

ANDDA



AMERICAN NIGERIAN DWARF DAIRY ASSOCIATION

Spring Issue
April 2012

A Note from the President...



Hello Members!

I hope this issue of the ANDDA Newsletter finds you well! We had a tremendous amount of positive feedback from our members after our last issue, and I must admit, I wonder how we'll top it. I have confidence in our Newsletter Editor & our Newsletter Coordinator though, and I believe they'll keep us all delightfully surprised at the quality of content we'll see in this issue and in issues to come.

Since this is our Kidding issue, I've written an article about what has worked for us here at Dill's. Please, if you've found something that works for you, not just for kidding season, but at any time of year, share! We're always looking for new submissions from our community.

I am pleased to report that our Specialty Show applications have

been coming in quite steadily. We've filled a majority of the available districts. Check the list, if you don't already have a Specialty Show in your district, request one for your show! You still have time!

It's that time of year again...we're looking for volunteers for our committees. If you have an area of interest...please let me know! I try to use as many of you as I possibly can.

Finally, I received an outpouring of good wishes from members after our New Year's barn fire. I would like to thank each one of you for giving me an emotional lift during a very trying time.

Happy Kidding
Ellen F. Dorsey,
President

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A conversation with...

Keith Harrell, NC Promisedland...

By Shelene Costello, *Promessa Dairy Goats*

When did you get started in goats? Nigerians?

I began keeping and breeding goats in 1975. I had approximately 12 acres of land that consisted of about 4 acres of heavily overgrown land, 4 acres of woodland with thick underbrush, and 4 acres of nice grass pasture. It also had a nice barn in the pasture area. My wife (Marie) had grown up with goats, so she thought this was a perfect situation for goats. Our first purchases, from a local livestock sale, were just brush goats, but many of them had obvious dairy genetics behind them. We became interested in the dairy aspect of goat keeping, and within a year had replaced all of the brush goats with registered Nubians. We kept and bred Nubians for about 10 years. We tried to have quality goats, although we did not exhibit them in competition. Our Nubian foundation herd consisted on animals from Lotus Ladies, Cadillac, Hallcienda, and Longman's. Due to family problems, the Nubian herd was dispersed in the mid 80's. A newly established dairy on the coast on NC purchased the herd. They were active in exhibiting their goats, and they eventually made champions out of almost all of the Nubians they purchased from us. Even though Marie and I were not involved in breeding for exhibition stock, the strength of the genetics behind our foundation animals came through in the stock we produced.

We were without goats for about 2 years, and really missed dealing with the goats. Although we wanted

more goats, we did not want to get involved with milking goats again. We attended a local Pygmy goat show and became interested in that breed. So, we purchased a few quality animals and started our own Pygmy herd. We became very serious show ring competitors, and developed a very high quality herd of Pygmies. We bred or owned 34 permanent champion Pygmies, including the 1998 National Champion.

It was also in 1998 that we purchased our first Nigerian. The dairy aspects of the Nigerian breed, along with the variety of colors and patterns found in the breed, quickly won our hearts. In 1999 we decided to sell the Pygmy herd and concentrate strictly on the Nigerians.

Over the years, what have you seen change, improve or not, in Nigerian dwarves?

Certainly the breed has evolved very quickly, with many of today's Nigerians looking more and more like true dairy goats and less and less like "colorful Pygmies". I think the most drastic changes that I have seen occur in the breed have been improved mammary quality, improved dairy character, and improvements in the style of the animal. And certainly milk production has improved dramatically as well. One only needs to look at the Top Ten listings and production records over the last 10 years or so and you will see quite remarkable improvements.

What were the most influential animals you have seen? In your own herd and others?

Geeeezzzz, this is a tough one. There are many noteworthy animals out there. I could give you quite a list of animals that have influenced the breed. We certainly have to give a nod to the Goodwood, Willow Creek (Willows), and Brush Creek herds. In regards to true dairy qualities, I'd also give nod to the Unicorn Farm and Gay-Mor herds. Raja Acres Twink's Pixie is certainly one animal that has to be named in any list of influential Nigerians. Every one of the herds mentioned, and even the one individual animal mentioned, have had great influence on my own herd.

One very successful cross in my own herd was the genetics of Green Gate crossed with a buck that was from Stonewall's and Goodwood breeding. When you look at this cross more carefully, you'll see that it was actually almost all Goodwood genetics.

A more diverse pedigree was found behind what turned out to be the most influential buck in our herd. PromisedLand MG Beau was a mixture of both east coast and west coast genetics, some very well known, and some more obscure. You only needed to go back 4 generations behind Beau to find committee registered animals with no recorded background.

Beau brought many traits into our herd that we liked and ultimately selected for, including dairy character; well attached mammary

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By *Shelene Costello, Promessa Dairy Goats*

systems; large, well placed, milkable teats; heavy milk production; and color patterns we found desirable.

What traits do you find the most important? The easiest traits to improve with breeding? The hardest?

That is really a tough question. To respond to the question one first needs to know what the breeder's goals are. A breeder who is more interested in dairy qualities would place more importance on certain traits than would a breeder who is interested in show ring competition. The category of General Appearance, and all that goes along with that, especially the front end assembly, back, and feet & legs, is certainly something that ANY breeder should concentrate on. An animal must be able to move effectively and have the strength to stand the test of time in order to be valuable to any breeder.

The "easiest trait" to effect with breeding is height. Height is the most heritable trait in goats, and therefore is the most easily affected by one's breeding program.

Almost any trait can be affected with knowledgeable breeding if the breeder is using animals with depth of pedigree for the desired improvement(s).

The "hardest trait" to improve in the Nigerian seems to be, and take your pick here, either teat size and/or placement, or rump structure. Although there are Nigerians out there who excel in one or both of those areas, there simply isn't enough

genetic strength in those areas within the breed to allow breeders to "fix", or set, those traits within a herd. In those areas, it seems to be a constant battle, with steps forward met with steps backward.

What do you find the best about the dairy goat lifestyle?

I simply love animals, goats in particular.

Who was your favorite goat and why?

There have been many special goats in my life, but if I had to select only one animal, again I would refer to Beau. Beau only lived with us for one year before succumbing to Listeriosis, but the legacy he left in our herd will never be forgotten.



As a judge, what have you seen in the breed around the country? Trends in the show ring that you find detrimental or interesting?

Again, there have been many changes in the breed since I began judging. There were, and still are to some extent, differences in the breed even within the registries with Nigerian Dwarf herd books. Ten

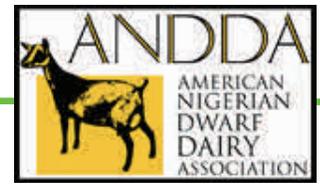
years ago there were far more regional "types" or styles than what is seen today.

One thing I do find detrimental to the breed, not just in regards to the show ring, but to the breed in general, is a widespread reluctance to milk on a regular basis. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to learn, recognize, and appreciate true dairy qualities if you are not milking your goats. Mammary texture and elasticity; poor milk production; small orifice size, or other issues making milking difficult, are just a few of the things that can be perpetuated within a breeding program if they are not recognized and corrected. It's difficult to recognize those traits if you are not milking the animals.

Even in the show ring, I have heard several judges (ADGA judges) comment that it was pretty easy to tell which goats in the ring were being milked and which ones were not. These comments were made mostly because of the attitude exhibited by the animals when the judge was trying to access mammary texture or check teats. It doesn't do much for Nigerian Dwarf public relations when an audience views animals having to be physically restrained in order for a judge to check certain things.

You've done it all over the years, show, LA, milk testing. How do you think it influenced your breeding program?

All of those things have certainly affected my breeding program in a



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positive way.

Showing, if you watch, listen, and learn, can teach you a lot about goat conformation, what your goats lack or excel in, what other goats lack or excel in, and simply how to recognize desirable traits or undesirable traits. That said, judges' opinions and comments have to be taken with a proverbial dose of salt. I would never cull an animal, nor place an animal on a pedestal, based on the comments of one judge.

I would make similar comments regarding LA. The main difference in LA and the show ring is that your animal is being compared with the ideal rather than compared to the competition in the ring on that particular day.

Milk testing adds a whole new facet to goat keeping and breeding. Whether you are on official test, or just keeping barn records, production data will almost certainly influence your breeding program. And as I stated earlier, recognizing and rewarding true dairy qualities (or penalizing the lack of said qualities) in an animal will also greatly influence your breeding program.

What is the most important piece of advice you can give to other Nigerian goat breeders?

First and foremost, learn what a quality goat consists of. Use that knowledge to put together the right genetic combinations in your herd in

order to make improvements.

If you have any more advice to add we'd love to have it! Marketing, management, any and all of it.

1. Be kind to each other. Treat others as you would have them treat you. Mind your own business. Don't gossip about things you do not have factual evidence of. Let he who is without sin cast the first stone. (sorry, but you asked and I'm telling you)

2. Be honest with your buyers. Offer accurate information about the stock you are selling. And please don't sell bucks as breeding animals if you would not use them in your own breeding program.

One philosophy that I have always used with any species of animal I have bred over the years (of which there have been many), is to use the "Rule of Thirds". I learned this 30 years ago from a long time dairyman. He taught me to divide your herd into 3 parts....a top third, a middle third, and a bottom third. When you start this program initially, the bottom third has no use to you....SELL THEM. Then divide the herd again into thirds. The bottom third of your herd is always for sale, maybe not actually advertised for sale, but for sale if someone inquires about a purchase. You never keep or purchase an animal unless you can honestly

justify adding that animal into the top third of your herd. That philosophy has worked for me with Nubians, Pygmies, Lamanchas, and Nigerians. It also worked in my breeding programs with other animals. It's a centuries old philosophy that will work and will yield results.



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It's Kiddn' Time, a few helpful hints...

By Ellen Dorsey, *Dill's-A Little Goat Farm*

Helpful Hints for Kidding Time

I've had lots of people ask questions about kidding out their does. These are some of the things we've learned through experience. Hope you find it helpful.

The secret to live birth kids is BEING there, making sure they get cleaned off, the lungs are clear, and they get their colostrum. Lots of full term kids are lost because no one is there to ensure they get the care they need, how much more those that are a little weak. We bottle raise everything here, however even those who choose to dam raise should be alert and monitor their does just in case.

You should have some sort of monitoring system. We use a Playschool baby monitoring system so I can hear what's up out there. Lots of folks are using barn cameras nowadays. My barn is too far for most electronics to work well, so I tend to do a lot of trudging back and forth through out the night...and I've been known to set up a cot and just stay with the girls.

You need to learn to read the tail ligaments. That will tell you without a doubt when and if that doe is ready to kid. They get soft and spongy in their back end around the tail head. It's the best and most accurate way, aside from heavy labor...that the doe is about to

have babies soon. One of the hardest things for me is explaining where those ligaments are. After so many years, I can find those ligaments or lack thereof with my fingers, however a good method for those who are new is this; flatten out your hands, place them on the flat of the rump one on each side of the tail. Push them together under the tail head...if your hands are touching, your doe is very close. You should see kids in 12 to 24 hours.

