

ANDDA**ta**base



Spring 2011

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome an abundance of new members to our ranks! We are so pleased you joined us! If you would like to volunteer for a committee or job, please let one of your directors know. We are always happy to have fresh minds and faces at work! This is your organization and you can make it as wonderful as you'd like it to be!

I want to thank the board of directors for their hard work and dedication to our organization. We've done some work that I am rather proud of; Our communication with the American Dairy Goat Association concerning our breed standard is at the top of the list. We are staying active in those issues that concern our breed, one of the things our club should be most concerned with, and it makes me proud to be a member.

I would also like to thank our new secretary / treasurer. She took on a huge task and has gotten our club's business organized and running smoothly in record time!

Congratulations to our All American Winners as well as our Total Performer Winner. Lots of hard work and dedication goes into our wonderful past time, and winning one of these programs is just another bonus. I believe participation in this year's All American program was our highest yet...so, thanks everyone for supporting that program!

As I write this, I'm listening to one of my does over the baby monitor. Yes, you guessed it, we're right in the middle of kidding season, one of the most exciting times of the year for me. The anticipation of how many kids, will they be does, will they be bucks, or will we get one or two of each!?! I also love the fact that I get to freshen my young does. Finally, after all that waiting we discover if she's wonderful enough to be our next champion, next top ten candidate, or is she destined to be someone's beloved home milker. For me, this time of year is better than Christmas!

I don't know about you, but my calendar year is marked by more than Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Along with kidding season comes bottle washing season, milk equipment washing season, and clipper repair / clipper blade sharpening season. Who knew when you bought that first goat, that our year would be marked by so many different seasons?! What's next? Perhaps for you it's cheese, yogurt, butter making season, show season, milking season, or just kick back and watch the mammas raise the babies season. Whatever it is, I hope it's an enjoyable, fulfilling and rewarding time of year for you!

Here's wishing everyone an abundance of does this season, with lots and lots of high quality, fresh, creamy milk!

Ellen F. Dorsey ~ President

WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE BUCKLINGS?

By Shelene Costello

Kidding season has arrived for many people and most years there are more bucks born than needed. What to do with all those bucklings?

Ideally only the best sons from the best does will be left intact to breed, so that most of those cute little guys need to have another purpose in life. How each breeder deals with that choice is a very personal decision. As a viable option with livestock, many of those bucklings (full sized or miniature) will be raised for meat. Goat meat is a great product, and well marketed it can be a financially rewarding venture, whether selling to someone else or if one is only raising those buck kids for their own personal consumption. There is satisfaction in knowing how the meat put on the table was raised. That knowledge of how it was fed, housed, and humanely treated to the end. And then to have that great meat on the table in tasty dishes. Or sold to market as a bottle kid, or weaned young kid. Some areas have a pet market for pet wethers (castrated males) and many breeders can sell as many as they produce.

These wethers can have many uses, not only as a lawn ornament or to graze down brushy areas. Besides the entertainment value of just being a goat, there are things like packing, carting and therapy animals. Training a wether (or a doe!) to pull a cart is fairly simple. Teaching them to be driven is a bit more work, but very much in the realm of possibilities. Having them to carry the packs in wilderness hikes, or just even around the homeplace being able to help carry burdens from one place to another can be quite useful. Nigerian dwarf goats are smaller than many other goats, but they too can be put to use in the same way as their larger cousins. They can carry smaller loads, and while they may not be able to pull more than a small child, they can pull small loads around the home and farm and in parades. As my kidding season is about to get under way, these are the things I think about as I count the numbers of buck kids to doe kids being born. I cook with goat meat quite a lot in my home. I've experimented with a number of recipes for the goat meat we raise. From tender young milk fed kid, to the older cull animal that needs a new use, goat meat is a staple in our freezer. Most any recipe for red meats or game meats will work with goat. The younger the animal the more tender the meat and the less fat it will have, as a rule. Keep that in mind when cooking with goat meat. It needs moisture to cook well. Marinating works well as does simply adding liquid to the cooking pot, as easily as adding water, boiled tea, wine or other spirits. Slow cooking works very well with goat meat. Even ground meat, often needs fat or oil added to the cooking pan for plain hamburgers, or the meat may well stick to the pan. The trade off is that there is so little excess shrinkage of the actual meat since there is so little fat! I tend to turn my older animals into dog meat, or ground meats, either plain or turned into sausage of some kind. My family tells me that goat meat breakfast sausage is the very best! And I know there is little better than a great summer sausage made with goat meats. But for now, I'll stick with a couple of my favorite recipes for cooking goat that we use here.

