



Five Year Ethnic Holiday Producer Planner

Goat meat is often consumed during the celebration of various holidays, recognized by numerous ethnic groups worldwide, and those who now call Canada home. This resource was designed to help you, the producer, plan production to meet the demands of the flourishing ethnic market for goat meat in Ontario.

Note: Dates may vary based on religious calendar observed. Some holidays are observed over several days. Consult with your buyer to ensure accuracy.

Holiday	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Epiphany	Saturday, Jan. 6	Sunday, Jan. 6	Monday, Jan. 6	Wednesday, Jan. 6	Thursday, Jan. 6
Passover/Pesach	Saturday, March 31	Saturday, April 20	Thursday, April 9	Sunday, March 28	Saturday, April 16
Western Roman Easter	Sunday, April 1	Sunday, April 21	Sunday, April 12	Sunday, April 4	Sunday, April 17
Eastern Orthodox Easter	Sunday, April 8	Sunday, April 28	Sunday, April 19	Sunday, May 2	Sunday, April 24
Cinco de Mayo	Saturday, May 5	Sunday, May 5	Tuesday, May 5	Wednesday, May 5	Thursday, May 5
Ramadan	Wednesday, May 16	Monday, May 6	Friday, April 24	Tuesday, April 13	Saturday, April 2
Eid ul-Fitr	Friday, June 15	Wednesday, June 5	Sunday, May 24	Thursday, May 13	Monday, May 2
Canada Day	Sunday, July 1	Monday, July 1	Wednesday, July 1	Thursday, July 1	Friday, July 1
Independence Day (USA)	Wednesday, July 4	Thursday, July 4	Saturday, July 4	Sunday, July 4	Monday, July 4
Independence Day (Jamaica)	Monday, Aug. 6	Tuesday, Aug. 6	Thursday, Aug. 6	Friday, Aug. 6	Saturday, Aug. 6
Eid ul-Adha	Wednesday, Aug. 22	Monday, Aug. 12	Friday, July 31	Tuesday, July 20	Saturday, July 9
Muharram	Tuesday, Sept. 11	Saturday, Aug. 31	Friday, Aug. 21	Tuesday, Aug. 10	Saturday, July 30
Rosh Hashanah	Sunday, Sept. 9	Sunday, Sept. 29	Friday, Sept. 18	Tuesday, Sept. 7	Sunday, Sept. 25
Navadurgara or Navatra Dashara or Dassai	Tuesday, Oct. 9	Sunday, Sept. 29	Saturday, Oct. 17	Thursday, Oct. 7	Tuesday, Oct. 4
Diwali	Wednesday, Nov. 7	Sunday, Oct. 27	Saturday, Nov. 14	Thursday, Nov. 4	Monday, Oct. 24
Mawlid al-Nabi	Tuesday, Nov. 20	Sunday, Nov. 10	Thursday, Oct. 29	Monday, Oct. 18	Friday, Oct. 7
Hanukkah	Sunday, Dec. 2	Sunday, Dec. 22	Thursday, Dec. 10	Sunday, Nov. 28	Monday, Dec. 19
Christmas	Tuesday, Dec. 25	Wednesday, Dec. 25	Friday, Dec. 25	Saturday, Dec. 25	Sunday, Dec. 25

Ethnic Holiday Goat Meat Guide

Note: The specifications below are broad generalizations of the goat market during these holidays and may vary from buyer to buyer. You should always consult with your buyers about the type of goat they require.

Christian Holidays

- **Epiphany** commemorates the baptism of Jesus, the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem, and the miracle at Cana. It is also known as the 'Twelfth Day' or 'Little Christmas.'

Type of goat required: Same as for Christmas.

- **Western or Roman Easter** commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion.

Type of goat required: The optimal goat is a three month old or younger milk-fed kid, fleshy, with relatively light-coloured meat. Kids weighing less than 20 lbs are generally disappointing to buyers. Accepted weights range between 20-50 lbs, with 30 lbs considered ideal.

- **Eastern or Greek Easter** is similar to Roman Easter, however the date is calculated differently by the Orthodox Eastern Church and generally comes several weeks after the West.