A few more "signs" that labor is imminent...

Has the udder bloomed? Meaning gotten rather large, fully extended, rather stiff and firm? Is she waxing? Meaning does she have milk leakage--nothing serious now, but just a little filmy stuff on the ends of her teats. Have her sides dropped? Most of the time, the babies are carried rather high along the back bone. When the doe is a couple of days out...babies will drop, so there looks to be a hollow space on either side of the spine.

Signs of her back end softening....The flesh sort of falls away from the tail head. The tail is held crooked, looking very much like it's going to fall off the goat. Her vaginal area is swollen and protruding. She pees more than normal, and poops more than normal. These things begin a few days before the ligaments "fall out". All because everything is softening up

back there, getting ready for delivery.

I always recommend that if at all possible, get to know your breeder and other goat people around you. There is a VAST amount of knowledge out there, and folks are usually more than willing to share.

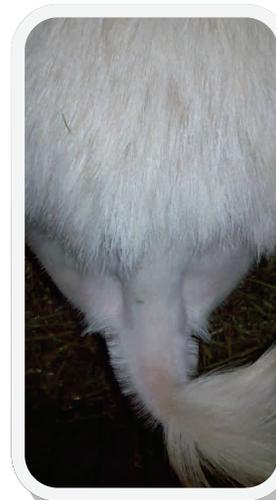
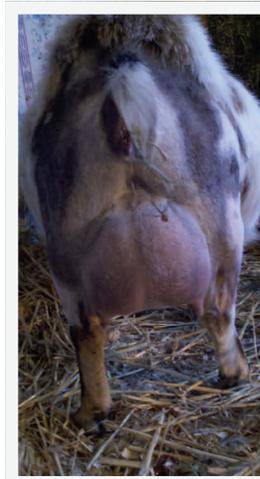
Birthing Supply List

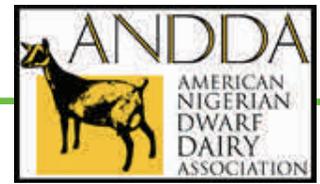
Regardless of whether or not you dam raise your babies, there are times when you'll need to step in and assist, so

it's a good idea to have all the supplies on hand and ready. I like to keep on hand the following items; Lots of freshly washed towels for drying off babies. A bulb syringe or as I call it "a nose sucker"...that ball syringe that is used to suck junk out of mouths and noses. *Lots of clean towels.* Stainless steel scissors for clipping umbilical cords. *Lots of clean towels.* Dental floss for tying off cords, and 7% iodine for dipping cords. *Lots of clean towels.* Surgical gloves and lubricating jelly in case you have to go

inside the doe. As an "old dog" I learned a new trick last year...get some of those plastic sleeves used by vets for cows.

You'd be amazed at how much further you can get into your doe with one of those for the extra "slippage" they give you. *Lots of clean towels.* Karo syrup to jump start a weak kid. Worn out moms appreciate a goodly dose of Karo syrup as well! *Did I mention clean towels?* I use towels to clean the kids, I use towels to give myself additional grip on slippery legs when pulling kids. I use towels to lay newborns





on though empty feed sacks work great too! I use towels to wipe my does after an especially messy kidding. Your laundry chores will quadruple, but towels are washable, reusable and a very good thing to have during kidding season!

JUST IN CASE, you should have a bottle or two as well as some colostrum on hand. If you have babies in the



middle of the night, nothing will be open in order to get those items. There are times when mom's milk doesn't come down right away! If that should happen there is nothing there to feed babies for several hours! If you can get powdered kid colostrum, do so. It's easy to store, and will keep a LONG time if you store it in your freezer. IF you can't get goat...get cow. I have a packet of colostrum on hand...cost about 10 dollars. I keep bottles of pasteurized colostrum in my freezer.

Assisting Weak Newborns

Some years ago, my vet told me one of the most valuable techniques I could learn would be tubing newborns. So, I'm passing that advice on to you! I'm going to give you directions, however if you have to learn by seeing, ask a fellow breeder or your local vet to teach you. In the meantime, here's what we have on hand...and what we do to help the weaker kids along;

- Feeding tube kit
- Colostrum
- mineral oil or vegetable oil
- Heating pad (necessary!)
- Karo Syrup
- Oral syringes
- Vitamin B12
- thiamine

tiny diabetic syringes
Baby comes into the house! Wrap it well in the warmed heating pad. Give it 1 cc of karo syrup orally. (Give it every 10 minutes for 1 hour.) Prepare your tubing kit by making sure it is CLEAN! dip the tube in mineral oil, or in a pinch use vegetable oil. Warm 2 ounces of colostrum. Thread the tube in the kid...you'll be shaking like a leaf, but you CAN do it. Put your ear to the funnel

and listen for breathing noises. Blow into it gently and listen...if you're in the stomach you'll hear slight gurgle noises. Once you're sure of your position, pinch off the tube, pour the colostrum into the funnel. slowly allow the colostrum to trickle into the tube and into the kid. The kid will jerk slightly...it's normal.

Don't panic. Complete the tubing process by allowing the colostrum to drip into the stomach. Pinch off tube and remove. Often there is liquid left in the tube and you don't want to accidentally choke the kid with the fluid while removing the lifesaving tube! Continue with the karo...this is a sugar shot to the brain which helps the kid pop out of it's comatose type state, or just weakened state. Check kids temp...mouth with your finger and check it's rectal temp with thermometer. You want to pull it up to about 102.5...as quickly as possible with your heating pad. In an emergency, do not be afraid to use a sink full of HOT water. You have to get the kid's temp up, and this will do it quickly.

Once kid has had it's colostrum, we give it B12 to help give it a boost and thiamine to prevent polio-encephalomyelitis. We continue with the karo, reducing dosages to every 20 to 30 minutes for the next few hours...the kid will get soft stool...but soft poop is WAY better than a dead kid! Once you have kid revived, put it in a laundry basket

lined with soft bedding and the heating pad. I like to tent them in with a flannel cover to ensure it's staying warm. Check it frequently to make sure you don't get it too hot (been there done that!).

We pulled a comatose baby with no heart beat through one year for a friend using this method. The first thing with this particular kid though was give her mouth to mouth and shake her really well to get a heartbeat and get the lungs going. Once I had a heartbeat again, we moved forward with the warming/feeding process. This particular kid was 12 hours old, but had gotten chilled and probably hadn't gotten much colostrum at birth. We worked with her for several hours before I put her in her laundry basket 'nest' to finish cooking. I got this particular kid too hot during the reviving process and caused her to convulse some, which scared the bejeebers out of me! When recounting it to my vet, she laughed! Lesson learned! We're more careful with our temp checks!

Some of you will never face this situation, some will face it once or twice in your goat breeding life while others who have lots of kids per year will face it once or twice a kidding season. We go to monumental efforts to ensure our kids survive, leaving nothing to "mother nature." She has a tendency to be a hateful old witch sometimes! I so hope this helps some of you out.

Good luck this kidding season folks!



The Birthing Process (Thanks to Miracle the Goat)...

By Ashley, *Phoenix Rising Farm*



1. Miracle laying down and starting to push. Notice her tail is arched from a contraction.



2. Bubble is starting to appear.



3. Standing up to adjust babies.



4. The Hooves appear. There is a bubble in a bubble since her water bubble didn't break. Most times the water and the bubble around the kid will break.



5. More of the hooves.



6. More hoof and you can just make out the other hoof tip on the left.



7. Both hooves now.



8. We have a nose!



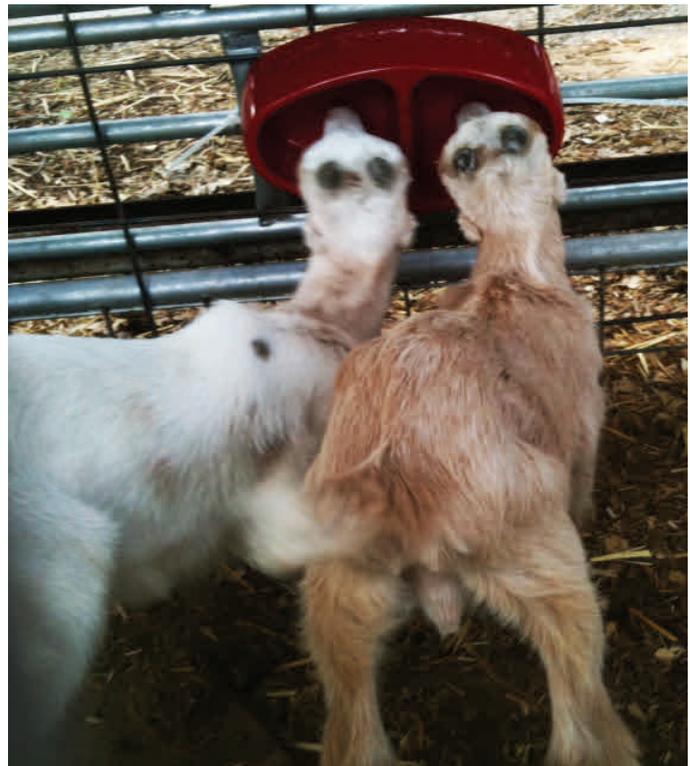
Things were going slow so I turned the camera off and moved into position in case I needed to pull. Miracle took care of things and pushed a healthy baby boy out. The sack was thick so I had to rip it open so the kid could breath. He also took in some gunk into his lungs so I had to take him and sling him a bit to get the fluid out. Mom and baby are doing great. She had another boy about 10 minutes after this one. I didn't get any pictures of him being born since they seem to go fast once the first one is out.

Lambar Feeding with Pam @ Agape Oaks...

By Pam, [Agape Oaks](#)

Our kids are pulled at birth & started on a bottle with a lambar nipple on a soft drink bottle,. Usually within a few days the younger kids have learned the lambar from watching the older kids. I made some great lambars last year that I attach outside my fence for easy filling without being mauled by rambunctious kids :).Buy the lambar nipples & the tubing (you can buy the tubing at home depot- I just took some from a purchased lambar & matched the size), buy plastic canisters- the half gallon size work well for me & the divided dog food dishes. Use a 5/8 inch drill attachment (not sure what it's called) to drill a hole in the center of each half of

the dog food dish. Use a drill bit to drill 2 holes in the lid of the canister & on each side of the dog food dish. Use zip ties to attach the dog food dishes to your fence at a good level for the kids to reach.....what's nice is they can be raised as the kids grow. The lambar nipple is pushed thru the center hole in the dish, with tubing running thru the hole in the canister to the milk. With several of these set up, kids can all find a spot with not as much pushing & shoving. It's easy to refill the canisters as needed.



By Land or by Air— Shipping Your Goats...

By Shelene Costello, *Promessa Dairy Goats*

Those of us who have been into goats for very long (and even fanciers of other species) are going to come up against the need to bring in animals from around the country, or ship our own, out to buyers around the country.

There are differing ways to get our animals to and from distant lands, from driving out and picking them up, having them shipped over land with a commercial hauler, flying them in on commercial planes and more.

