



ANDDA

AMERICAN NIGERIAN DWARF DAIRY ASSOCIATION

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Dream Big in 2023

The theme for 2023 is to turn dreams into reality. Many times it is easier said than done. How are some breeders able to accomplish so much in a year's time? It all comes down to goals. This year, we hope to encourage members by giving you the educational tools to achieve the success you want for your herd. One way to organize your goals is to make a Vision or Dream Board instead of a list.

The first thing is to have a vision of a goal(s) you want to accomplish. You can have both short-term and long-term goals, but it needs to be a goal you have control over. A Vision Board helps you "see" your goal. It is a visual representation using images and text of what you hope to accomplish.

4-H teaches that "Winning Grand Champion" isn't a goal because that is not something in which you have control since another person selects a winner; "Spending 30 minutes each week practicing setting up" or "Enter a Showmanship Class" are better goals that will carry over to get those coveted ribbons.

Studies show that putting goals in writing helps them to be achieved. *Psychology Today* magazine reports that mentally visualizing can help people with motivation and confidence. Seeing your goals each day on a board can help you stay motivated when the New Year is in the rear-view mirror.

Goals should be SMART. This is an acronym that stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Based. Having SMART goals increases the likelihood of success. It gives you a clear roadmap of where to spend your time and resources. A goal is something you want to achieve, a place you want to see yourself in the future.

First a goal should be specific. It should be well-defined with steps to accomplish the process. Goals can be made up of several objectives or steps to get to a desired outcome. You want to milk test this year? How can that be well-defined? It would involve signing up with a lab, next would be to gather the needed supplies, and lastly signing up with a registry if you want to be a part of registry records. Dairy Records Management System has an article on page 3 about a few of the most popular plans.

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KID'S KORNER

By Melanie Bohren



Welcome to the newly updated ANDDA Youth Program, just for those ages 18 and younger!

Whether you have a love for competition, want to learn more about Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats or just enjoy spending time in the barn with your goat friends, there's a place for you in the ANDDA Youth Program!

Competition - this newly revamped program has something for everyone! Let us know if you participate in showmanship, breed classes, a State Fair or National Show, or participate in milk test, and you will earn an entry in our year end drawing for prizes! If you win any classes or events, take a picture and send it in, we'll publish your pic!

Leadership - geared toward older youth who are working on leadership/mentor type skills. You will find the Youth Ambassador Program here. Will eventually include youth meetups at conventions and shows.

Education & Scholarship - We will provide activities and learning opportunities on the web page and in this newsletter. There will also be a scholarship offered to send one lucky youth to ADGA Youth Convention in October.

Fun & Games! - We'll include fun stuff for youth, by youth! There will be contributions from our members, and fun contests, stay tuned for details.

You will find links and information on our web page, as well as updates on Facebook and in this newsletter.

Web Page - <https://www.andda.org/youth-programs>

Facebook - watch our Discussions group for Youth Program posts

Email - If you have questions, feel free to email us at anddayouth@gmail.com

Here's to a fun and engaging 2023!

DRMS Reports Tailored for Goat Herds

By Valerie King, DRMS

DRMS has several DHI reports that are tailored for goat herds to help manage your herd and report to ADGA. The following is a list of those reports and what they offer:

DHI-203 Doe Page

The DHI-203 changes animal terms from Cow, Calf and Calving to Doe, Kid, and Kidding. There are also goat breeds available in the breed codes (see sidebar). The DHI-203 is the only report to offer a doe page which is valid for submission to ADGA.

DHI-202 Herd Summary

The DHI-202 Herd Summary report tracks the last 12 test days. Page one contains the Production, Income & Feed Cost Summary. This includes a Daily Average per Doe on Test Day and tracks the number of animals in your herd, the percent of milk on test day, and test day averages. The Rolling Yearly Herd Averages tracks how your herd is performing over the last year.

