Ontario's Dairy Goat Sector

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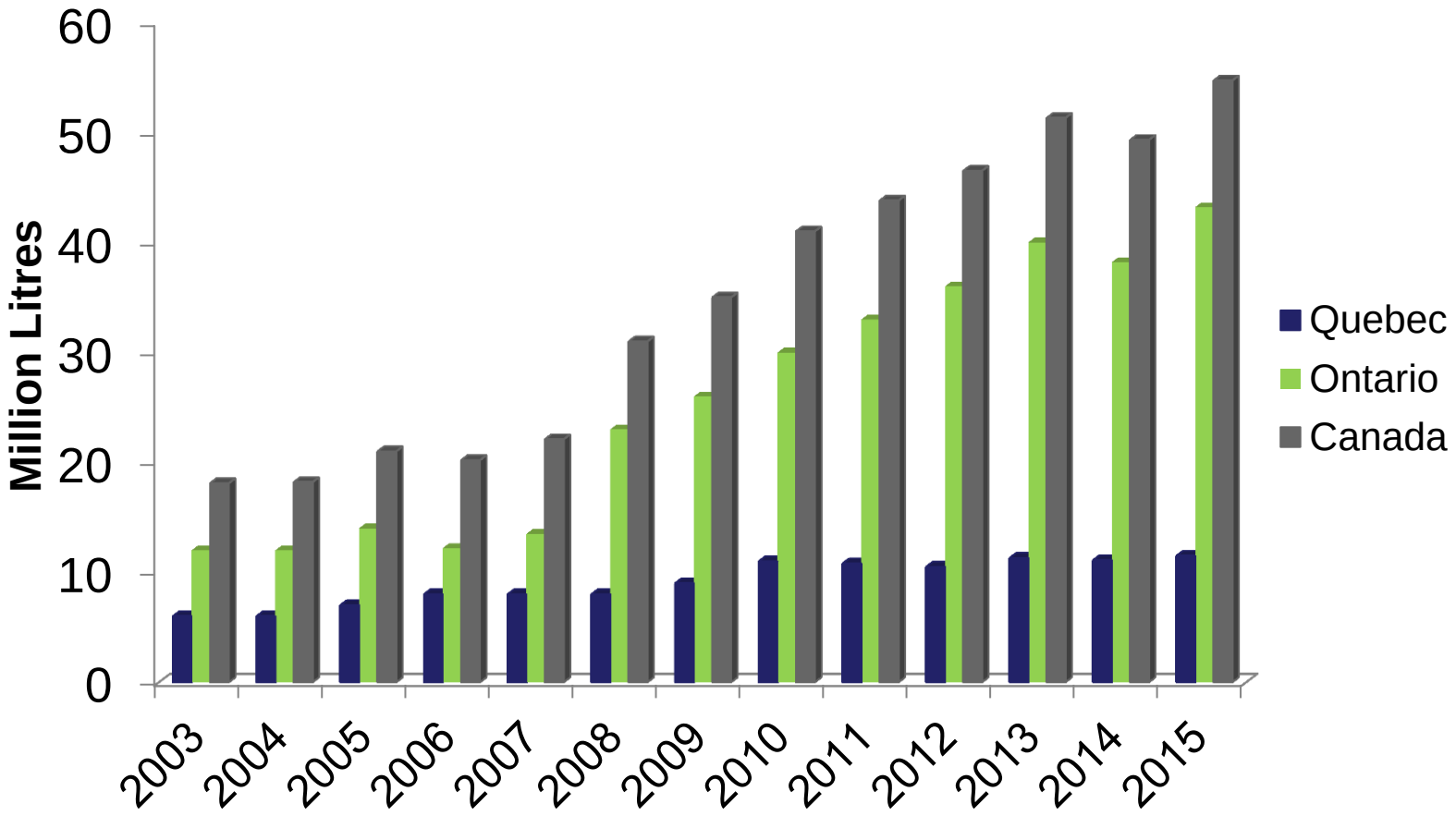
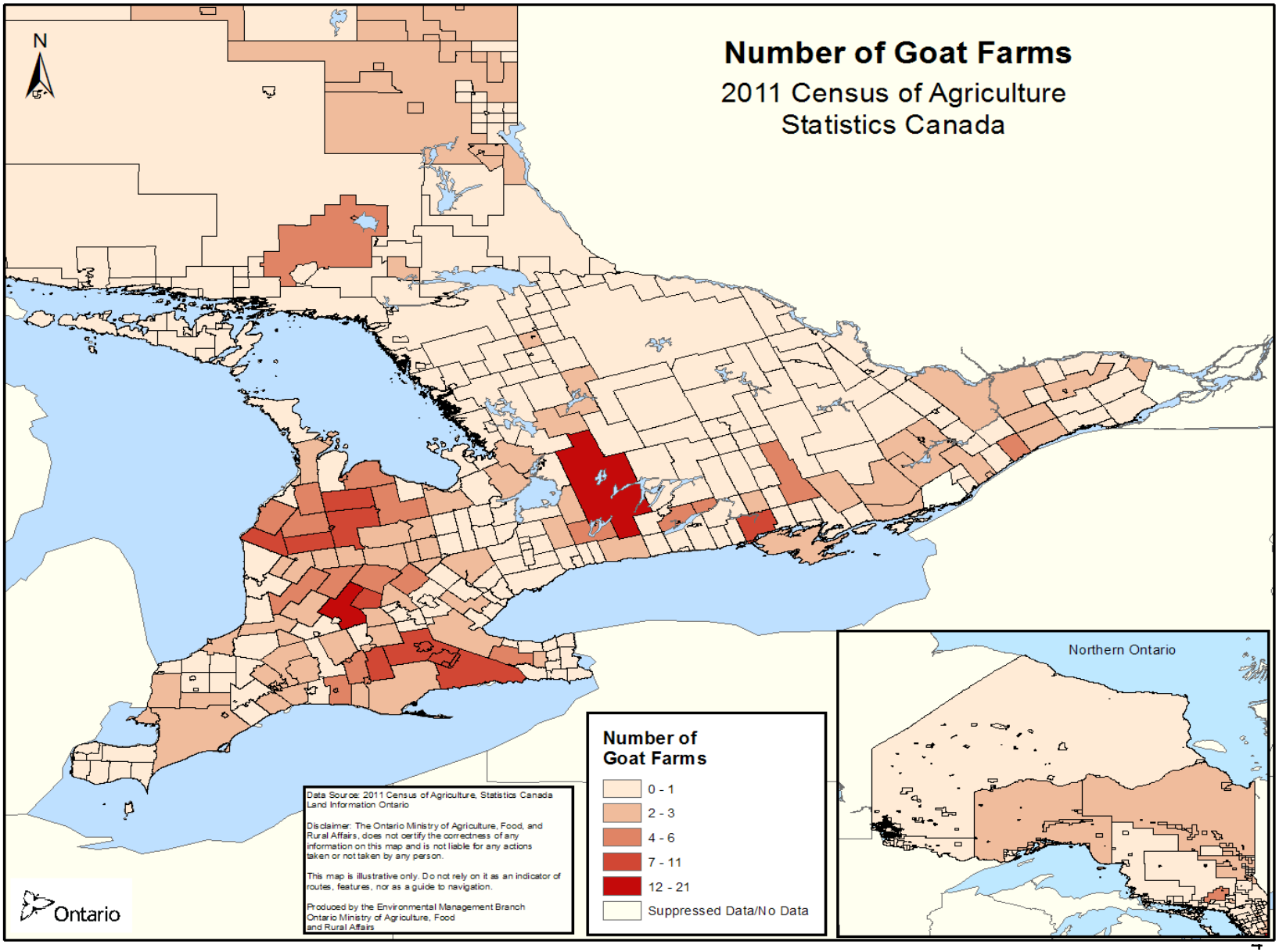
Industry Statistics