Type of goat required: Specifications are similar to Western Easter, however a slightly larger milk-fed kid (i.e. 35 lbs) is considered ideal.

- **Christmas** is the Christian holiday which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.

Type of goat required: The goat market during Christmas is for milk-fed kids. Kids weighing as light as 18 lbs are accepted. During these holidays, quality control is not as exacting as with Easter kids.

Jewish Holidays

- **Passover or Pesach** is recognized on the 14th day of Nisan (first month of the religious calendar, corresponding to March/April). This holiday continues for eight days and commemorates the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt.

Type of goat required: There is no recommended age, sex or size of goat specified for this holiday. Animals must meet slaughter and processing standards according to kosher laws.

- **Rosh Hashanah** is the Jewish New Year. This holiday begins a 10 day period known as the 'High Holy Days'.

Type of goat required: There is no recommended age, sex or size of goat specified for this holiday. Animals must meet slaughter and processing standards according to kosher laws.

- **Hanukkah** recognizes the Jewish festival of rededication. The holiday, also known as the 'Festival of Lights,' runs for eight days. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev.

Type of goat required: Milk-fed kids are preferred. Kosher processing is often desired as well.

Islamic Holidays

- **Ramadan** is a month of fasting, which celebrates the revealing of the Qu'ran. This occurs during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, where Muslims will fast from sunrise to sunset. Each day the fast is broken with a communal meal (called iftar) after sunset.

Type of goat required: The ideal goat should be no older than 12 months. Males (intact or castrated) and females are accepted. The optimal live weight for this celebration is approximately 60 lbs, but kids weighing between 45-120 lbs may be accepted by different buyers. Overly fat kids are not desired.

- **Eid ul-Fitr** is the 'breaking of the Ramadan fast' marking the end of Ramadan and the sighting of the next new moon. This celebration spans over three days.

Type of goat required: Same as for Ramadan.

- **Eid ul-Adha**, known as the 'Festival of Sacrifice' commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim and his willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail to Allah. **Animals that are sacrificed for this celebration must be Halal.**

Type of goat required: Generally, buyers look for an animal that is blemish free, meaning horns should be intact and the animal has not been castrated. Goats that have been castrated with a burdizzo or goats with a completely healed castration may be accepted. During this holiday, meat is often shared with extended family and neighbours, thus a larger animal is generally preferred. Yearling goats that weigh more than 60 lbs are favoured.

- **Muharram** is the first month of the Muslim calendar. The first day of the month Muharram is celebrated as New Year's Day.

Type of goat required: There is no recommended age, sex or size of goat specified for this holiday.

- **Mawlid al-Nabi** celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

Type of goat required: There is no recommended age, sex or size of goat specified for this holiday.

Hindu Holidays

- **Navadurgara or Navatra Dashara or Dassai** is the Hindu holiday which honours the goddess Durga. The holiday spans over nine nights. Goats are generally slaughtered during the 7th-10th day of the holiday. Curried goat is often served during this celebration.

Type of goat required: Relatively tender male goats are preferred for this celebration, while female goats are not acceptable. The size of animal varies, as it is dependent on the number of people the buyer is expecting to feed.

- **Diwali**, often referred to as the 'Festival of Lights' is a five day festival occurring on the 15th day of Kartika.

Type of goat required: There is no recommended age, sex or size of goat specified for this holiday.

Other holidays to consider

➤ **Cinco de Mayo**

Type of goat required: The preferred market for goats is for 20-35 lbs live weight milk-fed kids for cabrito (roast goat kid), and larger animals for seco de chivo (stewed goat dish).

➤ **Canada Day & Independence Day (USA)**

Type of goat required: Preferred goats for this holiday are those suitable for barbeque. Cabrito kids or young bucks, does, and wethers are commonly chosen for this celebration

➤ **Independence Day (Jamaica)** Goat meat is commonly prepared for celebratory feasts during Caribbean holidays, including Jamaican Independence Day.

Type of goat required: Optimal goats for these holidays are young, sexually mature sixty pound bucks. Older animals, both male and female, are often in demand as well.