning and the reason must be kept. Examples include but are not limited to:</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. <i>A doe that has fallen ill or been injured and is unable to provide milk for her kid(s);</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b. <i>A kid that has been injured, and is unable to nurse or compete with herd mate(s).</i></p> <p>① <i>If the welfare of the herd would be negatively affected by meeting the standards in this Section for reason of drought or herd illness, the operation must contact their G.A.P.-accredited certifier.</i></p> <p>① <i>Artificially reared kids have different weaning age requirements to kids reared by their mothers.</i></p> <p>① <i>Records must be kept so that the requirements of this section can be reviewed.</i></p>							
2.10.1	Kids must be weaned no earlier than an average age of 12 weeks.	•			•		
	<p>① [2.10.1 a]: <i>Artificially reared kids are excluded from this standard.</i></p> <p>① [2.10.1 b]: <i>As an example, an operation kids between January 15 and March 31. 70% of does kid in the first six weeks with the remainder evenly spread over the last few weeks. All kids are weaned on June 15. Some individual kids will be less than 12 weeks old on this date, but the average weaning age is over 12 weeks. This operation is in compliance.</i></p>						
2.10.2	Kids must be weaned no earlier than an average age of 16 weeks.					•	•
	① [2.10.2]: <i>Artificially reared kids are excluded from this standard.</i>						
2.10.3 M	The minimum weaning age for any individual kid is 8 weeks.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.10.3]: <i>Artificially reared kids are excluded from this standard.</i>						
2.10.4	The minimum weaning age for any artificially reared orphan kid is 4 weeks.	•			•	•	•
2.11 Weaning Method							
2.11.1	If weaning pens are used, they must provide:						
	<p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. a minimum of 10ft² (0.9m²) per animal;</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b. a dry place to lie.</p>	•			•	•	•
① [2.11.1]: <i>Depending on regional climatic conditions and the time of year that weaning pens are used, a dry place to lie could be a house or other roofed shelter, a bedded area, an earth mound or similar.</i>							
2.11.2	Kids must not be confined to weaning pens for more than 7 consecutive days.	•			•	•	•
2.11.3	Kids must be weaned using a low stress weaning method.				•	•	•
	<p>① [2.11.3 a]: <i>Low stress weaning methods include removing does from the group after kids are accustomed to eating and drinking in the weaning pen, using older goats as “buddies” for fresh weaned kids to teach where to eat, drink, rest, etc. and natural weaning.</i></p> <p>① [2.11.3 b]: <i>Artificially reared kids are excluded from this standard.</i></p>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.12 Lameness							
① Lameness is the inability to use one or more limbs in a normal manner. Lameness can be caused by many things including hoof rot, hoof scald, hoof overgrowth, dietary deficiencies, trauma (including breaks), and/or disease.							
① Appendix I details what to look for to determine lameness and how to measure it in breeding and market goat herds. Any animal(s) scoring a 1 or 2 is considered lame.							
① To determine compliance with this Section the auditor will review the records required by Section 2.1 and Standard 1.3.3 and may also carry out a lameness assessment as part of the farm audit.							
2.12.1	The operation must regularly assess hoof health and trim or treat hooves if necessary.	•			•	•	•
2.12.2	Each operation must manage lameness levels so that they do not exceed 1% of the herd.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.12.2]: For small herds of 100 animals or less, the tolerance is one (1) lame animal and not the threshold percentage in the Standard.						
2.12.3	If the incidence of lameness exceeds 1%, a working plan to reduce incidence levels must be documented and implemented. The plan must address, at a minimum, identification of cause of lameness and actions taken to correct the occurrence.	•			•	•	•
2.13 Mortality							
① Mortality includes animals that have died or been euthanized on-farm.							
① Mortality will be assessed by a review of records.							
2.13.1	Records of mortality and category of animal, and the reason if known, must be kept.	•			•	•	•
2.13.2	Pre-weaning mortality, excluding stillborns, must not exceed 10% per calendar year.	•			•	•	•
2.13.3	Mortality of breeding stock must not exceed 1% per calendar year.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.13.3]: For small herds of 100 animals or less, the tolerance is one (1) animal and not the threshold percentage in the Standard.						
2.13.4	Mortality of market animals must not exceed 2% per calendar year.	•			•	•	•
	① [2.13.4]: For small herds of 100 animals or less, the tolerance is two (2) animals and not the threshold percentage in the Standard.						
2.13.5	If mortality levels exceed the percentages above, a working plan to reduce mortality must be documented and implemented.	•			•	•	•
2.14 Hazard Management							
2.14.1	Equipment, fittings, fences, openings and protrusions must not injure goats.	•			•	•	•
2.14.2	Goats must not come into contact with any potentially toxic substances, such as those used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, and/or pest control.	•			•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.15 Other Commercial Animals on Operation							
2.15.1	All animal raised on the operation for which G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Standards exist, must be raised and handled according to Step 1 standards or higher.					•	•
① [2.15.1] <i>Animals kept as pets, show animals or other non-commercial situations are excluded from this standard.</i>							
2.16 Domestic Animals on the Operation							
① <i>Domestic animals include dogs, cats, horses, goats, chickens or any other animals on the operation, including both pets and working animals.</i>							
2.16.1	Neglect or abuse of domestic animals is prohibited.	•			•	•	•
2.16.2	All domestic animals on-farm must be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. food and water on a daily basis, as evidenced by healthy body score condition; b. surroundings that do not cause them injury; c. an environment that allows for freedom of movement and exercise; d. a comfortable resting area that protects them from extremes of temperature; AND e. veterinary attention if required. 					•	•