On page two you'll find the Yearly Production and Mastitis Summary which lists the last 12 test days. It also shows the Test Day Averages for Milking Does which highlights how your herd is performing on that specific test day.

DHI-210 Monthly Report

This report is one of two choices for a monthly report. It allows you to see the current status of individual animals in one document. It also provides information about identification, the last 7 test days, the doe's current lactation information, and breeding information.

DHI-211 Monthly Report

The second option for monthly reporting, DHI-211 is based on goat breeds. It provides more detailed identification information than DHI-210. It also provides current test day information and lactation to date information.

For more information about these reports and other services offered by DRMS, please contact your local Service Affiliate (listed in last month's issue) or call 515-294-2526 to speak with DRMS Support.

Goat breeds available:

AI – Alpine
EX – Experimental
UG – Guernsey
LN – LaMancha
MN – Miniature
XD – Mixed Breed
ND – Nigerian Dwarf
NU – Nubian
OH – Oberhasli
PY – Pygmy
EN – Saanen
CC – Sable
TO – Toggenburg
UU – Unknown

Goat Rumen Development: The First Month

Kendra Reeve, [Redmond Minerals](#)

Over the first month of life, your goats' digestive system goes through quite a few changes. What you feed and how you feed it affects the microbial, muscular, and chemical transformations their rumen need as they mature. Let's take a look at what is going on inside the ruminant digestive system during this critical first month.



Rumen Development

Even though they are born with 4 stomach compartments like all ruminants, newborn goat kids technically start life as "monogastric" (single stomached) animals. The first compartment they use is their abomasum, which is the largest part of their stomach during the newborn stage, about 65% of their stomach complex. **Note: most ruminant studies focus on calves due to their prevalence in the agricultural industry, however goat rumen development follows the same patterns and stages as cows.*

Liquid Foods (Colostrum, Milk, Replacers, Fluid Therapies)

The sucking action of nursing, either from mama or a bottle, closes off access to the other 3 compartments (rumen, reticulum, and omasum). This sucking reflex engages a special muscular channel called the esophageal groove that fast tracks colostrum, milk, replacers, and fluid therapies directly into the abomasum, bypassing all other stomach compartments.

During these first couple weeks, the abomasum performs the bulk of the digestion as the other compartments develop. According to [Michigan State University](#) extension,

"the abomasum and small intestine secrete enzymes that are designed to digest protein, fat, and carbohydrates that can be absorbed in the small intestine."

This fast tracked digestion can be both a blessing and a curse for little newborns. On one hand, it shortens the amount of time it takes for nutrients to be utilized by their bodies, but also makes it easier for them to get sick.

Because of how quickly and easily liquid food reaches the small intestine, and how porous their early digestive system is, newborn ruminants are very susceptible to harmful pathogens. Diarrheal scours are one of the most common pathogen-caused ailments for newborns and can lead to high death losses. Over time, the abomasum takes a back seat as the rumen and other compartments develop. After a few months it only represents 20% of the stomach capacity, and eventually 8% in mature cattle. So how does the rumen transition from an underdeveloped and bypassed stomach compartment into one of the most important organs in your goat's body? The answer lies in dry matter.

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Dry Foods and Non-suckled Liquids (Starter grains, Forage, Minerals, Water)

After a couple days of fast, rich nourishment from colostrum and milk, your goat kid should start trying dry food like

DRY MATTER AND RUMEN DEVELOPMENT

Early introduction of dry feed increases rumen papillae development, and jumpstarts microbial growth to improve digestion and nutrient absorption

The rumino-reticular folds of a newborn calf (504) and a calf fed only milk until 13 weeks (487)

The rumino-reticular folds of calves offered grain until 13 weeks old (483), and hay until 13 weeks old (490)

