

Fat Bottom Farm

'Goat Milk Makes Your Butt Better'

When hearing the name “Fat Bottom Farm,” one might never assume it to be a goat farm. Even more unexpected is the milk-based botanical soap that has generated national attention for this small-town farm in our own backyard. It was another dirty day at Fat Bottom Farm when we arrived to interview owner Virginia Bonney during a day of filming for Discovery Channel’s hit series “Dirty Jobs with Mike Rowe.”

So how did our local goat farm get featured on a hit television series? Virginia and her family raise registered Nubian dairy goats, hand milk them, and make wonderful products from their sweet, creamy milk.

“These goats must be milked daily,” said Virginia, “and when you have that much goat milk, you can drink it, give it away, sell it or you can make soap out of it.”

Goat milk makes a very high-quality, skin-soothing soap. The high cream content of the milk pampers skin and makes it feel smooth and



Virginia Bonney and her family make goat's milk soap at their Fat Bottom Farm.

silky. Combined with the goat's milk is a variety of botanical ingredients, herbs and vegetable-based oils; no animal fats are used. Some of these ingredients include oatmeal, honey,

cocoa butter, fruit and calendula petals. Whenever possible, Fat Bottom Farms uses locally produced and purchased ingredients. Although there were no claims about the soaps other than the product lathers well and will clean your skin, Virginia does say, “We select many of our oils, formulations and ingredients in favor of those reputed to have beneficial properties. Your perception of those properties is

entirely your own! We just like the way the soaps feel and smell.”

Virginia and her family make the soap in their own little shop set up like a small country kitchen. Commercial melt-and-pour bases are not used. The soap is a true milk-based product whose process begins with its star ingredient, goat's milk. The milk makes up the entire liquid portion of the soap and comes only from goats raised on the farm. The milk is strained for cleanliness. Other ingredients are added along with fragrance oils, and with the magic of the cold process, a delightful-smelling, long-lasting, wonderfully lathery soap is created.

Essential oils are prohibitively expensive to use in the quantities needed to scent soaps, and many do not survive the cold-process soap-making procedure. But from time to time and upon request oils such as lavender can be used. Customized soaps and special orders can be made. Colorants are rarely used. On occasion, spices, plant products and soy-based colorants might be used to



The soap-making operation uses a cold process.



The registered Nubian goats must be milked every day, Virginia Bonney says.

create swirl effects or color changes. Otherwise, the cold-process milk soaps are always some shade of cream to caramel color. The soap then is cut into bars, packaged and shipped. The bars generally come in 4-ounce sizes at a cost of \$3.50 per bar. You may also choose to have the soap cut into guest-size bars (approximately 2 1/4-inch squares) that average 2 ounces each. Changes in price and ingredient choices may vary depending upon the availability of supplies and expense of production.

It would make sense to have a locally made product locally sold as well. You can buy Fat Bottom Farm Goat Milk Soap at Discovery Natural Foods in Temple, Green's Sausage House in Zabcikville, K3 Ag Services in Holland and at Walker Honey in Rogers. You can also place your orders online by e-mailing your request to sales@fatbottomfarm.com.

Virginia makes about 15 different varieties of soap with names such as Goatmeal & Honey, Starry

Night, Rosy Cheeks, and Flower Child. The names are usually inspired by the ingredients of the soap. Even though she has been making soap for about three years, the Bonney family and farm have only been in the Gause area since January. They have expressed great enthusiasm about not only providing a service to their community, but also look forward to meeting more people in the area and becoming involved in the community. They are interested in sponsoring 4-H and FFA students who are looking for livestock to raise and show.



CONSOLIDATION REMINDER

Beginning July 1, 2007, McLennan County Electric Cooperative and Belfalls Electric Cooperative will officially consolidate to form Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative. The new website address is www.hotec.coop.



IMPORTANT NOTICE: NEW TOLL-FREE NUMBER

We now have a new toll-free number that allows our members to call without long-distance charges. This number dials directly into the office and can be used during regular business hours and for outage calls as well.

1-877-HOTEC-TX (468-3289)

IN EMERGENCIES

During regular business hours: **(254) 583-7955**. Please contact our after-hours answering service in case of an outage not occurring during business hours: **(254) 583-7955** or **1-877-HOTECTX**