3 FEED AND WATER

STANDARD		Step Level						
		1	2	3	4	5	5+	
3.1 Water Availability								
3.1.1	All goats must have continuous access to drinking water.	•			•	•	•	
	ⓘ [3.1.1 a]: Drinking water might include drinkers and troughs or natural water sources like ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and snow. ⓘ [3.1.1 b]: Snow cannot be the only water source for goats other than non-lactating does and only then when they are habituated to using snow as a water source and there is sufficient clean fresh snow for this purpose. ⓘ [3.1.1 c]: The flow rate of drinkers must be able to keep up with the number of goats within each pen to ensure continuous access to drinking water. ⓘ [3.1.1 d]: See also note at 6.1.1 regarding provision of water up to the time of transport.							
	3.1.2	Drinkers and troughs must be kept clean.	•			•	•	•
	3.2 Feeding Requirements							
	3.2.1	All goats, regardless of stage of production, must have access to feed daily.	•			•	•	•
ⓘ [3.2.1]: This standard can be met by grazing goats on range or through feeding a ration.								
3.2.2	The feed ration, regardless of stage of production, must meet nutritional requirements.	•			•	•	•	
	ⓘ [3.2.3]: Compliance with this standard will be assessed on-site using the body condition score in Appendix II.							
3.2.3	All goats must have <i>ad-libitum</i> access to palatable fibrous feedstuffs such as grass, hay, haylage, silage, straw and/or corn stover and browse in a quantity sufficient to ensure good rumen health.	•			•	•	•	
	ⓘ [3.2.3]: The intent of this standard is to ensure that long stem forage is fed to goats to promote long-term rumen health and functionality. This means that hay pellets, grass nuts and other similar products cannot be the only fibrous feedstuffs provided.							
3.2.4	Transition from one feed ration to another must minimize digestive upset to goats.	•			•	•	•	
3.2.5	Feeders and/or feeding system(s) must be designed, distributed, and provide enough space for goats to eat their full ration.	•			•	•	•	
3.2.6	If forage feeders are used, they must be designed so that when feeding, the goat's head is positioned facing up rather than facing down. The bottom of the feeder must be elevated and not at ground level.	•			•	•	•	
	ⓘ [3.2.7]: Goats are browsers and are biologically adapted to eating with their heads facing up.							
3.3 Feed Hygiene								
3.3.1	Feed in storage bins, feeders and bunkers must not be moldy or mildewed, contaminated by rodents, or otherwise compromised in quality.	•			•	•	•	

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
3.3 Feed Hygiene <i>Continued</i>							
3.3.2	Feeders and feed troughs must be clean and free of debris.	•			•	•	•
	📌 [3.3.2]: <i>This includes dung or other dirt due to goats getting into and on top of feeders.</i>						
3.4 Additives or Ingredients in Feed or Water							
3.4.1 M	Mammalian by-products in feed or water are prohibited.	•			•	•	•
	📌 [3.4.1]: <i>By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood and fat.</i>						
3.4.2 M	Avian by-products in feed or water are prohibited.	•			•	•	•
	📌 [3.4.2]: <i>By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood, fat and feather.</i>						
3.4.3 M	Fish and fish by-products in feed or water are prohibited.	•			•	•	•
	📌 [3.4.3]: <i>This includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell) that are ingested by goats.</i>						
3.4.4	Each operation must keep up-to-date feed ration ingredient lists, or tags, including mineral/vitamin mixes whether using purchased or home mixed feed. Lists and tags need to be made available to the auditor.	•			•	•	•

4 Living Environment

Meat goat farms and ranches are range-based systems. The G.A.P. standards only permit removal from range at lower Step-levels and only when it is in the interest of goat welfare, for example in poor weather conditions when shelter on range (whether natural or man-made) is unavailable or insufficient, or to provide care to newborn kids and fresh kidded does. To achieve higher Step-levels goats and rangeland must be managed to allow continuous access year round.

① *An outdoor pen is defined as an outdoor area such as a dry lot or concrete pad with little or no growing vegetation.*

① *Range includes pasture, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, harvested crop areas (for clean-up), and any other land where goats have access to vegetation.*

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.1 Range Areas and Outdoor Pens							
4.1.1	Goats must have unrestricted daily access to range areas at all times when their welfare would not otherwise be adversely affected.	•			•		
	① [4.1.1 a]: <i>Goats may only be removed from range areas when weather (actual or reasonably expected), soil or animal health conditions require this. Removal from range areas must be justified to the auditor. If weather conditions are used as the justification for removal from range the auditor will review historical weather data using the website wunderground.com.</i>						
	① [4.1.1 b]: <i>This excludes artificially reared kids and does removed from range areas when kidding and their newborn kids. See Standard 4.3.2.</i>						
	① [4.1.1 c]: <i>This excludes kids and goats removed from range areas under Standard 4.1.8.</i>						
4.1.2	If goats are removed from range areas, they must be returned to it as soon as conditions allow. Removal from range for winter is permitted as long as it does not exceed 120 days.	•			•		
	① [4.1.2 a]: <i>These conditions could include the ability of soil and vegetation to support goats.</i> ① [4.1.2 b]: <i>See Section 4.3 for standards on living environment when goats are removed from range.</i>						
4.1.3	If kids destined to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified are born during the time when the herd is removed from range for the winter, they must spend at least 90 days on range before slaughter.				•		
	① [4.1.3]: <i>The purpose of this standard is to ensure goats marketed at Step 4 are managed in ways that reflect the intent of this pasture-centered Step-level.</i>						
4.1.4	Goats must have unrestricted daily access to range areas at all times. Removal from range areas for extreme weather events is permitted as long as it does not exceed 5 consecutive days, and 25 days throughout the calendar year.					•	•
	① [4.1.4 a] <i>Goats may be given supplementary feed while on range.</i> ① [4.1.4 b]: <i>This excludes artificially reared kids.</i>						