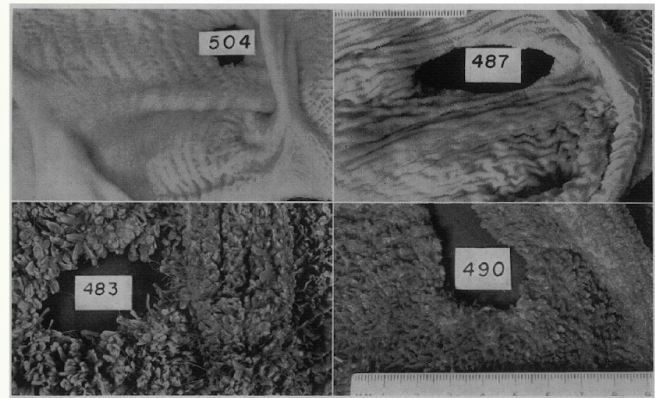


Photo courtesy of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, Warner et. al

starter grains, grass forage, and minerals. When the sucking reflex is not engaged, dry feed can enter the rumen and begins the critical first step of rumen development. (This also means that water drunk from troughs or buckets can also enter the rumen, since the esophageal groove does not engage). Introducing your goats to dry feedstuff early, kickstarts rumen development and makes the weaning process much easier and less stressful for you and your animals. Michigan State University reports that:

“The consumption of dry feeds helps to inoculate the rumen with bacteria that will aid in the fermentation of the feedstuffs entering the rumen. Depending on the types of dry feeds consumed (i.e., grains vs. forage), the microbes best suited to digest those feedstuffs will populate in the rumen.”

Did you know?

If you let your goat kids spend time with non-lactating adult goats, their rumen microbe colonies develop more efficiently. Lack of contact with adult animals can hinder their rumen development, so try giving them another goat companion during the weaning process.

- Click [here](#) to learn more and read the study from the National Institute of Health

In addition to microbial growth, small amounts of dry feed also help grow more papillae, increasing the rumen surface area for better nutrient absorption.

Slowly offering more dry feed as their rumen develops will set your goats up for greater health as they mature. Consult your veterinarian to make sure you follow a weaning schedule that meets the needs of your herd.

- Click [here](#) to learn more about best weaning practices from Penn State University

In addition to dry feed, goats should have early access to trace mineral salts. The craving for salty electrolytes is one of the earliest, instinctual urges animals have, making salt the best carrier for the essential trace minerals they need. To encourage good mineral eating habits early, avoid heavy mineral mixes with sweet attractants like molasses. Using higher salt to mineral ratio mixes work with your goat's natural cravings, saves money, and results in less excreted mineral waste.

SMART Repro Assists With Export

By Christina Ballard

While few companies can say that customer demand created them, SMART Repro shouts it from the rooftops. After graduating with a masters in Reproductive Physiology from LSU, Brittany Scott opened a domestic small ruminant reproductive physiology company located in Arkansas. During that decade, a stream of international inquiries began to reach her as producers from around the world were beginning to recognize the quality of sheep and goats the United States produces. Through internet searches these international requests for semen and embryos were organically finding their way to her desk. Seizing upon this opportunity, SMART Repro was founded in 2021 and immediately found success.

SMART Repro is a USDA inspected and approved facility located in Jonesboro, Arkansas that specializes in the collection, cryo-preservation and export of small ruminant semen and embryos. Our center is currently approved for export to: United Kingdom, European Union, Australia, and all OIE countries. Other services offered include live animal export, virtual and in person domestic and international reproduction physiology training, long and short-term semen and embryo storage for domestic and international clients, and semen and embryo importing (which includes equine, bovine, canine, caprine and ovine genetics.)

Due to the superior quality of the genetics being generated in the U.S., we have a constant stream of inquiries and purchases globally. The list of countries we have exported to include Nepal, Philippines, Belize, France, St. Vincent, Australia, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. The upcoming year will double that list easily. During our trade



SMART Repro meets with the Panama Ministry of Agriculture to promote U.S. dairy goat genetics.

