



Welcome to the Fall issue...

I am going to try and fill in until we can find a volunteer who is willing to put together a news letter and get one to the membership at least 4 times a year. I would dearly love to see this become a premier newsletter one that others wish to copy. So if you have any desires or skills and wish to volunteer your time either in helping to put this together or doing it on your own please let one of your Directors know and we will make sure your desires are passed along to the board. In addition if you have any articles you would like to publish or see done please speak up. Let's make this a user friendly newsletter. I see no reason we can not

post win photos or brags about your herd. Would you like to have a farm highlighted in each issue? What are your ideas? Please speak up and be heard, this is your association so make your voice be heard. As you are all aware a lot has been transpiring over the spring and summer months in regards to the over height issues and the attempts to change language in the registration committee in ADGA. So these are topics you will be reading more about in the coming months. Again I can not stress enough this is your newsletter lets use it to our advantage to discuss and learn from it.



Quilt by Ellen
Dorsey and machine
embroidered by
Dianea Fay

A Note from the President...

Hello everyone!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who are working over time to keep this organization running smoothly! Each member of the board of directors, our Secretary/Treasurer, our Newsletter Editors as well as the multitude of committee members. Y'all are great and I really appreciate you!

Recently, I've had several people ask me lately, why ANDDA. This is my response. We're a dedicated group of Nigerian Dwarf breeders. We have our programs, Total Performer, All American, and the Sue Rucker JuJu

Awards. We encourage participation in DHI as well as Linear Appraisal or Classification... whichever registry you choose to support in order to advance the breed as well as to encourage breeders to improve the breed. Despite criticism from different ADGA only and AGS only breeders, we try very hard to give equal time to both ADGA & AGS. If we sponsor a certain number of awards for one, we sponsor the same in the other.

Since I took on the job of president our S/T has changed twice. It's now in the hands of a dedicated individual in Oklahoma (Anita Deupree) who has sorted out our records, got our financials

online on quick books, and really got us up to date and running smoothly in that department. We have several committees headed up by various board members and members that are active and working behind the scenes quite a lot actually! We've revamped some of our programs to make them more accessible to our members.

The Specialty Coordinator has changed 3 times, and is now back with Dianea Fay. When you attend a show that has group classes (not including fairs), they are typically club specialties where awards are given and free advertising for your herd is given to the winners. It costs \$50 to apply with a \$25 refund when we get photos of all



the winners for the website. The newsletter has switched three times...now it's in the hands of Diane Fay and Shelene Costello. They are doing a GREAT job with it. It's professional; it looks great, and is full of terrific information.

But, the thing that *I* am most proud of is our defense of our breed! With all the brouhaha surrounding the proposals about breed standards changes, as well as anything that affects Nigerian Dwarves and their breeders, we've been quick to jump into the middle of the fray, give our opinions, and make sure our members are heard. Someone had asked, now that ANDDA's influence was successful in getting the Nigerian Dwarf accepted into ADGA, what is our purpose today? Can we just walk off into the sunset? Absolutely NOT! We are here to promote and defend our breed, award outstanding individuals, and keep our members informed of the goings on within the registries. All we've done is start a new chapter!

Have a great fall y'all!

Ellen F. Dorsey

President

Specialty Show News:

It is time for you to be thinking of submitting your application for a specialty show. So while your clubs are planning for shows please consider applying for a specialty show. We award them in both ADGA and AGS districts so plenty of room to host a specialty show. Forms are available on the ANDDA web site.

Mail the information to :

Diane Fay ANDDA Specialty
185 Rd 180
Emporia Ks, 66801



Directors thoughts: Western District

Well since I decided to do this I will add my two cents in first. I am not a fan of the over height issue but I do see both sides.

What I understand is that more research and actual heights need to be obtained. We currently have one set of standards for heights but AGS has said they have not desire to change there height standard, so if the change happens in ADGA it presents an issue for breeders as to which standard

they want to bred too. I know many use the multiple registries and have your goats in all of them, so we really need to think about this. But for now please join in the discussion on the members page about obtaining heights and placing them on the winners for the programs we currently have. Until next time, I hope all your breeding's bring you many does .

EASTERN DIRECTORS THOUGHTS

Greetings to the Eastern District!

Wow what a year 2011 has been for the breed and ANDDA! The east in particular got to host both the AGS and ADGA 2011 National Shows and we get AGS again in 2012 in New Jersey!