	<p>① [4.1.4 c]: <i>If unforeseen extreme weather events occur round kidding time and operations need to exceed 5 consecutive days off range for does round kidding and their newborn kids they should apply to G.A.P. for a deviation.</i></p>
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STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.1 Range Areas and Outdoor Pens <i>Continued</i>							
4.1.5	<p>Range areas must provide opportunities for goats to browse as well as graze.</p> <p>① [4.1.5]: <i>This could include access to trees and shrubs or the provision of cut leafy branches or other similar material.</i></p>	•			•	•	•
4.1.6	<p>Range areas must be well managed to provide grazing and browsing for goats and to avoid environmental damage. Goats must not be stocked so heavily or for so long that they cause vegetation coverage to be denuded (reduced to bare earth) by more than 20%.</p> <p>① [4.1.6]: <i>For example, if ungrazed vegetation coverage is 70% with the remaining 30% of the area bare earth, then goats must be moved to fresh range areas before vegetation coverage drops to 50% or less and bare earth increases to 50% or more.</i></p>	•			•	•	•
4.1.7	<p>Sacrificial range areas are only permitted for seasonal use, in place of removal from range to outdoor pens.</p> <p>① [4.1.7 a]: <i>Sacrificial range areas must be part of a rotation and cannot be used as sacrificial areas all year round.</i></p> <p>① [4.1.7 b]: <i>Use of sacrificial range areas must meet Standard 4.1.2 for Step 1 and 4 operations or Standard 4.1.4 for Step 5 and 5+ operations.</i></p>	•			•	•	•
4.1.8	<p>Goats may be removed from range areas to an outdoor pen for finishing. The time in an outdoor pen for finishing may not exceed 30 days per animal. Records must be kept.</p> <p>① [4.1.8]: <i>This is in addition to any time when goats are removed from range ages to protect their welfare. See Standard 4.1.1 and particularly note c.</i></p>	•					
4.1.9	<p>Goats may not be removed from range to an outdoor pen/finishing lot for finishing.</p> <p>① [4.1.9]: <i>Goats may be given supplementary feed while on range areas.</i></p>				•	•	•
4.2 Shade and Windbreaks							
4.2.1 M	<p>All goats must be provided with shade, shelter, and/or windbreaks as necessary to protect them from adverse weather.</p> <p>① [4.2.1 a] <i>Animals on feedlots for finishing and animals removed from range areas when there is adverse weather are included in this standard.</i></p> <p>① [4.2.1 b] <i>When goats are on range areas natural features such as trees and hedges or topographical features such as gullies may be used as appropriate to provide shade and windbreaks.</i></p>	•			•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.3 Living Environment when Goats are Removed from Range Areas							
<p>① <i>Not all of the standards in this Section apply to Steps 5 and 5+ as goats at these Step levels are only removed from range areas for short periods of time in extreme weather.</i></p> <p>① <i>Goats may only be removed from range as described in Section 4.1.</i></p> <p>① <i>See Appendix III for Mud Scoring scale.</i></p>							
4.3.1	Goats must have continuous, unobstructed access to the outdoors during daylight hours.	•			•		
	① [4.3.1]: <i>If access to the outdoors would adversely affect goat welfare they may be kept indoors. A record of the days when outdoor access was not offered and the reason must be kept.</i>						
4.3.2	If conditions allow the rest of the herd to be on range areas, does getting ready to kid, and does with newborn kids may be housed with no access to the outdoors but only for a maximum of 7 days.	•			•		
	① [4.3.2]: <i>See note b at Standard 4.1.1.</i>						
4.3.3	No more than 25% of the goats in a group can have a mud score of 2.	•			•	•	•
	① [4.3.3]: <i>This standard will be assessed by the auditor who will look at the condition of the pens and also the condition of the animals in the pen using a Mud Score (Appendix III).</i>						
4.3.4	All outdoor pens used when goats are removed from range areas must provide the animals with a bedded place to lie.				•	•	•
	① [4.3.4]: <i>This standard does not apply to the outdoor exercise areas attached to housing specified in Standard 4.3.1.</i>						
4.3.5	Bedding in indoor pens must be maintained to ensure that all goats are provided with a clean and dry place to lie.	•			•	•	•
	① [4.3.5]: <i>Bedding is provided for comfort, thermal protection, and to aid in maintaining goat cleanliness. Acceptable bedding materials include sawdust, wood shavings, wood chips, rice hulls, corn stalks, long or chopped hay and straw. Rubber mats are not considered bedding, and therefore do not meet this standard if used on their own.</i>						
4.4 Environmental Enrichment							
① <i>See Appendix IV for details of acceptable and unacceptable enrichments. Items must be purpose-built structures or items. Fences, waterers, and feed bunks are not considered to function as enrichments regardless of whether or not goats use them for those purposes.</i>							
4.4.1	Goats that are removed from range areas must be provided with at least one enrichment per group or part group of 50 animals.	•			•		
	① [4.4.1]: <i>This includes goats removed for temporary winter housing and goats removed for finishing.</i>						
4.4.2	Goats on range areas must be provided with at least one enrichment per occupied range area.					•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.5 Space Requirements							
<p>① For goats kept solely on range, there is no set square footage per animal required, but see requirement to maintain vegetative cover in Standard 4.1.6.</p> <p>① Conversion of space requirements from ft² to m² is subject to rounding.</p>							
4.5.1 M	Finishing goats must have a minimum of 35ft ² (3.3m ²) per animal per pen outdoors or if finishing goats have access to a covered shelter/barn they must have a minimum of 15ft ² (1.4m ²) indoors and 20ft ² (1.9m ²) outdoors per animal.	•					
① [4.5.1]: A finishing goat is a market animal destined for slaughter in the next 30 days.							
4.5.2 M	If weaned kids (up until finishing) are removed from range areas they must have a minimum of 20ft ² (1.9m ²) per animal per pen outdoors or if weaned kids (up until finishing) have access to a covered shelter/barn they must have a minimum of 8.5ft ² (0.8m ²) indoors and 11.5ft ² (1.1m ²) outdoors per animal.	•			•		
① [4.5.2]: The age at which kids are weaned is defined in Section 2.10 and a finishing goat is a market animal destined for slaughter in the next 30 days.							
4.5.3 M	If bucks, does and replacement stock are removed from range areas they must have a minimum of 43ft ² (4.0m ²) per animal per pen outdoors or if bucks and does have access to a covered shelter/barn they must have a minimum of 16ft ² (1.5m ²) indoors and 27ft ² (2.5m ²) outdoors per animal.	•			•		
4.5.4	If housed for kidding, each doe must have a minimum space of 25ft ² (2.3m ²).	•			•	•	•
① [4.5.4 a]: For Step 5 and 5+, this value is applicable for does with kids if housing is required to ensure their welfare during kidding.							
① [4.5.4 b]: See also Standard 4.1.2 and 4.1.4 for removal from range areas.							
4.5.5	If housed for kidding, in addition to indoor space required in Standard 4.5.4, after 7 days each doe with kid(s) must have an outdoor space of 33ft ² (3.1m ²).	•			•		
① [4.5.5]: See also Standard 4.1.2 for removal from range areas.							
4.6 Flooring							
4.6.1 M	Slatted floors are prohibited.	•			•	•	•
① [4.6.1]: Slatted floors are defined as any type of flooring that has one or more open spaces to allow drainage of urine and feces.							
4.7 Air Quality							
① See Appendix V for Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality scale.							
4.7.1	When goats have access to housing, air quality must be assessed and recorded daily, using calibrated meters or sensory evaluation at the animal level.	•			•		
① [4.7.1 a]: See Appendix V for standardized sensory evaluation protocol.							
① [4.7.1 b]: This standard only applies when goats are removed from range and housed, not when goats have free access to a shelter or house on range.							

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.7 Air Quality Continued							
4.7.2	Air quality levels must not exceed the following levels when calibrated meters are used: a. dust: 10 mg per cubic meter; b. ammonia: 20 ppm; c. OR score 2-5 on the air quality scale in Appendix V.	•			•		
4.7.3	If air quality is found to exceed the levels in Standard 4.7.2 a working plan to improve it must be implemented that same day.	•			•		

