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AMERICAN NIGERIAN DWARF DAIRY ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN NIGERIAN DWARF DAIRY ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY, 2022

Milk Testing—Where Do I Start?

by Amy Rogers, Glimmerwood Farm

I know, milk testing can seem so daunting. Where do you begin? How do I find my DHIA? What lab do I use? What's a Data Records Processing Center (DRPC) and how do I find one? While the ADGA website has a ton of information, it can still be overwhelming. Let's see if I can simplify the starting process some.

The very, very first step to take is to decide and commit to putting your herd on test.

First, contact your DHIA- Dairy Herd Improvement Association. The ADGA website has a complete list of affiliates under "Performance Programs Forms". Find one near you and contact them to join. Your DHIA representative will likely ask you a bunch of question regarding your herd and how knowledgeable you are about things. There will be paperwork to fill out as well. This is the person who will help you obtain your herd code. Ask which DRPC they are affiliated with, or whom they recommend. The DHIA can help you get set up with the DRPC as well.

You may need to choose a DRPC. If so, it's perfectly fine to ask around and find one you want to work with, if your DHIA isn't affiliated with one in particular. They'll hold all your herd records and info, do the magic math to get your statistics for your herd and each doe you have on test. The DRPC will assign your herd code and either give it to you, or have your DHIA Rep give it to you. This is a funny looking 8-digit code that will be unique to your herd

Next, you'll want to take the Milk Test Supervisor class. But I don't want to be a supervisor yet, you say! It's ok. This class will explain the basics of the records you'll be keeping, the different testing plans, and how to do about milk test in general. It's not necessary to supervise anyone else, but it's good info to have so you can understand and follow along better. And don't be worried if you are still as clear as mud on things after your first time through this class. There's a lot of absorb, and it will come with time and exposure.

Finding a lab can be as simple as using the one your DHIA recommends, or one you feel comfortable with, or is closest to you. Don't be afraid to ask other dairy goat people who they use and why. It's perfectly acceptable to shop around and find a good price. But remember, you'll need to ship your samples to them if they're not local to you, and that can affect how much being on Milk Test costs you. Ask about their pricing

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Parts of the Udder

Kaylee Bolinsky, Tri Circle B Farm

The udder is a key structure on a dairy goat. Understanding the parts of the mammary system is important for many reasons, including maintenance of optimal udder health, breeding up or keeping continued udder quality throughout generations. Evaluating the udder can easily become overwhelming if you are unsure of where each individual structure is located and what the importance of that said structure is.

Rear Udder View

The rear view of the udder consists of many important features. When viewing a doe's mammary system from the rear, the first thing that will most likely stick out is the udder halves. Goats have two ***mammary glands,*** known very simply as the right and left mammary gland. The halves act independently of each other as they are not connected. The ***Medial Suspensory Ligament,*** also known as the intermammary groove or abbreviated to MSL, is the ligament that divides the udder halves as well as holding up the udder floor. The ***udder floor*** is the base of the udder. This is where the teats attach. The ***teats*** allow for the milk and colostrum to be expressed through the teat cistern, from the cistern gland and the duct system of the udder, and eventually out the orifice. The ***orifice*** is the opening at the end of the teat allowing milk/colostrum to be expressed through it. Finally, the ***escutcheon*** is the area available at the rump between the thighs and for the udder's top rear attachments.

Attachments

The most obvious attachment is the ***rear udder attachment***. The rear udder attachment is the attachment at the top of the udder. The RUA should be just below the vulva and is best viewed standing behind the goat. Moving down a bit is the ***lateral attachments***. The lateral attachments run along the side of the udder and extends forward to the abdominal wall. Lateral attachments are best viewed from the side and while the doe is on the move. They cannot be properly evaluated from the rear. Last, but not least, is the ***fore-udder attachment***. The fore-udder attachment is the attachment at the front of the udder that extends from the fore-udder to the body wall. This attachment is located right next to the lateral attachments.

Side View

When viewing a doe from the side you will see a number of different structures. One of them being the ***rear udder***. The rear udder is very self-explanatory, it is the rear portion of the udder. It should easily be seen behind the thigh and sitting under the vulva. Moving to the front of the udder you will be able to spot the ***fore udder***. The fore udder is the front most part of the udder, it should be seen protruding from in front of the stifle and extending

down from the abdominal wall. The last part to include on the side view portion is the ***milk vein***. The milk vein is a large, subcutaneous vein that extends along the bottom side of the abdomen on the doe. This vein is responsible for returning blood from the udder on a doe.

