

Ethnic Holiday Calendar 2014 - 2018

Holiday	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Chinese New Year	31 Jan	19 Feb	8 Feb	28 Jan	16 Feb
Mawlid al-Nabi/ Prophet's Birthday	13 Jan	23 Dec	14 Dec	1 Dec	21 Nov
Western Roman Easter	20 Apr	5 Apr	27 Mar	16 Apr	1 Apr
Eastern Orthodox Easter	20 Apr	12 Apr	1 May	16 Apr	8 Apr
Passover/Pesah	15-22 Apr	4-11 Apr	23-30 Apr	11-18 Apr	31 Mar-7 Apr
Start of Ramadan/ Month of Fasting	28 Jun	18 Jun	6 Jun	27 May	16 May
Eid al-Fitr/ Festival of Fast Breaking	29-31 Jul	18-21 Jul	7-9 Jul	26-28 Jun	15-15 Jun
Rosh Hashanah	24-25 Sep	4-5 Sep	3-4 Oct	21-22 Sep	10-11 Sep
Eid al-Adha/ Festival of Sacrifice	4-7 Oct	23-26 Sep	11-14 Sep	1-4 Sep	22-25 Aug
Muharram/Islamic New Year	25 Oct	14 Oct	2 Oct	20 Sep	10-11 Sep
Chanukkah or Hanukkah	17-24 Dec	7-14 Dec	12 Dec- 1 Jan	13-20 Dec	3-10 Dec
Christmas	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec

Source: www.interfaithcalendar.org/index.htm

Calendar~for holidays where lamb or goat meat is part of the traditional holiday feast~

Passover (Pesach) starts at sundown:

2013 March 25th -April 2nd

2014 Apr 14th -Apr 22nd

2015 Apr 3rd -Apr 11th

2016 April 22nd – Apr 29th

Type of lamb wanted - 30-55 lbs, milk fed and fat.

Western Roman Easter:

2013 March 31st

2014 April 20th

2015 April 5th

2016 March 27th

Type of lamb wanted - 30-45 lbs live weight, milk fed and fat.

Type of goat wanted - Fleishy, milk fed kids with relatively light colored meat, 3 months old or younger.

Suckling kids weighing less than 20 lbs are generally disappointing to buyers due to low meat to bone ratios and high carcass drying losses now that they must be marketed with the hide off. Kids gaining less than 10 lbs per month or 1/3rd pound per day after accounting for birth weight are generally not fleshy enough to be considered prime. Prime Easter kids are generally gaining at least 1/2 lb daily. There generally is a slight price (per lb of live weight) penalty for kids weighing over 40 lbs. Acceptable weights generally range from 20 to 50 lbs with 30 lbs considered optimum by most buyers.

Cull adult animals are also popular for stews and curries at this time.

Eastern Orthodox Easter:

2013 May 5th

2014 April 20th

2015 April 12th

2016 May 1st

Type of lamb wanted - 40-55 lbs live weight, milk fed and fat.

Type of goat wanted - Similar to Western Easter kids. A slightly larger milk fed kid (i.e. averaging 35 lbs) is considered optimum.

Mother's Day:

2013 May 12th

2014 May 11th

2015 May 10th

2016 May 8th

Type of lamb or kid wanted - Suckling lambs and kids are in demand as well as 45 to 60 lb weaned market lambs and kids. Because of the shortage of market lambs and kids weighing 60 lbs or more in mid May, prices are sometimes high for these larger young animals as well.

Start of Ramadan:

2012 July 20th

2013 July 9th

2014 June 29th

2015 June 18th

Type of lamb wanted – Weaned market lamb 60-80 lbs.

Type of goat wanted - male and female kids with all their milk teeth (i.e. not older than @ 12 months). Males can be whole or castrated. Overly fat kids are discriminated against. Optimum live weight is about 60 lbs but weaned kids from 45 - 120 lbs. are accepted by different buyers.

Id al Fitr (The Festival of the Breaking of the Ramadan Fast):

2012 August 19th

2013 August 8th

2014 July 29th

2015 July 18th

Type of lamb wanted - same as for Ramadan.

Type of goat wanted - same as for Ramadan.

Rosh Hashanah, starts at sundown:

2013 Sept 4th – 6th

2014 Sept 24th – 26th

2015 Sept 13th – 15th

2016 Oct 2nd – Oct 4th

Type of lamb wanted - Forequarters from weaned lambs 60-110 lbs.

Navadurgara, Navratra Dashara, Dassai or Dashain

2012 October 10th -24th (16th – 24th)

2013 Sept 31st – Oct 14th (5th-14th)

Hindu holiday honoring the goddess Durga. In Nepal the holiday runs for 15 days while in India it runs for 10 days. Goats are generally slaughtered during the latter part of the holiday after which families meet together and celebrate with curried goat while receiving family blessings. Female goats are not acceptable for this holiday. Relatively tender male goats are generally used. Size of carcass depends on number of people expected to be fed. Weaned, market kids or yearling wethers are most in demand.

Id al Adha (Islamic Festival of Sacrifice, Eid)

2012 October 26th

2013 October 15th

2014 October 5th

2015 September 24th

2016 September 13th

Type of lamb wanted – 60-80 lbs. However, heavier old crop lambs are also in demand and may command the same price as new crop lambs.

Type of goat wanted - Prefer yearlings (i.e. animals with one set of adult teeth) that are blemish free. Large kids 60 - 100 lbs also in demand.

Animals with broken horns, open wounds, torn ears or physical injuries generally do not meet the criteria. In some cases, castrated animals or lambs with docked tails are frowned upon.

Muharramn (Islamic New Year):

2012 November 15th

2013 November 5th

2014 October 25th

2015 October 15th

Type of lamb wanted - same as for Ramadan.

Type of goat wanted - same as for Ramadan.

Diwali (Festival of Lights):

2012 November 13th

2013 November 3rd

2014 October 23rd

2015 November 11th

Other holidays when goat meat is commonly consumed include Christmas (December 25th), New Year's (Jan 1st), Cinco De Mayo (May 5th), the July 4th weekend, and the numerous Caribbean holidays in August - Carnival, Carifest, Jamaican Independence Day, etc.

The Christmas and New Year's market is for milk fed kids and lambs. These young animals are rare, because they must be produced by out-of-season breeding in April/May for Sept/October births. Kids and lambs as light as 18 lbs may be readily accepted. Cull adult animals are also popular for stews and curries.

The **Hispanic market for goat** is for 15 to 30 lb live wt suckling kids for cabrito, and large weaned market kids for seco de chivo and barbecues. It is especially strong in some regions during **Cinco de Mayo** (May 5th), a popular Mexican holiday celebrating the victory of Mexican Forces over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

Goats and sheep for **July 4th weekend** are animals suitable for barbecue, generally suckling lambs and kids for small parties and weaned market lambs and kids 55 to 120 lbs. for large celebrations.

Optimal goats for the **Caribbean holidays** are young, smelly 60-80 lb bucks. However, older animals of all sexes are often in demand and customers may prefer to buy them rather than pay the extra price for prime young bucks.

The **Chinese market for goat** according to Frank Pinkerton, PhD, is "limited to the six colder months" especially around the Chinese New Year. The preferred weight range is 60 to 80 pounds live, and goats in good health are required."

NOTE: *We do not guarantee the accuracy of these dates. The listings here are broad generalizations. It is important to know livestock buyer's demands and at what weights they start to penalize or reject animals.*

Choose from the following: