

◆ Milky Way Mountain Caprines ◆ Raw Goat Milk Herd-Shares

What is a goat share? It is partial ownership of a dairy goat. Owning a dairy goat, or portion of a dairy goat, allows you to benefit from what that animal produces. In Colorado you can drink milk from a goat that you own. By owning a share in a goat, you have a fresh supply of your own goats' milk to drink and you are allotted a weekly share of fresh, raw (unpasteurized) milk ready for pickup at a designated time.

How does a goat share work? You, and others along with you, own shares in a goat. You benefit from owning the goat by receiving a portion of the milk the goat produces. As with any animal, goats require care, i.e., feeding, general maintenance and milking. Milky Way Mountain Caprines will board your goat, care for it, milk it, and prepare the milk for you to pickup from the milkroom. You pay the herdsman for the boarding, care, feeding, and milking of your goat.

How much milk can I expect from one goat share? One share will provide approximately one half gallon of milk per week for about 33 weeks. Half shares provide approximately a quart per week for about 33 weeks. The average lactation for our goats is around 6-8 months (March to November). However, a goat may milk for a shorter or longer period of time. We plan to milk our does for at least eight months. This is a rough estimate which may vary.

What if I want more milk than one half gallon per week? Purchase a second, third, or fourth share. You can purchase as many goat shares as needed as long as shares are available.

How much does it cost? *Herd-Share membership:* \$15 life-time cooperative membership. Once you pay this fee – you own an interest in our herd and become part of our cooperative!

Boarding fees: Because selling raw milk in Colorado is illegal, we never sell milk. You pay a “boarding fee” to board your portion of a goat and for Mountain Flower Dairy to provide milking service for you. The boarding fee is based on how much milk you are getting each week:

•1/2 GALLON: \$12/Bottle

•QUART: \$8/Bottle

Bottle Fee: There is a **\$5 bottle fee per bottle**. We ask that you bring back your empty, rinsed-out glass bottle every week and we will sanitize it for you and give you a new bottle filled with fresh milk!

First You Purchase a Share: \$48 for a FULL share \$24 for a HALF share

Boarding and Maintenance Fee:

Now that you own a goat share you need to board your goat. Boarding or husbandry costs are \$12.00 per week for each full share. The monthly boarding fee is calculated by multiplying the number of shares by the number of weeks in that month. For example, if you purchase a full milk share and your pickup day is Saturday and there are 4 Saturdays in that month, then your boarding fee for that month would be $\$12 \times 4 = \48 . (Prices are subject to change, given changes in the price of feed, hay, supplies, labor, etc.) Half shares are \$8.00 per week. Goat share members are requested to return the milk vessels (canning jars) each week rinsed in cold water. We will clean and properly sterilize them – you need not do so. If your vessel breaks or is lost, a replacement will be provided for a fee of \$5.00.



MMC Raw Goat Milk Herd-Shares...



The Flavor of our milk speaks for itself. Our goats are happy and healthy. Supplementing their pasture forage is hay - Our animals eat local alfalfa and grass hay that has not been sprayed.

We give pregnant and lactating does all sprouted and locally-grown barley, oats, and BOSS (Black Oil Sunflower Seeds), dressed with kelp. Free-choice mineral (Capri-Min #2) is provided. We do not feed any GMO grain.

FAQ

- ∞ What do I get for my MMC herd share? The share you purchase entitles you to one half gallon of milk per week for about seven months out of the year; however, since production fluctuates this amount may change slightly throughout the season. Half shares will entitle you to approximately a quart per week.
- ∞ What happens if I go on vacation or business travel and don't pick up milk? Am I still responsible for the boarding fee? The monthly boarding fee is due whether you pick up your milk, or not, on any given week during the month (if you will be out of town for an extended period, *Please let us know via email* - your membership can be temporarily suspended and the milk used for other more long-lasting products, such as yogurt or cheese). We still have to feed, milk, and care for the herd whether you pick up or not, and we all hate to see good milk go bad or take up much-needed space in the cooler for more than a few days, so milk that is not picked up *within 24 hours* of your designated pick up day will be no longer be guaranteed available.
- ∞ How do I pay my boarding fee? To avoid any confusion that you are "buying" raw milk the boarding fee should not be paid at time of milk pick-up. Boarding fees must be paid in the first week of each month. Cash, check, or PayPal are acceptable. In the event that you cannot pay your share, it can be temporarily suspended, or a work-trade or barter system can sometimes suffice, as per MMC's choice.
- ∞ How do I get started? Thoroughly review the information provided about Goat Shares on this page. Request and review the boarding contract and bill of sale for a herd-share when you come to the property. Sign the contract and once payment is received you will be the proud owner of a dairy goat share.
- ∞ What happens if I can no longer use the goat milk? If you move, buy your own goat or find yourself no longer using goat milk, you may sell your share to the next person on our waiting list, if that opportunity becomes available. Or you may sell your share back to Milky Way Mountain Caprines for \$5. You may not sell your shares to a third party. Please note: It is illegal to sell milk in Colorado if you are not a licensed and inspected dairy. Never sell your excess milk.
- ∞ As a goat share owner, will I have a share in the kids? No, the ownership of all kids will remain with MMC.
- ∞ Are discounts available? Yes... Members can receive discounted internship and workshop rates at MMC. Work-trade or barter opportunities are available. In future, if/when the Dairy obtains a large bulk milk vat, herd-shares of milk will become available to members who bring their own sanitized jars for pickup, without exchange of vessels, at a reduced cost.

◇ MMC ◇

Furthermore...

As a herd-share member, you are welcome and encouraged to visit the farm for scheduled activities - Bring your family and friends to see what you are a part of - Seasonal events, animal-assisted therapy, fun and fulfillment, health and education. Remember, farmers are successful when they manage their herd in a precautionary and responsible way. Do not touch the head nor horns of any goats. Do not open any gates without approval, of course. And *Please* do not come here from another farm without changing or sanitizing your boots to protect our herd's health. Rules are posted and non-negotiable. As much as we love dogs, please leave yours at home, for they alarm the animals unduly and can pose a serious threat. You are welcome to ask for a tour or have a private visit with the herd, and look for ways to get involved.

It takes a Village!



Soft Cheeses and yogurts are available seasonally and in Limited Supply

Locally milled bulk grains, alfalfa, oat straw bales,
and grass hay can be contracted for trade

Herd-Shares can be exchanged for Seasonal produce from the Garden, as well as for Chicken and Duck eggs as they become available



We are practicing permaculture principles in many areas. If you have a garden, please ask for a share of the other resource our farm provides . . . *Soil* . . . including vegetable compost, and rabbit, duck and chicken manure.

We utilize Llamas for guardian animals, so llama beans are also available, which are also a highly sought after amendment for gardeners.

Remember, Growth and yield parameters such as number of leaves and branches, plant height, stem girth, and number and weight of fruits are significantly ($p > 0.05$) increased by goat manure treatments



We often have a limited number of goats that do become available for sale each year