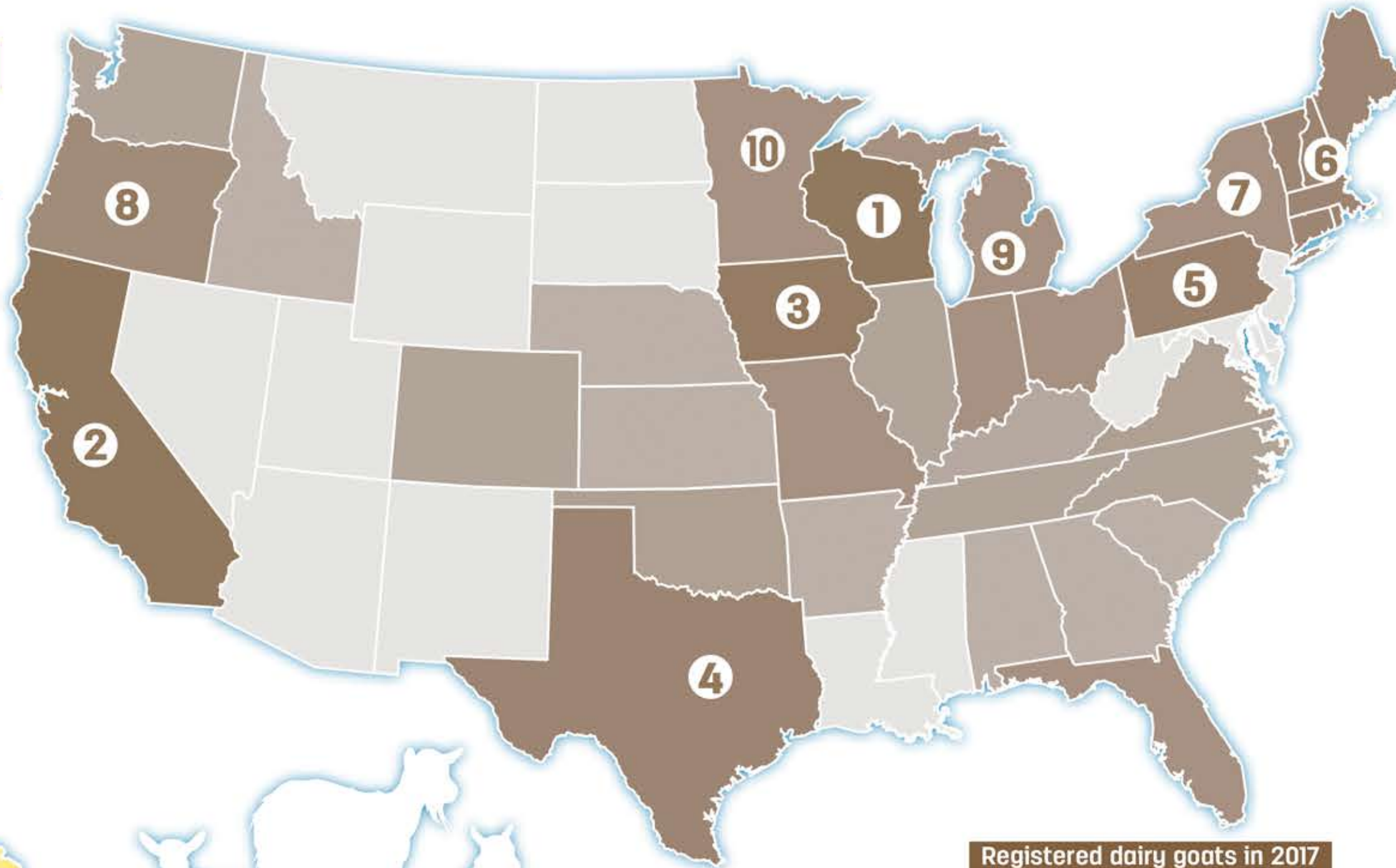


# IN FOCUS

## U.S. dairy goat numbers show continued growth

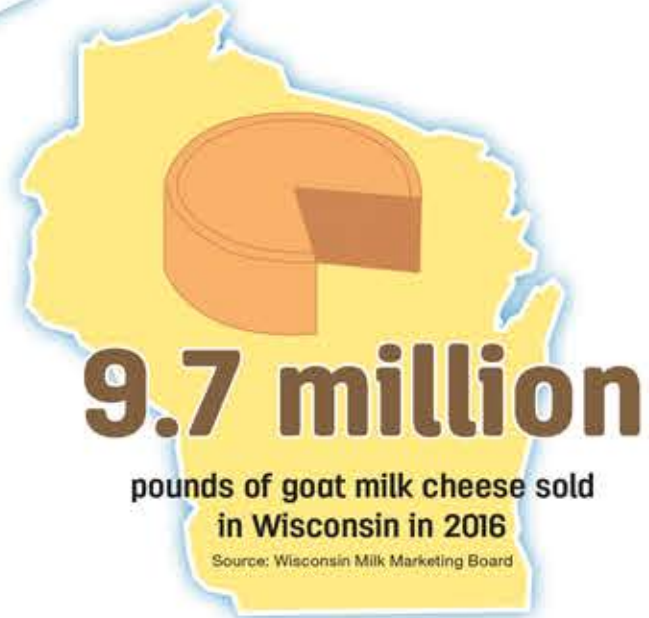
Contrary to U.S. dairy cattle inventories, statistics for the U.S. dairy goat population are a little harder to come by. Milk goats have been included in the five-year U.S. Census of Agriculture for some time, but it wasn't until 2005 that the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began reporting the number of milk goats on its annual sheep and goats report.

From the data that is available, it is apparent that the number of milk goats in the U.S. has grown, more than doubling in inventory from 1997 to 2012. States with the highest numbers of milk goats include Wisconsin, California, Iowa, Texas and Pennsylvania. This is on par with dairy cattle numbers as each of these states are also in the Top 12 in the country for number of milk cows.



### Milk Goat Inventory – 2017

State	Head	% change from 2016
1 Wisconsin	44,000	NC
2 California	41,000	5
3 Iowa	30,500	-8
4 Texas	22,000	NC
5 Pennsylvania	15,000	7
6 New England <sup>1</sup>	14,200	-2
7 New York	13,700	10
