



## Feeding Young Minds

For most of history, all economies were based on a particular sustainable home business. It was called a farm. For all of the changes in society, our most resourceful people are those who carefully nurture the land in order to feed, clothe, and shelter society. One BC agency is helping BC students understand those people and what they do.

Did you know that BC produces about 6,500,000 kiwi fruit a year? Or that asparagus was once thought to cure bee stings, toothaches, heart trouble, and maintain good eyesight?

These and other interesting facts and statistics on BC's agriculture and food industries are compiled in an updated classroom resource called "Grow BC", available from the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation.

Released in the spring of 1999, "Grow BC" profiles BC's agri-food industry, providing general industry statistics, summaries of each region, and individual "farm to consumer" profiles on 41 plants and 14 animals. Additional topics include nutrition, technology, conservation, and aquaculture. Agriculture careers are given a thorough treatment in the book by linking them beyond the farm. Teachers learn that agriculture careers are found in chemical plants, finance, printing, building supplies, retail, and transportation among others.

The revised edition was funded in part by a \$20,000 grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. This resource now includes current statistics, nutritional facts, and updated profiles of agricultural commodity groups that cover new management practices. Bringing this classroom resource to its current level required a dedicated effort of a year and a half. The initial 1993 version took about two years to complete.

From reindeer to hazelnuts, bison to strawberries, consistency is maintained by asking the same questions for each item as illustrated below.

### What are goats?

"...a frisky, shorthaired domesticated mammal. A female goat is called a doe, a male goat is called a buck and young goats are called kids. A common name for a milk goat is a nanny."

### Where are goats produced in BC?

"...throughout much of BC."

### How many goats do we produce?

"There are an estimated 9,000 to 10,000 goats on 900 farms in BC."

### How are goats produced?

"Kids are born between early January and late May, except in a production herd, where they are born year-round. Goats can have from 1 to 4 kids (very rarely 5 or 6) in one gestation."

### What does a goat look like when I use it?

"There are three main uses for goats and their products: milk, meat and wool."

### What happens after the goat leaves the farm?

"Meat goats are slaughtered, cured and butchered. The fleece can be sold raw to spinners and weavers, or the producer can add value to the product by washing and carding the wool."

### What challenges do goat producers face?

"Commercial goat producers must be self-reliant, innovative and business-oriented in order to make a profit from goat farming."

### Who's involved in producing goats?

"...veterinarians, milk processors, livestock haulers, cheesemakers..."

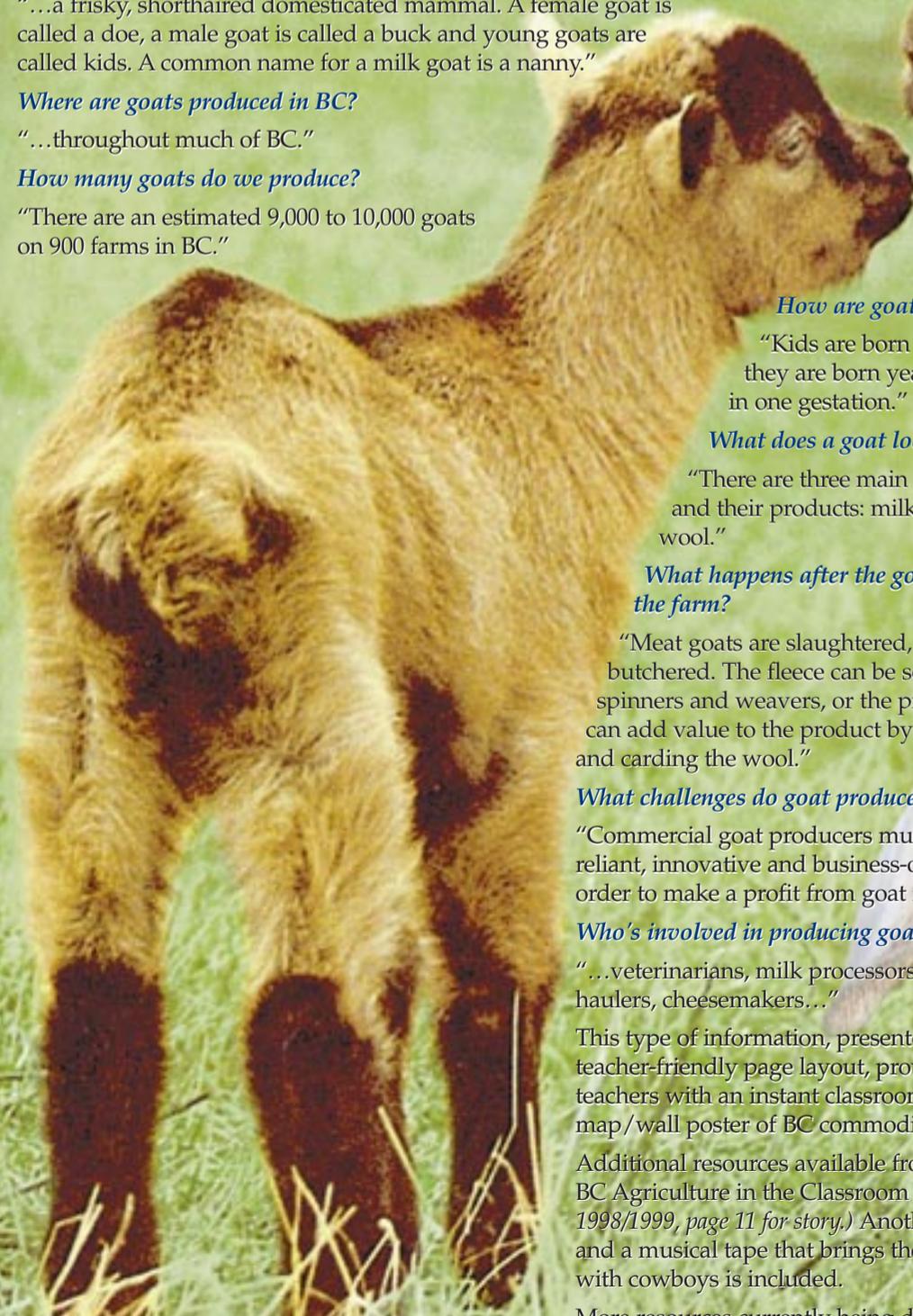
This type of information, presented on a clean, teacher-friendly page layout, provides Grades K-12 teachers with an instant classroom resource. A full colour map/wall poster of BC commodities is also included for easy reference.

Additional resources available from the Foundation include free unit plans developed by teachers at the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation's summer institute. (See *Landscapes Volume V, Winter 1998/1999, page 11 for story.*) Another package entitled *Cow Folk for Kindergarten* includes a teacher's manual and a musical tape that brings the children to cow camp. For the first orders, a western horseman calendar with cowboys is included.

More resources currently being developed by the Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation include *Butter Churns and Stern Wheelers*, a history of the Fraser Valley, and a Grade 7 resource on agriculture in ancient civilization as compared to today.

To obtain copies see Shopping List on page five.

What am I?



When was I born?

Where do I live?