5 Rodent and Predator Control

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
5.1 Rodent Control Program							
<p>① <i>The standards in this Section are applicable to any rodent control efforts, whether contracted or not, designed to minimize contamination of feed for goats.</i></p>							
5.1.1	Good sanitation must be the first level of rodent control.	●			●	●	●
	<p>① [5.1.1]: <i>Good sanitation includes exclusion of rodents from buildings, bays, or bins where grain or other feeds are stored; clear up of spills of feed; and management of trash to reduce attracting or harboring rodents.</i></p>						
5.1.2	<p>If good sanitation is ineffective an integrated rodent control program must be implemented. This program must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. methods of control that only target rodents; b. an assessment of different methods of lethal control; c. if traps are used they must be species-specific, appropriately located and must be designed to cause rapid death; d. licensed rodenticides are only used in areas where traps will be ineffective (traps are most effective in enclosed spaces and rodent runs). 	●			●	●	●
	<p>① [5.1.2]: <i>Glue boards, drowning, and drowning traps do not meet the above requirements.</i></p>						
5.2 Predator Control							
<p>① <i>The standards in this Section are applicable to any predator control efforts, whether contracted or arranged by an outside third party. Control of predators must not violate any local, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other laws.</i></p>							
5.2.1	When predators are considered to be a problem, each operation must have a predator control program in place.	●			●	●	●
5.2.2	Non-lethal exclusion of predators from housing and occupied outdoor areas must be the first level of control.	●			●	●	●
5.2.3 M	If non-lethal methods are ineffective and goats are at risk, shooting is the only method of lethal control allowed and is only allowed if the shooter is skilled and the shot kills immediately.	●			●	●	●
5.2.4 M	Poisons, drowning, all snares, leg hold traps and all traps other than live traps are prohibited.	●			●	●	●
5.2.5	Any live traps must be checked at least once daily and captures must be acted upon within 24 hours.	●			●		
	<p>① [5.2.5]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, do not contain poison or in any other way result in lethal control.</i></p>						
5.2.6	Any live traps must be checked at least twice daily and captures must be acted upon within 24 hours.					●	●
	<p>① [5.2.6]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, do not contain poison or in any other way result in lethal control.</i></p>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
5.3 Guardian Animals							
5.3.1	Guardian animals must be well suited to guardian duty.	●			●	●	●
	<p>① [5.3.1]: This includes dogs, llamas, donkeys and any other animals that may be used for guardian duties. The animal must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. well trained; b. capable of deterring predators in the area; c. does not harm the animals it is guarding; AND is d. suitable for the environmental conditions of the farm. 						

6 Transport

- ① The following transport standards apply for all transport between operations, and slaughter facilities.
- ① Transport standards apply to all off-farm movement and any on-farm movement that exceed 2 hours. Movement within the operation is not considered transport unless it exceeds 2 hours.
- ① Most transport standards do not apply for Step 5+ since in general animals at this Step can't be transported off farm.
- ① Any operation utilizing transport companies with drivers and/or loading crews holding a current third party goat transport quality assurance certification may automatically be in compliance with some standards in Sections 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 below. Operations must contact G.A.P. for verification.
- ① If operations do not carry out their own transport and do not use transport companies with drivers and/or loading crews holding a current third party goat transport quality assurance the transport company (or companies) they use must complete G.A.P.'s Transport Personnel Responsibilities, Training and Procedures form. This document must be completed for each certification cycle.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.1 Water and Feed Withdrawal							
6.1.1 M	Water must be continuously available until loading begins.	●			●	●	
	① [6.1.1]: When goats are to be loaded on multiple decked vehicles, water can be withheld for a maximum of 2 hours prior to transport. The allowance prevents goats on lower decks being soiled by urine from goats on upper decks.						
6.1.2	Feed cannot be withheld for more than 8 hours prior to loading.	●			●	●	
6.2 Condition of Goats at Loading							
6.2.1 H	Transporting goats that meet any of the following conditions is prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. goats that are sick, injured, weak, or disabled; b. goats that are lameness score 2 (see Appendix I); c. goats that are non-ambulatory; d. goats in poor body condition (< BCS 2). 	●			●	●	
	① [6.2.2]: This includes pregnant doelings as well as older does.						
6.2.2	Pregnant does and doelings must not be transported in the last trimester of pregnancy.	●			●	●	
6.3 Loading and Unloading							
6.3.1	Goats must always be handled calmly.	●			●	●	
	① [6.3.1]: Examples of calm handling include using low-stress handling aids such as nylon flags, rattle/shaker paddles, shepherd/goat hooks, sorting sticks or using the point of balance (flight zone) to move goats.						
6.3.2 M	Goats must never be kicked, hit, dragged or mistreated in any way while being loaded or unloaded.	●			●	●	

6.3.3	Goats must not be loaded or unloaded by lifting them by, or pulling on, their head, ears, horns or hair. When lifting a goat, it should be grasped about the body while supporting the chest and abdomen.	•			•	•	
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STANDARD		Step Level													
		1	2	3	4	5	5+								
6.3 Loading and Unloading <i>Continued</i>															
6.3.4 ^M	The use of electric prods is only permitted as a last resort. If prod use is necessary, the prod may only be used on the muscles of the hindquarters. Goats must be given time to respond to the prod before it is re-applied, if this is necessary. ⓘ [6.3.4]: Last resort is defined as when the health and welfare of the goat or the handler is at risk.	•			•	•									
6.4 Transport and Loading Equipment															
6.4.1	Transport trailers must be cleaned after each use.	•			•	•									
6.4.2 ^M	Transport trailers, including ramps and chutes, must be in good condition.	•			•	•									
6.4.3	Ramp slopes for the first deck must be no more than 20 degrees (incline angle). ⓘ [6.4.3]: Where possible ramp slopes (incline angle) for higher decks should be no more than 20 degrees.	•			•	•									
6.4.4 ^M	Ramps must be fitted with cleats, treads, non-slip surfaces or stair steps to minimize the risk of slips and falls during loading and unloading.	•			•	•									
6.4.5	Trailers must have access point(s) for drivers to be able to access animals, if necessary, during transport.	•			•	•									
6.4.6	Transport density (during normal weather conditions) should not exceed the following stocking densities: <table border="1" data-bbox="466 933 1409 1084"> <thead> <tr> <th>Goat type</th> <th>Minimum floor area ft²/head (m²/head)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kids</td> <td>2.0 (0.19)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Market animals</td> <td>2.7 (0.25)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bucks and does</td> <td>4.0 (0.37)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Goat type	Minimum floor area ft ² /head (m ² /head)	Kids	2.0 (0.19)	Market animals	2.7 (0.25)	Bucks and does	4.0 (0.37)	•			•	•	
Goat type	Minimum floor area ft ² /head (m ² /head)														
Kids	2.0 (0.19)														
Market animals	2.7 (0.25)														
Bucks and does	4.0 (0.37)														
6.4.7 ^M	Hog tying or binding of goats' legs for the purpose of transport is prohibited.	•			•	•									
6.4.8	Horned and non-horned goats must not be transported in the same compartment, unless they have been reared together.	•			•	•									

