



ANDDA

American Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Association

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Farm Biosecurity

By Christina Ballard, Smart Repro and Nicole Nichols University of Arkansas Extension Saline County

On-farm biosecurity is an important facet of everyone's farm and animal management programs for a long list of reasons. First, we need to define on-farm biosecurity. The most simple answer is a preventative measures consistently taken to reduce the risks of introducing infectious diseases to and among your herd. While it sounds like an overwhelming task to undertake, much of the time, producers are already implementing common sense-based actions that are the base of a biosecurity program. You are honestly the first line of defense in the protection of your herd from a host of life threatening (at worst) and/or economically impactfully (at best) diseases that can infect the animals we spend so much of our lives caring for and nurturing.

For many programs the first question is what is your level of biosecurity awareness and farm preparation. Do you have a biosecurity plan, quarantine area, and disease testing protocol for your existing herd and any introduced animals? Much of the dairy goat world is familiar with the term biosecurity testing, as it relates to CAE, Johne's, and CL. Performing yearly biosecurity testing and purchasing stock from farms that have similar or stricter biosecurity plans is one important piece of the puzzle. This standard should also be used when purchasing semen or embryos for genetic improvement. In addition, when new or returning animals arrive at the farm a good suggestion is a 21–30-day quarantine before introduction to the home herd. While it may seem like overkill, diseases such ORF, pinkeye, and respiratory infections are easily spread and can

be difficult to treat and control. Always remember to treat and feed sick animals last as to not spread contagions to your healthy animals! A basic record keeping system is extremely advantageous to log symptoms and applied treatments for any ill animals. With this information, a more holistic picture is available to both the producer and the veterinarian. Lastly, it is strongly suggested not to reuse needles as it heightens the risk of disease transmission between animals.

There are a wide range of complementary actions that when implemented, will add layers of protection. One action is being aware of who is entering your animal

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KID'S KORNER



By Melanie Bohren, Youth Chair

The ANDDA Youth Program is off and running! We have received entries from youth participating in showmanship, breed classes, doing milk test and even showing their bucks in costume! Keep those submissions coming in, we can't wait to see what you can do!

This year we wanted to focus on participation and celebrating our successes - every time you show your goat or participate in a goat event, let us know, and send us photos of you and your goat - we'll post them on Facebook and maybe you'll see yourself in the newsletter!

Read all about the details and enter to win [here](#).



Jayden Simpson, 2023 Northwest District Livestock Show, 1st place Dairy Goat Showmanship, 8-10yr old



Evey Burchett and Lil Mtn GB Indigo B clowning around at the Buck Wild show in Cookeville TN.*

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housing and handling areas. If they have animals of their own, is that producer's biosecurity protocol as strict or stricter than yours? Providing an opportunity to thoroughly wash hands as well as providing foot coverings or a disinfection foot bath station are straight forward ways to safeguard your animals. In addition, requesting visitors wearing clean clothes that have not been exposed to outside animals is another way to eliminate possible routes of infection. The chance of cross contamination is obvious when you think of all the places our barn boots and jackets have gone!

Another area that can be addressed is manure management and overall facility cleanliness and safety. Firstly, clean water should always be available, and feed stored in such a way as to exclude rodents and moisture as to reduce potential contamination. Additionally, waterers and feeders should be periodically disinfected and placed in such a way in which to reduce fecal contamination. As everyone knows, babies love to place everything in their mouths and these simple steps can help protect them. Also periodically inspecting the animal housing and loafing areas for any safety issues can identify issues before they become a costly problem. Manure management is a never-ending task for anyone with animals and it can pay off long term dividends. Addressing manure build up in a timely manner and in regular intervals creates a more wholesome environment for kidding, young stock growth, and overall animal health. Remember to disinfect any tools used for manure management that would be used for purposes that could lead to cross contamination within your feeding plan. Removing manure prior to any disinfecting is key in any operation. Most disinfectants are rendered inactive by organic material, so removing the problematic organic material and then applying a detergent is suggested if possible. It is also considered good practice to become knowledgeable on the proper storage, mixing, concentration level, and contact time of any disinfectant utilized. These steps will give the disinfectant a greater opportunity to be effective.