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GOALS (Continued from page 6)

mission to Panama and Brazil earlier in 2021, CEO Brittany Scott and the Latin American Sales Coordinator Raphael Da Silva, successfully met with representatives from the Panamanian government to promote American small ruminant genetics. Next, they traveled to Brazil, where multiple breeders graciously hosted tours of their operations. Throughout the trip, it was evident that improved genetics could fuel marked economic prosperity for these producers. We extremely excited for the vast potential of Central and South America small ruminant production base.

While every export project is given the upmost care and respect, there are two specific ones that we at SMART Repro are immensely proud of. The first is a joint effort with Winrock International, the government of Nepal, and the USAID assisting in implementing Feed the Future KISAN II in Nepal. This five year, 32.7 million dollar project is multi-faceted with a clear attainable goals to directly create lasting agricultural opportunities for small farmers in Nepal. SMART Repro was invited to supply the genetics for a massive in-country breed up program. A network of breeding stations, education programs, and improved fodder programs are being used hand in hand to improve the indigenous goat population and production capacity in Nepal. The second is a historic sale of goat semen to the government of the Philippines. These genetics will be used to jump start small ruminant production through an existing



Capri Dovey Dairy Farm Tour during the Latin American trip to promote U.S. Dairy goat genetics.

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network of cattle improvement stations across that country. Both in country breed up programs will improve small holder nutrition, decrease childhood mortality, and positively stimulate the economies of both countries on the individual and regional level. Previous similar projects have shown the efficiency and last impact these genetics will provide. All our staff start the day knowing that our hard work is changing lives and helping feed families across the world! The American produced premier meat and dairy goat genetics supplied are key components to both sweeping projects.

Export isn't the only electrifying aspect of SMART Repro's contribution to international genetics. While a smaller portion of what we do, importing novel genetics for both sheep and goat improvement, is another avenue in which we support and enhance the

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Rapheal Da Silva is the Latin American Sales Coordinator.

GOALS (Continued from page 8)

domestic sector. In conjunction with a pool of domestic clients, SMART assisted in importing the semen and embryos for a breed of sheep previously not utilized in the United States from Australia. We are extremely excited to see the impact of these robust genetics on the industry in the future. This service is coupled with a full support system for our clients. In addition to short- and long-term storage of the products imported, direct assistance in sourcing disease free recipient animals necessary for embryo transfers is available. In short, the client needs are constantly at the forefront of our business model.

Here at SMART Repro, we understand that we have a unique product that much of the public is completely unaware of. The United States has some of the highest quality and most productive meat and dairy breeds of sheep and goats in the world. This is only possible due to decades of hard work and data collection programs our domestic breeders participate in. These programs include the DHIA and ADGA's Linear Appraisal program in the dairy industry, which allows international buyers the assurance of generational data highlighting consistency and profitability of milk production and confirmational quality. In addition, the buck trials used in the Kiko industry demonstrate that breeds feed efficacy and evidence of parasite resistance, qualities necessary for varying climates around the world. There is a growing focus from the international sector on generational data availability and these U.S. producers rise to the occasion.

With international buyer focus on increasing milk production in the goat sector, demand for American-bred Nigerian Dwarf genetics is growing. Breeders from all corners of the world recognize the refined powerhouses that have come to represent the breed presently. SMART Repro is proud to feature semen ready to ship from HetlandCreek GL Gibson, Oak Apple Ciaron, Sugar Moon NS Alejandro, and Violet's Acre BA School's Out. With inquires steadily growing, more sires will be added throughout the coming year.

We are proud to play our part in showcasing elite American-produced small ruminant genetics on the global stage. Without the tireless decades of care and attention to detail supplied by domestic producers, the existing volume of international demand wouldn't exist. We view every animal that enters our center a direct result of countless hours of hard work, and it is an honor to celebrate that! Ultimately our success, is a true reflection of the industry's success.