I began flying goats early in my dairy goat breeding. I had been in goats for less than 2 years, when my mentor handed me a sale bill from another state and said if you really want to improve your stock, you should get a buck from these breeders. I drooled over the spectacular animals in this sales brochure (I love paper sales brochures, I can spend hours reading and rereading it and studying pictures). Finally I called them up and asked to put a deposit on a buckling for the following spring. I asked their advice as to what in their lines would possibly work with what I had in my herd. We spent several phone calls discussing animals and desires and I made my choices. I sent off a deposit and was notified when they had a good prospect out of the lines I wanted.

For a baby animal flying seems to be the best way to go. It's fast, so less stress involved and by being so small they easily fit in small crates to ship. My little fella was flown from the PNW to the

middle of the country in less than 12 hours. His breeders gave him a bottle before he left and he had hay to nibble on in his crate. When he arrived I had a bottle warm and ready for him. The transition was pretty smooth.

Since then I've shipped quite a few goats to and from my farm with the airlines. Most airlines are conscientious about the animals in their care. I've had better luck with the airline personnel



with some than others, but that is how it is in every adventure.

One of my experiences was a bit more worrisome, though it turned out all right in the end. I had ordered a pair of doe kids; they were shipped out of CA, had a transfer in TX and were supposed to fly to Omaha. I was already in Omaha trying to be prepared for an early arrival, when the airline called and told me that my kids were mis-delivered to Dallas, and the kids on the flight to Omaha were not mine. They stopped the plane before it took off and

removed the kids to send them to 😊 Dallas instead. Apparently the

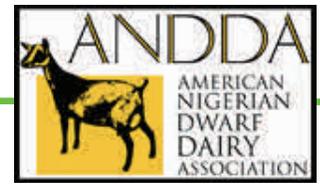
two crates were mixed up, and when the other buyers opened the crate, the doe kid colors did NOT match their descriptions. They fed my kids the bottles they had brought for their kids and the airlines had a vet on call who kept my kids overnight, cleaned their crate, fed them in the AM before shipping them to me the next day. I was so grateful that my does' breeder was experienced in shipping and had taped

to the top of the crate, nipples for pop bottles and a package of electrolytes, so that if something happened, the kids could be kept hydrated. My two kids arrived the following night in good condition and never showed any effects from the delay. I was told the other kids were the fine as well. This is why I always recommend that feed and instructions for feeding are taped to the top of the crate when shipping.

Having the nipples handy and a package of electrolytes made sure that my kids had something in their bellies that could carry them over.

As long as the animal and crate (including bedding) weigh less than 70lbs it's relatively cost effective to ship a young goat. Prices vary each year and with each airline.

A crate that is airline approved can be bought on the shipper's end cheaper than shipping in a crate from the buyer in many cases. Add some absorbent bedding like woodchips covered with straw or hay, make sure the two bowls and the labels are on and it's ready to go.



It is sometimes possible and preferable I think, to ship more than one kid in a crate. If I can, I will order two kids so that the transition is a bit easier for a herd animal to have companionship of its own kind when traveling. Not only do they have the companionship while traveling but mixing in a new herd is easier when they have a companion along to not feel so out of place in the new home.

Once you pass the 70lb weight, though, it gets more expensive to air ship.

This is when ground shipping whether by commercial carrier or by someone willing to haul animals on a trip they are making can really come in handy.

We shipped a full grown, full size buck in rutt from WA state to NE this way. The carrier met the seller on his route, loaded the buck in his trailer (compartmentalized) and began his trip our way. There were several stops along the way to pick up and deliver animals and it took 3-4 days to arrive here. My husband met the driver at a truck stop, off the interstate to pick up our guy. He arrived in passable condition considering he'd been in a small compartment for several days without a chance to exercise. He'd been fed and watered several times a day. And it was no more than it cost to ship a small kid on the airlines at the time.

Many times if the timing and route works out, someone who is making a trip can be talked into hauling animals for others, or maybe they offer if they have room for a share of the expenses of the trip. I've done this a couple of times bringing in animals from other

states. Knowing someone is making a trip that way and letting them haul can work out very well as long as the person traveling uses common sense and has an idea of how to care for animals. Every time I've had it done, my family members and friends who have hauled for me have taken the animals out for walks on leashes (yep, just like pottying dogs on a long trip, fed, watered and petted them and tried to reassure them that life will be ok once they reach their new home.

Even if your own family and friends can't haul for you, it is possible to put the word out (the internet is so great for this!) that you are looking for someone going in a certain direction at a certain time and see what can be found. It's the least reliable for actually finding someone to do it, as unlike the commercial shippers, people aren't always going to be going where we'd like, but when it works out, it can be the most cost effective way to ship since most won't charge as much as a commercial shipper will. Without the need to make money on a trip most will simply take a share of gas and other costs of the trip, making their own trips a bit cheaper on their own pocketbooks.

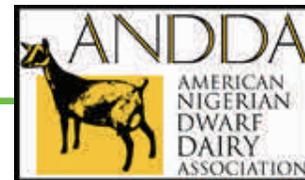
However, if something does go wrong, with a personal driver as opposed to a commercial shipper (land or air) there is typically no reimbursement for loss. It does help to discuss and maybe even write out expectations from both parties, the hauler and the owner of the animal(s).

All animals that are being transported across state lines must have a health certificate from a vet and some states require more intensive testing as

well. But the basic, is a simple health certificate. We are talking goats here, but other species that are shipped have that requirement and may have others as well. Typically my vet will call the other state and ask what they need to ship an animal in and we will do those tests. Keep in mind that the cost of other testing is usually paid by the buyer, unless specifically noted by the seller. It may vary as well by the states being crossed through when traveling by road.

If flying, it may be advisable to get a waiver for temperatures while shipping. Most airlines have temperatures they feel are safe and they are pretty mild. Most of my animals can tolerate temperatures lower than the airlines deem safe (for instance below freezing temps) and the vet can write out a certificate stating that the animal(s) in question can tolerate temps a bit lower than that. Higher temps however are seldom waived in my experience. If the animals are flying to an area that is pretty hot, they may need to fly at night or in the wee hours to be able to land not only at their destination but where ever they may have layovers.

With a bit of preparation animals can be shipped safely around the country quite easily to let us add new bloodlines into our breeding programs and let us improve our breeding stock more easily.



The Mastitis Problem

Grant M. Tomita and Steve P. Hart, E (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research,
Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma 73050
(reproduced with permission from Langston University)

Cause of Mastitis

Mastitis is defined as an inflammation of the mammary gland. The inflammation is the result of a localized immune response to an irritant within the gland. The irritant can be in the form of pathogens, toxins, or physical trauma. The goat mounts an immune response in an attempt to destroy or neutralize the irritant, and return the mammary gland to normal function.

Mastitis implies that an infectious agent is present in the mammary gland and is nearly always caused by bacteria. Bacteria invade the udder by entering the teat orifice, multiply and die within the gland, and in the process, produce and release toxins that cause injury to secretory tissue and stimulate an immune response. Besides bacteria, other pathogens such as yeast, Mycoplasmas, and algae can infect the mammary gland. Bacteria which infect the mammary gland are classified into two major categories, contagious or environmental pathogens. Mastitis caused by these pathogens is generally referred to as contagious mastitis or environmental mastitis.

Contagious pathogens are spread from an infected udder to a non-infected udder during the milking process. The source of bacteria is an infected udder. The most prevalent contagious pathogens associated with mastitis are *Streptococcus agalactiae* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. As the name implies, environmental pathogens that infect the mammary gland are present in the goats surroundings. The reservoirs

for these pathogens include feces, soil, and bedding. Transmission of pathogens from the environment to the udder mainly occurs between milking, but can also occur during milking.

Environmental pathogens commonly isolated from infected udders are coliform bacteria, *Streptococcus* species other than *Strep. agalactiae*, and *Staphylococcus* species other than *Staph. aureus*.

Pathogenesis, Detection, and Diagnosis of Mastitis however, during the course of mastitis, bacteria and secretory cells within the mammary gland produce various chemical messengers that enter the blood circulation within the udder. These chemical messengers attract a specialized type of somatic cell called neutrophils to the mammary gland.

Therefore, as a result of the intramammary bacterial infection, a tremendous amount of neutrophils is mobilized into the udder in order to combat the infection. The increase of this cell type within milk is the primary cause of increased milk somatic cell counts associated with mastitis.

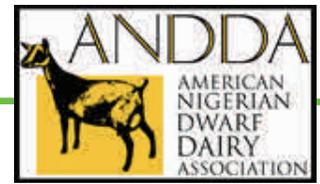
On the farm, mastitis is usually detected by the observance of abnormal milk. The udder producing this milk may become swollen, red, feverish, and hard. This condition is known as clinical mastitis and is observed in less than 5% of animals in a well-managed dairy herd. The non-observable form of mastitis, such as no visible abnormalities of either the milk or the udder, is known as subclinical mastitis. In excess of 50% of

animals in a herd can have subclinical mastitis at any given time. A sudden rise in milk somatic cell count observed in normal milk from normal udders may indicate the presence of subclinical mastitis. Animals which have subclinical mastitis are usually not producing milk to their full potential and can serve as a potential source of infection to healthy udders.

The best method to diagnose mastitis is to conduct a bacteriological analysis of milk samples from udder halves that were collected in a sterile manner. Milk samples should be taken from goats with clinical mastitis and goats that exhibit a substantial increase in somatic cell count. Bacterial pathogens isolated from milk samples can be accurately identified by the analysis. This allows for the determination of the source of infection, such as a contagious or environmental pathogen. The identification of the type of infective organism will help the producer make sound management decision to prevention and control mastitis.

Prevention of Mastitis

The success of a dairy is highly influenced by the prevention and control of mastitis. The dairy farmer must be conscience of the impact mastitis may have on public health issues, the economy of the farm, and the well being of the goat. Mastitis pathogens in milk pose a low threat to public health if the milk is pasteurized. However, the improper use of



The Mastitis Problem *continued...*

antibiotics to eliminate mastitis pathogens can become a public health concern. The careless application of antibiotic therapy against mastitis can lead to residues in milk and meat, the selection of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria, and the introduction of pathogens into the mammary gland by contaminated infusion cannula. The economics of the disease must also be of a concern to the dairy farmer. Mastitis is the most economically important disease in the bovine dairy industry. Estimated losses range from \$185.00 to 265.00 per cow per year. This places annual losses in excess of \$2 billion or about a 10% loss of total productive capacity. Generally, sources of economic loss include reduced milk production, animal replacement due to culling, discarded milk due to antibiotic treatment, cost of treatment, veterinary service, and extra labor cost to care for the animals. Although the effect of mastitis on the economy of the dairy goat industry has not been established, the trend of lost dollars due to this disease should closely parallel what is observed in the bovine dairy industry.

