

The First Kikos in America

By Terry Hankins

America's Kiko industry had its roots in 1990 when Dr. An Peischel of Goats Unlimited, then located in Hawaii, visited with Garrick Batten in New Zealand and purchased four Kiko bucks to cross with her herd of 1,500 Spanish meat goat nannies. The Kiko bucks arrived in Honolulu in January 1991 and were released from quarantine on March 5. The bucks were shipped to Dr. An's ranch on the Big Island of Hilo and began breeding on March 7. Approximately 800 does were bred over the next few months, with the first kids arriving in late August.

This was the beginning of the Goats Unlimited Kiko flock, which has been moved intact over the years from Hawaii to northern California then to Tennessee, where Dr. An now works as an extension goat specialist.

Because Dr. An was focusing on her commercial meat goat operation, the Goats Unlimited flock has been bred up over the years with careful selection for milk production, good udders, good feet and fast growth while foraging on Hilo's dormant volcanoes, California's forest lands and now Tennessee's humid brushland.