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.4 Transport and Loading Equipment <i>Continued</i>							
6.4.9	Goats must be protected from weather during transport.	●			●	●	
	<p>① [6.4.9]: <i>The following are examples of modifications made to the transport conditions in order to protect livestock:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>covering the trailer with a roof;</i> - <i>closing, blocking or plugging a portion of the ventilation holes/slots;</i> - <i>grouping goats on trailer by size;</i> - <i>adjusting the number of goats on the truck;</i> - <i>transporting goats early in the morning or at night to avoid high temperatures;</i> - <i>reducing the loading density by 15% during periods of extreme heat and humidity;</i> - <i>minimizing the time in lairage (if goats are held in the truck); AND/OR</i> - <i>using a published ‘Livestock Weather Safety Index’ to determine weather risks that pose a risk to goats.</i> 						
6.5 Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures							
6.5.1	There must be a clear, written procedure, which includes actions and contact numbers, for the driver to follow in case of an accident or emergency.	●			●	●	
6.5.2	The driver must be knowledgeable in all of his or her responsibilities and transport protocols.	●			●	●	
6.5.3	The driver is responsible for all animals on the truck during transport.	●			●	●	
6.5.4	If the truck is scheduled to pick up goats from more than one operation, a separate bill of lading/delivery note including G.A.P. certification information must be kept for each operation.	●			●	●	
6.6 Transport Duration							
① <i>Transport duration is calculated as follows:</i>							
a) Operation to Operation: <i>time from first animal loaded onto truck at the originating operation to time last animal is unloaded at the receiving operation.</i>							
b) Operation to Slaughter Facility: <i>time from first animal loaded onto truck at the finishing operation to arrival at the slaughter facility.</i>							
c) Operations that Use Collection Points: <i>time from the first animal loaded on the truck at the originating operation to arrival at the collection point AND time the truck departs the collection point to arrival at the slaughter facility. Loading/unloading and time spent at the collection point are not included in the calculation for transport duration. See G.A.P.’s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Sheep and Meat Goat Collection Points v1.1.</i>							
6.6.1	Transport duration must not exceed 12 hours.	●			●	●	
	① [6.6.1]: <i>Breeding stock purchased under the provisions of Standards 1.1.8 and 1.1.9 are not included in this standard and could therefore be transported for periods longer than 12 hours if this is necessary to obtain suitable genetics.</i>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.6 Transport Duration <i>Continued</i>							
6.6.2	Transport of market goats is prohibited.						•
6.7 Transport Records							
6.7.1	<p>Transport records must be kept for each vehicle, made available for review, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. date of movement; b. loading start and end times for each vehicle transporting goats to another operation and/or collection point/slaughter facility; c. departure and arrival times for each vehicle transporting goats to another operation and/or collection point/slaughter facility; d. number of goats transported; e. reasons for any stops of delays en route; AND f. any mortality during transport. 						
	<p>📌 [6.7.1]: <i>It is the operation's responsibility to keep all copies of transport records, whether the operation transports animals themselves or contracts transport.</i></p>						
6.8 Sale/Auction barns							
6.8.1	Sale of any goats through auction or sales barns is prohibited.						•
	<p>📌 [6.8.1]: <i>Goats such as cull does can be sold and sent direct to slaughter, but cannot be sold to slaughter via an auction or sale barn.</i></p>						

7 PLANS, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, TRAINING, RECORDS AND TRACEABILITY

① Certain historical records and documents included in this section may not be available at the time of initial audit as the operation applying for G.A.P. certification was unaware they would be required and, therefore, cannot create them for past events, treatments, assessments, or practices. At the time of initial audit, record-keeping and documentation mechanisms must be in place to meet each of these standards, and records and documentation for, at a minimum, the goats presently on-site must be available.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
7.1 General Records Requirements							
7.1.1 	Records must be written and made available to the auditor and/or certification company. Acceptable formats include, but are not limited to; record sheets and cards, calendars, notebooks, and computer documents.	•			•	•	•
	① [7.1.1]: Records can be collected and stored by producer groups, but must be available at the time of audit.						
7.1.2	Records must be presented in an organized manner.	•			•	•	•
7.1.3	All records, reports, Step certificates, and other materials and correspondence relating to Step certification must be kept for at least one certification cycle.	•			•	•	•
7.2 Written Farm/Animal Health/System Plan							
7.2.1	Each operation must have a written plan describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an overview of the operation, including size, type/stage of production, location, typical climatic conditions; b. operational practices and policies for goat production; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provisions for daily feed and water, including ration details; ii. health programs (e.g. supplementation, vaccination and other preventative, maintenance and/or health promoting practices); iii. routine husbandry procedures; iv. care of sick, ill and/or injured goats, including on-farm euthanasia policies; v. management of outdoor areas and range; vi. rodent and predator control practices; and vii. environmental management (i.e. to reflect how various environmental challenges are handled such as large fluctuations in temperature, excessive humidity, freezing rain, etc.). c. emergency procedures, including those for natural disasters, fire, water shut off, and if applicable power failure. 	•			•	•	•
	① [7.2.1]: The written farm plan can be provided by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation (e.g. extension agents, veterinarians, peers), but must include information specific and relevant to the operation applying for G.A.P. certification.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
7.3 Biosecurity Procedures and Protocols							
7.3.1	<p>Each operation must have a documented and implemented biosecurity program that covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. procedures for bringing on-site any goats, including new stock and any returning animals (e.g. show goats; breeding bucks used for stud service); b. procedures and policies for employees; c. procedures and policies for visitors to the operations (e.g. provision of foot baths, booties, and protective clothing; minimizing visitors; visitor logs); d. feed trucks and equipment delivery to the operation; e. shared borders with neighboring operations, if applicable; f. clean-out procedures of housing and pens between groups of animals. 	●			●	●	●
7.4 Alternative Power Supply							
7.4.1	<p>If power is essential to the operation of heating, cooling, ventilation, watering, and/or feeding systems, each operation must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an alternative power supply and/or a fail-safe device in working condition; AND b. a method of notification in the event of power failure alarm. 	●			●	●	●
7.5 Training							
7.5.1	<p>Each operation must provide training to all goat care-givers and/or managers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is written and/or hands-on; b. is presented in all necessary languages; c. includes instruction on recognizing signs of normal and abnormal goat behavior; d. describes all aspects of the individual's responsibilities; e. describes emergency procedures; f. is provided prior to the individual's handling of any goat on the operation; g. covers all requirements of this version of G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goats; and h. is on-going as necessary and, at a minimum, when any changes affecting the care and management of goats are implemented. 	●			●	●	●
7.5.2	<p>Each operation must keep a record of employee training, including dates of training and topics covered.</p> <p>① [7.5.2 a]: <i>Training includes initial, re-training and on-going training.</i></p> <p>① [7.5.2 b]: <i>This record-keeping standard applies to employees but does not include immediate family members.</i></p>	●			●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
7.6 Traceability and Chain of Custody							
7.6.1	Each operation must have individual herd records that can trace the source of all animals on the operation. Any animal purchased by the operation must also be traceable back to birth.	•			•	•	•
	<p>① [7.6.1 a]: See 6(e) in the Program Requirements for segregation protocol requirements.</p> <p>① [7.6.1 b]: For operations supplying producer groups, it is acceptable for the producer group to record and maintain this information for individual operations.</p> <p>① [7.6.1 c]: If the operation sources kids from dairy herds, traceability records must include these animals.</p>						
	Each G.A.P. Certified operation must have a chain of custody system with written records. For each shipment of goats transported off the operation, whether to another operation, collection point or to a slaughter facility, the records must include:						
7.6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of goats transported; b. date of transport; c. Step-level; d. certificate number; e. certificate expiry date; f. indicate if transport is operation-to-operation, operation-to-collection point, collection point-to-slaughter facility, or operation-to-slaughter facility; g. any deviations granted including the standard number and length of approval. 	•			•	•	
	① [7.6.2]: Chain of custody can be organized by the individual operation or by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity).						
7.6.3	A copy of the chain of custody record from each shipment of goats must be kept (for every certified operation) for review by the auditor.	•			•	•	•
7.6.4	Operations that utilize collection points must use locations that are G.A.P. Certified.	•			•	•	
	① [7.6.4]: It is the producer group/marketing entity/co-op/individual operation's responsibility to ensure their collection point holds a valid certificate. See standards for G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Meat Goat and Meat Sheep Collection Points v1.1.						
7.6.5	Operations that source kids from dairy goat herds must use operations that are G.A.P. certified.	•					
	<p>① [7.6.5 a]: As noted in Standard 1.1.6, until G.A.P. has an 5-Step® Animal Welfare Dairy Goat Standard, kids not retained for dairy purposes may be brought into the G.A.P. Meat Goat Program at Step 1 ONLY as long as the dairy operation is also audited.</p> <p>① [7.6.5 b]: It is the producer group/marketing entity/co-op/individual operation's responsibility to ensure that any kids sourced from a dairy operation hold a current G.A.P. Certified certificate.</p>						

