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A 100-Year Review: Advances in goat milk research


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A 100-Year Review: Advances in goat milk research

Abstract

In the century of research chronicled between 1917 and 2017, dairy goats have gone from simply serving as surrogates to cows to serving as transgenic carriers of human enzymes. Goat milk has been an important part of human nutrition for millennia, in part because of the greater similarity of goat milk to human milk, softer curd formation, higher proportion of small milk fat globules, and different allergenic properties compared with cow milk; however, key nutritional deficiencies limit its suitability for infants. Great attention has been given not only to protein differences between goat and cow milk, but also to fat and enzyme differences, and their effect on the physical and sensory properties of goat milk and milk products. Physiological differences between the species necessitate different techniques for analysis of somatic cell counts, which are naturally higher in goat milk. The high value of goat milk throughout the world has generated a need for a variety of techniques to detect adulteration of goat milk products with cow milk. Advances in all of these areas have been largely documented in the *Journal of Dairy Science* (JDS), and this review summarizes such advances.

Keywords

Adulteration, composition, nutrition, somatic cells, safety

Disciplines

Food Processing | Human and Clinical Nutrition | Molecular, Genetic, and Biochemical Nutrition | Nutritional Epidemiology | Sheep and Goat Science

Comments

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1 **Journal of Dairy Science 100th Anniversary Edition**

2 **INVITED REVIEW: ADVANCES IN GOAT MILK RESEARCH**

3 *Subtitle: One hundred years of advancing goat milk research through JDS*

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15 **ABSTRACT**

16 In the century of research chronicled between 1917 and 2017, dairy goats have gone from
17 simply serving as surrogates to cows, to serving as transgenic carriers of human enzymes. Goat
18 milk has been an important part of human nutrition for millennia, in part because of the
19 greater similarity of goat milk to human milk, softer curd formation, higher proportion of small
20 milk fat globules and different allergenic properties compared to cow milk; however key
21 nutritional deficiencies limit its suitability for infants. Great attention has been given not only
22 to protein differences between goat and cow milk, but also fat and enzyme differences, and
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24 Physiological differences between the species necessitate different techniques for analysis of
25 somatic cell counts, which are naturally higher in goat milk. The high value of goat milk
26 throughout the world has generated a need for a variety of techniques to detect adulteration of
27 goat milk products with cow milk. Advances in all of these areas have been largely documented
28 in the *Journal of Dairy Science (JDS)*; this review summarizes such advances.

30 **key words:** adulteration, composition, nutrition, somatic cells, safety

31

32 INTRODUCTION

33 Previously considered the “poor man’s cow”, goats and goat milk products began gaining
34 attention in the US in the 1960s because of health and nutritive values attributed to goat milk
35 and milk products. Touted for its easy digestibility and lower allergenic properties compared to
36 cow milk, goat milk has been considered a nutraceutical for decades, but many initial reports
37 were anecdotal. The JDS played a large role in documented the true differences between cow
38 and goat milk. Haenlein (1980) even credited JDS as “a major US research organ on dairy goats
39 as well as on dairy cows”. In the 100-year period since 1917, JDS has published more than 850
40 research manuscripts related to goat milk and milk products. However, these numbers do not
41 reflect the full scope of research related to dairy goats, or the role that goat milk and milk
42 products have played in advancing the global dairy industry in the past century. With particular
43 focus on JDS publications, this manuscript is dedicated to those discoveries.

44

45 ADVANCES IN GOAT MILK RESEARCH FROM 1917 TO 2017

46 *Goat milk and human nutrition*

47 Likely since the beginning of domestication, the importance of goats for human nutrition has
48 been recognized. Indeed, the first publications related to goat milk, published in *The Lancet*,
49 tended to focus on infant feeding, and some of the risks and benefits associated with it
50 (Blackham 1906; Cahill 1906; Dalebrook, 1902; Wright 1906). One letter to the editor of *The*
51 *Lancet* claimed that “goats practically never have tubercle, therefore their milk can be given
52 without pasteurizing... their milk is said to be better for infants than cow’s milk because the
53 curd is finer” (Edmunds, 1914). Prompted by the observation that goat milk rarely forms a
54 cream layer, though fat content was similar to that of cow milk, Schultz and Chandler (1921)
55 reported that 91% of goat milk fat globules were under 4 μm in diameter. Previous work by
56 Bitting (1902) reported that 90% of cow milk fat globules were more than 4 μm in diameter.
57 Although it soon became clear that goat milk was also susceptible to microbial contamination,

58 the softer curd and higher proportion of small fat globules have been selling points of goat milk
59 ever since these early works.

60

61 In the early 1900s, vitamins and minerals were almost exclusively studied in rats, chicks, and
62 monkeys. Approximately 15 years before the early “Our Industry Today” report by Elvehjem
63 (1953), work in his lab revealed that rats grew more slowly on goat milk than cow milk. By
64 then, several cases of severe anemia had been associated with goat milk feeding of human
65 infants, and the term “goat’s milk anemia” was coined. Elvehjem (1953) reported that goat
66 milk provided inferior amounts of vitamin B₁₂ and that levels of folic acid in goat milk and cow
67 milk were “about equal” (which has been since shown untrue). However, since improvement in
68 rat growth was seen with folic acid supplementation, a sparing effect of folic acid on vitamin B₁₂
69 was indicated. Still in the early days of understanding the role of folic acid and B₁₂ in human
70 health, Collins et al. (1953a and 1953b) published two companion papers in JDS, the former
71 related to cow colostrum and milk, and the latter related to goat colostrum and milk. Because
72 vitamin B₁₂ levels in sheep milk could be increased by the addition of cobalt or trace-minerals
73 (containing cobalt; Harper et al. 1951), they wanted to evaluate the impact of such diet
74 supplementation in goats. Goats receiving trace-mineralized salt (containing cobalt) had a
75 higher level of vitamin B₁₂ in their colostrum and milk during the first week post-partum
76 compared to those receiving only iodized salt. Trace-mineralized salt or a 50 mg supplement of
77 cobalt per goat per day had no influence upon the level of B₁₂ in goat milk after this time. The
78 addition of trace-minerals to the diet of the goat did not influence the free folic acid level of the
79 goat milk. The authors admitted that the information reported in the JDS work was “more
80 accurate” than what the reported in their previous work (Collins et al. 1951).

81

82 It was not realized until later that goat milk was deficient, with respect to human nutrition, in
83 folic acid, and vitamins B₁₂ and B₆, nutrients that are essential for normal human baby
84 development (Ford and Scott 1968; Parkash and Jenness 1968). Nonetheless, goat milk
85 products gained considerable attention in the 1970s because of perceived health and nutritive
86 value. Jenness (1980) provided a good review of goat milk nutritive value based upon literature

87 of the time. Similar to cow milk, goat milk is an adequate to excellent source of protein,
88 calcium, niacin, pantothenic acid phosphorus, potassium, riboflavin, thiamin and vitamin A to
89 the human diet (Parkash and Jenness 1968; Jenness 1980). Neither cow nor goat milk is a good
90 source of iron, vitamin C or vitamin D (unless fortified). In contrast to cow milk, goat milk
91 contains less than adequate levels of vitamins B₆, vitamin B₁₂, and folic acid than cow milk for
92 infant nutrition (Ford and Scott 1968; Parkash and Jenness 1968; Jenness 1980). Folic acid and
93 vitamin B₁₂ deficiencies became a focus of research in the 1970s, regarding megaloblastic
94 anemia in children exclusively fed goat milk (Davidson and Townley 1977), and continue to be
95 of concern today (Basnet et al. 2010; Ziegler et al. 2005).

96
97 One of the main characteristics of goat milk that has contributed to its appeal as an alternative
98 to cow milk is its lower allergenic properties compared to cow milk. Even today, families are
99 known to switch to goat milk or to buy a dairy goat to avoid cow milk consumption. Yet mostly
100 anecdotal evidence for the lower allergenicity of goat milk was reported until the 1990s
101 (Haenlein 2001; Loewenstein et al. 1980). With an incidence of 2 to 3% in the first year of life,
102 cow milk allergy is the most common food allergy in early childhood, but the remission rate is
103 approximately 85 to 90% by adulthood (Høst 2002). In an outstanding review published in JDS,
104 Jenness (1980) noted that in many cases, allergy to cow milk proteins was not improved by
105 shifting patients to goat milk, and he recognized that α_{s1} -casein may play a role. It was not until
106 Ballabio et al. (2011) published in JDS that the clear relationship was established. By running
107 individual milk samples from 25 goats with different α_{s1} -casein genotypes through SDS-PAGE
108 and immunoblotting using monoclonal antibodies specific for bovine α -casein and sera from
109 children allergic to cow milk, Ballabio et al. (2011) showed that goat milk allergenicity is a
110 function of α_{s1} -casein genetic polymorphism. Lower reactivity was shown for samples with null
111 α_{s1} -casein genotypes (O₁O₁ or O₁F). Their work confirmed that caution must be taken before
112 goat milk is suggested as an alternative to cow milk for patients with cow milk allergy. They
113 went further to indicate that goat milk from particular α_{s1} -casein genotypes could possibly
114 serve as protein sources for hypoallergenic formulas (Ballabio et al. 2011). The findings were
115 echoed by Lisson et al. (2014), who confirmed that although genetic variants of caseins differ in

116 their allergenicity, cross-reactivity of IgE antibodies of goats and buffaloes with cow milk
117 caseins limit feeding goat or buffalo products to cow milk-allergic patients.