8 Oregon	12,600	3
9 Michigan	12,500	6
10 Minnesota	12,000	-13
Indiana	11,000	-5
Missouri	10,300	-10
Florida	10,000	5
Ohio	10,000	5
Colorado	9,000	-11
Washington	7,500	-7
Tennessee	7,000	-3
North Carolina	6,400	-27
Illinois	6,000	7
Oklahoma	6,000	-10
Virginia	6,000	5
Kentucky	5,500	9
Kansas	4,700	11
Arkansas	4,500	-2
Idaho	4,200	10
Alabama	3,900	3
Nebraska	3,700	14
Georgia	3,500	11
South Carolina	3,000	-13
Other States <sup>2</sup>	33,300	2
<b>United States</b>	<b>373,000</b>	<b>NC</b>



U.S. Census Head of milk goats & kids	
1997	190,588
2002	290,789
2007	334,754
2012	413,540

Source: USDA NASS

### Registered dairy goats in 2017

Breed	Number of head	Percent of total
Nigerian Dwarf	16,007	30%
Nubian	13,702	26%
Alpine	7,052	13%
LaMancha	5,657	11%
Saanen	3,888	7%
Experimental	2,932	5%
Toggenburg	2,058	4%
Oberhasli	1,914	4%
Sable	412	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53,622</b>	

Source: American Dairy Goat Association 2016 Annual Report

<sup>1</sup> New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

<sup>2</sup> Includes data for states not published in this table.

Source: 2017 NASS Sheep and Goat report