



"A pair of young Savanna kids showing the characteristic stocky build for which the breed is known."

Savanna Goats in the United States

*by Paulette Wohnoutka is the Executive
Director of Pedigree International*

Origin

The Savanna goat's origin began in the Savanna Veld of South Africa in 1957. Lubbe Cilliers (DSU farm) took his first stud buck and selected for all-white goats from the indigenous bush goats. He wanted hardiness, survivability, and adaptability as his primary traits. By 1993, the Savanna had distinguished itself as its own breed and the Savanna Goat Breeders Society (Association) was formed and developed breed standards in South Africa.

Importation to the United States

In 1994 Jürgen Schulz (JCS farm) imported the first and only live Savannas into the United States. The

Savannas came in with the famous CODI/PCI Boer goat flight. Mr. Schulz kept and bred Savannas for several years, thus becoming the first Savanna breeder in the United States. In 1998, these 32 Savannas were sold to the public at his Kifaru dispersion sale. Each goat sold was given a certificate and pedigree of its breeding. These first buyers became the breeders of a new industry. In 2000 these breeders commissioned Pedigree International to track and maintain a herd book of these rare goats. In 2000, and 2001, Keri-Rose consulting (KRI) and Ms. Denise Peterson (Amore Arts Farm) imported frozen embryos from South Africa to help grow and diversify the Savanna genetics in North America with 8 more goats. In 2006, Mr. Kenneth Mincey commissioned frozen embryos to move from South Africa to Australia for implantation into recipient goats. The 21 Savanna goats would eventually be imported to his Georgia farm (MGF) in 2010. The



Savanna features

- Exceptional mothering skills
- Parasite tolerance
- Aggressive foragers
- Very aggressive breeders
- Vigorous, fast-growing kids
- Less producer input
- Strong legs and hoofs
- Higher weaning weights
- Excellent for crossbreeding adding muscle
- Improved muscle carcass yields

“Y8 is an early genetics buck that was brought back through collected semen. Trevor & Jamie Ballif did the first embryo transfer program with the Y8 semen.”

Mincey’s would perform embryo transplant programs to grow their numbers. These are the only sources of Savannas in North America. Any new genetic material is currently banned under international law.

“A doe and her twin kids. Savannas are known for their excellent mothering instincts, often gently pawing newborn kids to make them get up and nurse.”



HLF Blitz, fullblood Savanna herdsire at Heiland Farms in Columbia, Kentucky.

Visit Pedigree International website at:
www.PedigreeInternational.com
for more information and list of active breeders near you.



Pedigree International

Thank you to Paulette and Pedigree International for allowing us to reprint this article.