118

119 In “Past, present, and future perspectives of small ruminant dairy research”, Haenlein (2001)
120 provided an outstanding review of over 135 manuscripts related to, primarily, goats and sheep.
121 Haenlein noted that research prior to 2001 was scarce on the unique qualities of goat and
122 sheep milk compared to cow milk; largely it had been assumed that technical research on cows
123 could be extrapolated to small ruminants. Haenlein summarized differences in anatomy,
124 physiology, nutrition, metabolism, and pathology of goats and sheep, as well as differences in
125 their milk and milk products and economic profitability. Although not mentioned in his
126 manuscript, perhaps a dairy goat check-off program could help narrow the gap of disparity in
127 research dollars spent on cows and dairy goats. Particularly compelling was Haenlein’s
128 statement regarding the potential of goat and/or sheep milk to combat under- and malnutrition
129 of people in poor areas and countries. Only 21 out of the 24 countries Haenlein included in his
130 summary met the recommended level of calcium intake (1,000 mg/day). All but five countries
131 met the recommended level of protein consumption (50 g/day) in the form of animal protein
132 (developed countries); six countries had below or borderline levels of protein consumption
133 even after plant sources of protein were added in. The bottom line is that many countries have
134 room to improve animal protein and milk utilization. In his conclusion, Haenlein (2001) urged
135 continued research, extension service, and public support to improve the productivity of small
136 ruminant dairy animals, particularly in developing nations that rely on these animals to a much
137 greater extent than developed nations.

138

139 In recent years, epidemiological studies have led investigators to consider estrogen a factor that
140 may contribute to reproductive system cancers (Farlow et al. 2009; Yager and Davidson, 2006).
141 The World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute for Cancer Research (2007) demonstrated
142 no relationships of importance for consumption of milk and cancer, with the exception of
143 colorectal (decreased risk) and prostate (increased risk) cancers. Because of concerns about
144 estrogen metabolites in milk, and consumption being associated with cancers of the

145 reproductive system (Farlow et al. 2009), Farlow et al. (2012) compared estrone (E_1) and 17β -
146 estradiol (E_2) levels in commercial goat and cow milk. Goat milk exhibited a lower combined
147 concentration of E_1 and E_2 than cow milk.

148

149 *Goats serve as surrogates to cows*

150 The earliest JDS manuscript that specifically mentioned dairy goat milk was published in
151 Volume 15, in May 1932, entitled "Fat Metabolism in the Lactating Goat" (Bender and
152 Maynard, 1932). Similar to the sister manuscript, published in Volume 17, in March 1934,
153 entitled "The Effect of Specific Dietary Fats on the Blood Lipids of Lactating Goats" (Williams
154 and Maynard, 1934), authors of both manuscripts stated that dairy goats were selected for the
155 research to save expense, rather than to study the dairy goat metabolism in particular. The
156 authors explicitly stated an assumption that, physiologically, dairy goats and dairy cows would
157 perform similarly. It is surprising that in those early works, adequate sample size and
158 replication were not required for publication. Findings for four goats, who received four
159 different dietary treatments, were reported in the Bender and Maynard (1932) manuscript.
160 Cunningham and Addington (1935) destined goats to be "used more and more in fundamental
161 research problems" because of their convenient size-equating them with five to seven dairy
162 cows-and greater offspring potential. Since these early works, it has been realized that caution
163 must be exercised when using the goat as a model for the dairy cow (Larson 1978), and dairy
164 goats and their milk are worthy of study in their own right.

165

166 *Advances in goat milk composition research*

167 Bergman and Turner (1937) were among the first to report on the composition of dairy goat
168 colostrum, in particular, the globulins (importantly associated with immune bodies). They
169 reported a rapid transition of colostrum (characterized by high total solids, fat and total
170 protein) from six Toggenburg does into nearly normal milk by the third and fourth day after
171 parturition. At the time, total protein was composed of four groups of protein, namely casein,
172 casein globulin, albumin, and globulin. They used the "newer methods of protein analysis",
173 including precipitation with 8% trichloroacetic acid for determination of total protein, and

174 casein precipitation with an acetate buffer solution, to quantitatively determine total protein,
175 free from non-protein nitrogen and casein. By salting out with $MgSO_4$, Bergman and Turner
176 (1937) were also able to track globulin and albumin separately, for the first time. The most
177 rapid change was seen in globulin, which was reported to decrease from 1.76% on day one to
178 0.40% on day two, and 0.11% by day nine. Since albumin did not decrease to the same extent,
179 globulin was determined to be the driver in protein transition between colostrum and normal
180 milk.

181
182 Until 1940, only four research manuscripts reported goat milk composition data (Bosworth and
183 Van Slyke 1916a, b, c; Lythgoe 1940). Lythgoe (1940) conducted proximate analysis on 335
184 samples from individual goats from 21 herds in MA, across a 16-month period. The results are
185 summarized in Table 1. The work confirmed the high individual and seasonal variability in total
186 solids (driven primarily by high variability of fat), which was more pronounced in goats than in
187 cows. Fifteen years later, in another early JDS “Our Industry Today” literature reviews (Rusoff
188 1955) included a table comparing milk composition of various mammals (Table 2). The
189 information was from the 2nd edition of a McGraw-Hill book, *The Market Milk Industry*
190 (Roadhouse and Henderson, 1950). In subsequent years, a few manuscripts related to goat
191 milk composition were published. Jenness (1980) compiled the mean total solids, fat, crude
192 protein, lactose and ash from milk of international goat breeds from 11 references reported in
193 nine countries between 1968 and 1979. At the time Jenness (1980) wrote his review, the
194 composition of milk from individual US goat breeds had still not been reported; oddly, milk
195 from pygmy goats was used to represent US goat milk composition. It wasn’t until Alderson
196 and Pollack (1980) summarized 3,481 milk and fat yield records of Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian,
197 Saanen and Toggenburg goats from a cooperating herd in CA, that we gained an appreciation
198 for the differences in milk composition and milk production of US dairy goat breeds. Milk and
199 fat yield were influenced by age, month, and year of freshening, and Nubians had the lowest
200 yields but highest fat content (3.8%). Haenlein (1981), who evaluated the production records
201 of US dairy goats, also showed that milk from Nubians had the highest fat content (4.6%) and
202 lowest yield (806 kg/305-day record).

203

204 [Table 1 near here]

205

206 [Table 2 near here]

207

208 More recently, Guo et al. (2001) collected commingled commercial goat milk shipments for an
209 entire year to provide fundamental information for cheese making and milk cheese yield
210 potential and pricing. Samples were collected weekly from bulk milk shipments to a
211 commercial cheese plant from April, 1996 to March, 1997. The bulk milk was composed of milk
212 from 12 dairy farms, composed of Saanen, Nubian, LaMancha, Alpine, and Toggenburg breeds,
213 in New Hampshire and Vermont. Total solids (TS) and fat (F) contents decreased over the first
214 20 weeks from 12.7 and 3.6% to 11.3 and 3.0%, respectively, then increased to peak values of
215 13.4 and 4.4 in January. The contents of crude protein and casein also decreased in the first 20
216 weeks, from 3.5 and 2.7% to 3.2 and 2.3%, respectively, then increased gradually to 3.8 and
217 2.9% in February. The physicochemical properties of commingled goat milk, Table 3, was
218 adapted from Table 1 from the manuscript (Guo et al. 2001). Summer milk had the highest
219 yield potential per kg of protein, due to a higher proportion of casein in crude protein; late
220 lactation milk from does that freshened in the summer had the lowest yield potential. Guo et
221 al. (2001) also concluded that, because of the high lactational and seasonal variability, milk
222 standardization, especially in February, will enable greater uniformity in cheese composition
223 and functionality.

224

225 [Table 3 near here]

226

227 A viral disease that causes animal and economic losses in goat production throughout the world
228 is caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE) (The Center for Food Security and Public Health, 2007).
229 The lentivirus responsible for CAE disease is caprine arthritis encephalitis virus (CAEV), which
230 affects animals in the form of chronic progressive arthritis, pneumonia, chronic weight loss,
231 encephalomyelitis, and indurative mastitis (Kaba et al. 2012). Because contradictory results

232 have been shown for milk production studies, Kaba et al. (2012) investigated the influence of
233 CAEV on milk yield, somatic cell count (SCC), and percent fat, protein and lactose in a 12-year
234 cohort study with 177 does. No significant differences were found between infected and
235 uninfected animals for daily milk yield or SCC (non-leukocytic epithelial cell-like particles).
236 However, the milk of uninfected goats contained more total protein, fat and lactose than that
237 of the infected goats. Martínez-Navalón et al. (2013) studied the Marciano-Granadina breed,
238 which commonly carries CAEV. Longer lactations, higher milk yield, fat, normalized mean SCC
239 and lactose content were found in seronegative goats. According to their findings, CAEV
240 infection could be a major cause for decreased milk production in dairy goats, however they
241 mentioned that transmission routes and potential causes of this disease are still unclear and
242 need more research (Martínez-Navalón et al. 2013).