Instituting the steps may seem overwhelming! Many producers are already implementing a number of these biosecurity measures as we care for the health and welfare of our animals. Periodically reviewing herd health record keeping and farm management practices ensures that they can evolve as new industry information becomes available. Remember that small steps lead to larger gains as actions are cumulative and actively working towards a more bio secure operation is good for you, your animals, and your pocketbook!



How to Find Product Shows

By Shelley Cleveland, Artofthespirit1@gmail.com

You have made the commitment to start attending vendor events, craft fairs, and boutiques. Great! But how do you go about finding the best and legitimate events? Let's look at some of your options, because there are many to consider.

I always start by thinking about who my audience, or demographic will be. If you sell goats milk directly to consumers, your audience may look different than that of people who make goats milk soaps. Your first step will be to figure out who you are trying to reach and then decide where they shop.

If I sell goats milk directly, I will, of course, want to source out Farmers Markets. However, there are also mothers of children with milk allergies so contacting local pediatricians will be a great source. Maternity wards, OBGYN offices, soap makers who may not have their own goats for milk, and specialty or organic food stores may also be interested in purchasing from you,

If you are a soap maker, you will find that markets and vendor events will be the best way to get your product out there but not

the only way. Check with grocery stores and see if you could set up a local product corner to sell in their location. Contact floral companies and see if they offer gift baskets where your products would add a unique, home made flair to their existing product lines. Even schools and small businesses for Secretaries Day, hospitals for Nurses Day, and any other place you can think of who give gifts to their employees. The point is to think outside the box and source as many places as your products will support.

If you decide attending show events will be the direction you will take, there are many ways to find shows. Next month, I will cover how to spot scam events, but let me preface this next part by saying, there are many scammers out there so be careful!

The first source I turn to when hunting down new events, I start with a couple reputable websites. Festivalnet.com and Eventbrite.com are two sites I trust. They verify events on their sites so scam events rarely sneak through their vetting processes. You can search by state, city, date, and distance



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from your home which makes it easy to hone in on the ones you really want to attend. Many of these types of sites require a yearly membership to receive all of the information such as the coordinators name and number but, most pertinent information needed will be available and a quick Google search will garner the rest of the information you need.

The next source I use is social media. If you type “Vendor events {your state), you will get many pages you can join and feed into a community already sharing their vendor events, tips, and tricks. They are also very free with their praise or criticism of shows so they are a great place to ask about events you are considering because, believe me, they will tell you!

If your preference is to stay local and small, a wonderful source is your local Chamber of Commerce or city website. Most local events will be listed on these sites calendar and have a real live person to talk to if you call! The only real downside to small town event often posted is the events are few and far between. Farmers markets are a great option if you want a weekly gig that keeps you in your own community. These can be very profitable if you are consistent enough to gain a following. Many markets now run year-round rather than just through the summer months and the booth fees are always reasonable. Community churches will hold bazaars, schools will hold fundraiser boutiques, and almost every



city holds their annual community event (Mine was always a summer Farmington Festival Days) so check nearby towns and ask when they will be holding their “city days” and get on their list of vendors.

The final source, and one I use more than almost any other out there, is the vendor community itself! When I am at an event, I make time to meet my neighbors and chat up the ones I think have a wonderful set up or may have the same demographic buying from their booth as my own. Find out where they are heading next, which shows they love, and which ones they avoid. The seasoned vendors are a font of information and most of us love to share our knowledge. There is enough room in the vendor community for everyone to succeed so take advantage of the free sources right in front of you.

The key to finding shows is to know your own strengths, your demographic, and how much desire you have to grow. Once you have those things in mind, head to the source you feel most comfortable with and get ready to succeed!