The key to disease prevention is to control exposure to pathogens. In the case of mastitis, a good control program must reduce the exposure of teat ends to bacteria. Contagious pathogens are transmitted to uninfected halves at milking time, therefore, teat preparation before milking is very important. Milk only clean, dry teats. Gloved hands that have been disinfected and dried between handling of goats will decrease the likelihood of spreading bacteria from an infected goat to a noninfected goat. Decreasing the exposure of teat ends to contagious pathogens following milking

can be accomplished by killing bacteria on teat skin with a post-milking teat dip. Also, maintaining healthy teat skin and teat ends are also important. Teat lesions have been shown to harbor bacteria, such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus* species, that can cause mastitis.

Exposure of teat ends to environmental pathogens is more difficult to control than contagious pathogens. Sources of infection include manure, bedding material, feedstuff, dust, dirt, mud, and water.

The bacteria load in those sources can increase significantly in situations where overcrowding, poor ventilation, and a damp environment exist, in other words, in situations where there is a general lack of cleanliness and poor sanitation. Therefore, reduced teat end exposure to environmental bacteria can be accomplished by providing goats with a clean and dry pasture or barn. As noted in the control of contagious pathogens, good milking time hygiene, such as milking clean and dry teats can control exposure to environmental pathogens. Pre-dipping teats before milking may also reduce the risk of infecting udder halves with environmental pathogens. In theory, utilization of a pre-milking teat sanitizer will eliminate bacteria from the teat skin before the milking units are attached and therefore, reduce the risk of infecting udder halves during the milking process.

Since the elimination of environmental pathogens from the goat's surrounding is impossible to accomplish, enhancement of the animal's immune response to infection

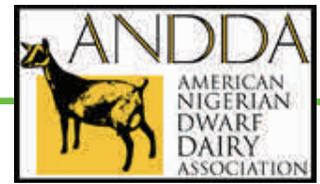
may be an alternative method of control. Immunization against coliform bacteria has been shown to be effective in reducing the number and severity of clinical coliform mastitis in dairy cows.

Other general practices to prevent contagious and environmental mastitis include the milking of infected animals last and preventing the animals from laying down after milking. This can be accomplished by feeding them immediately after milking to insure that they are standing for at least 30 minutes. This should allow enough time for the proper closure of the teat orifice.

Treatment of Mastitis

Perhaps the most commonly employed treatment of mastitis is to do nothing. This practice may be most common in cases of subclinical mastitis where the disease goes unnoticed. In most instances a spontaneous cure of the intra-mammary infection occurs, but at the expense of reduced milk production and possible permanent damage to milk secretory tissue in the mammary gland. Antibiotic therapy is usually prescribed when clinical symptoms of mastitis are presented. If detected early, antibiotic therapy is very effective in curing and controlling the spread of contagious pathogens. However, antibiotic therapy is not effective against environmental pathogens, especially coliform bacteria.

Culling is another method of control especially when dealing with chronically infected animals. This eliminates the potential source of infection at the expense of purchasing a replacement animal.



The Mastitis Problem *continued...*

Management of Mastitis

A sound herd health management program is needed to be successful in the control and prevention of mastitis. This would include the implementation of an udder health monitoring program such as the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) testing for milk somatic cell counts. In the bovine dairy industry, the milk somatic cell count serves as an excellent index to determine the status of mammary gland health. However, the milk somatic cell count of goat milk may not be a reliable indicator of mastitis. Research in dairy cows has shown a very high degree of association between increased somatic cell counts and intramammary bacterial infection. The milk somatic cell count of the uninfected mammary gland of cows ranges between 40,000 and 200,000 cells per milliliter of milk, and increases to more than a million cells during mastitis. However, in dairy goats, the milk somatic cell count in healthy, uninfected udder halves can vary between 50,000 and

more than 1,000,000 cells per milliliter of milk. This is especially noticeable at the beginning of lactation and near dry off. Therefore, the microbiological analysis of milk collected from suspect udder halves must be conducted to determine if an increase in milk somatic cell count is due to a bacterial infection. Once the cause and source of infection (contagious or environmental pathogens) are identified, treatment strategies such as antibiotic therapy or culling can be devised and management practices can be reviewed or modified in order to prevent the spread of infection. Other management practices that can be employed to effectively control mastitis are to evaluate milking practices and routines, evaluate the housing condition of animals, and provide adequate nutrition for each stage of lactation.

Summary and Conclusion

Mastitis is a very economically important disease to the dairy industry. There are established procedures and protocols for the prevention and control of mastitis, but those procedures and

protocols can only be effective if an udder health monitoring program is in place. The monitoring program will be successful if the farmer diligently manages the herd and maintains accurate records of individual animals.

There are six basic elements of an effective mastitis control program. They include: 1) proper milking procedures and milking machine function, 2) teat dipping after milking, 3) providing the goats a clean, comfortable, and dry environment between milking, 4) use antibiotic therapy at dry off to eliminate existing infection, 5) cull chronically infected goats to prevent the spread of infection, and 6) keep accurate production and health records of individual goats.

Goat Pregnancy Issues and Prevention



The overall nutrition and health of your does is the single most important factor in avoiding goat pregnancy issues and ensuring healthy kids. Make sure that you are providing high quality feed and maintaining a stress free environment. Poor nutrition, cold weather, or overcrowding can all lead to abortion. Below we discuss the most common goat pregnancy issues and how to prevent them, Ketosis, Selenium Deficiency, Milk Fever, and Entrotoxemia/Tetanus. For any of the following pregnancy issues, or any other issues, remember, an immune system boost can make the difference. Keep Bovi Sera on hand always!

Ketosis (Pregnancy Toxemia)

Ketosis occurs within the last few weeks of pregnancy. Common symptoms include loss of appetite, spastic motion, twitching ears and inability to stand. Labored breathing, coma and death can result. Provide a sufficient, balanced diet with no sudden or drastic changes, high quality hay and at least a half-pound of grain daily and at regular hours. Exercise is also essential to build strong bodies and good appetites. At the onset of any symptoms the Keto-Nia Drench or several pumps of Nutri-Drench daily can reverse the condition.

Supplies for prevention and treatment:

[Nutri Drench](#)

[Keto-Nia Drench](#)

[Econo Drench Syringe](#)

Selenium Deficiency

Selenium Deficiency symptoms include skin

disorders, white muscle -disease (a type of muscular dystrophy), lowered reproduction and conception rate, decreased milk production and milk quality. Soil deficient in selenium produces plants with the same condition which results in your does not having enough selenium.

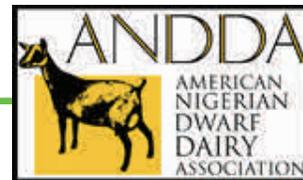
Our Golden Blend Minerals contain the correct selenium/vitamin E levels for most locales and is our recommended solution for this issue as well as many other mineral related problems. Customers are advised not to use any additional selenium/vitamin E supplementation. Consult a veterinarian who knows goats if you are still in doubt.

If necessary, administer injectable Vitamin E/selenium (you will have to get this from a vet) before breeding and 4 to 6 weeks prior to birthing. The adult goat dosage is 1 to 2 times that of - sheep and for normal size kids the minimum sheep dose is recommended. **WARNING:** Selenium can be toxic if over-dosed.

Supplies for Prevention:
[Golden Blend Minerals](#)

Milk Fever

Milk Fever is a blood calcium deficiency that occurs in does just before or after kidding. Milk Fever occurs when there is a sudden increase in requirement for calcium and the doe does not have access to the calcium required. The calcium is then pulled from the blood stream. If severe enough, symptoms of milk fever begin.



Goat Pregnancy Issues and Prevention

Continued....

True Milk Fever is fairly rare in goats but may occur in very high-producing animals. Normal labor and lactation in goats is typically accompanied by mild hypocalcemia (lower-than-normal calcium levels). If these levels become extreme, Milk Fever occurs.

Symptoms: Weakness in hind quarters, back feet dragging, constipation and inability to withstand normal labor.

Treatment: The most effective treatment is the administration of an IV calcium supplement but requires veterinary assistance because constant heart monitoring is necessary. There may also be other complications such as retained placenta, Entrotoxemia and mastitis. All these considerations should be addressed by a health care professional.

Prevention: Typically a twin bearing doe will need 8 grams of calcium and 4 grams of phosphorus per day during the last 30 days of pregnancy until just before kidding. Alfalfa is a great source of calcium and can provide calcium reserves required for labor and lactation. Avoid significant diet changes (or fasts) prior to kidding.

Supplies for Treatment:
You really need to call you local vet if you have a problem.

[Calcium Drench](#)

[Econo Drench Syringe](#)

Entrotoxemia & Tetanus:

By doing a 2 cc sub-Q injection of C&D/Tetanus Toxoid Vaccine 4 to 6 weeks prior to kidding, you will encourage the doe to build up antibodies against Entrotoxemia and Tetanus. These antibodies can be passed through the colostrum to the newborn kids providing them with a measure of protection prior to their own vaccination at 2 weeks.

If the doe has never been vaccinated, do a booster 2 weeks after the initial shot.

Supplies:

[C&D/Tetanus Toxoid Vaccine](#)

Learn. Work. Live. The Farmyard



Visit the Hoegger Farmyard for more information on goat health, home dairying, cheesemaking & more.
www.hoeggerfarmyard.com

Putting Our Best Face Forward...

By Shelene Costello, *Promessa Dairy Goats*

Kidding season is starting soon if not already here. Are plans in place for marketing those extra kids that will be born?

I work year round on marketing, even when I may have nothing for sale, I'm always planning for when the next available animal will be ready to be sold.

I do some advertising locally in papers, and such, but usually only when I have something available at that moment.

More important is the website, and getting my name and herd out in public to be noticed. I want people to think of me when they are looking for a new animal with the bloodlines and breeds that I have.

I spend time talking with people who are new to goats, who may be looking for goats, who have and show goats, or those who know people who are interested in them. I talk with those who have more time in goats as well, learning from them and sharing information.

I never know who I talk to, that may one day come back and be interested in getting a goat for whatever reason.

And when I am working with a particularly interesting breeding or animal, I want others to know and be able to share in it.

I spend lots of time looking at websites and sales brochures of other breeders, not only in my own breeds but in others as well. I never know what kinds of tidbits of information or ideas that may be sparked. Ok, I just love looking at gorgeous animals too! But I get ideas of what works for others, what may work for my herd as well, this way.

Also, there are many people out there who are beginning to think of moving out to the country and raising their own food. These people need a source of information and animals and someone to help them get started. I try to get my name out there so that when they start looking, they have a chance to run across me to supply their needs.

If I don't have what they are looking for, I'll see if I can recommend someone else I know who can, or help them find what they are looking for. Guess who they are going to recommend if they meet someone who is looking for what I have? Yep, me, the one who helped them

along.

I try to get my message out about being self-sufficient and animal welfare, the joys of goats as well. Never hurts to have a bit of good PR in this day and age.

I take my kids (yes the goat kids) out to the library in the spring when they are doing stories on farm animals. I have a driving goat and we are trying to hit a few parades and other town activities. Let people get to meet goats, see how great they really are, counteract some of the negative ideas of what goats are like.