243

244 *Studies with somatic cells*

245 Similar to dairy cows, mastitis is the primary, and most costly infection of dairy goats, and dairy
246 goat mastitis research published in JDS has been extensive in the past four decades (Contreras
247 et al. 1997; Contreras et al. 2003; Gelasakis et al. 2016; Koop et al. 2010; Koop et al. 2012;
248 Moroni et al. 2005; Timms and Schultz 1985). Summary of such work is beyond the scope of
249 this manuscript. However, although high SCC are strongly associated with mastitis in cows, that
250 is not always the case with goats (Dulin et al. 1983; Koop et al. 2012; Park and Humphrey 1986).
251 It has long been known that the milk of goats naturally contains elevated levels of somatic cells
252 compared to cows, because of the apocrine secretory system in the mammary gland, and that
253 for cows, elevated SCC are associated with cheese quality defects (Dulin et al. 1982; Dulin et al.
254 1983; Poutrel and Lerondelle 1983; Park 1991; Zeng and Escobar 1996). But since bacterial cell
255 counts do not explain high SCC in goat milk (Park and Humphrey 1986), the impact of SCC on
256 goat cheese has been debated. Dulin et al. (1982) studied the differentiation and enumeration
257 of SCC in goat milk. Results indicated that cytoplasmic particles that are similar in size to milk
258 somatic cells, and commonly found in goat milk, can be mistakenly counted as somatic cells by
259 milk quality machines, therefore it was recommended to use counting methods that are
260 specific for DNA for estimation of somatic cells in goat milk to have an accurate differentiation

261 of cells from cell-like material. Zeng (1995) compared SCC and chemical composition of goat
262 milk using Fossomatic-300 and DairyLab II, calibrated either with goat milk or cow milk. In both
263 machines, SCC estimation in goat milk was higher when cow milk was used as a standard than
264 with goat milk as a standard. Moreover, results significantly exceeded legal limits established
265 by the FDA (1,000,000 cells/mL for goat milk at the time, as opposed to the 750,000 cells/mL
266 limit for cows (HHS, PHS, FDA, 2011). Zeng (1995) indicated that the natural differences
267 between cow and goat milk can lead to SCC, protein, and fat reading errors by milk quality
268 equipment when they are set up with cow milk as a standard. Therefore, he recommended to
269 use goat milk as a standard when testing goat milk quality to collect reliable data.

270
271 Somatic cells, and their impact on cow milk quality, have been extensively studied. Factors
272 such as milking methods, breed, age, stage of lactation, season, and management have been
273 reported to affect SCC in cow milk, however it is not always the case in goat milk (Zeng and
274 Escobar, 1996). Milk from Nubian and Alpine dairy goats and three milking methods (pipeline,
275 bucket and hands) were tested to compare SCC, standard plate count (SPC) and chemical milk
276 composition during a complete lactation (Zeng and Escobar 1996). There was no significant
277 difference among milking methods, but SCC increased as lactation advanced and SPC was
278 higher in Nubian milk than Alpine milk. Milk fat and protein of both breeds increased during
279 the first 60 days of lactation and then decreased. Some milk samples contained over 1 million
280 somatic cells/mL, which exceeded the legal limit for Grade "A"; nevertheless does did not
281 experience mastitis symptoms such as swelling or redness of udder. A pathology test indicated
282 that *Staphylococci* were the predominant bacteria, but there was no mastitis condition.
283 Therefore, there was an indication that healthy does could produce milk with more than 1
284 million SCC/mL and the Grade "A" SCC rule should be reviewed to truly reflect goat udder
285 health. In a more recent study with sixty Alpine goats not exhibiting clinical mastitis, Chen et al.
286 (2010) demonstrated that milk composition did not change when SCC varied from 214,000 to
287 1,450,000 cells/mL. Milk with higher SCC actually had lower standard plate count. Coliform and
288 psychrotrophic bacteria counts, milk components (fat, protein, lactose, casein and total solids),
289 and yield of semisoft goat cheese, did not differ among low, medium and high SCC goat milk.

290 However, body and texture scores provided by trained panelists were lower and FFA were
291 higher for high cheeses made with milk with highest SCC (Chen et al. 2010). Today, the Grade
292 “A” Pasteurized Milk Ordinance allows 1,500,000 cells/mL for goat milk, 750,000 cells/mL for
293 cow, sheep and camel milk (HHS, PHS, FDA, 2015). Albenzio et al. (2015) went deeper into the
294 goat physiology with their research into activities of indigenous proteolytic enzymes in goat
295 milk of different SCC. They identified 700,000 cells/mL as the threshold for changes in the
296 immune status of the goat mammary gland. Similar to cow and sheep, plasmin appeared to be
297 the predominant enzyme activity in goat milk, which was correlated to SCC, and macrophages
298 in particular (Albenzio et al. (2015).

299

300 It is important to note that the other temperature, chemical, physical and bacteriological
301 standards for Grade “A” raw milk and Grade “A” pasteurized milk and/or milk products do not
302 differ for cow and goat milk (HHS, PHS, FDA, 2015). Goats, and goat milk and milk products are
303 held to the same high standards for safety and quality that the dairy industry is known for.

304

305 *Findings with fatty acids*

306 By 1964, the overall significance of short-chain fatty acids (FA) of ruminant milk fat was not fully
307 known, but it was recognized that goat milk had unique flavor properties. Efthymiou and
308 Mattick (1964) developed a domestic feta cheese in order to provide uniformity to the
309 unpredictable quality of feta cheeses that were being produced in the US at the time. Although
310 feta cheese is traditionally made from goat and/or sheep milk, their method was developed to
311 produce characteristics of “typical Greek Feta” using cow milk. The authors concluded that
312 characteristic (desirable) rancid flavor, specifically from free fatty acids (FFA) C₂ to C₁₀, could be
313 consistently produced using a mixed culture of *Streptococcus* (now *Lactococcus*) *lactis* and
314 either *Lactobacillus casei* or *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, and lipase powder (either Capalase-KL
315 (kid and lamb-derived) or Capalase-L (lamb-derived pregastric esterase)). Bitter, atypical rancid,
316 and unclean flavors were associated with the use of Capalase-K or Italase, and FA of C₁₂ or
317 higher chain length predominated.

318

319 As the recognition of unique properties of goat milk grew, in particular FA, Dimick and Patton
320 (1965) set out to understand the role of butyric acid, and its function in milk fat synthesis. It
321 had previously been reported in JDS articles (Jack et al. 1963; Jensen et al. 1961), that butyrate
322 was esterified in sn-1 and sn-3 positions in triglycerides. For their experiments, they utilized
323 fresh raw milk from cows (herd milk) and goat (one animal) milk. Their work demonstrated
324 similarities in mole percent distribution of FA from each of the triglyceride fractions, with
325 butyrate concentrations topping out at 20.4 mole percent (goat) and 20.0 mole percent (cow),
326 yet they determined few, if any, dibutyryl triglycerides exist in either type of milk. Ultimately,
327 the authors concluded that butyrate exists predominantly as one mole per mole of triglyceride
328 in both cow and goat milk. Freeman et al. (1965) later reported, in JDS, the distribution of FA in
329 goat, sheep, Indian buffalo, cow and human milk using methyl esters via gas-liquid
330 chromatography. Short-chain FA, C_{4:0} and C_{6:0}, were determined to be esterified predominantly
331 in the sn-1 and sn-3 positions in all species. The C_{14:0} and C_{15:0} FA were preferentially esterified
332 at the sn-2 position, while C_{18:0} was primarily esterified at sn1 or sn3 positions. Not long later,
333 Breckenridge and Kuksis (1967), utilizing butyl esters in gas-liquid chromatography, revealed
334 the FA distribution of milk from seven species (Table 4). Differences in the findings between
335 Freeman et al. (1965) and Kuksis (1967) were attributed to methodology (methyl vs. butyl
336 esterification) and milk sources.

337
338 Attaie and colleagues (1993) were the first to investigate FA profiles of cow and goat colostrum.
339 Simultaneous distillation extraction was used to separate short-chain from long-chain FA, and
340 the n-butyl esters of FA were quantified by gas chromatography and identities confirmed by gas
341 chromatography-mass spectrometry. Table 5 displays the concentration of total FA in goat and
342 cow colostrum. Similar to milk of goats and cows, significant differences in colostrum fatty acid
343 profile were generally found between species. However, the amounts of hexanoic, octanoic,
344 decanoic, 9-Decenoic, and dodecanoic acids also differed between goat breeds, with Nubians
345 presenting more of each of the aromatic compounds.

