Buying Boer Goats.

✓ Do your research.

- Know what a boer looks like.
- Find sellers local to you.
- Read the Members Directory for current members.
- Take advice from several experienced breeders.
- Make sure you know how to look after and have time to look after goats, they are not easier or cheaper to look after than any other livestock.
- Check your market and where you plan to sell them.

✓ Know what you are looking for and what you'd like to achieve with them.

- Do you want pedigree boers for breeding?
- Do you want to breed semi-commercial meat goats?
- Do you want a functional pet?
- Do you require stock from herds with certificated health status?

✓ Understand the Grading and Registrations System.

- All males must be 100% if they are to be used for breeding stock that can be registered.
- The words Graded, Percentage and Cross can all be used to describe animals that are not pure bred boer.
- Graded females are often ok to use in meat and pet situations.
- Registered animals will have a card from the society showing their breeding.
- Unregistered animals can be used for breeding meat or as pets but not for breeding future breeding stock.

✓ Visit as many herds as possible and see a wide range of boers.

- Boer goats vary, they can be tall, thin, short or stocky.
- The boer SHOULD be a solid well conformed animal (please read the BBGS Breed Standard) Breed Standard which has the potential to carry a good carcass. They are a meat animal.
- Remember that for pedigree production you should choose only the very best in conformation, colour, general health, ears and nose shape.
- For meat production the colour and shape of nose is not important.

✓ Decide who you would like to buy from.

- Ask about the health status on their farm.
- Ask about kidding percentages.
- Ask about the management systems.
- Ask about their selection criteria.
- Ask if they have a waiting list.

✓ Remember to ask about the animal that you are looking at.

- Can you see the parents?
- Will it be registered/transferred? **- only the current owner can do this, not you after the sale.**
- Why is it for sale?
- How old is it?
- Has it bred before – can you see the offspring? And if so how successfully?

✓ Complete required paperwork.

- All paperwork must be completed by a current paid up member of the society.
- If the animal needs registering the current **owner/breeder** must complete and sign the relevant forms.
- If the animal is registered it will need transferring, the current **owner/breeder** must complete and sign the relevant forms.
- All forms and payments must be returned to the Society Registration officer.
- The goat will not be registered to your name if you do not do this and you WILL NOT be able to register it afterward or register its offspring if this is not done.
- Make sure you give the **owner/breeder** your 6 digit herd number, the society cannot register goats to your name without this information.
- Consider joining the society. You will receive newsletters, gain access to the society's web site and be able to register your goats offspring.
- Do ask for a receipt showing exactly what you have purchased including the registration details, transfer details and the amount you have paid.
- This will allow Trading Standards, under the Trades Description Act, to help you if the goat turns out not to have the registration or transfer status you were told or you could be in the position to return the goat and request a full refund.

✓ The Do Nots.

- There are some things that the society recommends you do not do:
- DO NOT buy unseen, ask for pictures before you commit to driving a long way. If you do not like what you see when you get there don't buy.
- DO NOT think you can get around the system and register unregistered animals or get them transferred into your name without the current owner/breeder signing the paperwork.
- DO NOT buy animals which do not suit your purpose, it doesn't take long to put breed inconsistent traits into your herd and it does take a long time to get rid of them later.