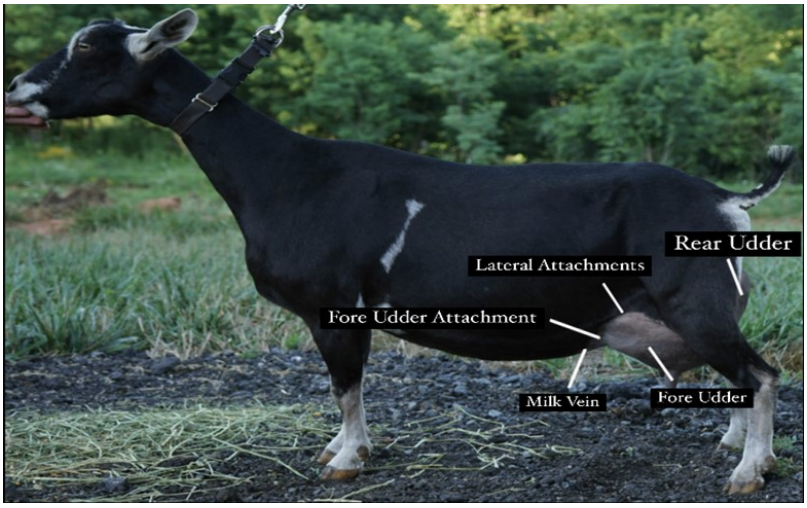

Photo Credit- Kathy Beck Mullins at A Better Way Farm
Labeling Credit- Kaylee Bolinsky

Inside the Mammary

The internal structures of the mammary system are complex, yet intriguing and important. The mammary gland is made up of two main structures, the ***parenchyma*** and the ***stroma***. The parenchyma is the secretory part of the gland. It consists of the ***alveolar*** and ***tubular systems***. The stroma is made up of other tissues, such as the lymphatic vascular systems, as well as the conjunctive and nervous tissues. As stated above the udder also consists of two separate mammary glands being separated by the medial suspensory ligament. Milk is produced in the ***alveoli***. Then it is transported through a duct system to ***gland cisterns***. The cisterns are where the milk is stored prior to being expressed out.

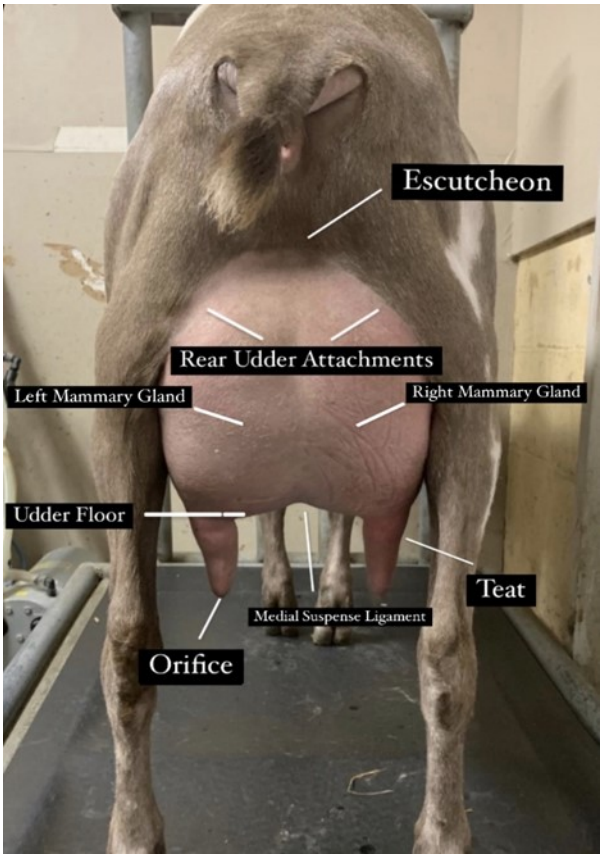

Photo Credit- Devin E Myer at Little Walnut Farm
Labeling Credit- Kaylee Bolinsky

As you can see the mammary system is a complex system on any goat doe but is judged more so on dairy doe's. I personally feel that anybody who wants to maintain a healthy, hearty herd of dairy goats should have more than a basic understanding of the mammary system. Once you understand the basics its always a good idea to expand your knowledge on the more complex side of thing, like the internal mammary system structures. Knowledge is definitely power when raising livestock!

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and how they prefer to be paid each month. They will also provide your sample tubes and suggest their preferred method of packing your samples for them.

Ok, now you've got your DHIA, DRPC, herd code, supervisor class, and lab out of the way. What's next? Find a test supervisor! This can be another goat person in your area, a friend or a neighbor. It cannot be a relative or anyone that co-owns your herd with you, or anyone you are acting as supervisor for. No reciprocity! ADGA wants all testing to be fair and aboveboard, hence the rules. This person will need to take the Milk Supervisor Training and be assigned a supervisor number.