346
347 [Table 4 near here]

348

349 [Table 5 near here]

350

351 Chilliard and colleagues (2003) provided an excellent review on the nutritional and physiological
352 factors affecting goat milk lipid synthesis and lipolysis. In contrast to cows, goat milk fat
353 content increases with almost all studied fat supplements, however, the response of fatty acid
354 composition is similar in the two species. Although the LPL system of goat milk is lower than
355 that of cow milk, it is more bound to the fat globules (vs. casein micelles in cows) and more
356 strongly correlated to spontaneous lipolysis (lipolysis at 4°C) in goat milk. LPL activity is
357 influenced by stage of lactation, milking frequency, fasting, and lipid supplementation (Chilliard
358 et al. 2003). The lipolysis and characteristic goat milk flavor were attributed to a combination
359 of goat milk fatty acid (FA) composition, triglyceride structure (i.e., high proportion of C₆ to C₁₀
360 FA esterified on carbon 3) and LPL characteristics. The authors also suggested fat
361 supplementation of diets to improve goat milk composition for greater control of cheese
362 processing and sensory properties (Chilliard et al. 2003).

363

364 Bouattour et al. (2008) showed that feeding a moderate level of soybean oil (6% as fed in the
365 concentrate) to dairy goats increased total milk fat, conjugated linoleic acid (*cis*-9, *trans*-11 C_{18:2}
366 CLA), and *trans*-vaccenic acid (*trans*-11 C_{18:1} VA) in milk without negative effects on intake, milk
367 yield or protein content. In the same issue of JDS, Luna et al. (2008) reported increases in α-
368 linolenic acid, CLA, VA, as well as minor conjugated linoleic acid isomers, in the milk of goats fed
369 whole linseed and sunflower oil. Subsequently, Chen et al. (2009) demonstrated that feeding of
370 a dietary supplement containing *trans*-10, *cis*-12 conjugated linoleic acid (3 to 6g/d/goat)
371 reduced milk fat synthesis in dairy goats and decreased cheese moisture and yield. Martínez
372 Marín (2012) fed increasing amounts of 3 plant oils (linseed oil, LO; high oleic sunflower oil,
373 HOSFO; and regular sunflower oil, RSFO) to dairy goats. Oil supplementation decreased the
374 level of saturated FA in milk fat (especially C_{16:0}) and increased mono- and polyunsaturated FA in
375 a linear manner. LO supplementation appeared to be the most favorable alternative of the
376 three because of the positive impact on rumenic acid and vaccenic acid and decrease in the

377 omega-6 to omega-3 FA ratio in milk fat (Martínez Marín 2012). Even more recently, Toral et al.
378 (2015) set out to compare lipid metabolism of goats and cows. Animals were fed diets
379 containing no additional oil (control), or supplements of fish oil, sunflower oil and wheat starch,
380 in a 3 X 3 Latin square design, with 26-d experimental periods. Their work demonstrated
381 interspecies differences in mammary lipogenesis, suggesting a lower sensitivity to the inhibitory
382 effects of *trans*-10, *cis*-12 CLA in goats and that ruminal biohydrogenation pathways are more
383 stable and less prone to diet-induced shifts toward *trans*-10-containing intermediates in goats
384 than cows.

385

386 With the emergence of biorenewable sources of fuel has come the production of by-products
387 such as dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS), a by-product of the ethanol industry. A
388 good amount of literature is available on the impact of DDGS feeding on poultry, swine, beef,
389 dairy cows, and even cow milk and cheese (Sankarlal et al. 2015, Testroet et al. 2015). Cais-
390 Sokolińska et al. (2015) were the first to report on the impact of DDGS on goat and sheep milk
391 and milk products, when they evaluated formation of volatile compounds in the fermented
392 beverage, kefir. Their work showed that the increased polyunsaturated fats resulting from
393 DDGS feeding resulted in significant changes to the fermentation process and aroma profile of
394 the resulting kefirs Cais-Sokolińska et al. 2015).

395

396 *Evolution of goat milk enzyme research*

397 The enzyme composition of ruminant milk was not completely characterized by 1968, and is
398 probably still not. Chandan et al. (1964) reported the lysozyme content of human milk in
399 *Nature*, then proceeded to report on the composition of lysozyme, lipase and ribonuclease in
400 the milk of five species in JDS (Chandan et al. 1968). There was interest in lysozyme due to the
401 discovery that human milk had nearly 3,000 times the amount of lysozyme than that of cow
402 milk, and potential implications to infant feeding and keeping quality of milk. The investigators
403 confirmed the great discrepancy in lysozyme content of human milk (40,000 µg/100 mL)
404 compared to cow (13 µg/100 mL), goat (25 µg/100 mL), sheep (10 µg/100 mL), and sow (0
405 µg/100 mL). Differences in lipase (13, 132, 39, 9, and 141 µM/min/100 mL, respectively) and

406 ribonuclease (305, 1,100, 425, 300 and 30 µg/100 mL, respectively) were also notable, but not
407 as extreme (Chandan et al. 1964). Later, with the emergence of genetic engineering, transgenic
408 goats were developed to express human lysozyme at least 67% of the concentration found in
409 human milk that enhanced the antimicrobial properties of goat milk to select mastitis and
410 pathogenic microorganisms (Brundige et al. 2008; Maga et al. 2006). Maga et al. (2006)
411 demonstrated that milk from the five transgenic goats had lower somatic cell count, but the
412 overall component composition of the milk and milk production were not different from
413 controls. Additional benefits included that milk from the transgenic goats had a shorter rennet
414 clotting time and increased curd strength.

415

416 Milk xanthine oxidase (XO) was also a hot topic in the 80s. Oster (1971) proposed an
417 association between XO and atherosclerosis. Because of such concerns, Zikakis and Wooters
418 (1980) evaluated a total of 195 commercially processed dairy products, polarographically, for
419 XO activity. Fluid milk, cream, powdered and evaporated milk, yogurt and ice cream, cheese,
420 butter, as well as goat and sheep products, were evaluated. The authors reported XO activity
421 of raw milk increased with storage, particularly frozen storage, and that commercial processing
422 destroyed about 82% of XO activity compared to raw milk. Commercial processing allowed the
423 release of XO from the milk fat globule membrane, enabling destruction. Cheeses made from
424 goat and sheep milk (Feta and imported blue) were reported to contain low to no XO activity
425 (Zikakis and Wooters 1980).

426

427 DeFeo et al. (1982) were among the first to distinguish differences in the lipoprotein lipase (LPL)
428 system between goats and cows. The importance of the research lies in the fact that hydrolytic
429 rancidity (lipolysis) aromas and flavors from volatile FFA are influenced by native LPL, and
430 acceptability of goat milk products are largely influenced by rancid flavors. To characterize
431 components of the lipolytic system in goats, in part because of the unique flavor characteristics
432 of goat milk, Chilliard et al. (1984) activated spontaneous lipolysis in goat milk. Unlike for cow
433 milk, LPL activity is correlated with spontaneous lipolysis in goat milk. Goat milk LPL was found
434 to be distributed primarily in the cream (46%) and serum (46%), with little activity in the caseins

435 (8%), in comparison to cows (6, 17 and 78%, respectively). It has been shown that the LPL
436 activity differs among several breeds of goat, with evidence of genetic polymorphism
437 influencing the functional properties of this enzyme (Badaoui et al. 2007).

438
439 Plasmin is likely the most important proteases in milk because of its influence upon milk and
440 cheese quality. Although a lot of research into the plasmin enzyme system had previously been
441 conducted in cows, it was not until the early 1990s that anyone reported on the plasmin system
442 in goats. Like in cow milk, the complex plasmin enzyme system, composed of plasmin (PL),
443 plasminogen (PG), plasminogen activators (PA), plasminogen activator inhibitors, and plasmin
444 inhibitors, is present in goat milk (Politis et al. 1994). For the first time, Politis et al. (1994)
445 demonstrated that tissue plasminogen activators (t-PA) were present in the casein and serum
446 fractions of goat milk; urokinase plasminogen activators (u-PA) were present in all fractions
447 (i.e., casein, serum, and somatic cells). Electrophoretic studies by Trujillo et al. (1997)
448 demonstrated that plasmin hydrolyzed the same regions in β -casein in cow and goat milk. The
449 plasmin system is also involved in mammary involution, with higher PL and PA activity in late
450 lactation cows (Baldi et al. 1996). Fantuz et al. (2001) evaluated the plasminogen activation
451 system in goat milk and its relation with composition and coagulation properties toward the
452 end of lactation. Compared to cow and sheep milk, goat milk PG activity was low, but
453 consistent with the high activity of PA. The high PL and PA activity in goat milk was negatively
454 correlated with coagulating properties in late lactation, which was likely related to degradation
455 of casein (Fantuz et al. 2001).