GREAT GOAT ROAST (OR STEAKS OR CHOPS)

I cook goat roasts (or even steaks and chops) in a deep pan that is covered to hold in moisture. I line the pan with aluminum foil for ease of cleaning up after. Put in the meat, sprinkle sea salt, red pepper flakes and crushed cloves of garlic, pour in wine or boiled tea enough to half way cover the meat. Add in peeled potatoes cut in half and carrot chunks, along with a few cut up parsnips or turnips.

You can also use onions and bell peppers as well. Cover the meat with either a lid that fits the pan or with a foil tent. Cook at 350 until the smell pulls you into the kitchen telling you that it is done. Cooking times will vary depending on your oven and the amount of meat and vegetables cooked.

I like to cook meat to be fork tender, so that a knife is hardly needed to separate it into meal sized portions. Put the meat onto service platters, ringed with the cooked vegetables. Set the pan on the stovetop burner with the juices still in the pan and heat over low heat. In a separate bowl mix cornstarch with water, whisk together and mix into the meat juices as the juice gets close to boiling. Stir continually until the juice thickens to a nice gravy. Serve the gravy with the meat and vegetables for a great meal!

FAJITAS

I slice most any goat meat into long thin strips (I know traditionally fajitas are flank meat from cattle, but goats rarely have enough of that to make it worth while so I use other cuts of meat) There are commercial flavorings for fajitas that are very good, I tend to use the simple, salt, pepper, garlic and soy sauce to taste. Slice onions and bell or jalepeno peppers, any summer or winter squash, broccoli or cauliflower, as well. In a large skillet heat up olive oil and toss in a bit of crushed garlic to release the flavor of the garlic, saute for a few short minutes until the aroma begins to be noticeable. Add in the meat, and vegetables, and saute till the meat

is cooked thru and the onions are translucent. Serve with fresh warm tortillas (corn or flour) and an assortment of guacamole, sour cream (yummy with sour cream made from goat milk), cheese (fresh goat cheese works well, as does goat mozzarella) and lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers for a real treat to the tastebuds.

A CONVERSATION WITH GAIL PUTCHER

ANDDA: What began your venture into Nigerians?

Gail: When I was 54 years old, I had a friend, Katrene Johnson (Unicorn Farm) who raised them. I just loved them for their colors, their size that made it easier for an older person to handle, and their ability to milk. My husband surprised me at Christmas in 1993 with two doe kids in crates in our milking parlor (we raised Saanens at the time). It was the best Christmas present I ever got!

ANDDA: Back in the day, I've been told by many old timers that actually milking a Nigerian was practically unheard of, why did you start?

Gail: I had had dairy goats since I was ten years old, and operated a large commercial goat dairy with standard does, so it was normal for me to milk. I also wanted to raise the kids on bottles so they would be friendly, and I wanted to prevent milk-borne diseases, so I wanted to heat treat the colostrum and feed pasteurized milk.

ANDDA: As one of the first nigerian herds on milk test, what were your goals?

Gail: I wanted to be the first to breed a doe that gave 1500 lbs. (I missed this goal by 1 pound with Gay-Mor Reggae's Nestle Quik 2*D!). I wanted long lived, show quality does who gave lots of milk and high butterfat over a long period of time.

ANDDA: Nigerians have changed so much in the past 20 years or so, with longer lactations on record, higher milk volumes, as well as structural and mammary system improvements. As one of our milking pioneers, in your opinion, which bucks and does do you feel have had some of the greatest impact on the breed as we know it today?

Gail: Since I am the AGS DHI Volunteer, and keep all the lactation records, it's easy for me to find out which ones had the most impact on the milk production of it. A short list of the bucks who sire the most star daughters are:

ARMCh Goodwood Tom Thumb ++*S
ARMCh Rosasharn's Tiger L ++*S
ARMCh Caesar's Villa CBS Cowpoke ++*S
ARMCh Caesar's Villa CBS Stetson +*S
Gay-Mor Berry's Johnny Jump Up +*S
Gay-Mor's RA Kingwood ++*S

Goodwood Alamo Messenger ++\$
ARMCh Goodwood Kauri Tree ++*\$
ARMCh Twin Creeks BH Bay Watch ++*\$
ARMCh Twin Creeks Luck ofthe Draw +*\$

Some of the herd names who produced the most plus sires are:

-Goodwood -Rosasharn
-Buttin Head -Backwoods
-Caesar's Villa -Esperanza
-Gay-Mor -Green Gate
-Inavale -Jobi
-Kaapio -Lost Valley
-PromisedLand -Piddlin Acres
-Stonewall -Twin Creeks

As for the impact on improving the breed, it's really hard to say, since there is no list of sires of champion daughters and sons. But I have noticed that two of the top sires of quality offspring are:

ARMCh Goodwood Tom Thumb ++*\$ (or any Goodwood buck, for that matter)

Gay-Mor's RA Kingwood ++*\$ (I can't take credit for this, because he was out of a Goodwood doe, sired by a buck out of a Goodwood doe, and Kathy Clapps got him as a kid)

ANDDA: And who had the greatest influence in your own herd...both in bucks and doe lines?