I love to show, and at shows I get to not only showcase my herd, I get to meet many people who have similar interests. And yes, there may be potential buyers there too. Mostly I go to shows for the sheer fun, but hey, it never hurts to have secondary interests going on.

I try to put my animals out looking good and healthy and attractive. I want my best face forward in public.

I do have quite a few people come to visit the farm over the year. Some come to

buy, others just to look. And hey, the more young kids I can introduce to the joys of dairy goats, the better the whole industry will be in the long run.

We need supporters out and about even if they never own a dairy goat of their own.

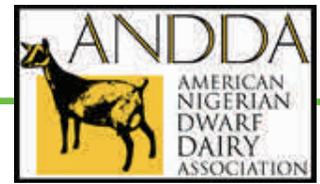
I spend time each year helping 4H and FFA kids. It may be judging county fairs. It may be showing kids how to clip and udder up their does. And yes, I spend as much time helping kids with meat goats as well. The better they can care for their animals the better it reflects on the whole goat industry.

These are just a few of my ideas and how I do things, not only to market my animals, but to show the best face of the goat industry that I can.



Director At Large

Ray Stauffer
Elmwood Acres, Manzanola, CO



ANDDA Members,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ray Stauffer and I am the Director at Large. I am 23 years old and breed Nigerian Dwarfs, Alpines, and more recently Saanens under the Elmwood herd name in the Arkansas river valley of South Eastern Colorado.

My start in goats came, much like many others that now call these lovable creatures friend, with my family's desire to produce our own fresh raw milk. In 2003 I bought my first goat, an Alpine, and joined a 4-H club in order to learn more about goats. I attended as many shows as I could as a spectator to learn more about dairy goats and

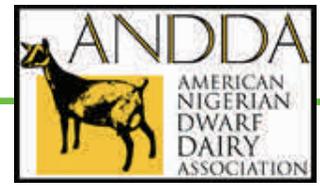
their management. In 2005 I showed at my first sanctioned show and have been hooked ever since. In 2006 I saw Nigerians at a local show and fell in love. I bought my first Nigerian shortly thereafter. Nigerians have since become my breed of focus. I hand milk all my does and raise the kids on a CAE prevention program. Milk production is very important to me in my breeding program. I started in goats with Alpines from top ten lines and became accustomed to their higher production. I have high expectations from my milkers, standard and Nigerian alike and strive for a high level of production in my breeding program.

appraised every year since 2008 and I am a certified DHI tester. In 2008 I participated in the youth activities and showmanship at the ADGA National Show. I was thrilled to be able to participate in Nigerian Dwarf history when I showed at the 2010 ADGA National Show in Louisville, KY. I just had to be a part of the inaugural Nigerian Dwarf show at the ADGA Nationals.

I would also like to take a moment to invite all of you to the 2012 ADGA National Show. This year the ADGA National Show will be held in Loveland Colorado at "The Ranch" complex. The Ranch is a beautiful state of the art facility. We are anticipating one of the largest attendances at an ADGA National Show in the past several years and hope that you can join us! I look forward to meeting many of you this year both at local shows as well as the ADGA National Show. Remember to "Follow you heart to Loveland Colorado!"

In 2007 I attended the ADGA National Convention where I took a class in AI and have used AI in my herd as well as others quite successfully. My herd has been





Western Director Corner

Diane Fay
Beards & Tales Farm, Emporia, Kansas

Happy New Years! Yep a little late but wanted to wish you all a great year.

By the time you are reading this many of you will be knee deep in kids and hope you are getting what you dreamed of when you were doing your breeding's this last fall. And hoping you are seeing some awesome udders on your girls.

I want to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me. I am a RN by profession who has been placed on disabled list, due to health issues. Mother of two grown boys, Brandon and Trenton, and now a wonderful Daughter-in-law Tiffany who is married to Trenton. I have all ways had some kind of animals around, beef cattle in 4-H and English Angora rabbits with my boys when they were in 4-H. Simmental cows with Brandon and then our wonderful Nigerian Dwarf goats. Can not forget the dogs and cats either, and my bantam chickens. We live in very small town that has less than 30 folks and we have 40 acres.

We have had the goats for 5 years and I researched goats for 3 years before buying any. Yes I most likely researched a bit too

much but wanted to know what to expect. We do attend as many shows as I can afford and have a great time. We are breeding for structural balance, as close to the breed standard as I can get. Brandon does the kidding selections for most part but I do have a bit to say about it. I mostly am the money person he is the show person. He talks to everyone and asks all the questions and then tells me what I need to know. I love looking at other goats on Facebook and personal websites but really like to see them in person. I do the milking as the milk girls just do not like Brandon to milk. He does not spoil them like I do. I want to do some one day milk test this year and some day soon I would love to do LA but it is only as finances are available. My favorite is the bucks I just love them to death. And NO they do not stink.

This last year I learned way more than I wanted to at the expense of my herd. Needless to say be careful with treating for deficiencies as you may not have any and may find yourself faced with some very unhappy consequences. Don't forget to cultivate your mentors and the more experienced breeders so that when you are

needing advice you have quality folks to call and ask for help. And most of all don't forget to say thank you even if what they tell you is not what you want to hear.

We are members of AGS, ADGA and NDGA. I am a volunteer for ADGA on the membership and breed standard committee. I have to tell you I have been learning a lot on the breed standard committee. I also do the Specialty shows for ANDDA. I have been Western Director for ANDDA for last 2 years and have loved it.

Some of you are aware that I have an embroidery machine and make goat items for raffles and sell some. Most of the stuff I make to sell is one of kind items so that is pretty fun.

I look forward to meeting more of you and hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Diane



Eastern Director Corner

No spring report...

Somatic Cells In Goat Milk...

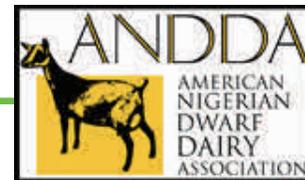
E. N. Escobar

E (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research

<http://www.luresext.edu/goats/library/field/escobar99a.pdf>

Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma 73050

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Background and Introduction

Dairy goat producers have been deliberating about milk somatic cell counts (SCC) because it is a complex and confusing issue. However understanding the relationships among SCC, dairy goat health and the economic survival of the dairy goat farm are of paramount importance for the goat producer. Somatic cell counts have legal, goat health, milk quality and productivity implications and each is important.

To understand the origin, physiological function and importance of somatic cells in dairy goat production, let's consider several basic biological concepts. First, the ACell Theory@, provides three fundamental principles:

_ all organisms are made of one or more cells

_ the cell is the basic unit of organization

_ all cells come from preexisting cells

Secondly, there are at least four Cell Types:

_ Prokaryotes - cells that have no nucleus. The term *prokaryote* comes from Greek words that mean "before, or pre-, nucleus."

_ Eukaryotes - cells that have a true nucleus.

_ Somatic cells - cells that make up the body [from Greek soma = body]

_ Gametes - sex cells or reproductive cells like eggs and sperms.

The type of cells concerning this workshop is somatic cells.

What Are Somatic Cells?

The cells called somatic cells are white blood cells (leukocytes) and are the defense against bacteria that penetrate the physical barrier of the udder's teat canal. Infecting bacteria causing clinical or subclinical mastitis (Greek: mastos, breast; -itis, inflammation) produce tissue harm and leukocytes are involved in repairing the damage and destroying bacteria. Somatic cells are equipped with a variety of tools to accomplish these functions. These somatic cells are constantly circulating in the blood stream and when infection or udder damage occurs, the body then sends high numbers of them to the injured or infected site. Leukocyte (somatic cells) numbers increase markedly in response to invading pathogenic bacteria, and may reach concentrations of millions per milliliter (ml) in acute mastitis cases. Therefore, high somatic cell counts may signal a mammary gland infection (mastitis).

How Is Milk Produced?

Goat milk is produced in the udder, which contains two mammary glands. Mammary glands are considered skin glands made-up of connective tissue (fatty and fibrous) and secretory tissue

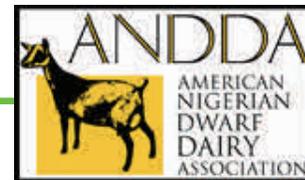
(epithelium, which is a membranous tissue covering the inside walls of the gland). Each mammary gland has a gland cistern (also called udder cistern) which opens directly into the teat cistern and functions for milk storage. Each gland is divided into numerous lobes; each lobe made up of many lobules. Each lobule contains up to 200 alveoli. The alveolus (Latin: small sac; plural: alveoli) is the functional unit and it is a tiny capillary-rich sac where milk is synthesized and released. Capillaries bring the milk building blocks to alveoli cells for milk assembling. The alveoli cells are secretory epithelial cells and myoepithelial cells (Greek: mous, mus, muscle) which contract in response to oxytocin, causing milk letdown.

It is important to mention that milk secretion in goats is different to that of cows. Milk secretion in the goat is apocrine, compared to merocrine in cows (see picture 1). Apocrine secretion results in the shedding of nucleated and non-nucleated cytoplasmic particles into milk. Nucleated particles will be included in the total cell count.

What Is a Somatic Cell Count (SCC) and Why Is It important?

As explained, leukocytes (somatic cells) migrate into the mammary tissue to provide the first immunological line of defense against bacteria that penetrate the physical barrier of the teat canal. One generally accepted conclusion is that the concentration of somatic cells, in the milk, is directly related to the infection status of the

Somatic Cells in Goat Milk *continued...*



udder. All other possible factors are of lesser consequence. Stated another way, if the somatic cell count is high the doe or cow has mastitis or inflammation of the mammary gland. No other factor(s) influences the milk somatic cell count to the degree that bacterial infections do. Inflammation can and does result in the loss of function characterized in mastitis by lowered milk production. Inflammation is a reaction to tissue injury (change in composition) due to the doe/cow's immune response. Therefore, in the day to day management of the dairy, infection status of the herd can be monitored effectively by monitoring the SCC of bulk tank milk or individual doe or cow samples. Also there are crucial legal aspects related to the SSC. Each producer must be acquainted with the requirements of the governmental agency (State Department of Agriculture or Public Health Department) under whose authority he or she operates. Regulatory agencies generally operate on the basis that milk is milk, whether obtained from a dairy cow or a dairy goat. Thus, the goat milk producers are expected to meet the same requirements as the cow dairy.

To obtain a SCC, a dairy producer takes a milk sample (from an individual doe or cow, or from the bulk tank) and sends the sample to a laboratory for analysis. Direct microscopic cell count or electronic somatic cell counting can do the SCC. In the first method the sample is smeared on a glass slide, stained and the stained cells are identified and counted. Electronic methods include Coulter Counter and

Fossomatic Cell Counter.

Normal goat milk has a higher cell count than normal milk from cows. This has long been a concern of goat owners because of regulatory standards and marketing problems. Current Grade standards require that milk contains no more than 1,000,000 somatic cells/ml. The SCC limit was lowered to 750,000/ml for cow milk in 1993 and there are proposals for a reduction to 450,000 somatic cells/ml. Despite this reduction for cow milk, regulatory standards for goat milk remain at 1,000,000/ml for now. This is because SCC in goat milk may easily approach 750,000/ml and still be wholesome milk secreted by a healthy udder. Extension specialists and researchers at the E. (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research, Langston, OK, conducted several studies showing that measuring SSC in goat milk is not the best indicator of udder health that SCC is for cows.