456
457 The quality of cheeses largely depends on the rate, extent and nature of the two main
458 biochemical processes involved in cheese aging, proteolysis and lipolysis. With the growing
459 popularity of goat milk cheeses, and paucity of information regarding proteolysis and lipolysis
460 specific to goat milk cheeses, Park (2001) published a review on the topic in JDS. Regarding
461 proteolysis, one of the distinguishing differences between cow and goat milk is the ratio of
462 caseins. Because of its naturally lower content of α_{s1} -casein, goat milk has a higher proportion
463 of β -, α_{s2} - and κ -casein than cow milk. As a consequence, goat cheeses tend to be less firm,

464 and less resistant to enzymatic degradation than cow cheeses (Park 2001). Earlier work
465 published in JDS, by Fontecha et al. (1990), Ha and Lindsay (1991), Attai and Richter (1996a),
466 and Jin and Park (1995), were also cited as being important for the characterization of lipolysis
467 in goat milk cheeses.

468

469 Because the majority of goat milk cheese sold in the US are fresh, soft cheese (chevre), and
470 because goats are largely seasonal breeders, availability is variable. Thus, Van Hekken et al.
471 (2005) evaluated the impact of frozen storage on the proteolytic and rheological properties of
472 soft goat cheese. The creation and removal of ice crystals in the cheese matrix and the limited
473 proteolysis of caseins resulted in only slight changes to cheese texture. Thus, authors
474 concluded that frozen storage of soft cheeses may be appropriate to enable year-round supply
475 of soft goat cheese, but consumer evaluation was not conducted to confirm this.

476

477 *Genetic variants of goat milk caseins*

478 The five principal proteins in goat milk (α_{s1} -casein, α_{s2} -casein, β -casein, β -lactoglobulin and
479 α -lactalbumin) were reported to closely resemble their homologs in cow milk (Jenness 1980).
480 Research at the time suggested that goat milk lacked the homolog of bovine α_{s1} -casein, the
481 most abundant protein in cow milk. Jenness (1980) attributed goat milk's reputed more easily
482 digested, softer curd, to the lack of α_{s1} -casein in goat milk; yet he acknowledged that no direct
483 experimental evidence was yet available on the subject. However, research in the late 1980s
484 would reveal interesting findings about goat α_{s1} -casein. The JDS was one of the first journals to
485 publish a manuscript on the topic in English, when Ambrosoli et al. (1988) reported that
486 coagulation properties (coagulation time, rate of curd formation and curd firmness) and
487 composition of goat milk with low and high α_{s1} -casein content differed. They reported that
488 goat milk with low α_{s1} -casein had faster coagulation time, while milk with high α_{s1} -casein had
489 higher levels of components and produced firmer curds. Later, Mora-Gutiérrez et al. (1991)
490 demonstrated, using isoelectric precipitation and reversed-phase HPLC, that milk from Alpine
491 and Nubian dairy goats could be divided into low, medium and high- α_{s1} -casein-producing
492 groups. The authors proposed the idea of genetic regulation of α_{s1} -casein production, stopping

493 short of suggesting it to be a breed-specific trait. In subsequent years, it was realized that at
494 least ten different genetic variants influenced the α_{s1} -casein phenotype expressed, and genetic
495 variants were associated with breeds, milk composition, and coagulation properties; those
496 works were not presented in JDS (Martin and Addeo 1996; Clark and Sherbon 2000). Later, it
497 was reported that at least 16 alleles are associated with different rates of α_{s1} -casein protein
498 synthesis in goats (Caroli et al. 2006).

499
500 Cebo et al. (2012) demonstrated that genetic polymorphisms at the α_{s1} -casein locus affect both
501 structure and composition of milk fat globules. At mid-lactation, goats displaying high-type α_{s1} -
502 casein genotypes produced larger fat globules and had lower levels of polar lipids in the MFGM
503 than goats with null α_{s1} -casein genotype. More work in this area should be expected in the
504 coming years, since the authors suggest that genetic polymorphism in goats may be a tool to
505 provide clues into lipid secretion pathways in the mammary epithelial cell (Cebo et al. 2012).
506 Advances in metabolomics, using hyphenated gas chromatography-mass spectrometry and
507 multivariate data analysis techniques, enabled Caboni et al. (2016) to characterize low
508 molecular weight polar metabolites in milk of 28 goats with different α_{s1} -casein genotypes in
509 Italy. Upregulated compounds associated with weak genotypes included sugars and polyols,
510 while upregulated compounds associated with strong genotypes included citric and aconitic
511 acids (Caboni et al. 2016).

512
513 Characterizations of caprine κ -casein genotypes were reported in JDS by several authors (Coll et
514 al. 1993, 1995; Angiolillo et al. 2002; and Yahyaoui et al. 2003). Coll et al. (1995) characterized
515 the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA and the promoter region of the κ -casein gene. Angiolillo
516 et al. (2002) characterized three variants of goat κ -casein (designated A, B, and C) in Spanish,
517 French, German and Italian goat breeds. Yahyaoui and colleagues (2003) proposed a
518 nomenclature for the different alleles representing κ -casein variants. The full coding region of
519 the κ -casein gene, including two new genetic variants were described, along with allele
520 distribution among 210 animals representing different European goat breeds and 23 Spanish
521 wild goats. The technique described by Yahyaoui et al. (2003) allowed the rapid and

522 simultaneous genotyping of all known κ -casein variants; use of such a system could enable
523 selection of milk for various industrial applications.

524

525 *Growth in goat population and goat research*

526 Goat milk research began to blossom in the 1970s, along with dairy goat populations in the US.
527 According to Leach (1980), the number of registered dairy goats in the US increased from 3,611
528 in 1955 to 32,459 in 1976. Additionally, herds enrolled in the National Cooperative Dairy Herd
529 Improvement Program (DHIP) increased from none in 1960 to 1,611 in 1978 (Leach 1980). By
530 1987, approximately 129,225 milk goats were counted (on 15,443 farms) in the USDA APHIS
531 Census, with approximately 17 million kg of milk produced; however, it was acknowledged that
532 the census does not always capture all animals (USDA, APHIS, CEI, 2003). Considering the
533 number of dairy goats not on test in the US, Haenlein (1978) estimated that closer to 350
534 million kg of milk were produced by US dairy goats annually in the 1970s and 1980s. Assuming
535 that the census captured only 60% of the true population, by 2002, the dairy goat population
536 had grown to 407,105 in the US (USDA, APHIS, CEI, 2003). By 2012, the US dairy goat
537 population was approximately 413,540 (USDA NASS).

538

539 It wasn't until Haenlein (1978) published "Dairy goat management" in JDS, that statistically
540 significant published research about nutritional and breeding management, behavior, and
541 economics of milk production of dairy goats was comprehensively reported. Around this time,
542 Larson (1978) suggested caution to animal scientists for using the dairy goat as a model in
543 lactation studies. Some of the most obvious differences, he pointed out, were the gross
544 structural differences between goats and cows, and differing milk constituents. He also
545 summarized the important differences in susceptibility to metabolic diseases associated with
546 lactation and differing rates of metabolism affecting transfer of dietary and administered
547 materials into milk.

548

549 A full issue of JDS was dedicated to dairy goats in 1980, resulting from the 1979 ADSA
550 International Symposium on Dairy Goats (Haenlein 1980). Issue 10 contained 14 manuscripts

551 related to dairy goats. Perhaps the most comprehensive summary of goat research at the time,
552 “Composition and characteristics of goat milk: Review 1968-1979” (Jenness 1980) was one of
553 them. Twenty-seven (11%) of the references cited were manuscripts published in the JDS.
554 Some of the key findings during the period from 1968 through 1979 included the observance
555 that although fat globules of goat milk resemble cow milk, goat milk lacks agglutinin, which
556 causes fat globules of cow milk to cluster when cooled (Jenness and Parkash, 1971). This,
557 coupled with the fact that goat milk contains a higher proportion of small fat globules than
558 large (Schultz and Chandler, 1921; Jenness 1980), explains why goat milk is called “naturally
559 homogenized”. However, it was not until Cerbulis et al. (1982) that the lipid distribution of goat
560 milk was formally investigated and reported. Goat milk resembled cow milk fat with respect to
561 lipid fractions of whole milk and cream, containing 97 to 99% free lipid (97% of which was in the
562 form of triglycerides) and 1 to 3% bound lipid (containing neutral lipid, glycolipid and
563 phospholipid). However, goat skim milk contained more free lipid than cow milk, likely because
564 of the higher proportion of small globules (Cerbulis et al. 1982).