8 Slaughter Requirements

① This Section only applies to entities that are marketing animals as G.A.P. Certified (e.g. finishing operations, producer group, co-operative, marketing entity).




① The Standards in this Section will be verified through a desk audit of the slaughter facility's current third party animal welfare audit rather than an on-site audit.

STANDARD	Step Level						
	1	2	3	4	5	5+	
8.1 General Requirements							
<p>① Operations, or the affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity), must provide a complete copy of the current third party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group to the certifier to verify this Section. G.A.P.-accredited certifiers will review the core criteria of the current audit and assess eligibility to meet this standard.</p> <p>① The animal welfare slaughter audit does not have to be conducted by a G.A.P.-accredited certification company. Operations and suppliers are encouraged to check with their retail partners to ensure the certifier used for their slaughter audit is in compliance with the retailer's buying requirements.</p> <p>① These standards apply to slaughter in a facility and at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility.</p>							
8.1.1	Any slaughter facility being used by G.A.P. Certified operations must be audited to Section 8 of these standards once every 15 months. The slaughter facility will not be assigned a Step-level, but rather will be granted a pass/fail designation following the review.	•			•	•	•
① [8.1.1]: The entity that is marketing animals as G.A.P. Certified must ensure their slaughter facility has passed a review by a G.A.P.-accredited certifier.							
8.1.2 M	All animals must be stunned and rendered insensible prior to slaughter.	•			•	•	•
8.1.3 M	All operations holding a current G.A.P. certificate must be slaughtered at a slaughter facility that has passed and holds a current third party animal welfare audit based on the American Meat Institute's <i>Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide</i> (July 2013 edition) passing all core criteria (with a minimum of acceptable on the scale), and a minimum overall score of 90%, in order for animals to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.	•			•	•	•
① [8.1.3]: Until goat-specific guidelines for slaughter are issued by the AMI, the use of AMI's sheep guidelines is appropriate given the similarity in size and process to goat slaughter.							
8.2 Segregation and in-facility traceability							
8.2.1	All slaughter facilities used by the operation or affiliated group must provide a copy of their written in-facility segregation and traceability protocol outlining how G.A.P. Certified animals, and differing Step-levels if applicable, are kept segregated from non-G.A.P. Certified animals and product.	•			•	•	•
8.2.2	Animals must be slaughtered on-farm using an on-farm slaughter facility or a mobile slaughter unit.						•

Appendix I: Lameness Scoring




Lameness should be observed in both the breeding herd (including any replacement animals) and market animals. Any goats observed to meet the following criteria should be marked as exhibiting lameness. Ensure that the sample is not just formed of goats already standing.

This lameness scoring tool is also used if an auditor needs to describe a lame animal.

Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
Normal	Moderate	Severe
		
<p>Animal walks normally, easy, fluid movement. Hind feet land in a similar location to front feet.</p>	<p>Animal has an obvious limp, favoring affected limb(s) which still bears weight. A slight head bob is present when the animal is walking.</p>	<p>Goat applies little or no weight to affected limb and is reluctant or unable to move. On range, the goat will not be able to keep up with the herd.</p>

Appendix II: Body Condition Scoring

Visually assess goats from the side and behind to get the best view of the animal.

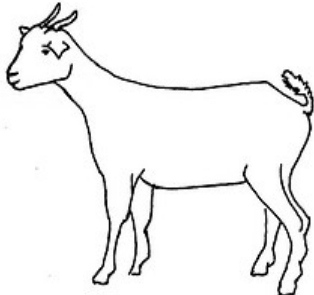
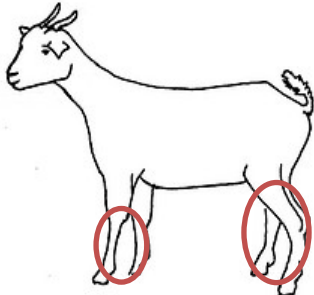
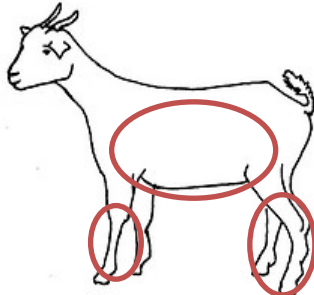
BCS1	BCS2	BCS3	BCS4	BCS5
Emaciated	Thin	Ideal	Fat	Overly Fat
				
The ribs, spine, and shoulder blades are sharp and pronounced. The space between each rib is quite visible because of lack of fat between them. The vertebrae are sharp and noticeable. The flanks are hollow and the loin has no fat covering it.	The backbone is well defined but has some fat covering. The ribs are visible, but without a sunken area between them. The loin is evenly covered with a small layer of fat.	The backbone is well-covered with fat, and the vertebrae don't feel sharp. The ribs are barely visible and there's a smooth, even covering of fat over the loin.	You can't see the separate vertebrae in the spine. You have to search for ribs and the loin is covered with thick fat.	You can't see any individual vertebra or ribs. You may even see dimpling and hanging fat on various parts of the body, particularly the sternal region. The loin area may be so thick with fat that it jiggles.