I have been so impressed at the increasing number of herds getting involved with milk testing in some form or another, and, appraising seems to be on the rise as well. Both tools are so helpful in breeding plans and the betterment of the breed. If any of you are considering these programs in either registry or are lost in the process, please contact me! I too

was overwhelmed when reading through materials on the requirements but through the help of another breeder I came to realize it is NOT the elephant that it appears! I would be happy to help - or, put you in contact with someone who can mentor you through it. Both milk testing and appraising obligations begins late in the calendar year (aka now!) As you start the paperwork/application process, usually at the end of the year. Go for it in 2012!

We all know there has been passionate debate within the breed on the over height issue. I am ever hopeful that in the end we all find common ground in stewarding our breed. ANDDA is continuously working on this and please know that I welcome your thoughts - and suggestions as to what ANDDA's

role should be.

Coming up in the first quarter will be entry into the ANDDA awards programs. I hope you all remembered to get photos of your lovely ladies and handsome guys so wee can all enjoy your successful year. One last reminder that if you grabbed that golden ring (Best In Show) during the 2011 season, please send the information and photos to Margie so she can place your guy/girl in a place of honor on our webpage.

Happy Breeding Season and Holidays to all -

Jane Bailey
Eastern Director



CH Rosasharn UMT Pippin

**ALL AMERICAN WINNER: 5 YEARS
AND OLDER**

B: Anne Peterson
O: Susan Asumam



Desert Nanny BR Floribunda

Breeder/Owner:
[Sharon Warren, Desert Nanny Nigerian
Dwarf Dairy Goats](#)

Best in Show -
Arizona State Goat Breeders Association
Judge - Tim Flickinger
May 28, 2011



Shere Country MP Bali Hai

Breeder/Owner:
[Julie Shere, Shere Country Ranch](#)

Best Junior Doe in Show - CVDGA
Summer Show, Ladysmith, Wisconsin
June 4, 2011



A conversation with:

Tom Rucker,

by Shelene Costello and Ray Stauffer

ANDDA: What got you started in nigerians originally?

Mr. Rucker: In 1991, I saw an ad in the local paper for Pygmies and decided it would be fun to have a couple of goats. Sue went to the Ohio State Fair back in the 70's when they hosted the ADGA National Show and fell in love with goats but never mentioned them to me but jumped on the idea of going to look at the goats. We met through showing and breeding dogs and just wanted a couple of goats in the backyard. The Pygmy herd we looked at were scary. They were nearly feral and even though I knew nothing about goats, I remember when we did catch them, they had so many teats it looked like fingers coming at you. I was extremely depressed as I thought it would be fun to have a couple cute goats.

We went the next day to the Columbus Zoo as they maintained goats in the petting zoo. We sat there for hours petting the goats. I was in heaven with how friendly the goats were. They had "little" goats and we had no clue the time there were both Pygmies and Nigerian Dwarves in the herd. It started us on the quest to find a goat. We came across a 4-H family that was selling a yearling Pygmy doe as soon as the fair was over. She was friendly and cheap, two of my main requirements! Her kids were about 4 months old and still nursing when we got her. (From the time we decided to buy her until we got her, we knew she'd need a companion. We went to the first every Ohio Angora goat show and sale and

come home with an Angora. NOT one of our better purchases but at least the other goat wouldn't be lonely.)

I had a litter of puppies due from a breed notorious from having problems. We had always supplemented with goat's milk when we had puppies that needed extra so I told Sue rather than trying to find milk should we need it, she should milk the Pygmy. Twice a day, I'd go lift her up on the grooming table and Sue would milk her. Turns out the dog wasn't pregnant so I didn't think we needed the milk and told Sue we should dry up the goat. She kind of liked milking. I decided that if she was going to milk, we needed a "real" goat. We researched the standard-size dairy breeds and decided that since Toggenburgs weren't as tall as some of the other breeds, that would be the breed we'd get.

We went to the Ohio State Fair and watched a pen of dry yearling Toggs jump from pen to pen. We both knew that would never work and we found great variances in type and size in the breed. We walked by a couple of pens of Oberhasli just quietly laying there chewing their cuds and it was love at first sight on my part. I started inquiring about spring kids and ended up buying a yearling milker. I had to go back the next day to get her so while I went to the fair, Sue quickly constructed a milk stand as the Oberhasli wouldn't fit on the grooming table! We acquired some registered Pygmies and started getting Pygmy publications. We kept seeing ads for goats touted as miniature dairy goats that intrigued us.