565
566 In the same issue as Jenness (1980), a review of research on goat milk products was published
567 (Lowenstein et al. 1980). Loewenstein and colleagues referenced 136 publications pertaining to
568 preparation of consumer products from goat milk; an additional 183 manuscripts were included
569 as “supplementary bibliography”. Through their review, they concluded that, until that date,
570 cheese was the only extensively-studied goat milk product, and additional research of goat milk
571 products is needed. Perhaps partially in response, characterization of goat milk flavors surged
572 in JDS in the 1980s and 1990s (Chilliard et al. 1984; Iverson et al. 1989; Ha and Lindsay 1991;
573 Martín-Hernández et al. 1992; Jin and Park 1995; Attaie and Richter 1996a and b). The
574 characteristic “goaty” aroma of goat milk products results from the volatile FA that are found in
575 higher quantities in goat milk and milk products compared to cow milk. Branch-chain FA,
576 including 4-ethylcatanoic (goat-like or “goaty”) and 4-methyloctanoic (mutton-like) acids, from
577 goat and sheep milks provide distinguishing flavors to varietal cheeses (Ha and Lindsay 1991).
578 They reported an absence of 4-ethylcatanoic acid in cow milk cheeses, and suggested that the
579 flavor compound, in particular, distinguished cow from goat and sheep cheeses. Additionally,

580 the presence of phenols, particularly p-cresol and 3- and 4-ethylphenols (sheep-like flavors)
581 were unique to sheep cheeses (Ha and Lindsay, 1991). Attaie and Richter (1996a)
582 demonstrated that ripening time significantly affected the concentrations of FFA in Cheddar-
583 like hard goat cheeses up to 12 weeks, and that the percentage of NaCl or the ratio of salt to
584 moisture (S/M) did not affect FFA or lipolysis. In their companion paper (Attaie and Richter
585 1996b), it was shown that firmness of the Cheddar-like cheeses decreased up to 18 weeks, but
586 no significant change occurred between weeks 18 and 24. Cheeses with higher salt (highest
587 S/M) remained the most firm, explained by the lower hydration of the protein and less freedom
588 of movement for the protein molecules, larger amount of intact casein, and firmer casein
589 matrix (Attaie and Richter 1996b).

590
591 With the growing importance of dairy goats came the need for design of breeding programs.
592 Illoeje et al. (1981) were among the first. They evaluated 21,845 records of dairy goats on Dairy
593 Herd Improvement tests from 1965 to 1976. The relative importance of herd (22-31% of total
594 variation in milk and fat yields and 15 to 25% of variation in fat%), doe (16 to 25% of total
595 variation in milk yield, fat yield and fat%), sire (8 to 10% of the total variation), and year-season
596 effects (8 to 14% of total variation) were found to be similar to those for dairy cattle. Ali et al.
597 (1983) followed up, with a study of 42,618 records of goats with 125 days or more in milk, to
598 examine relationships among lactation and reproduction traits. Milk and fat yields were
599 affected by breed, parity, age after fitting parity, and month of conception. The authors
600 recommended a reduction in the number of days dry since it was found to be negatively
601 correlated with milk and fat yield in subsequent lactation (Ali et al. 1983).

602
603 *Decades of adulteration detection*

604 As the appreciation for and value of goat milk increased, methods to detect of goat milk with
605 cow milk became necessary. Methods were published in Bulgaria (1929), Norway (1952), and
606 France (1959) before the US. Aschaffenburg and Dance (1968) were among the first to publish
607 methods to detect cow milk in goat milk by gel electrophoresis. Furtado (1983) utilized
608 discontinuous polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) for detection of cow milk in

609 pasteurized goat milk. Because of the naturally-lower amount of α_{s1} -casein in goat milk than
610 cow milk, a frontal band, missing from the pattern of genuine goat milk and possessing the
611 same electrophoretic mobility as bovine α_{s1} -casein, could be directly related to the amount of
612 cow milk added to the goat milk. Iverson and Sheppard (1989) demonstrated that adulteration
613 of sheep and goat cheeses was occurring throughout the world by evaluating the fatty acid
614 profiles of 134 cheeses using programmed temperature gas-liquid chromatography of fatty acid
615 butyl esters. Goat and sheep milk cheeses exhibited a characteristically different lower chain
616 length fatty acid pattern than cow milk cheeses. The mean lauric:capric fatty acid ($C_{12}:C_{10}$) ratio
617 became proportionally larger with increased substitution of cow milk for goat or sheep milk in
618 cheese making. Later, Molina et al. (1996) reported on the use of Western blotting of native
619 and denatured bovine β -lactoglobulin to detect addition of bovine milk to non-bovine milk
620 cheeses. Native PAGE of whey or isoelectric focusing of β -lactoglobulin isolated from the casein
621 fractions was followed by immunodetection with anti-bovine β -lactoglobulin antiserum.
622 Immunoblotting of the native-PAGE plates of whey proteins from cheese allowed detection of
623 heat-denatured whey proteins or pasteurized cow milk added to goat cheese at less than 1%
624 adulteration. Even more recently, López-Calleja et al. (2004) utilized species-specific
625 polymerase chain reaction techniques to detect sheep and goat milk adulteration with cow
626 milk. The use of a forward primer complementary to a conserved DNA sequence, along with a
627 reverse primer specific for cow, yielded a 223-bp fragment from cow milk DNA, whereas no
628 amplification signal was obtained in sheep or goat milk DNA. When applied to raw, pasteurized,
629 or sterilized milk mixtures of cow-sheep and cow-goat, the specific detection of cow milk had a
630 good sensitivity threshold (0.1%). In follow-up work, López-Calleja et al. (2005) validated the
631 effectiveness of the technique to authenticate the purity of sheep milk, with similar sensitivity
632 threshold (0.1%). Adulteration continues to be of concern today. In Brazil, a study was
633 requested by the association of small-holder producers to investigate and to inhibit
634 adulteration practices (Rodríguez et al. 2012). A duplex PCR assay was developed, standardized
635 and validated on 160 fresh bulk goat milk samples. The detection limit was 0.5% bovine milk in
636 goat milk; 41.2% of the goat milk present in the market was adulterated with bovine milk at the
637 time (Rodríguez et al. 2012). Also using PCR, Golinelli et al. (2014) reported that all locally

638 produced goat cheeses tested (20 lots of 4 brands in Brazil) were adulterated with cow milk,
639 even though labels did not indicate addition of cow milk. Additionally, almost half of the 102
640 regular consumers invited to participate in triangle tests were able to perceive adulteration of
641 goat cheese with 10% (vol/vol) cow milk (Colinelli et al. 2014). Chen et al. (2016) used
642 proteomics to quantify the percentage of cow milk added to goat or sheep milks or dairy
643 products. Signature tryptic peptides in β -lactoglobulin were used as markers. The ultra-
644 performance liquid chromatography triple quadrupole-mass spectrometry method was found
645 to have high accuracy, selectivity, linearity and precision. Similar to many previous studies,
646 adulteration was found in most of the commercial samples purchased (Chen et al. 2016).

647

648 *Microbiology and safety*

649 In the early part of the 20th century, livestock in the US were commonly infected with *Brucella*
650 species. While cows were often carriers of *Brucella abortis*, goats carried *Brucella melintensis*.
651 These were the early days of determining the current Federal Food and Drug Administration's
652 "60-day rule", stating that cheesemakers use pasteurized milk, or age raw milk cheese for at
653 least 60 days at not less than 35°F (1.5°C), which was established in 1950 (21 CFR 133; FDA
654 HHS, 2016). Gilman et al. (1946) evaluated the length of time that *B. abortis* (the cow-borne
655 source of Brucellosis) survived in Cheddar cheese. Uniquely, they also evaluated the survival of
656 *B. melintensis* (the goat-borne source of Brucellosis) in goat cheeses, as fresh goat cheeses
657 made from unpasteurized milk had been implicated in human undulant fever cases (Gilman et
658 al. 1946). However, no documentation of cases was provided in the manuscript. Gilman et al.
659 (1946) also reported, similar to other work of the day, that aging for about 60 days would
660 provide "reasonable assurance of the absence of viable *B. abortus* in commercial Cheddar
661 cheese." Surprisingly, although Gilman and colleagues did not conduct experiments with *B.*
662 *melintensis*, based upon previous research, they reported that *B. melintensis* may live longer
663 than 60 days in cheese, stating "goat milk cheese presents a special problem." Between 1965
664 and 1983, outbreaks of Brucellosis in Colorado and Texas in were linked to consumption of
665 cheeses made from unpasteurized goat milk sourced from the US or Mexico, or consumed
666 while US residents were visiting the Mediterranean basin, Far East, Middle East, and South

667 America (CDC, 1983; Eckman, 1975; Young and Suvannoparrat, 1975). Because of vaccination
668 programs and vigilance, since the 1980s, *Brucella* species have essentially been eradicated from
669 US livestock. There has only been one case of *B. melintensis* (not *B. abortis*) reported since, a
670 single cow in Texas, in 1999 (USDA APHIS CEI. 1999).

671
672 Milk-borne infections were more common before pasteurization was discovered in the late 19th
673 century and commonly implemented in the 20th century, but outbreaks related to consumption
674 of unpasteurized milk remain a concern (Langer et al., 2012). In Scotland, milk pasteurization
675 was mandated in 1983, but not England or Wales, and sale of unpasteurized sheep and/or goat
676 milk was not prohibited anywhere in Great Britain at the time Sharp et al. (1985) wrote.