Adapted from: Villaquiran et al. Body Condition Scores in Goats. American Institute for Goat Research

Appendix III: Mud Scoring

This mud scoring tool is used if an auditor needs to describe dirty animals.

Visually assess goats from the side and behind to get the best view of the animal.

Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
Clean	Moderate	Severe
		
Clean with little soiling on hooves/fetlocks.	Fecal/dirt clumps on legs above fetlocks. Side and belly clean.	Fecal/dirt clumps on legs and belly.

Appendix IV: Environmental Enrichments

Goats, like other animals, benefit from a rich environment that is stimulating and allows them to engage in natural behavior. Providing enrichments, whether inside barns or in outdoor areas, can improve the welfare of goats in a commercial setting.

Enrichments can take many forms, such as objects like hay bales, tree branches, structures like raised platforms, stacked tires, and more.

The *aim* of an enrichment, however, is to:

1. add stimuli and novelty to the animals' environment;
2. evoke—and maintain—their interest, and;
3. improve their physical, behavioral, and/or mental well-being.

Enrichments that encourage natural behavior important to goats, such as browsing, climbing, and foraging, are among the most meaningful. As well, those that increase physical activity and promote exercise can minimize undesirable and even harmful behavior, including aggression, displacements at the feed bunk, and distress. Provisions that are fundamental to the health and welfare of goats, such as feed bunks and bedding are not considered to be enrichments as they are basic requirements.

Of course, enrichments should also ensure that goats are safe and not put at risk of injury or stress. So, not all enrichments are the same in terms of how well they actually “enrich” the goats’ environment.

Enrichments can benefit animals raised in any setting, whether exclusively indoors, with outdoor access, or on range or foraging areas. By introducing these interactive elements, the lives of goats can most certainly be enhanced.

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE (AND UNACCEPTABLE) ENRICHMENTS

The tables below list acceptable and unacceptable provisions. It is by no means exhaustive. The examples and discussion on why, or why not, they are acceptable enrichments are meant to help understand what provisions are most meaningful to the goats.

For Step 1 operations, one type of enrichment must be used in finishing yards/feedlots.

For Step 4 operations, one type of enrichment must be used whenever the goats are removed from range areas.

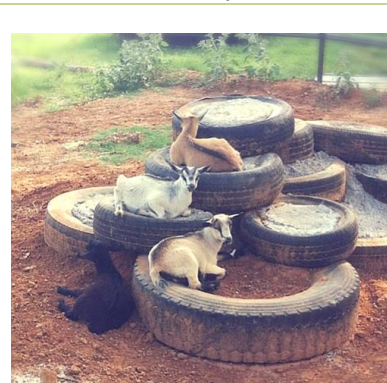
For Step 5, and 5+ operations, one type of enrichment must be provided to the goats in range areas.

ACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR ALL AGES

Climbing Structures: *Tree Branches, Stumps, Wooden Spools, Stacked Tires and Large Bales*

Historically, goats lived in rugged, rocky, mountainous areas. As browsers in this environment, much of their time was spent on their hind feet reaching for food. Providing tree branches, fallen trees, and/or tree stumps in the outdoor area or structures, such as stacked earth-filled tires, raised platforms and wooden spools makes the environment more interesting for goats, encourages climbing, exploring and play, and helps prevent aggressive interactions. This may also be an advantage for submissive goats, providing an escape area.

Branches that goats have stripped bare must be replaced.



ACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR ALL AGES

Unusual Edibles: *Cut trees, hanging brassicas etc*

Browsers by nature, goats check out their environment by sniffing and mouthing items they encounter. Providing edible material that is different from their usual ration such as hanging corn on the cob, hanging brassicas, providing squash and watermelon may prevent aggressive behaviours. Trees must have edible leaves/needles available to the goats.

Denuded branches and branches that goats have stripped bare must be replaced.



Mounds:

Wild goats generally live in diverse environments –mountains and grassland valleys. Including earthen mounds in areas where goats are kept provides a high, dry area for goats to rest, which is especially worthwhile during periods of heavy rainfall. Mounds must provide enough area for all goats to use at the same time and must be large enough in diameter and high enough to ensure that it cannot be broken down by the action of the goats.



UNACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS

Feeders, Forage Baskets, Bins & Waterers:

Feeders and waterers are not considered enrichments as they are designed exclusively for maintaining nutrition and hydration.



Non-edible Hangers & Toys:

Goats begin exploring their environments from a very young age, and plastic bottles, balls, pieces of rubber hose or PVC tubing, and other items may intrigue them initially. Goats of all ages quickly become indifferent to these types of hanging objects and materials that cannot be consumed.



Music & Radio:

Although some believe that playing music or the radio can be interesting to goats, neither specifically encourages the goats to perform natural behavior and is not considered to be an acceptable enrichment.

Photos Courtesy of: <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-GdyynMVneRo/TykpQFJKEOI/AAAAAAAAAF2A/hse9CGJ01UE/s1600/arborreal-goats.jpg>; <http://goatsonthings.tumblr.com/>;
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/nev-herder-recycles-christmas-trees-feeding-goats-article-1.2056859>; <http://www.blogcdn.com/www.pawnation.com/media/2010/01/stretch.jpg>;
<http://petdiys.com/diy-tiered-tire-goat-playground>; <https://www.pinterest.com/kieranbartlett5/animal-enrichment> ; <http://mdgoatstest.blogspot.com/2010/07/goats-post-moderate-gains-on-millet.html>;
http://elliesdairy.blogspot.com/2011_11_01_archive.html; <http://i.ytimg.com/vi/tzXttjQEIK0/hqdefault.jpg>; http://www.woodgreen.org.uk/pet_advice/487_goat_enrichment ;
http://www.zooatlanta.org/media/image/enrichment_goat.jpg; http://www.waterls.com/images/goat_1.jpg; http://www.oaklandzoo.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/20131003_151036-1_resized.jpg;
<http://chickensintheroad.com/barn/trouble-in-the-garden/>; <http://carvingswithstories.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/making-goat-play-ramp-structure-at.html>

Appendix V: Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality

Most operations do not use calibrated equipment to assess air quality on a daily basis. While this type of specialized equipment is an accurate way to measure air quality, it's typically too costly for everyday use. Below is a subjective score that can be used to assess air quality during daily monitoring.

Scores 2-5 (Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, and Overpowering) indicate that ammonia and dust are excessive and need to be addressed immediately for both human safety and animal health.