- 262 licensed producers (Sept 2016) with 15-20 more farms likely by the spring of 2017
- Ontario produces an estimated 43 million litres of milk worth approximately $43 million in farm gate sales.
- Ontario currently has 52% of all goats in Canada with Quebec second at 17% and Alberta third at 13%.
- It is estimated that Ontario accounts for up to 75% of Canadian goat milk production.
- Most milk is sold through two brokers to 15 licensed processing plants.

Canadian Goat Milk Production

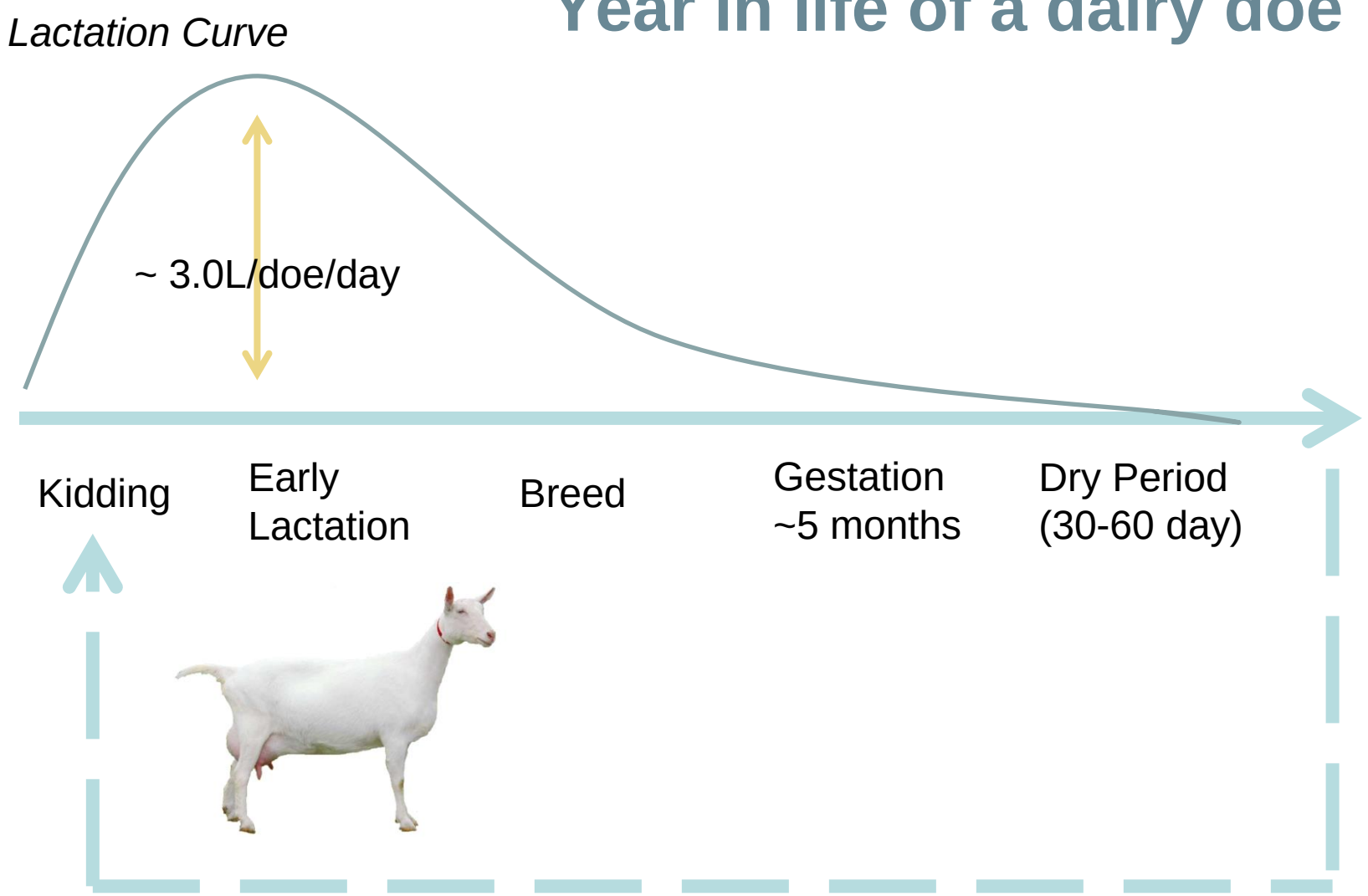


Source: Canadian Dairy Information Centre - Estimated milk production


N
Number of Goat Farms
2011 Census of Agriculture
Statistics Canada
Northern Ontario
Number of Goat Farms
0 - 1
2 - 3
4 - 6
7 - 11
12 - 21
Suppressed Data/No Data
Data Source: 2011 Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada
Land Information Ontario
Disclaimer: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, does not certify the correctness of any information on this map and is not liable for any actions taken or not taken by any person.
This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as an indicator of routes, features, nor as a guide to navigation.
Produced by the Environmental Management Branch
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Affairs
Ontario