677 Nonetheless, more cases of foodborne illness were related to cow milk than goat milk during
678 that time (Sharp et al., 1985). In the US, Michigan was the first state to require milk
679 pasteurization, in 1948; in 1987, interstate shipment of raw milk was prohibited by the FDA
680 (Langer et al., 2012). In the period between 1993-2006, a disproportionate number (150-times
681 higher incidence) of outbreaks of foodborne illness were associated with non-pasteurized than
682 pasteurized dairy products, and in states that allow sales of raw milk (Langer et al. 2012).

683 Between 2007-2012, 4 outbreaks were associated with goat milk compared to 77 associated
684 with cow milk (Mungai et al. 2015). Goat milk and milk products have tended to stay out of the
685 food safety news spotlight, with a few exceptions, again, typically associated with
686 unpasteurized products, and mostly outside of the US (Bielaszewska et al. 1997; Hachette et al.
687 2001; Hogerwerf et al. 2011; Lai et al. 2015; Méndez Martínez et al. 2003; McIntyre et al. 2002).

688
689 Because of their particularly high virulence and negative consequences in humans
690 contamination with shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) and *Listeria monocytogenes*
691 are of particular concern to dairy producers and processors. Until the 1990s, there was a lack
692 of information of *L. monocytogenes* in goat milk compared to the information available on cow
693 and sheep milk. Because of the high mortality rate associated (30%) with listeriosis, Gaya and
694 colleges (1996) evaluated incidence of *Listeria* species (spp.) in caprine milk in Spain. The
695 incidence of *Listeria* spp. in samples from bulk tanks of 405 farms was 4.15%. There was a peak

696 during autumn and winter months, compared to the reported spring peak for cows. The
697 findings confirmed the risk for *Listeria* contamination of cheese made of raw caprine milk. Of
698 796 raw milk cheeses obtained in 2006 and 2007 in Switzerland, 3.7% and 6.3% were positive
699 for pathogenic STEC, respectively (Stephan et al. 2008). Of the 63 goat cheeses evaluated, 4
700 goat milk soft cheeses and 1 goat milk semihard cheese (7.9%) were positive for STEC. The
701 various serotypes were not enumerated in samples, so it is unknown if levels were high enough
702 to cause foodborne illness. Nonetheless, authors concluded that raw milk cheeses continue to
703 be a potential vehicle for transmission of pathogenic STEC to humans (Stephan et al. 2008).

704

705 D'Amico et al. (2008) studied the overall pathogen presence in 138 samples of cow, sheep and
706 goat raw milk, from 11 farmstead cheese operations in Vermont, US. The study targeted
707 *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella* spp., *L. monocytogenes*, and *E. coli* O157:H7. Goat milk
708 samples had lower incidence (18.4%) of *S. aureus* than cow (27.4%) or sheep (85.7%) milk
709 samples. *S. aureus* was present at levels that could not lead to a risk to produce heat-stable
710 enterotoxins (<100,000 CFU/mL); *S. aureus* is not considered a pathogen of high risk during
711 cheesemaking due to competition with active starter culture. *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella* spp.,
712 and *L. monocytogenes* were not found in goat milk at levels that could cause foodborne
713 infections but outbreaks from these microorganisms could still occur if conditions allow.

714 D'Amico and colleges (2008) concluded that since bacteria were found in very low levels in goat
715 milk, improper storage could still facilitate pathogen growth, and some properties of raw milk
716 cheeses could lead to the survival and growth of certain pathogens to risky levels.

717

718 Rahimit and Alian (2013) evaluated raw milk of buffaloes, cows, goats, sheep and camels, in
719 Iran, to test for the presence of *S. aureus* and its different enterotoxins. Twenty-two samples of
720 the total 200 tested positive for *S. aureus*, with the highest prevalence found in buffalo milk,
721 followed by cow, sheep, goat and camel, respectively. The enzyme-linked immunoabsorbent
722 assay (ELISA) technique was used to identify *S. aureus* enterotoxins; 45.6% of the samples
723 produced an enterotoxin. Cow milk produced enterotoxin types A, B, and D; buffalo milk
724 produced enterotoxin types A and D; sheep milk produced enterotoxin types A, and C; goat milk

725 produced enterotoxin type D. They concluded that there is a high potential risk of
726 staphylococcal food poisoning from drinking raw milk, especially if hygiene practices are not
727 followed.

728
729 Of additional importance to the dairy industry are the many spoilage microorganisms, which
730 compromise the organoleptic, nutritious, and biochemical characteristics. Because of their
731 widespread occurrence and capability to grow in pipelines, bulk tanks and milking machines in
732 dairy processing plants, Scatamburlo et al. (2015) characterized the proteolytic activity of
733 *Pseudomonas* spp. isolated from 61 Brazilian goat milk samples from 12 farms. *Pseudomonas*
734 spp. were confirmed by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) by using a genus-specific region of the
735 16s DNA. Mean *Pseudomonas* spp. counts ranged from 3.0 to 4.8 log CFU/mL, a smaller range
736 than previously reported for cow milk (1.0 to 6.6 log CFU/mL) (De Oliveira et al. 2006). The
737 high proportion of proteolytic *Pseudomonas* spp. found in the analysis is indicative of a need for
738 greater attention to sanitation along the production and processing chain.

739
740 Goat milk cheeses (n = 75) were among 273 cheeses included in a landmark piece of work
741 presented by Trmčić et al. (2016), where it was proposed that coliform testing no longer be
742 used to assess the safety of cheese. For decades, coliform bacteria have been used as indicator
743 organisms for assessment of unsanitary conditions of manufacture. In fact, coliform testing in
744 pasteurized milk was recommended by the US Public Health Service in the earliest edition of
745 the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) published in 1924 (Martin et al. 2016) and the
746 current tolerance limit for coliforms in milk is no more than 10 CFU/mL (HHS, PHS, FDA, 2015).
747 However, coliforms are a diverse group, and some research has shown that only a fraction have
748 been identified as factors of fecal contamination and a wider fraction is environmental (Martin
749 et al. 2016). Milk pasteurization, low pH, low water activity and other cheese characteristics
750 were found to significantly contribute to lower prevalence of coliforms in cheese (Trmčić et al.
751 2016). Water activity was the only factor identified as determining the concentration at which
752 coliforms are present in cheese. Although the prevalence of coliforms does not significantly
753 differ in milk of cows, goats and sheep (D'Amico et al. 2008; D'Amico and Donnelly 2010),

754 cheese manufactured from goat milk showed a higher risk of coliform detection (Trmčić et al.
755 2016). The authors proposed several reasons for higher coliform contamination or outgrowth:
756 1) intrinsic factors in goat milk and/or goat cheese (not including pH or water activity), 2)
757 procedures involved in making goat cheese (not including pasteurization and cheese rind
758 treatment), and/or 3) goat cheese producers may represent small facilities with reduced
759 resources related to food safety (Trmčić et al. 2016).

760

761 *International advances in goat milk products research*

762 The value of goats was realized in many countries well before the US recognized their
763 importance, and Haenlein (1980) documented some of the international symposia and
764 references in his 1980 manuscript published in JDS. At the time, few international works
765 related to dairy goats had been published in JDS. Since then, the international importance of
766 goat milk and milk products has not been overlooked in JDS publications. Fundamental goat
767 milk research, conducted by international authors, has been key to advancing dairy goat
768 science. Additionally, JDS has been a reservoir for international work of regional interest,
769 including works documenting chemical composition and nutritive value of the milk of native
770 goat breeds in Saudi Arabia (Sawaya et al. 1984) and regional goat cheeses in Italy, Turkey,
771 Spain and Portugal (Fontecha et al. 1990; Freitas and Malcata 2000; Martínez-Hernández and
772 Juárez 1989; Martínez-Hernández et al. 1992; Trani et al. 2016; Yuceer et al. 2009).

773

774 Goat milk has not traditionally been used extensively for production of mozzarella or other
775 pasta filata cheeses because the stretching process is not always successful. Italian
776 investigators, Imm and colleagues (2003), were the first to investigate functionality and physic-
777 chemical characteristics of goat milk mozzarella. Batches of cow or goat milk were
778 standardized to 3.2% fat and pasteurized, then made into low moisture, part-skim mozzarella
779 cheese using standard procedures (Kosikowski and Mistry 1999). No difference was noted in
780 meltability between caprine and bovine mozzarella. The free oil was always lower in goat milk
781 mozzarella, which was attributed to intrinsic differences in goat cheese fat and protein matrix.
782 Although it improved by aging the cheese 3 to 4 weeks, it decreased in subsequent weeks of

783 storage. Authors confirmed that structural degradation by proteolysis weakened gel matrix and
784 improved melting characteristics; proteolysis occurred more quickly in bovine than caprine
785 cheeses. The authors recommended additional research to better understand the contribution
786 of fat globule size, polymorphic structure and casein micelle structure on melting properties.
787 Recently, Niro et al. (2014) partially substituted cow milk with goat or sheep milks to produce
788 acceptable Caciocavallo cheese. From a sensory standpoint, cow Caciocavallo cheeses were
789 characterized by higher scores for sweetness, elasticity, adhesiveness and humidity (moisture).
790 Mixed cow/sheep cheeses had higher scores for intensity of flavor, acidic, astringent, friability
791 and salty attributes. Mixed cow/goat cheeses solubility (fast melt in mouth), intensity of
792 aroma, and bitter attributes predominated (Niro et al. 2014). Faccia et al. (2015) reported
793 satisfactory production of Fior di latte cheeses from sheep and goat milk after methodological
794 modifications from the standard cow Fior di latte process.