GOALS (Continued from page 1)

Once goals are written down in simple steps, you can see it isn't as daunting and will be more likely to follow through. (Our February 2020 issue is full of information on milk test, including an article written by Nancy Boling on starting. If you have additional questions, post them on the Discussion page because our members are a wealth of information.)

Secondly, goals should be measurable. If you want to learn to make soap, this could be set up in a series of action steps from finding a mentor, gathering supplies, and researching different recipes. How will you measure your progress? What is your strategy to make that goal a reality? Marking off the small steps to accomplish a big goal will help you stay motivated with the process.

Third, goals should be achievable. In other words, you need to have the time and resources needed to accomplish your goals. If you want to make goat milk soap but don't regularly milk your animals, a more achievable goal would be to start regularly milking so you have ingredients on-hand.

Fourth is relevance. The reality of the market may mean your goal of selling off all buck kids for a premium or having your farm be the sole source of income for your family may not be feasible at this time. Ask yourself why this goal is important to you? You may need to redefine your goal.

Lastly, your goal needs to be time-based. Have a deadline or goals tend to be daydreams. This is also a good place to divide up short-term and long-term goals. Don't be so focused on a deadline that you don't take time to re-evaluate if your strategy is working.

Using the SMART system will help you have a clear understanding of what success looks like and help you make your dream a reality.

Now that you have your goals defined, how can you set up a Vision Board? Take time to think about what words come to mind when you think of your goals. They can be phrases or words that motivate or encourage you to stick with your goals.

Next, find photos and images that help you "see" your vision. Pinterest and Social Media are a great place to find motivational images. You can also doodle and draw to make it interesting.

When assembling your board, take stock of where you and your herd are presently. What would you like to change? This Vision isn't only about goals. Resist the urge to add things other breeders are doing since that is setting yourself up for failure. Make it personal, which will help you stay motivated throughout the year.

Look at what you have achieved up to this point. Sometime we forget all we have accomplished when we focus on what we have left to do. Where do you see yourself and your herd at this time next year?

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GOALS (Continued from page 10)

Finally, you are ready to assemble your Vision Board. This can be a board as big or small as you need, but it will need to be put up in a place you see it daily. A milk room might be a great place to motivate you to take your herd to the next level. Adding personalized art or color can help attract attention so you look at it daily. Consider putting post-it notes for small steps to larger goals so your goals and dreams can grow throughout the year.

Progress is hard. This year, we hope members encourage and motivate each other to make big dreams happen. If you have questions getting started or needing help staying motivated, reach out on the Discussion page. Let's make 2023 the best year yet!



If not now, when?

S	SPECIFIC	Make your goals specific for more effective planning.
M	MEASURABLE	Define what measures your success, and be able to re-evaluate if necessary
A	ATTAINABLE	Make sure you have control over your success and it can be accomplished
R	RELEVANT	Goals should align with your values and long-term herd objectives
T	TIME-BASED	Set a realistic time-frame for tasks to stay motivated

Recipe of the Month – Apple Feta Salad

By *Chocolate with Grace*

- 2 tablespoons butter
 - 1 cup pecan halves
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
 - 1/8 teaspoon salt
 - 16 cups romaine, spinach, or a blend of your favorite lettuces
 - 3 ripe apples diced
 - 1 cup feta cheese crumbles
 - [Dijon Vinaigrette](#)
1. In a heavy skillet over medium heat, melt the butter. Toast the pecans for a few minutes and then sprinkle with the sugar and salt. Cook one more minute. Watch carefully so they don't burn. Transfer the nuts to parchment paper to cool.
 2. Place the torn lettuce in a salad bowl, top with cooled pecans, diced pears and blue cheese. Dress the salad immediately before serving.

We're on the web
www.ANDDA.org



**PROMOTING THE
NIGERIAN DWARF
BREED SINCE 1996**

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Please let us know if you have a
comment or article idea!