The higher cell count of goat milk is in part caused by an increase in rate of sloughing of these epithelial cells and the presence of cytoplasmic masses which occur as a consequence of the apocrine secretory process. Electronic cell counters cannot accurately differentiate between epithelial cells, cytoplasmic mass, or white blood cells. Consequently, when epithelial cells and/or cytoplasmic mass are present in high concentrations, cell counts may be artificially elevated if enumerated by electronic cell counters. This results in diagnostic difficulty and circumstances where normal milk would be inappropriately labeled unfit for sale. Only those counting methods that are

specific for deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) can distinguish cell-like particles from somatic cells and thereby give reliable estimates of somatic cell numbers in goat milk. Unlike in milk from dairy cows, the somatic cell count in goat milk is influenced by the presence of nucleated cytoplasmic particles, stage of lactation, parity, and caprine arthritisencephalitis (CAE). The approved direct microscopic method for SCC in goat milk is the pyronin y-methyl green, which stains the cell DNA. Also, studies conducted at the E. (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research, Langston, OK, have shown that a 27% reduction in SSC is obtained if the Fossomatic electronic cell counter is calibrated with goat milk standards instead that using cow milk standards. However, in many other respects regulation of bovine and caprine lactation seems to be quite similar.

Many dairy goat producers estimate SCC on goat milk and screen for possible mastitis using the California Mastitis Test (CMT). The CMT reagent reacts with genetic material of somatic cells present in milk to form a gel and compare the results with the information in Table 1 to identify potential sick animals early. The CMT detects gel formation when DNA in somatic cells reacts with a detergent. The reaction occurs on a paddle (CMT) and is graded subjectively (negative, trace, 1,2,3). For reliable results, tests should be conducted just before milking after stimulating milk down and discarding the foremilk.

Somatic Cells in Goat Milk *continued...*

TABLE 1.- Interpretation of California Mastitis Test scores in goat milk

CMT Score	Description of Reaction Between CMT Reagent and milk	Estimated number of white blood cells per ml
0	No reaction	Below 200,000
Trace	Slight slime, tends to disappear with continued swirling	150,000 to 500,000
1	Distinct slime but without gel	400,000 to 1,500,000
2	Immediate gel formation; moves as a mass during swirling	800,000 to 5,000,000
3	Gel develops a convex surface and adheres to the bottom of the cup	Over 5,000,000

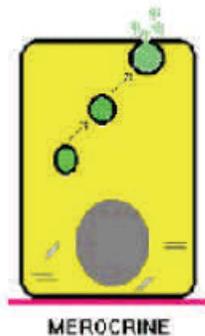
Picture 1.- Milk secretion differences between goats and cows

(Adapted from <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/histo/BasicTissue/Gland.Epith.Top.html>)



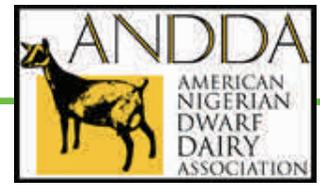
APOCRINE MILK SECRETION (Goats, humans)

Milk secretions in the high point of the cell and a portion of the cell itself (including the plasma membrane) is pinched off for secretion. Some cytoplasm may be discharged with the secretion (represented by black dots).



MEROCRINE MILK SECRETION (Cow)

Secretory milk minute droplets form in the cells and accumulate in the high point. The droplets fuse with the uppermost plasma membrane and are secreted into the lumen of the gland by a cellular process called exocytosis (Greek: *exo*, outside of; *cyto*, cell).



New Show Rules for ADGA...

Basically, there were shows out there who for years have changed the order of the show to keep their show moving. They sited a gray area in the Guidebook which caused some confusion. This new rules makes it a little less gray. What this means is you have two options for your show order. The first is that the show order is written in stone and cannot be changed. This works fine for a one ring show. The second is that the show order can be changed if needed to help the show keep moving. Like for instance if one judge is slower than the other, you can skip over a breed and keep moving.

This is what is in the new show packet and your show must have one or the other in the rules;

PLEASE NOTE!

NEW 2012 RULE PERTAINING TO THE ORDER OF THE SHOW

The order of the show may be established by one of the following methods.

1. Clearly stating the order of the show in the show's rules submitted to ADGA for sanctioning. When multiple sanctions are offered, a complete schedule of judging order for each sanction must be provided. After sanctioning, the order of the show shall not be changed under any circumstances. When sanctioning a show using this option, the rules must clearly state "The order of the show is not subject to change" OR
2. Clearly stating in the show's rules submitted to ADGA for sanctioning, the breed divisions which will be sanctioned, the intended order of the show for all sanctions, and the conditions

under which the order of the show may be changed. When sanctioning a show using this option, the rules must clearly state "The order of the show is subject to change." The show rules MUST include one of the following statements:

"THE ORDER OF THE SHOW IS NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE"

OR

"THE ORDER OF THE SHOW IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE".

.....

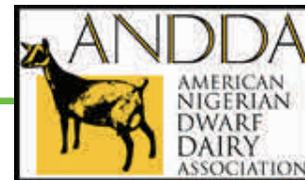
NEW 2012 RULE PERTAINING TO SHOWING ANIMALS IN CHAMPION CHALLENGE CLASS

The prefix CH, GCH, or SGCH as affixed by ADGA must be on the animal's registration/recordation certificate, OR presentation of the notification letter, issued by ADGA, in conjunction with the original registration/recordation certificate. THE LETTER IS VALID FOR USE UNTIL DECEMBER 31 OF THE YEAR

OF ISSUANCE, after which the certificate of registration/recordation must be officially updated.

If no one in your group has ever filled out the sanction or written rules, I suggest they download the Pre-Show kit at http://adga.org/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=89&func=fileinfo&id=73. You will have to log in as a member to the ADGA website first for this link to work.





Cool Weather Grooming...

Sue Rucker, *Buttin' Heads*, reproduced with permission of Tom Rucker

Let us show; let us show; let us show!

You know the story: the weather outside is frightful, but you've got someplace to go - the first goat show of the year. You're certain your goats could do well, IF the judge could find them under that thick winter coat. Unfortunately, instead seeing of the sleek, elegant creatures you admire in the summer, you survey a herd of fuzz balls with legs. What to do?

Taking an unkempt, dirty goat into the show ring is an insult to the breed and the judge. Doing nothing is NOT a viable option.

However, there are a couple of things to remember:

1. No win is worth a dead goat.
2. You don't have to body clip your goat to win.

While it is true that nothing else shows off well-blended lines, fine skin and flat ribbing as well as body clipping, the hair is there for a reason. Without it in cold weather, you're risking a sick goat, or worse. You could make a goat coat for warmth when not showing, but the well-dressed goat is frowned upon in the show ring. With the coat removed, the shivering, cow-hocked micro-camel which faces the morning shadows and the chill, misty wind will challenge the most skilled judge's imagination.

In warmer regions, body clipping with a plucking blade, "F" blade, or a snap-on comb over a regular blade can be a good choice. The goat has some protection from the weather, depending on the length of hair remaining, while

showing clean lines. For the northern U.S., the shorter blades, which do a neater job, may not leave enough hair. The longer blades or combs tend to give a "groomed with a weed-whacker" look.

What happens in the northern regions? For the Southeastern Ohio Dairy Goat Association ADGA and AGS Dwarf show, the show rules prominently state, "Please Note: Due to the unpredictable Ohio weather, and with the judge's approval, the goats DO NOT need to be body clipped. A dairy trim is fine.*** We would rather see hairy goats than sick goats ***"

In Ohio, the first weekend of May 1997 was colder and more miserable than most of the winter of 1997-1998 through February. So those who took the warning to heart were wise.

But what is a dairy trim? In its simplest form it refers to removing the hair that would tend to hold dirt or waste and contaminate milk: shaving the udder (or that area on junior does), shortening hair on the belly, flanks, escutcheon, thighs and tail. The result may make milking more sanitary, but once again you have a rather unattractive look, this time of the "haircut with a soup bowl" variety.

What's left? When in doubt, look to the rest of the world. I had often heard that dairy goats in other countries were shown naturally. In pictures the goats look so neat; certainly more grooming than a good bath and brushing had taken place. To confirm my suspicions I posted a question on foreign grooming practices to the Goats List. Glenda Plog of Glenjoy Park Pastoral Company, a Nubian breeder in Kholo, Queensland,

Australia, responded with a description which closely matched what we do for early shows.

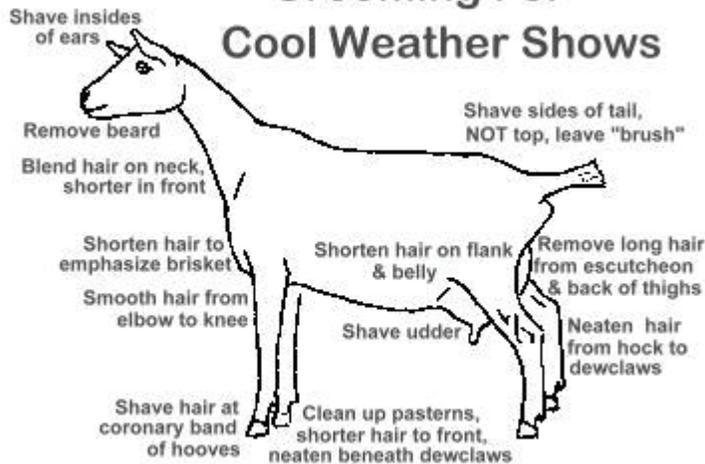
It is always best to start with a clean goat; clipper blades and scissors last much longer when not dulled with dirt and grit. Much of the dirt can be removed when brushing. I prefer a dog slicker brush (beware cheap models, the wire teeth can damage delicate goat skin). The slicker is very good at removing the excess soft, downy undercoat (cashmere, to you sweater lovers) which gives the goats much of their winter puffball look. If you luck into a warm, sunny day, the goat should be bathed. If weather makes bathing impossible, you can put a couple drops of livestock shampoo or mild dish washing liquid in a spray bottle of water. Mist the goat lightly, then towel dry. Repeat until the towel shows no dirt. Now you are ready to trim.

A small clipper, such as the Oster A-5 or Wahl Stable Pro works better than the larger livestock clipper here. Other helpful tools are straight scissors, barber thinning shears, and a metal dog comb. Except for shaving the udder, sides of tail, around the hooves and inside the ears where the clipper will be used flat against the skin and against the grain, forget the "proper" way to use the clippers. Turn the clippers on and hold them with the blade pointing at the goat and with the grain of the hair. With a gentle touch, skim the surface and "comb" off the excess hair.

While the actual order of areas clipped is a matter of personal preference, we'll follow the grooming chart from top to bottom and left to right:

Continued....