We often joke that about the only good thing that came from the Pygmies was our introduction to the Nigerian Dwarf breed. In 1992, we bought our first Nigerians and actually had our original Pygmy doe committee-approved as a Nigerian. She had very long



legs and a long lean neck and was not at all typical of a "good" Pygmy. Ironically, we began a relationship with the Columbus Zoo and to this day, the entire herd can be traced to either ARMCH Columbus Zoo Godiva *D, one of our original acquisitions from the zoo, or our original goat purchase CMV's Sweetie's Cherry Muffin *D. In most cases, the goats cross to both does.

ANDDA: We have heard that many years ago many people did not consider actually milking Nigerian dwarf goats. Have you always considered your Nigerians dairy animals first?

Tom: As mentioned above, even with the original doe that started out as a Pygmy, we milked. All of our does have always been milked. We've dam raised a few buck kids but that was even rare. Sue really enjoyed milking. We always felt that if you are going to call them a dairy goat, you need to treat them like a dairy goat and milk them. Not only is it good hands-on time with the goats that can alert you to potential problems early on, it really helps you understand why the scorecard calls for specific traits.

We learned early on that those does that have near ideal dairy character really do milk more and longer than those does that lack the sharpness and clean bone that is called for. The primary goal of the breeding program from day one was to breed a goat that looked like a dairy goat first and foremost.

Once the look was right, then the fine-tuning of the udder, the structure, and all the other characteristics could come into play. I've seen some Pygmies with exquisite udders but they aren't dairy goats to me so just a pretty udder would never cut it around here.

ANDDA: You have been on milk test previously and now are beginning to go on it again. Are your goals

different this time around?

I'm probably a bit different than many on test as my goal has never been to achieve Top Ten status. My goal has always been to select for good milk production proportioned to the size of the goat. I don't expect a 20" doe to milk as much as a doe that's pushing or pulling the maximum height. That's not to say that a 20" doe can't hold her own, but it is much more difficult to do. If size didn't have an impact, our Nigerians should be rivaling the standard-size breeds and I haven't yet seen a Nigerian that can hang with the best Saanens out there when comparing straight pounds of milk produced.

For me, the biggest advantage of being on test is to have actual proof of what the doe can do, good, bad or indifferent. It allows me to compare does within my herd. I realize that all management styles are different and it is unfair to try and compare production from management styles that are quite different. Quality of feed, frequency of milking, number of shows, climate all come into play. I like seeing the components and SCC results test to test. It often can validate a management change if the results are positively impacted. If not, then I know I need to go back to square one. It's easy to call them dairy goats but I think having the DHIR records to back it up just further validates that these are functional dairy animals. Hopefully the records will also generate enough additional sales to help offset the expense of testing. When we went off test about 10 years ago, it was primarily a financial decision as the cost was becoming prohibitive and with the number of herds participating in one-day tests, the demand for kids out of does with full records was diminishing. With some of the new testing options, I'm hopeful that it is something I can continue to cost-justify in the herd.

ANDDA: Nigerians have changed so much since



they started to be registered in this country, recording longer lactations, more milk volumes, as well as having improvements in structure and mammary development. In your opinion, which animals, both bucks and does, do you feel have had some of the greatest impact on the breed?

Tom: I'm not really sure the breed has changed as dramatically as many feel but that there are just far more goats on test so we have a better idea of what they can do and management practices continue to be refined. The biggest impact I think we've seen on production was the decision to increase the height in does by over 7% in 1996. Again, bigger goats tend to make more milk.

While I think there have been goats in specific herds that have had a major impact on the herd and to some degree goats in that area, I don't think we've seen a buck or doe that has made a profound impact on the entire breed to the extent that a Frosty Marvin did in Nubians or Sasin did in Alpines. AI is still in its infancy within the Nigerian breed. Further limiting the impact of any specific animal is that many Nigerian buck owners either do not allow their bucks to be used on outside does and/or charge fees significantly higher than is seen in the standard-size breeds of dairy goats. A doe is somewhat limited on the number of kids she's going to produce over a lifetime so already is at a disadvantage in having a singular impact but in order for a buck to have an impact, he's going to need to be used on many different does in many different herds and that hasn't yet happened.

Without a doubt, the herd that I think has had the single biggest impact on the breed is a herd that is no longer active, Kathleen Clap's Goodwood herd. I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a Nigerian that had the desired dairy type and not find Goodwood in the pedigree. With a herd based on just a handful of animals,

her judicious use of very tight linebreeding set a type that was not only recognizable but quite prepotent.

ANDDA: Which animals have had the greatest influence on your own herd?