Gail:

Does:

Goodwood Trillium, who I bought for \$450. as a bred doe, after many prospective buyers turned her down because the price was so high!

Unicorn Farm Parnells Panda *D, who started a line of show quality high producers.

Unicorn Farm Flujac FR Vanilla *D, who started a line of really high producing does with pretty good conformation.

Bucks:

Gay-Mor Berry's Johnny Jump Up ++*S

Goodwood Lingonberry ++*S

Stonewall's Raising Arizona ++S (I saw this buck as a young kid at a show and fell in love with him and bought him on the spot!)

Twin Creeks Luck of the Draw +*S

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

Gail: Much improvement in dairy character, front ends, udders, levelness of rump, and milk production, both milk, butterfat and protein. I think breeders are doing a great job of keeping the breed under the maximum height. Some of my does were either over or borderline, but they threw offspring who were smaller. I would like to see the average doe milking more than they do, but the top does are surpassing what my top does produced.

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

Gail: The size (easy to manage, especially for older people like me), the wonderful array of colors and BLUE EYES, the exceptionally high butterfat and protein which helps in making lots of cheese out of a smaller amount of milk, and the high production for such a small doe. The highest pounds of milk I've seen (officially) is 7.9 lbs, and two does have produced this amount that I know of.

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

Gail: Manage your goats well, give them high quality hay and good grain, keep them disease-free, show them, classify/appraise them, MILK THEM and use the milk, and don't keep every buck intact that is born on your farm! Don't keep more goats than you can handle.

ANDDA: Do you have anything you would like to add?

Gail: Keep on being friendly to one another. It's one of the things I like most about most of the Nigerian breeders.

ANDDA: Thank you again for sharing your time and knowledge with the Nigerian community.

LETTER OF CONCERN TO THE ADGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To the directors of the American Dairy Goat Association and members of the Breed Standards Committee; The national breed club for the Nigerian Dwarf dairy goat, the American Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Association recently conducted a poll of its membership concerning raising the height standard for bucks, after being advised that a proposal had been submitted to ADGA outside of ANDDA's Breed Standards committee by a minority group of breeders. Our membership came out against the change with 69.84% opposing the change and 30.16% in favor. Judging by the chatter across the internet, although we kept our poll exclusively to our membership, we feel these numbers would very likely translate across the entire Nigerian Dwarf community of breeders. According to the proposal, "a large number of these breeders are genuinely concerned that their goat(s) may have their registrations pulled based solely on one accurate or inaccurate height measurement," yet ADGA does not have a policy in place to pull papers on goats. We would also be interested to know how the proponents of the change discerned that "a large number" of breeders are concerned about this non-existent problem. Was a poll conducted? What percentage of Nigerian breeders constitutes "a large number?" The insertion of the arbitrary use of the verbage 'a large number' by the proponents, outside of the parent club, on a BREED DEFINING TRAIT is alarming. Based on our poll results, it is misrepresentation at the very least. The Proposal asking for a variance because the withers are a movable joint is unrealistic and unnecessary. Requesting a 1/4" leeway be given in the measurement effectively raises the height standard from their proposal of 24 3/4" to 25". In fact, since the request did not contain a maximum height limit, it effectively changes the standard to "the skys the limit". We then look at the increase in minimum height that goes from 17" to 18" with the reasoning that small bucks are "substandard individuals", we find ourselves asking "by who's opinion?". It is clear that across the dairy goat industry a buck is judged by his get. A small buck, is equally as capable of producing outstanding daughters as a large buck, so the reason for requesting the change loses merit. We also find that 5 years worth of data collection is too little data upon which to base such a radical change. There are still far too few Nigerian Dwarf herds that participate in Linear Appraisal, and many of the herds that do, are concerned with their doe herds, not their bucks. We need more information before any change to our breed standard could be considered. If and when it is finally considered, we feel that as with all breeds of dairy goats, the standards that bucks are held to should be much greater than that of the does since the buck has far more impact on the breed than the doe. And finally, it is our opinion that this document is based solely upon the ability of an animal to be shown. Disqualifying overweight animals, specifically bucks from the show ring does nothing to "limit the gene pool". The Nigerian Dwarf gene pool began with around 2000 individual members, which is huge compared to most of the other breeds of dairy goats. Disqualifying animals from a show ring is a necessary evil within our industry, but it also helps breeders make better decisions within their own individual program. We, the American Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Association, respectfully request the directors to vote NO to this proposal. Thank you for your time.

-The American Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Association Board of Directors

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