795

796 In Ethiopia, a research project was initiated in 2007 to address the increasing demand for goat
797 milk cheese (Mestawet et al. 2013). The goat breeds, adapted to the climatic conditions of
798 Ethiopia, had high casein content and good milk coagulating properties. The new mutation in
799 the α_{s1} -casein gene that they identified, which yielded milk with very high α_{s1} -casein, may
800 provide opportunities for genetic improvements (Mestawet et al. 2013). Because of interest in
801 intensive dairy goat production and value-added goat milk products in Brazil, Fonseca et al.
802 (2013) evaluated the influence of lipolytic bacteria in raw goat milk upon goat milk powder
803 during storage. Although lipolytic psychrotrophs did not increase during 5 d of raw milk
804 storage, and psychrotrophs were killed by pasteurization, peroxide value, C₈ and C₁₀ FA
805 concentrations and total FFA content of milk powder increased and rancid flavors increased
806 during 180 d of powder storage. Authors concluded that raw goat milk intended for powder
807 should be processed within 3 days of collection (Fonseca et al. 2013).

808

809 In Norway, as consumption of the brown whey cheese (Brunost) has decreased, the interest in
810 rennet- and acid-coagulated cheeses has increased (Inglingstad et al. 2014). As a result, the
811 need for higher quality goat milk has increased in recent years. Inglingstad et al. (2014)

812 examined the effect of two different types of pasture (cultivated and rangeland) and two
813 different hay qualities (high and low quality) on goat milk composition and renneting
814 properties. Milk from pastured goats was superior (higher casein and fat) to those on hay, and
815 goats on cultivated pasture had the highest yield; cultivated pasture yielded milk with higher
816 α_{s1} -casein and κ -casein (better renneting properties) compared to other treatments
817 (Inglingstad et al. 2014). Providing additional support to the findings, Revilla et al. (2016)
818 analyzed the antioxidant capacity of 224 cheese samples in Spain, prepared using mixtures of
819 milk from cows, sheep and goats, in two manufacturing seasons (winter and summer) and over
820 6 months of ripening. Although animal species was not a significant factor correlated with total
821 antioxidant capacity, statistically significant correlations were found between total antioxidant
822 capacity and season of manufacturing (higher antioxidant activity in summer cheeses), time of
823 ripening, retinol, % fat, % protein, and some minerals (K, Mg, Na, and P) (Revilla et al. 2016).

824

825 **SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

826

827 One of the earliest domesticated animals in the world, goats will always be an important part of
828 human culture. Their compact size (compared to cows) makes them appealing from a herd
829 management and milking standpoint. Additionally, physiological differences render unique
830 physical characteristics to goat milk in terms of flavor profile, fat globule size, coagulation
831 properties and allergenicity, making goat milk the dairy product of choice for many consumers.
832 Economic demand for goat milk and milk products, based on the differences between goat and
833 cow milk and milk products has advanced methods to detect adulteration across the globe. It is
834 expected that such work will continue.

835

836 Although the track record of safety of goat milk and milk products is good, research must be
837 continued to ensure the safety and quality of these products, particularly with the emergence
838 of new foodborne pathogens and spoilage microorganisms. When Casper et al. (1998) first
839 looked at seasonal changes in goat whey, and promoted food industry applications of goat
840 whey, sustainability was not yet a buzz word. But now, and into the future, additional research

841 into methods to sustainably feed goats, responsibly improve productivity, ecologically manage
842 effluents, and creatively utilize goat whey will be essential to responsibly manage the global
843 dairy industry.
844

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1412 Table 1. Analysis of 355 individual goat milk samples from 21 herds, collected across 16 months
 1413 (adapted from Lythgoe (1940)).

Month	% Total solids	% Fat	% Solids nonfat	% Lactose	% Proteins	% Ash	Protein-fat ratio
December and January	14.5	5.08	9.42	4.78	3.99	0.84	0.78
February	14.56	5.13	9.43	4.87	3.97	0.85	0.78
March	14.08	4.80	9.28	5.03	3.74	0.76	0.80
May, June and July	12.24	3.79	8.45	4.66	3.34	0.77	0.86
August	11.44	3.37	8.07	4.32	2.99	0.78	0.89
September	12.29	3.98	8.31	4.49	3.16	0.79	0.82

1414

1415

1416 Table 2. Average composition of milk of various mammals (adapted from Roadhouse and
 1417 Henderson, 1950).

Species	% Total solids	% Fat	% Lactose	% Protein	% Ash
Human	12.57	3.70	6.98	1.63	0.21
Cow	13.10	4.00	4.90	3.50	0.70
Goat	12.86	4.09	4.20	3.71	0.78
Camel	12.39	5.40	3.30	3.00	0.70
Ewe	16.43	6.18	4.17	5.15	0.93

1418

1419

1420 Table 3. Physicochemical properties of commingled goat milk (adapted from Guo et al. 2001).

	N	X ± SD	Range
Fat (%)	50	3.61 ± 0.47	3.00-4.40
Lactose (%)	50	4.47 ± 0.15	4.13 – 4.73
Crude protein (%)	50	3.47 ± 0.21	3.19 – 3.86
Casein (%)	50	2.57 ± 0.15	2.34 – 2.86
Non-protein nitrogen (% of crude protein)	49	5.04 ± 0.34	4.40 – 5.65
Total solids (%)	50	12.38 ± 0.71	11.17 – 13.44
Ash (%)	50	0.82 ± 0.04	0.79 – 0.89
Calcium (%)	50	0.15 ± 0.01	0.12 – 0.17
Phosphorus (mg/kg)	50	0.13 ± 0.02	0.10 – 0.16
Sodium (mg/kg)	49	672 ± 125	380 – 977
Magnesium (mg/kg)	49	160 ± 24	100 – 217
Zinc (mg/kg)	49	4.59 ± 1.93	1.30 – 9.50
Specific gravity	50	1.0235 ± 0.0007	1.0224 – 1.0262

1421

1422 Table 4. Fatty acid composition (mole %) of milk fat triglycerides of five species, up to C_{20:0}
 1423 (adapted from Kuksis (1967)).

Fatty acid	Human	Jersey cow	Holstein cow	Goat	Sheep
4:0	-	9.8	8.5	8.2	10.3
6:0	-	5.0	2.9	6.9	3.4
8:0	-	2.4	1.4	5.8	2.3
10:0	0.6	4.8	2.3	7.9	3.4
12:0	3.0	4.1	2.1	1.9	1.8
14:0	5.3	11.8	7.5	2.6	5.0
15:0	0.6	1.7	1.2	0.7	0.9
16:0	26.5	36.5	28.0	16.0	20.9
16:1	4.0	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.2
16:2	-	-	-	-	-
17:0	1.1	0.8	0.7	2.4	2.9
18:0	7.8	8.6	14.6	14.3	15.5
18:1	37.6	13.0	26.5	30.4	27.2
18:2	10.0	0.4	1.5	1.7	2.9
18:3	0.6	-	-	-	2.4
20:0	-	-	Trace	-	Trace

1424

1425

1426 Table 5. Concentration of total fatty acids in colostrum of goats and cows (adapted from Attaie
 1427 et al. 1993).

Fatty acid	Nubian goats ¹	Alpine goats ¹	Holstein cows ²
	Mean (µg/g of fat) ⁺		
Butanoic acid	304.51 ^A	202.67 ^A	226.12 ^A
Hexanoic acid	385.66 ^A	239.44 ^B	235.45 ^B
Heptanoic acid	5.31 ^A	4.63 ^A	4.46 ^A
Octanoic acid	520.68 ^A	297.80 ^B	162.28 ^B
4-Ethyl octanoic acid	13.66 ^A	12.52 ^A	10.46 ^A
Decanoic acid	1513.70 ^A	766.99 ^B	256.10 ^C
9-Decenoic acid	36.22 ^A	18.34 ^B	19.66 ^B
Undecenoic acid	10.07 ^A	7.26 ^A	3.69 ^B
Dodecanoic acid	792.72 ^A	437.79 ^B	302.35 ^B

1428 ^{A, B, C}Means in a row with the same superscript are not different (P > 0.05).

1429 ¹Means are average of seven samples with duplicate and triplicate determinations.

1430 ²Means are average of four samples with triplicate determinations.