Tom: Sue and I always prided ourselves in being breeders. As such, we have not purchased a doe in at least 10 years and every doe on the property is a homebred and, as mentioned earlier, traces to one of two does if not both. Over the nearly 20 years of breeding, we've brought in a handful of bucks to add the genetic diversity but it is the foundation of a strong doe line that ultimately sets the herd so the greatest influence would have to go back to those foundation does, Cherry and Godiva. We've had more "famous" goats over the years but, to me, individual success does not make a herd.

ANDDA: What things do you see in the breed today that are better than olden days?

Tom: As more people show and/or come to the breed from other breeds of dairy goats, I think we're finding more correctness in dairy character. "Back in the day," since many that had Nigerians came from Pygmies, dairy character was often considered the opposite of Pygmy. Tall and slab-sided was all too often thought of as what was ideal and, of course, you need the strength to go along with the dairyness. Length of rump and levelness, both from hips to pins and thurl to thurl have increased greatly. Even in the early 90's, there were a number of does that had extremely well attached udders but shape and apparent capacity are better today as is teat placement.

ANDDA: What things do you see as needing improvement in the breed today?



Tom: **SIZE!** It seems that far too many are willing to disregard the breed standard in an attempt to breed a goat that they feel is "better." Once breed character is lost, we no longer have a breed but a generic goat that happens to be a bit smaller than the standard-sized breeds. I'm certainly not advocating breeding "micro" goats but just because a goat can be at the maximum, it does not mean you have to breed **TO** the maximum. It stands to reason that if you consistently select for animals at the maximum, some will go over that. Certainly it's a breeder's right to do that but please don't change our breed to accommodate your selection.

ANDDA: What traits do you find the most appealing in the breed?

Tom: Like most people, the thing that attracted us first and foremost to the Nigerian breed almost 20 years ago was their size. I've never liked huge animals. We bred and showed breeds of dogs that were moderately sized. I wanted a goat that was easy to handle. Combining that with the dairy-type and functionality is what made us easily not breed Pygmies.

ANDDA: As a judge as well as a breeder, you see more variety of animals across the country. What trends do you see? Are different areas of the country producing differing types?

Tom: To a limited degree, there is some regionalization but, fortunately, Nigerians are fairly transportable so getting genetics from one place to the other isn't overly difficult. At most shows, you're as likely to see a goat from the opposite side of the country as you are a locally bred animal so most shows will have a variety of types present.

ANDDA: What advice can you give breeders today, both the experienced and the novice breeders?

Tom: Cull, cull and then cull some more. While

certainly Nigerians have a great pet-like aura about them, to be a successful breeder of quality animals, culling is the key. Approaching breeding more from a livestock point of view than a pet basis will advance the herd the quickest. Culling does not have to mean eating the goat, but with the prolificacy of the breed, it is quite easy to become overwhelmed with numbers if a strict culling program is not in place. Identify the number of animals you can afford financially and provide the proper care time-wise. Cut your numbers down to that number. Get a vision for the ideal goat in your head and if a goat isn't going to help you get to that goal, or not help you as quickly as another member of the herd, get rid of it.

The other piece of advice is to castrate those buck kids. Only the best of the best need to be kept as bucks. If his mother is not one of your "best" does, he probably doesn't need to be kept intact. If he was born in another herd and you wouldn't buy him, he's probably a wether candidate. If you can't find at least one doe you want to breed to the kid, he's probably a wether candidate.

ANDDA: Would you like to add anything more?

Tom: Play nice! We all have goats for different reasons and have to be understanding that all of our goals are not going to be the same. Ultimately, each breeder needs to select goats that they enjoy going to the barn and taking care of. With that said, most get attracted to the breed because of their identifiable characteristics and, for this breed, size is the most visually identifiable trait. There are lots of breeds out there that offer different attributes. If you find this breed doesn't fit your needs, find one that does instead of trying to change this breed into something new and different.

ANDDA: Thank you for your time and sharing your thoughts with the Nigerian Dwarf Community

Recipe Corner

Mint Chocolate Chip Ice-cream

I LOVE LOVE mint chip so this is what I have come up with.

Daughter has a Hamilton Beach (from Walmart \$20 last year) that we love. Makes 1.5 quarts at a time.