Technique:

1. Score air quality twice during each visit - when you first enter the barn (first impression), and then just prior to leaving the barn.
2. Record your air quality score.
3. Make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

Scoring Air Quality			Action Required?
0	ZERO	odor and dust not noticeable (easy to breathe)	No - acceptable air quality
	1	WEAK	
2	MODERATE	odor and dust distinct, annoying (watery eyes and/or coughing)	Yes – needs work to improve air quality
3	STRONG	odor and dust irritating (stinging eyes and mouth, and/or excessive coughing)	
4	VERY STRONG	odor and dust bearable (stinging eyes and mouth, excessive coughing, and/or pain when swallowing)	
5	OVERPOWERING	odor and dust unbearable, you need to leave the barn (hurts to breathe in)	

Glossary

When referenced within the standards, the following terms are defined as follows:

Term	Definition
Artificially reared	<i>Not reared by a doe. Reared using milk or milk replacer via a bottle or other feeder.</i>
Assisted kidding	<i>Any kidding where there is human intervention in the birthing process.</i>
Back verification	<i>When animals are certified to be included in the G.A.P. supply chain after they have been moved to a G.A.P. Certified operation, rather than the normal procedure where the source farm is certified before any animals can be moved. For meat goats this only applies at the initial audit to kids sourced from dairy goat farms.</i>
Bloodless clamp	<i>A tool that works as a clamp to break blood vessels, commonly used for castration. As the name suggests, this method is bloodless – no blade is involved as may be the case with other emasculators.</i>
Branding	<i>Identification by marking an animal's hide with a hot or super-cooled iron.</i>
Burdizzo	<i>A type of bloodless clamp for castration – see above.</i>
By-product	<i>Animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including blood or any of its components, meat, bone, bristles, flesh, hair, hides, hooves, horns, offal, skins, wool, fat, and feathers. Fish includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell).</i>
Cervical artificial insemination	<i>A non-surgical procedure performed with a specialized fiber optic endoscope that transverses the cervix, allowing the operator to see through the rings of the cervix, where semen is deposited into the uterus.</i>
Culls	<i>Animals that have been removed from the operation as a management decision.</i>
Dangle tag	<i>A type of ear tag that attaches through the ear at a single point leaving the rest of the tag free to move.</i>
Dehorning	<i>Removal of developed horn from an animal after it has attached to the skull.</i>
Denude	<i>To strip of all vegetative cover. A denuded area is an area of bare earth.</i>
De-scenting	<i>Removal of a buck's scent glands, often as a combined operation with disbudding.</i>
De-wattling	<i>The removal of the hair covered, fleshy protuberances hanging from the throat of some goats.</i>
Disbudding	<i>Removal of undeveloped horn buds from a kid.</i>
Doe-kid operation	<i>A farm or ranch where the main focus is breeding does – kids are sold after weaning.</i>
Doeling	<i>A young doe that has not had a kid.</i>
EID (see also RFID)	<i>Electronic Identification. An ear tag (or a bolus) that is capable of transmitting a short-range signal with the animal's unique ID to an electronic reader.</i>
Euthanasia	<i>An animal is killed for compassionate reasons and not for human consumption.</i>
Exsanguination	<i>The action of draining an animal of blood.</i>

Term	Definition
Fall out animal	<i>Individual examples of fall out animals are defined within the standards, but the overall definition is an animal within the herd that does not meet the requirements of the Standards and cannot be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.</i>
Finishing	<i>The process of getting goats to the correct weight and condition for slaughter.</i>
Finishing goat	<i>A market animal destined for slaughter in the next 30 days.</i>
Finishing lot/Feedlot	<i>Pens used to grow and finish market animals (also known as dry lots, feedlots, finishing pens, backgrounding pens, holding facilities, pen corrals, and confinement systems).</i>
Fostering	<i>Placing a kid with a doe that is not its biological mother.</i>
Genetically modified	<i>Goats who have been genetically altered (modified, engineered) or cloned. This does not include goats that are genetically selected for certain traits.</i>
Goat crush/squeeze chute/goat cradle	<i>A purpose built stall designed to hold goats safely while they are examined, given veterinary treatment or while management tasks are carried out.</i>
Grafting	<i>Placing a kid with a doe that is not its biological mother.</i>
Hog-tying	<i>Tying of all four legs to prevent movement.</i>
Lameness	<i>Lameness is the inability to use one or more limbs in a normal manner.</i>
Laparoscopic artificial insemination	<i>A surgical insemination technique that involves the use of a laparoscope and manipulating probe to deposit fresh, frozen, or thawed sperm directly into the oviduct.</i>
Market Animals	<i>Any animal selected for slaughter.</i>
Mobile slaughter	<i>A mobile slaughter facility where goats are corralled and then slaughtered on farm.</i>
Mortality	<i>A record of animals that have died. This does not include animals that are culled.</i>
Off-label / extra-label medication	<i>Off-label use is the use of pharmaceutical drugs for an unapproved indication or in an unapproved age group, unapproved dosage, or unapproved form of administration. Wormers and other parasite treatments are not generally prescription medication.</i>
On-farm slaughter facility	<i>A brick and mortar slaughter facility located on the farm/ranch; designed to slaughter and process goats.</i>
Operation	<i>A farm or ranch raising goats (see definition under Program Requirements 3.b.)</i>
Organophosphate	<i>A chemical compound often used as a pesticide, which has been shown to have adverse effects on the nervous system of humans and animals.</i>
Pithing	<i>Piercing or severing the brain stem or spinal cord of an animal in order to kill it; occurs after the animal is stunned.</i>
Replacement stock	<i>Does and bucks selected for breeding.</i>
RFID (see also EID)	<i>Radio Frequency Identification. An ear tag (or a bolus) that is capable of transmitting a short-range signal with the animal's unique ID to an electronic reader.</i>
Sacrificial range area	<i>An area of land where animals are held, generally during winter months, to avoid destruction of other range areas.</i>

Term	Definition
Seedstock/breeding stock	<i>Breeding goats. Animals whose primary purpose is breeding and production of kids.</i>
Self-feeder	<i>A feeder with multiple teats for artificially rearing of kids. Includes mob-feeders.</i>
Shelter	<i>Typically a three sided structure with a roof that provides protection from wind, rain, snow and other adverse weather conditions.</i>
Slaughter	<i>Killing an animal for human consumption according to humane standards as required by a program or law.</i>
Sub-therapeutic	<i>Administering treatment when animals are not sick; this includes low doses of medication over an extended period of time.</i>
Unproven doe	<i>Doeling that has yet to demonstrate kidding ability, mothering ability, productivity etc.</i>
Vaginal artificial insemination	<i>An insemination technique that involves the use of a manipulating probe to deposit fresh or frozen and thawed sperm directly into the vagina.</i>
Weaning	<i>Cessation of feeding milk (not necessarily removal of kids from the doe).</i>
Weaning pen	<i>A secure pen, capable of stopping calves breaking back to their mothers while they adjust to being weaned. Weaning pens may be indoor houses/shelters or enclosed outdoor areas.</i>