

Newspapers In Education and  
the Washington State Fair present

# IT'S TIME TO ... MEET THE ANIMALS

This year at the Washington State Fair you can meet all kinds of animals. Check out these fascinating facts and consult the schedule of when your favorite animals will be at the fair. You won't want to miss meeting our Washington animals!



**COWS**

- Many types of cattle were first imported to the United States in the 1800s.
- Pinzgauer bulls weigh an average of 2,000 pounds.
- Most dairy cows are milked two to three times a day. On average, a cow will produce 6-7 gallons of milk each day.
- A cow that is milking eats about 100 pounds of feed each day, which is a combination of hay, grain, silage and proteins, and vitamins and minerals. Cows also need fresh, clean water.
- Cows have four stomachs; the first three stomachs process feed in a way that people cannot. Because of this unique digestive system, cows have the ability to convert plants that humans cannot eat into nutritious foods like milk.
- A cow spends about six hours a day eating.
- There are about 480 dairy farms in Washington and 262,000 dairy cows.
- Washington ranks 10th in total milk production in the U.S.
- A Washington cow makes about 90 glasses of milk a day (27,555 a year).
- The Yakima Valley region of central Washington is one of the largest dairy-producing areas in the nation, with more than 91 dairies and more than 110,000 cows.



Photo: Philip Palermo



Photo: Philip Palermo



**GOATS**

- Goat milk has a more easily digestible fat and protein content than cow milk.
- Many dairy goats average 6-8 pounds of milk a day (about 3-4 quarts a day).
- A female dairy goat is a doe, a male is a buck, young goats are called kids, and a castrated male is called a wether.
- On a worldwide basis, more people drink the milk of goats than of any other single animal.
- Mature Boer goats can weigh 190-230 pounds, and mature bucks can weigh between 200-340 pounds.
- Pygmy goats are a miniature species that weigh around 50-75 pounds (females) or 60-85 pounds (males). They like to swim and can jump very high.



**SHEEP**

- Rams can weigh 250-350 pounds, while ewes range from 180-250 pounds.
- Shropshire black-faced sheep were the most influential and popular breed in the U.S. from 1880-1930.



**PIGEONS**

- Birmingham Roller pigeons have the ability to do rapid backward somersaults while flying.
- Parlor Rollers do their somersaults on the ground. They are judged in competition by how far they can roll on the ground; the appearance of the animal is a secondary consideration.



**FOWL AND CHICKENS**

- Serama Bantam are the smallest and lightest chickens in the world and are more popular than cats or dogs as domestic pets in Malaysia.
- Silkie chickens have five toes instead of the typical four and an extra muff of feathers under the beak area that covers their earlobes.
- Around age 3, peacocks get their full tail feathers.
- Polish chickens have limited vision from their comb and large crest, which can easily frighten them.



**RABBITS**

- Netherland Dwarves weigh 2-2.5 pounds, and English Lop average 10.5 pounds. True Netherland Dwarf rabbits are known for being round all around, including their head and body.
- Most lop breeds have ears that are pushed down into position by a ridge of cartilage between them called a crown. This is not the case for English Lops, as their ears fall simply because of their length and weight.



## VISIT ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE ANIMALS

Poultry	Sept. 6-8
All-around dogs	Sept. 6-8
Animals of the world	Sept. 6-10
Dairy	Sept. 6-13
Beef	Sept. 6-22
Fair Farm	Sept. 6-22
Pigeons	Sept. 9-12
Mini horses and llamas	Sept. 11-13
Boer goats	Sept. 11-13
FFA/4-H	Sept. 14-17
Rabbits	Sept. 16-18
Sheep	Sept. 18-22
Dairy goats	Sept. 19-22
Junior poultry	Sept. 19-22
Pygmy goats	Sept. 20-22

Which animals are you most looking forward to meeting? Before you visit the fair, think about which animal you believe has the most variety of species. Were you correct?

**Sources**  
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