PCDart and Dairy Goat Herds

Valerie King, DRMS

While PCDART originated as a software program for managing dairy cattle data, dairy goat producers are able to take advantage of the power and convenience of managing their herd using PCDART.

If a goat producer uses PCDART, the herdcode number determines how PCDART displays and handles data. Lactations are adjusted to 150 days, allowing the kidding date to be projected once a breeding date is entered. Also, Milk Weight Input allows the input range to be adjusted for the smaller amounts of milk that dairy goats produce.

PCDART allows you to enter many types of additional data including kidding dates and offspring, dry dates, breeding dates and / or turned with buck, purchased animals, and heat dates.

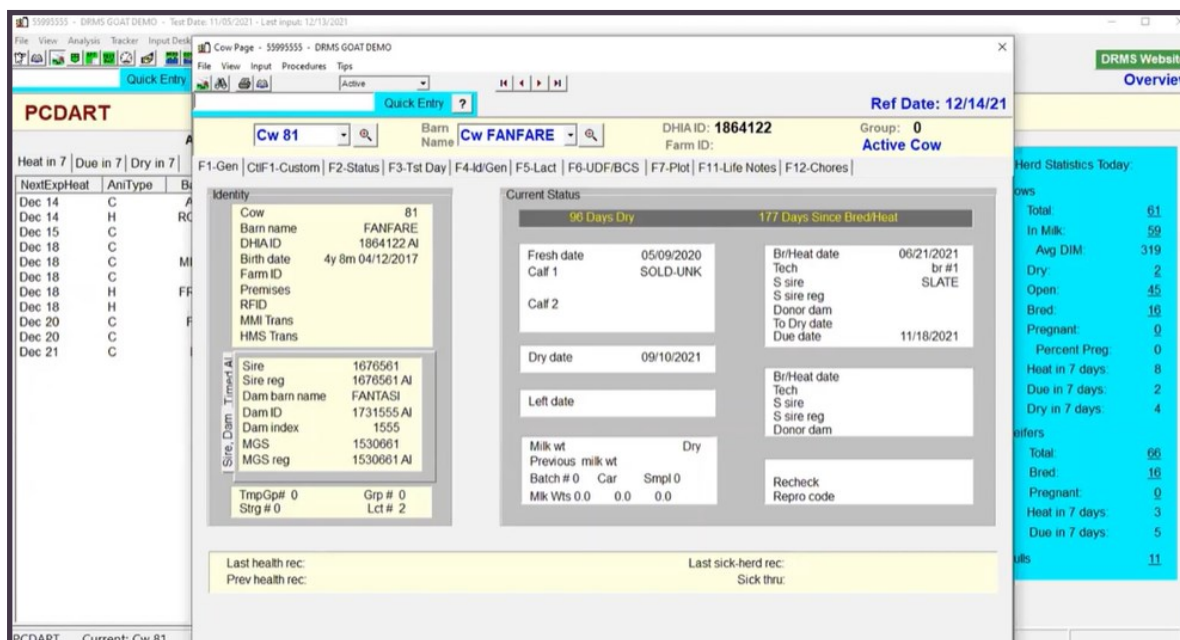
Producers who use PCDART are also able to create and print reports to help with herd management. DRMS provides a set of

user reports tailored to goat production. (For a list of these reports, refer to the January newsletter.)

You may also view a webinar about PCDART for goats [here](#).

If you are interested in using PCDART, please contact your service affiliate for information on pricing and to arrange installation. (A list of DRMS Service Affiliates can be found in the December newsletter.)