4 cups ND goat milk
1 cup + 2 TBSP sugar
1 ½ tsp vanilla
1 tsp peppermint extract
½ tsp French vanilla
Mini chocolate chips
Mix -- Cool in freezer

Freeze in ice cream freezer -- ENJOY

Have any favorite Recipes? Something that you love to make or do with all that wonderful Milk? It does not have to be just a goat milk recipe. Does someone have some great cheese recipes? Send submissions for future recipes to Diana at vdbt26@yahoo.com please make sure you note in subject heading for ANDDA. Thank you.

ANDDA

NATIONAL SHOW WINNERS 2011 -- ADGA



2011 ADGA National Grand Champion Sr Doe
AGS DRAGONFLY RY TOPAZ



2011 ADGA Reserve National Champion Sr Doe
CH J-NELSER DUMPLIN J-Nels



2011 ADGA
National Champion Jr Nigerian Dwarf Doe
J-NELSO TWITTER J-Nels



2011 ADGA
Reserve National Champion Jr Nigerian Dwarf Doe
GYPSY MOON SD AIRI ANNA Gypsy Moon

What a spectacular line up of winners. Something we can all be proud of. Cannot wait to see the winners of the coming year in Colorado 2012. I would love to post the winners for AGS Nationals if someone would be kind enough to send me a copy with the names of the winners. Thank you.



ANDDA Awards Programs:

JUJU AWARDS -- Recognizing milk production in Nigerian Dwarf DAIRY Goats. Open to all ANDDA members on Official DHIR testing. Official milk sheets for qualifying does must be submitted by **April 15**.

Beginning with the 2009 lactation, height measurement must be submitted with your application. Listing will include: Age at freshening in Years. Months; DIM=Days in Milk (305 or less); Milk in pounds; BF=Butterfat in pounds; BF%=Butterfat percentage; Pro= Protein in pounds; Pro%=Protein percentage

Bronze Juju - At least 750 pounds milk or 37.5 pounds butterfat

Silver Juju - At least 1000 pounds milk or 50 pounds butterfat

Gold Juju - At least 1250 pounds milk or 67.5 pounds butterfat

Platinum Juju - Lifetime at least 5000 pounds milk and 250 pounds

LIFETIME AWARD 5,000 lbs of milk and 250 lbs of butterfat in any number of lactations (This is a one-time award)

GRAND AWARD Any doe over the age of 6, milking 900 lbs or more

SIRE AWARD Sire has 3 or more daughters qualifying for any of the production awards listed above.

ALL AMERICAN CONTESTS: Deadline for submissions is **March 1**

The American Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Association's ALL-AMERICAN PROGRAM is a means of recognizing those Nigerian Dwarves who have proven their excellence in the show ring. Pictures of the entry are sent to ANDDA. They are then coded and forwarded to judges. Two animals in each class are chosen as the All-American and Reserve All-American winners. All entries are subject to the following rules:

To qualify for nomination, entries must meet ALL of the following requirements:

*Registered with the American Goat Society (AGS), American Dairy Goat Assn (ADGA) and/or Canadian Goat Society (CGS);

*At the time of nomination, each animal must bear a legible tattoo;

* Entries must have competed in an official AGS, ADGA or CGS show during the current year and have been awarded one of the following

- 1) First in an individual class,
- 2) Grand or Reserve Grand, Senior/Junior Champion, or
- 3) Second in an individual class at an official AGS, ADGA or CGS show with more than thirty female Nigerian Dwarves shown (does only).
- 4) Best of Breed

TOTAL PERFORMER AWARD: Deadline for submission is **March 1**

The ANDDA Total Performer Program is not for every doe. It is designed to allow for options when you enter, but it also rewards those does that journey into the show ring, that are on DHIA and have been Appraised and/or Classified.

The ANDDA Total Performer Program will be open to any ANDDA member and will be awarded to one doe annually.

Fun Pictures submitted by Ellen of her boys. Would love to have more of these to show off. So if you have some please send me one but make sure you tell me it is for the newsletter. vdbt26@yahoo.com



Jacob Dorsey in best dressed goat 2011



The Dorsey boys as "Sweet Feed" for Halloween 2011



Jared Dorsey in best dressed goat 2011



Brandon Fay and Ellen Dorsey at the Kansas State Fair Sept 2011.



Do we have any Birth announcements?

I know that the Eastern Director Jim McGonagle and his wife just had a new baby born this summer.

Congratulations to you and your family Jim.

Information, Pictures, announcements, and shows for the winter 2012 issue need to be submitted to me by December 27, 2011. So that we can have a newsletter out by the first week of Jan 2012. Look forward to hearing from you on what you want in your newsletter. Thanks again for a terrific year.
Dianea