How will we weigh the milk?

Oh! You'll need a scale for weighing milk, and have it certified. This part should have been gone over in Milk Supervisor class. But as a reminder, you'll want to check with your DHIA to see what scale they recommend and who to have certify it as well as any associated costs. Quick, simple, important, because you'll need this every single time you milk your goats on test day.

Got all that? Good! Now you're ready to schedule your first test!

While there is no official time limit for starting your milk test per ADGA, you'll want to check with your DRPC to see if they have any guidelines. Most people will start their does sometime between 3-6 weeks after kidding, so that the colostrum produced is gone, and true milk has come in.

And from here, you'll want to follow the steps for testing that you learned about in your Milk Test Supervisor class. Don't worry about mistakes. There are people about in FaceBook groups, at your DHIA, lab, DRPC, etc ready to help make sure you're doing it all right.

So those steps again?

- Contact DHIA
- Take the Milk Test Supervisor class
- Choose DRPC
- Get Herd Code
- Find lab
- Find a Test Supervisor
- Get your Scale Certified
- Schedule First Test

What about One Day Milk Competitions? That's a different ball of wax we'll leave for someone else who has participated.

You're on your way! You can do it!

Joke of the month:

What do you get when you cross a rabbit and a goat?

You get a hare in your milk.

Lab Comparisons

We asked members who they milk test with, and sent questions to all labs mentioned. Below are the labs that answered our 5 questions to help members make a good choice for their herd testing.

Indiana State Dairy Association—Elizabeth Straw (efarrow@purdue.edu)

1. What is the best way to get started with Dairy One?

Does must be at least 5 days in milk before they can have their first test. Ideally does will have their first test before they are 30 days in milk. Whether you are new or previously on test, I would recommend getting your new herd paperwork in or transfer in a few weeks before you anticipate kidding.

ADGA requires herds that are returning to DHIR to have their paperwork in by January 30th, otherwise they charge a late fee.

You can actually change SAs mid test year - it isn't ideal but I have had a handful switch to us after their first test with a different went poorly.

2. *Does your lab offer any other services besides Milk Test?*

All labs that we work offer Johnes and pregnancy testing along with component testing which includes butterfat, protein, and somatic cell. Most herds use their somatic cell results to watch for mastitis. If a herd wants an actual mastitis test - to test for Strep or the other contagious 4, they can let us know and we will have them ship to CentralStar labs which is another lab we work with. Attached is a research paper that explains how to use your SCC results to monitor for mastitis.

3. *What is the process of correcting mistakes or client paperwork?*

Most of our herds send their paperwork to myself or my secretary. The best way to correct something that is incorrect is to make a note on their green & white 201 page that they submit their test day data. It's also helpful if you're emailing your paperwork in to put the correction in the body of the email.

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Showmanship Question of the Month:

What is the normal position of a kid at birth?

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4. Is there someone available to answer questions?

I normally answer any questions that new herds have - I'm our goat "expert." I normally send the attached information to our new herds which answers most of their questions. I also refer them to the following YouTube video which is very helpful for new herds: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MloDj_SF_PA. ADGA also has the following presentation for new herds: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuRW5vyWvU0.

5. What makes your lab different?

There are a few things that make us different. We are actually one of the smallest SAs that there are which means that our herds work more directly with management (myself or my secretary). Not having our own lab allows us to pick and choose which services best fit our herds. I actually switched which lab our goat herds were sent to about 2 years ago. Goat herds differ from cattle herds in that the sample order and number for goat herds is normally identical each month while with cattle herds it continually changes. As the previous lab is used to working with large herds, they would only check that the sample order was correct for the results and not the date. I had a few different herds receive their previous months' results which meant we needed to reprocess the test day so that the correct results could be uploaded. The lab that we switched our goat herds to pays more attention to detail which is critical for small herds and has prevented unnecessary reprocessing and stress.

Dairy One—Kayla Turcsik(Kayla.Turcsik@dairyone.com)

1. *What is the best way to get started with Dairy One?*

   The best way to get ahold of us is to email me or call me at 607-252-2056. It is best to give two weeks before kidding so you have time to take exam and we have time to get it back to you. If you are looking to switch to Dairy One you would need to contact me to get a release form signed so we can get your records from previous DHIA.

2. *Does your lab offer any other services besides Milk Test?*

   We offer Pregnancy testing on milk and blood. We do culture testing on sterile milk samples. We do not offer Johnes or CAE testing at this time.