Dairy Goat Breed Name	2-Letter Breed Code
Alpine	AI
Sable	CC
Saanen	EN
Experimental	EX
La Mancha	LN
Miniature goat	MN
Nigerian Dwarf	ND
Nubian	NU
Oberhasli	OH
Pygmy	PY
Toggenburg	TO
Guernsey	UG
	UU
	XD
Mixed	XX



Kidding Management

North Carolina Small Ruminant Improvement Program, Tracy Blake

The North Carolina Small Ruminant Improvement Program put on a series of webinars to educate small ruminant herd owners. Tracy Blake, the Extension Agent in Montgomery County, taught about kidding management. This starts with the kidding environment. She said it needed to be clean, dry, draft free, adequate bedding, and enough space for the animals to move around. Having this criteria for your birthing area is also important in dystocia scenario.

A doe will show signs of impending birth. Some of those signs include acting restless, pawing the ground, separating from herdmates, mucous discharge, becoming vocal, or going off feed within hours of expected birth. You may be able to see contractions or feel softening of ligaments. It is a good idea to feel the tailhead ligaments on a dry doe so you have a comparison to feel loose ligaments on a doe near freshening.

When a doe starts to give birth, you may see a water sac. Within 30 minutes you should see the fetus, hopefully, in the “diving” position of nose between two front feet. Birth can come other ways successfully, but this is the “normal” position. Within 30 minutes of seeing the feet, the birthing process should be complete. If you do not see progression, there is a problem. It is important not to disturb or move the doe during delivery.

It is important to have items on-hand prior to birth. This includes OB gloves, antimicrobial soap, halter, towels, hair dryer, OB lube, kid puller, syringes and needles, thermometer, vet wrap, Vitamin B complex, vet wrap, notebook and pen, and the phone number of a vet or mentor. It is important to have a working relationship with a vet before any emergency. An easy way to do this is to schedule a vet to evaluate your herd for a wellness check so they can gauge your management.

How do you know when to intervene? Dystocia birth is most often the result of a head back, breech, one leg back, two kids attempting to be born at once. The 2022 ANDDA calendar has a graphic on the most common types of dystocia births.

Once the kid(s) are born, you need to “clip, dip, and strip.” The umbilical cord should be clipped within 2 inches of the body, then dipped in an iodine solution. Next, the doe’s teats need to be stripped to ensure milk is flowing. Within 6 hours after birth, the placenta should pass. Regularly check newborns to ensure they are warm and full. The easiest way to do this is to put your finger in their mouth and feel their baby. Additionally, make sure the doe has enough water and forage to make milk. Lastly, keep an eye out for potential mastitis.

More information can be found [here](#).

Keeping Kids Alive

Dr. Emily Cope

Newborn kids are born with brown fat which helps insulate kids for the first few hours, but they need to generate body heat to sustain body heat. Insufficient energy results in hypothermia, which in turns into low blood glucose.

Internal doe temperature is upward of 101, so when a kid is born in cold weather it can create a shock with the dramatic temperature change. When a kid becomes cold, they are less likely to nurse or eat. This in turn creates a cycle of becoming more chilled and health rapidly declining without intervention. Lack of nursing can also occur when a kid is born the smallest in a litter or neglect of the doe. This also sets up a starvation/hypothermia situation without intervention. These are the two most common reasons for newborn death.

Ways to prevent this is to provide shelter, clip udders to make nursing easier, and confine new does and kids if not pulling kids to bottle feed which promotes bonding and enables you to evaluate milk production.

Nutrition in late gestation is also important in keeping kids alive. Energy deficiencies cause poor milk production and quality so it is important to provide adequate caloric intake leading up to freshening. This time period is the most demanding on does. Lack of quality nutrition also sets up a scenario of ketosis and pregnancy toxemia, which contributes to kid starvation. The doe will breakdown her own reserves, which further diminishes milk production and quality.

The signs of a kid not receiving adequate nutrition include weak, listless, poor suckle reflex, cold mouth, sunken sides, and low body temperature. If you have a weak kid, intervention will be necessary.