Back to Basics - Dairying

Year in life of a dairy doe



Reproduction

- Seasonal breeders – Short day
- Off season breeding - Lighting, Hormones, Housing
- Artificial Insemination
- Embryo Transfer

Challenge:

- Winter milk!
- Consistency in off season breeding
- Metabolic issues with Pregnancy Toxemia & Ketosis

Kids

- Multiple kids per gestation
- Colostrum management
- Buck kid marketing
- Dehorning
- Proper housing
- Efficiency in labour (i.e. automated feeders)

Challenges:

- Labour availability through kidding period
- Raising buck kids for meat
- Mortality range

Nutrition

- Lactating and Dry doe nutrition a challenge
- Cost effective ingredients
- Kids nutrition
- Labour efficient methods

Challenges:

- Labour efficient deliver and management
- Sorting a challenge in TMR systems

Genetic Improvement

Traits of Interest:

- Production
- Conformation
- Health
- Reproduction

Challenge:

- **Limited goats for sale in Ontario**
- **High priced animal based on health status**
- Limited records collected on farm

Current Health Challenges in the Industry

- Production limiting diseases:
  - Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE)
  - Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA)
  - Q Fever
  - Chlamydiosis
  - Listeriosis
  - Toxoplasmosis
  - Brucellosis
  - Pregnancy Toxemia

- Minor Use Minor Species for Drug use
  - Very few drugs approved for use in goats

Building

- Many producers (new and existing) are building large barns with complex milking systems, rotary parlours and automated feeding systems.

Challenges:

- Very expensive barns & systems, long term investment
- Plan for future expansion

Cost of Production Study

Highlights:

- $1.30/ Litre with top 5 farms under $0.87/Litre
- Top contribution to cost of production :
  - Feed
  - Labour
  - Interest on Debt

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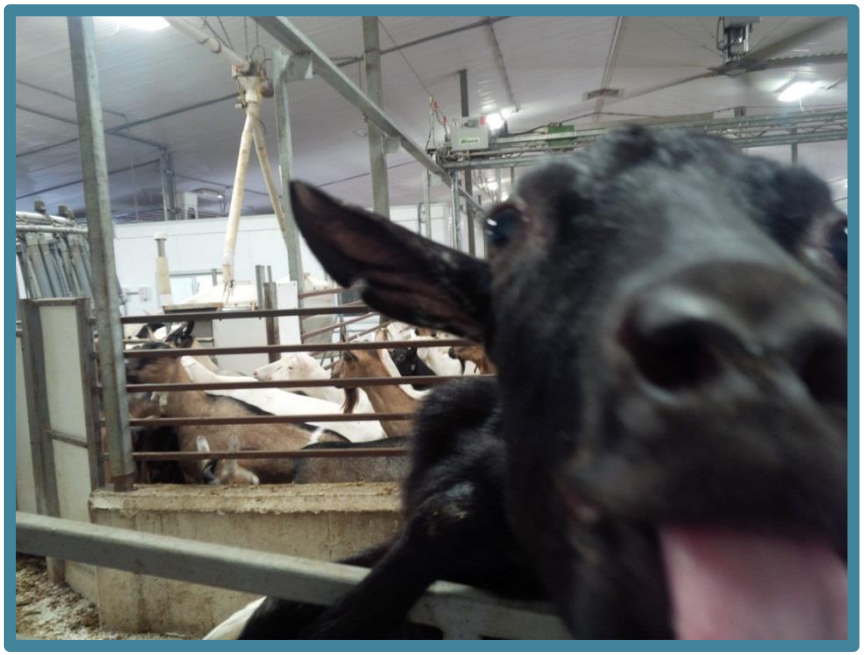
Take Home Messages

- Large initial investment
- On-going animal management
- Availability of labour to milk goats
- Lack of breeding stock available
  - Source healthy breeding stock

Take Home Messages

- If you are serious about becoming a dairy goat farmer:
  - Develop a business plan with realistic expenses & revenue
  - Work on a dairy goat farm for one year to ensure you understand goat management & herd health protocols
  - Do your research

Thank You



Ontario

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