Grooming For Cool Weather Shows



•Shave insides of ears. In case you win, you want the judge to be able to see the tattoos. Check for yourself before you get to the show to be sure they are legible and match the registration certificate.

•Remove beard. (On does, that is; buck beards are usually left intact.) A doe beard takes away from that clean, dairy look.

•Blend hair on neck, shorter in front. A long, lean neck is part of dairy character. Starting under the throat to point of shoulder, clip with the grain as described above. Continue parallel columns, using decreased pressure each time to smoothly blend the hair as you work toward the back of the neck. The amount of hair on the neck will determine what you remove. Remember, you want the results to look smooth and clean. Glenda Plog mentions that her Nubians grow a fairly long crest on the back of the neck, so she clips that. Our does don't have excessively long hair on their dorsal lines, so we blend to a point halfway between front and back.

•Shorten hair to emphasize brisket. Long hair on the brisket extends to the forelegs and hides extension of forechest. Follow the natural outline.

•Smooth hair from elbow to knee. Many NDs have longer hair on the outside of the forearm. This can create the illusion that a properly structured animal is out at the elbow.

•Shave hair at coronary band of

hooves. Once again, hairy feet take away from a clean look. You can use scissors here to cut off any hair extending over the hoof.

•Shorten hair on flank & belly. Part of the traditional "dairy trim." Use the same procedure as on the neck, going with the grain of the hair, as much as possible.

•Shave udder. Show off the part that defines "dairy," or where it will go. It is not necessary to clip junior does as short.

•Clean up pasterns, shorter hair to front, neaten beneath dewclaws. A plume of hair on the front of the hoof will make a goat appear down in the pastern. Unless the cannon is also shaved, a close clip all over the pastern will make it look weak compared to the rest of the leg.

•Shave sides of tail, NOT top, leave "brush." This is another sanitary issue. Excess hair on the tail collects discharge, especially in recently fresh does. If the top of the tail is clipped there will be a noticeable drop-off from the rump. Most NDs need no help looking steep-

rumped. The brush of hair protects the tail's tip and gives the goat a fly shoo'er.

•Remove long hair from escutcheon & back of thigh. This is also part of the "dairy trim" and is important to show height and width in the rear as well as the proper angular outline of incurving thighs.

Neaten hair from hock to dewclaws. Comb long hair on the back of the legs up and out. Clip or use scissors to make a neat line.

One item not on the chart: many NDs grow slightly longer and thicker hair over the hips. This makes rumps look steep. If the rest of the back is not clipped, clipping here will look very unnatural. Instead, use a barber's thinning (skip-tooth) shears to remove some of the fullness. Comb the hair against the grain, make a couple of cuts, then comb the hair back down. This can be repeated until the desired effect is reached.

Remember, in all of this, if you take off a little at a time, it is easier to know when to stop. If you take off too much, well, it will grow back eventually. These procedures can also be used to tune up a late summer/early fall haircut.

If this sounds like a lot of work, it IS harder than zipping all the hair off with the clippers. BUT, it is often better for your goat, and (done properly) it looks almost as good. A competent judge will be able to "see" through the remaining hair and should appreciate the consideration you show your animal.



Colors Colors Colors...

American Goat Society—Suggested Color Patterns

ND Suggested Colors & Patterns

Suggested Standard Colors/Pattern Descriptions for Nigerian Dwarfs. Click on thumbnails for a closer look.

Basic Color Families



Black
ranges from a very dark black to a black that has red tones and almost looks brown



Brown
Suggested browns: chocolate, very dark brown, medium browns and light browns. Lighter browns a probably brown roan



Gold
cream, gold, dark gold and red gold are suggested color names



White Gold
coat appears to be white, but is genetically gold

Patterns and Markings



Belted or Banded
A full or partial white band around the middle of the goat - can be broken or spotted



Black and Tan Black body with tan facial stripes and socks (not buckskin)



Buckskin
Same color on cape, legs, facial and dorsal stripe and tail. This pattern is usually a dark cape and light rump. Can be broken with white and other other color markings.



Chamoisee
Light bay to dark mahogany with black or dark brown dorsal, belly and legs



Schwarzal
coat is mostly white with dark markings usually on the head and sometimes the legs. Body can be lightly spotted



Schwarzal
overlaid on buckskin pattern - note tricolor leg markings



Roan
a coat of any color that is thickly sprinkled with white hairs



Pinto
irregular white patches of white and black or other dark color



Random Markings
Can be minimal or extensive and combined with any color or color pattern



colors continued....

Colors continued...

American Goat Society—Suggested Color Patterns



Moon Spots

Random spots of any color superimposed over a coat of any color

Picture Coming Soon

Dorsal Stripe

A darker stripe running down the dorsal (back)



Facial Stripes

Darker stripes running down from the eyes to the same point on each side of the nose

Left - as part of the buckskin pattern
Right - facial stripes on gold



Frosted ears and nose

White hairs around the nose and/or ears that can vary light to heavy



Blue Eyes

Recipe Corner

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

1 cup flour

1 cup sugar

1 cup milk

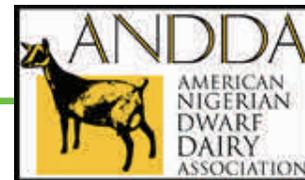
1 tsp baking powder

fruit

1/3 stick oleo cut up on the bottom of pan

Mix and pour cake on top of the oleo and then put your choice of fruit on top and bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 min

Yummy and very quick and easy.



Upcoming Events

If you have an event you'd like published, submit your photo and information to Diane Fay at vdbt26@yahoo.com

ANDDA Reminders:

- **April 15 2012:** Sue Rucker JUJU nominations due.
- **May 1 2012 :** Last day to nominate for the 2012 elections.
Positions open will be for:
President(currently held by Ellen Dorsey),
Vice President (Currently held by Deborah Niemann-Boehle),
Western District (currently held by Diane Fay) , Eastern
District Directors (currently held by Jim McGonagle).

OREGON:

- May 5, 2012 —[11th Annual Megabucks Show](#)—Grants Pass, OR
- May 6, 2012—[Lelia Berry Memorial Show](#)—Grants Pass, OR
- May 12, 2012—Herd Jewels Buck Show—Cottage Grove, OR
- June 2 & 3, 2012—[Northwest Oregon Dairy Goat Association](#)—Salem, OR

MISSOURI:

- June 3 2012 Southwest Missouri Dairy Goat Association--- Springfield, Missouri

NORTH CAROLINA:

- June 9 2,2012 [Piedmont Dairy Goat Association](#)--- Fletcher, NC

WYOMING:

- August 12,2012 [Wyoming Dairy Goat Association](#)--- Douglas Wyoming

COLORADO:

- July 7, 2012—[ADGA Nationals](#)
- September 2, 2012 [Colorado State Fair](#)--- Pueblo Colorado

IOWA:

October 7-11, 2012—2012 National Goat Expo, Iowa State Fairgrounds Des Moines, Iowa

KANSAS:

June 15-17, 2012
Land of OZ Dairy Goat show
Ks State Fair Ground Goat and Sheep Barn
Hutchinson, Ks
Judges Sara Stewart and Gary Whitehead
Contact: Diane Fay
vdbt26@yahoo.com

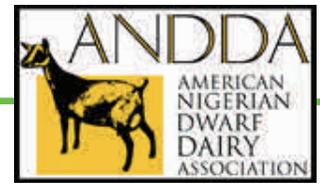
MAINE:

July 28, 2012
Barnstable County Fair
E. Falmouth MA
Judge: Todd Biddle
Contact: Anne Peterson
rosasharnfarm@gmail.com
ANDDA Speciality show

GEORGIA:

Several shows in GA. April 28: Carrollton, GA

May 26: Monroe, GA



How To Read An ADGA Performance Pedigree

ADGA.org http://208.53.2.19/pages_adga/ReadPedigree.htm

EXAMPLE's DOE
AS3567891 2*M GCH PTI (or ETA) 133 134
3-04 91VEEEE
PTA 137M 2F 4P .90T
DEV 937 -17 32
PTA\$ 15 13 32R
PTA% 44R 6/99 .07 .04 1/01
DHIR %FAT %PRT
1-00 2 300 2560 3.3 84 3.0 77
2-01 2 305 2447 3.4 82 3.1 75
2-11 2 305 3030 3.1 94 3.1 93
4-00 2 305 2960 3.4 100 3.1 92
5-00 2 259 2880 3.1 89 2.8 82 v or 93
LIFE 1474 13877 3.3 449 3.0 419
A BUCK, +*B , will have some of the above lines and a line that looks like:
D/AV 2574 91 68 79

- *B** Stars on bucks are earned by virtue of parents with production records meeting ADGA minimums
- +B** Plusses on bucks are earned by virtue of offspring meeting ADGA requirements
- 2*M** Two Star Milker - Second successive generation of a doe line that has earned a star based on minimums set forth by ADGA

Linear Appraisal Score

Age (yr/mo)	Final Score	General Appearance	Dairy Character	Body Capacity	Mammary
5-04	91	V	E	E	E

(E)Excellent (V)Very Good (+)Good Plus (A)Acceptable (F)Fair (P)Poor

Dairy Herd Improvement Registry – National milk and component recording program for use by USDA, ADGA, and herdowners

Age	Times Milking	Days in Milk	Milk Lbs.	% Butterfat	Lbs. F	% Protein	% PRT	Lbs. Verified or DCR
5-00	2	259	2880	3.1	89		2.8	82 v or 93

* by record indicates Top Ten, DCR number by record indicates Data Collection Rating (test day characteristics)

- CH**(ampion)- Show Wins
- GCH G**(rand) **CH**(ampion)- Show wins and a milk star earned from Advanced Registry or Star Volume minimums.
- SG/CH** – Superior Genetics In top 15% of either 2:1 or 1:2 PTI for breed

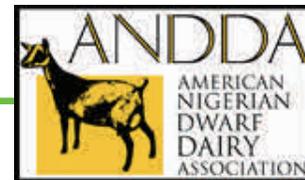
PTA **P**redicted **T**ransmitting **A**bility – Computed by USDA AIPL, incorporating data from production and type data of the doe, ancestors, collateral relatives and progeny. The first three numbers are the estimates of the pounds of milk to expect from each lactation of a parents' future daughter when compared to a herdmate of breed average genetic merit. The last is the PTA of change to the Type score. PTA expresses the level of genetic superiority that an animal transmits to its offspring for a given production or type trait. This value is used to rank animals based on their genetic merit.

137M(ilk) **2F**(at) **4P**(rotein) **.90T**(ype)

DEV Standard **D**eviation that can be expected in pounds.

937 (Milk) **-17** (Fat) **32** (Protein)

PTA\$ **P**(redicted) **T**(ransmitting) **A**(bility) **\$**(dollars) is an economic index that combines relative values of milk and components. Estimates the extra income a dairyman would receive in each lactation based on values supplied by



Continued....

USDA for fat and protein differentials. The first number is fat; the second is protein.

15 13 32R(eliability) in % -

Reliability measures confidence in the PTA Values - 99 is highest. An animal's reliability is based on the information available in the evaluation. The R in this area is for TYPE.