Starvation/Hypothermia Complex

- Newborn lambs/kids are unable to regulate body temperature for first 36 hours after birth
- Hypothermia happens when excessive body heat loss is paired with reduced body heat production
- Body fat, colostrum, and milk are all required by lambs to generate heat
- Insufficient energy or metabolism = hypoglycemia (low blood glucose)
- Hypothermia/Starvation Complex

Normal Body Temperature	Mild to Moderate Hypothermia	Severe Hypothermia
102°F - 103°F	98°F - 102°F	< 98°F

Treatment includes feeding colostrum via stomach tube, then monitor for normal body temperature. If there is a mild to moderate hypothermia, place kids in a warming box to bring up body temperature to at least 99° before feeding or they will become more child. Warming boxes can be made or purchased.



Newborn Pneumonia

Dr. Emily Cope

Pneumonia in newborns is most often caused by *Pasteurella multocida* or *Mannheimia haemolytica*. A major cause of newborn pneumonia is inadequate intake of colostrum or when passive immunity has waned.

The environment can also contribute to ill health. Damp, overcrowded, high humidity areas can encourage bacterial growth. Stress and inadequate dam nutrition can impact kid health, too.

Clinical signs of pneumonia include increased respiration rate, loss of appetite, lethargy, discharge, coughing, and elevated temperature.

Treatment of pneumonia includes correcting environmental factors that may contribute. As soon as a poor animal is identified, quickly assess to avoid further declining health and consult a veterinarian for treatment. There are two types of pneumonia—bacterial and viral—and antibiotics may not be needed.

Prevention includes having clean, dry bedding; maintaining adequate ventilation without drafts; does with access to clean, fresh water; having adequate space per animal, especially at feed troughs; and minimizing stress.

There are pneumonia vaccinations, which should be discussed with your veterinarian for protocol.



Clinical Signs

- Increased rate and depth of respiration
- Loss of appetite
- Droppiness, splayed stance
- Nasal and ocular discharge: clear, cloudy, or bloody
- Coughing
- Elevated body temperature (fever >104°F)

Recipe of the Month –

Courtesy of Dawn Robnett, [Mesquite Valley Farm](#)

Scalloped Potatoes Irish Style



Indulge this St. Patty's Day with these creamy Irish potatoes by [Irish American Mom](#). This potato recipe will go with pretty much anything you plan to serve. If you have a cream separator, this is a great recipe for using up a fair amount of cream. If a cream separator is still on your wish list, check out the [March 2022 Newsletter](#) article, Cream Separators - Brand Reviews. These reviews were provided by our very own membership. We hope you enjoy this month's recipe and may you get all your goat wishes but one so you always have something to strive for! Dawn, Mesquite Valley Farm

Ingredients

- 4lbs russet potatoes peeled and sliced evenly into 1/8th inch rounds
- 3 cups white cheddar cheese grated (Monterey Jack would probably work well too)
- 1 TBS olive oil
- 1 oz butter
- 1 onion (medium)
- 1 tsp fresh thyme chopped
- 1 ½ cups Heavy cream
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp white pepper
- 2 TBS fresh parsley chopped and for garnish

Instructions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit or 190 degrees Celsius. Grease a deep 13x9-inch casserole dish with butter.

Peel and slice the potatoes. Put them in a bowl of salted water to prevent them browning while preparing the cream sauce.

Heat a skillet over medium heat. Add the olive oil and butter. Add the onions and thyme. Sauté until the onions are softened. Do not over brown the onions.

Add the heavy cream and heat while stirring until just warmed. Be careful not to boil the cream. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside while assembling the dish.

Drain the potatoes in a colander and shake to remove any excess water. Layer one quarter of the sliced potatoes on the bottom of the casserole dish. Use one quarter of the shredded cheese and sprinkle it over the potatoes. Repeat the layers 3 more times.

Pour the cream mixture evenly over the potatoes and cheese. Bake in the oven for about 70 minutes until the potatoes are tender and the sauce is bubbling. Test the potatoes with a sharp knife to ensure they are cooked.

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*Promoting the Nigerian
Dwarf Breed since 1996*

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