3. *What is the process of correcting mistakes or client paperwork?*

   The best way to correct mistakes is to write a note with the next test you send in or email me directly.

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4. *Is there someone available to answer questions?*

   If someone has any questions regarding goat testing they should contact me.

5. *What makes your lab different?*

   Dairy One is a good company to work with as there is only one person to contact about goat herds.

Langston— Luana Ribeiro, Ph.D. (dhilangston@yahoo.com)

1. *What is the best way to get started with your lab? (ie, how far in advance of kidding or how to change if with another lab?)*

   The best way is to send a request by email or phone. The process can take 3-10 days (paperwork and box with vials for milk samples). If you are in another lab contact our DHI lab so we can send a transfer letter for you to sign and send to your current lab! After that, your lab will send it to us! Depends on how fast your lab sends the letter back to us! I will say 15-20 days! To have plenty of time one month before kidding!

2. *Does your lab offer any additional services other than milk test? (ie pregnancy, mastitis, Johnes, etc.)*

   No. Only milk tests!

3. *What is the process of correcting any mistakes on client paperwork?*

   Please call as soon you find the mistake, and also send an email.

4. *For someone totally new, is there someone available to answer questions?*

   Yes, the DHI Lab Manager will be answer questions by phone and email!

5. *What makes your lab different?*

   Our lab is not different, but we work and love goats and understand how important for the herds to have test results and box with vials for the next test to arrive on time! We work as a team (lab and herds) and with good communication, the system will flow smoothly!

Measuring the Height of your Nigerian Dwarf Goat Correctly

By Ann Alecock, Two Dogs Farm

Let's face it, measuring the height your goat should be really simple, but I am guessing that three different people can measure the same goat with three different results. There are many different factors that result in different measurements. Hopefully I can clear up some of those factors that cause an incorrect measurement.

For the most accurate measurement, find a measuring device with a foot on the bottom and a level on the arm.

Your measuring device should be an measuring stick made of metal with a foot attached to the bottom and a level on the arm of the device. This allows for the most accurate measurement. Before you take a measurement make sure your goat's hooves are trimmed.

You should measure on concrete if possible. This provides a firm flat area that is the most accurate. This is why you often see animals close to height being removed by a judge to measure on concrete. If you don't have access to a concrete area then make sure you are on a firm flat surface.

The measurement should be read under the armpiece.

A common mistake that those new to goats and measuring their animals is measuring while on the milk stand. You wouldn't think that this would be an issue since the animal is standing on a firm level platform, however it is an issue. Don't believe me? Measure a goat on the stand and then again on a level ground surface such as a sidewalk. Your goat will be taller while being measured on the sidewalk.

Measurement in a Natural Stance where the head is slightly above the withers.

Another important factor is how the head of the animal is being held. A head held high will cause the withers of the animals to be higher than the natural stance of the animal which will make the animal measure taller. On the same note the head should not be below or even with the withers. Measuring should be done when the animal's head is in a natural stance. Making sure the feet are placed squarely under the animal will help make a natural stance. Front feet should be placed in a vertical line under the shoulders. Rear feet should be placed with a vertical line from the hocks to the pin bone.

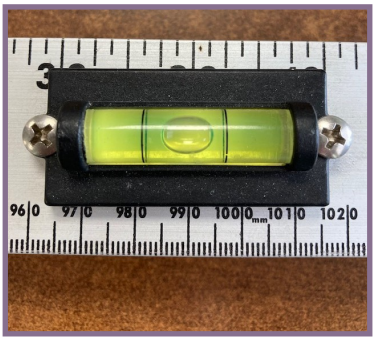
Once your goat is set up properly place the measuring stick in the center of the withers with the foot on the

The withers are the highest part of the back at the base of the neck.

ground making sure the level bubble is in the center of the level. Read the measuring stick at the bottom of the arm. Seems logical, but I once had a judge use the measurement of the top of the arm and not the bottom.

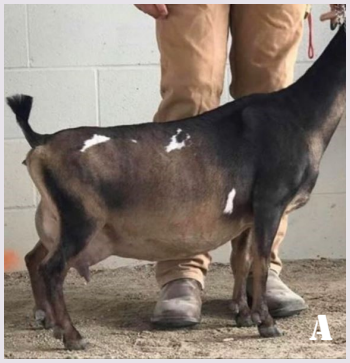
There are several reasons to measure your animals, but for most of us we use the measurement as a requirement for milk testing, showing and breeding purposes. Having an accurate measurement at home is important, however don't be surprised if your under-height buck that measured just fine at home has a difficult time making it into the ring come showtime. Bucks are notorious for getting worked up around other bucks and does at shows and they actually will stand taller to show off.