ELITE If this follows PTA\$, then the animal is in the top 15% of its breed for Milk Fat Protein Dollars (production).

PTA% **P**(redicted) **T**(ransmitting) **A**(bility) %(percentage). Milk fat (.07) and milk protein (.04). Dates are of last calculations; the first is production and the second is type.

44R(eliability) 6/99 .07 .04 1/01

The R in this line is for *PRODUCTION*.

D/AV D(aughter) **AV**(erages)

Milk	Fat	Protein	Final Score
2380	95	74	87

PTI **P**(roduction) **T**(ype) **I**(ndexes) – genetic indexes that combine production and type genetic evaluations into one score. First number emphasizes production over type and second emphasizes type. Zero would be no change.

133 (2:1) 134 (1:2)

ETA **E**(stimated) **T**(ransmitting) **A**(bility) – Estimate of a buck's future PTA's (as an index) for production and type. Production is first; type is second. Zero is no change.
19 (Production) -29 (Type)

ADGA Spotlight Sale Nomination Language Change...

ADGA.org http://208.53.2.19/pages_adga/ReadPedigree.htm

The additional language that was placed into the ADGA Spotlight Sale nomination form and contract reads as follows:

Have any of the animals appearing on the 4 generation performance pedigree of this nomination been coded for any General or Breed Specific Disqualifications? If so, please list.

The Spotlight Sale is a unique opportunity to accentuate the accomplishments individuals have made with their herd. The selection committee selects animals based on official DHIR, linear appraisal, and show records, the committee looks for dairy goats that excel in all categories. The intention of the new rule is to give the selection committee within the Spotlight Sale Committee another tool in the evaluation of the animals nominated for this prestigious sale. The answer provided by the nominator/consignor allows the committee the ability to utilize information that was not readily available to them in the past.

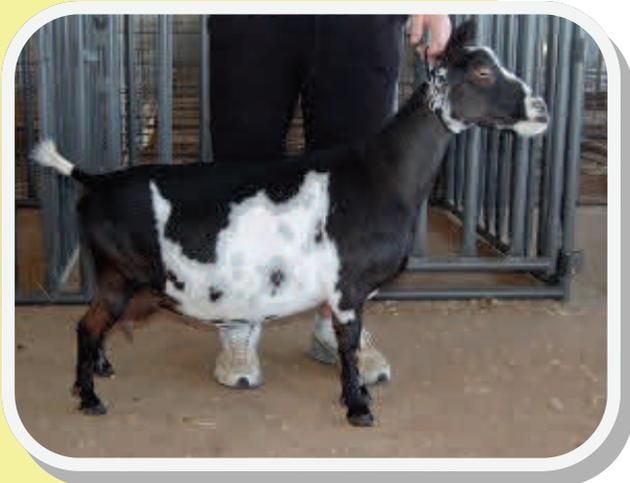
We (the ADGA Spotlight Sale committee) realize that buyers want top quality, performance proven, sound, and healthy dairy goats. The Spotlight Sale Committee works very hard to put together a sale that is a successful and positive experience for all parties involved – the seller, the buyer, and the dairy goat industry as a whole. Quality sells – especially where repeated breedings of proven animals are nominated as consignments. **MORE DOES ARE ACCEPTED THAN BUCKS.** Proven quality on both sides of the pedigree is needed, especially with regard to buck kids.

Kristina Bozzo-Baldenegro



KUDOS....

If you have a Kudo you'd like published, submit your photo and information to Dianea Fay at vdbt26@yahoo.com



ARMCH, GCH Agape Oaks Oreo 2*M 5*D VVEE90

Owned & Bred by [Agape Oaks](#), DFW, TX

She finished her MCH & CH in 2011. Oreo also had an LA score of VVEE 90, has milked 342 days with 860 lb milk, 61 lb butterfat & 41 lb protein.

SG Dill's LD Remember 3*D/3*M - +VEV88

Owned & Bred by [Dill's A Little Goat Farm](#), Pryor, OK

One Day Test

Amount---	4.2#	Butterfat---	6.41%	Protein---	4.38%
-----------	------	--------------	-------	------------	-------

2009 AGS #7 High Score

2009 AGS #10 High Milk

2009 AGS #10 High Protein

Year	DIM	MILK	FAT	PROT
2010	177	682	58	36



SG Pholia Farm HJ Penelope 7*M ++E+81

Owned & Bred by [Pholia Farm](#), Rogue River, OR

Age	Days in milk	total # Milk	total # of Butterfat	average % Butterfat	total # of Protein	average % Protein
1-00	305	600	43	7.2	28	4.7



Happy Birthday...

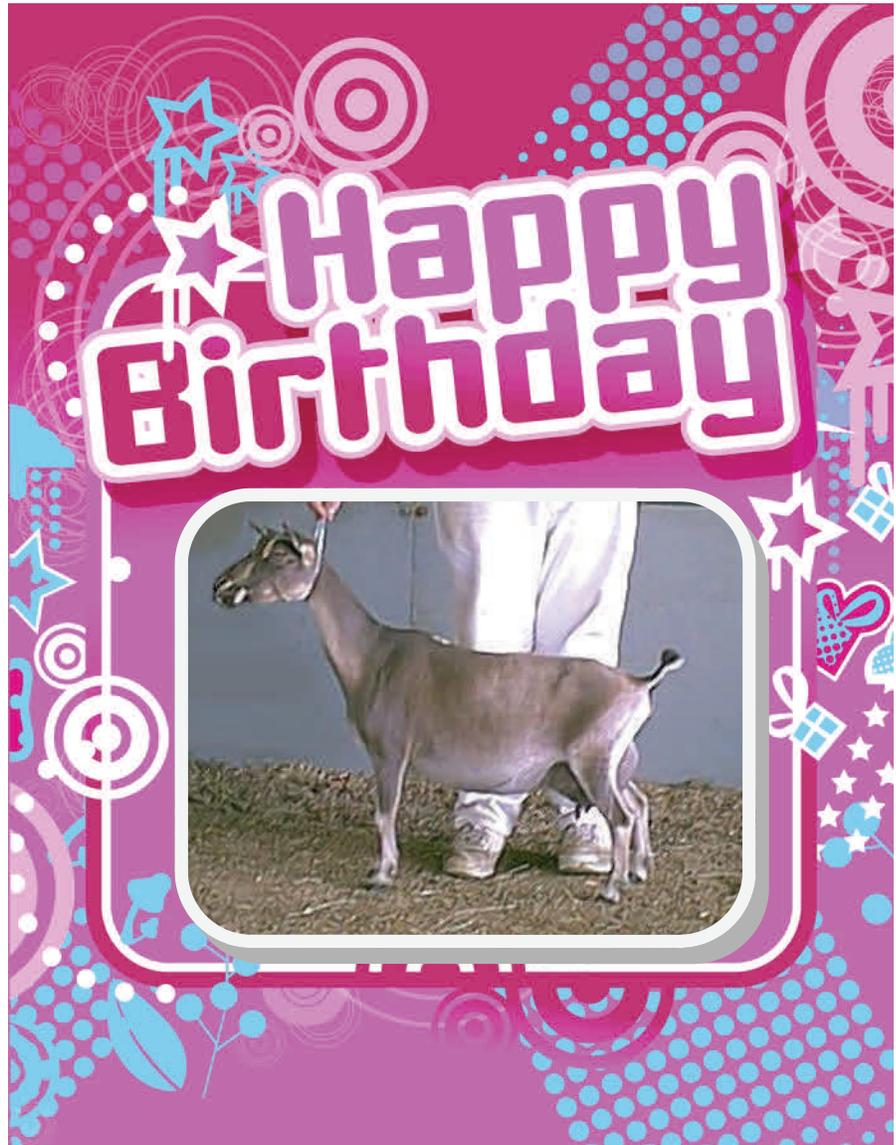
March 14th was
ARMCH Buttin'Heads Bryedal Veil's
15th birthday!

Bryedie's biggest "claim to fame" is being the dam of GCH/ARMCH Buttin'Heads Wedding Song 2*M/3*D. Bryedie was a bit slow to mature but as an 8 year old finished her AGS Master Championship and topped the year off by being GCH at the inaugural showing of NDs at the Minnesota State Fair with an entry of nearly 100 does. Judge Jeff Klein was ready to give her BU until I reminded him there was a challenge class. He said he'd wait but knew she'd be his best udder. When Song walked in the ring, he looked at me and said he know understood why I suggested he wait. Song was BOB/BU and the two teamed up to win Dam & Daughter.

Bryedie hasn't kidded in a number of years and just lives loose on the farm pretty much doing whatever she pleases. She's great at detecting does in heat! Lately she's decided she wants to get on the milkstands. Her mind may say yes but her body isn't quite as cooperative. She's resigned that she's not going to get all the way up so just stands with her front legs on the stand looking proud. She's our official greeter to anyone the comes and will scratch her.

Happy birthday to the grumpy old lady!

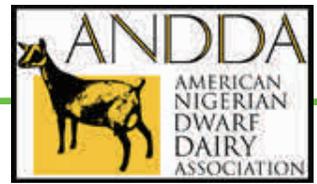
Tom



ARMCH Buttin'Heads Bryedal Veil

Fun Photos...





Advertisements...

If you have a business card you'd like published, submit your photo and information to Diania Fay at vdbt26@yahoo.com

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Come and Give Us a Virtual Tour

Shipping Available out of Denver and Colorado Springs

Lots of Wonderful Show and Milk Titles on Our Nigerians Coming From Well Known Sires and Dams

We Don't Just Breed Goats - We Strive to Improve the Genetics

Lil Bleats POG Magnolia Moon Class of 2011

Elizabeth Ahola ~ Colorado Springs, CO
eahola5@gmail.com ~ www.LilBleats.com

Agape Oaks Dairy Goats

Pam Ebert
Flower Mound, TX
214-435-2020
www.agapeoaks.com

Dill's-A Little Goat Farm

Breeding for excellence in the show ring as well as in the milk pail!

Chris & Ellen Dorsey

Joshua & Jonathon Dill
21181 E. Hwy 28A
Chelsea, OK

(918) 342-1425
ellenfdorsey@gmail.com
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Owner

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Rob Lawless & Kathryn Harnish
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207.532.7618
rob@tookaleapfarm.com
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www.tookaleapfarm.com

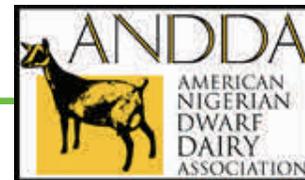
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ANDDA All-American Committee

Margie Dykstra, Chair
Ray Stauffer, Brandon Fay

ANDDA Total Performer Committee

Margie Dykstra, Donna Neill, Dianea Fay, Denae Henderson

Constitutional Review Committee— Margie Dykstra

Production Committee — Anita Deupree, Margie Dykstra, Dianea Fay, Ray Stauffer, and Brandon Fay

Budget Committee— Dianea Fay, Ashley Turcotte, Margie Dykstra, Jane Bailey

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AGS Liason— Donna Neill

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