Practicing measurement of your goats will help you become more accurate and will also get your goats use to the stick before a show allowing them to be relaxed during the measuring resulting in the most accurate measurement.



The bubble should be in the center of the level.

SCORECARD BREAKDOWN



Evaluate the feet and legs of the following animals on the ADGA and AGS scorecard and put in placement order from 1st to 4th. Answers based on Joseph Larson evaluation on page 12.

Barn Camera Review—Look Back System

John Smoroden

John Smoroden represents the Look Back camera system that some may have recently seen on social media The Look Back System may be a good alternative system for some who do not have WIFI access in their barn. They are offering a ***10% discount*** for members choosing a Look Back System; reference ANDDA!

Can you give me information about your cameras? What makes them different?
This camera system does not require wifi or internet in the barn. It uses a SIM card from a network provider of your choice to connect to the cellular network so you can view your setup on your cellphone from anywhere

Do they have to be on your cell plan if it requires a sim card?
They need to be able to connect to a cellular network so your network provider will charge you for the card. Most customers add the card as an additional to their regular phone bill and share their existing data. This helps keep their phone bill reasonable.

Can you immediately access footage when away from home?
You can access a live view from anywhere in the world where your cellphone works.

Does it work with metal barns?
If you can make a cellphone call from inside your metal barn, this system will work. If not, you can extend the antennas from the cellular router included in the package outside the metal barn and install the antennas outside. If there is a cell signal outside the barn, the system will work.

Do the cameras have sound and night vision? Movement?
The cameras do not have sound. They do have night vision to over 60 feet. They are a fixed camera and you cannot pan back and forth or up and down with this system.

Does it have storage capacity? If so, what timeframe?
The recorder/monitor has a large hard drive installed that will record for up to one month. When the hard drive fills up, the system will continue to record over the oldest files first.

Can you add cameras to the set?
You cannot ad more cameras to this system. It is a four camera, four channel system.

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How far away does/can the box be from the cameras?

The cameras transmit their own signal to the recorder/monitor up to 200 feet through walls as long as the walls are not metal. The only need to be connected to power. No extra wiring for the cameras is required.

Does it require electricity? If you don't have electricity in the barn, what are the options?
This camera system requires 110 volts AC in the barn. If you don't have power in the barn, have a look at the Cellular PTZ cameras I offer. They can be set up to work on a 12 volt solar panel/deep cycle battery system. They also operate on a cellular network.

Can you view on your computer or tv?
The system is designed to display on a cellphone. Using a cellphone you can select individual cameras to view by clicking on the camera you wish to view. Using a monitor or a TV, you lose that ability as they don't (usually) have touch screens

What is the resolution?
Resolution is 1080P, high resolution.

What have I not asked that you feel is important?
This camera system is ideal for anyone who does not have wifi or internet in their barn or the barn is some distance from their house. It is a simple DIY setup and provides a cost effective, high resolution barn camera system. I invite your readers to visit my website, www.quicklookback.com to get more information and they can call me at 250-417-5412. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Recipe of the Month—Chocolate Fondue

Karen Goodchild, OK Doe K Dairy Goats

INGREDIENTS

- 6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped into small pieces
- 4 ounces milk chocolate, chopped into small pieces
- $^1/_2$- $^3/_4$ cup goat milk, depending on thickness preference
- $1^1/_2$ tablespoons unsalted butter, optional
- $^1/_2$ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- $^1/_8$ teaspoon fine sea salt
- Flaky sea salt, for topping, optional

1. Prepare dipping items.
2. To make fondue, combine chocolate, milk, and butter in a small bowl. Melt gently in a barely simmering water bath or in the microwave on medium heat, approximately 2 minutes.
3. Stir until smooth.
4. Add more milk if desired, to thin.
5. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and salt.
6. Serve warm.
7. If the fondue starts to harden, warm in microwave in 15 second bursts.

Dipping Ideas

Fresh Fruit: bananas, strawberries, blackberries, apples
Cookies: oreos, shortbread, milanos
Other: marshmallows, pretzels, potato chips

We're on the web
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PROMOTING THE NIGERIAN DWARF BREED SINCE 1996

Editor:
Karen Goodchild
OK Doe K Dairy Goats

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

SCORECARD PLACINGS:

I place A over C for straighter in the front leg both when viewed from the side and the front.

C places over D for more correct angle in the rear leg, stronger on her front pastern

D shows us an advantage in the front legs - straighter when viewed from the side with less tendency to bow at the knee.

B should be commended for her strength of rear pasterns