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AMERICAN NIGERIAN DWARF DAIRY ASSOCIATION

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ADGA and AGS Milk Testing Awards

By Kathy Winters, [Red Horse Valley](#)

I often peruse one of my favorite dairy goat periodicals and come across a beautiful dairy goat that catches my eye. My next thought is, “I wonder who that is?” as I search for the name. More often than not, the name is buried amongst an alphabet soup of accolades: SGCH ARMCH Herdname SI Jane Doe 2*M 3*D 03-02 89 VEEV and her littermate brother SGCH ARMCH Herdname SI John Buck ++*B ++*S 03-02 89 VEE. What do all those credentials mean?

Many dairy goat registries offer programs to highlight performance merit based on production, conformation, as well as genetic merit. Some programs are competitive while others only require meeting minimum standards. The National Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) has developed

Uniform Operating Procedures & Quality Control, originating with the dairy cattle industry, that are used to identify animals across the country with superior production. This program has helped to increase milk weight, percent butterfat (%bf) and protein through generations of selective breeding.

While details of the specific requirements for merit awards may differ across registries, comparisons can be made in order to

Table 1: Production Merit Award Titles for Does

Earned through:	ADGA ¹	AGS ²
Progeny	*M (ST)	*D (ST)
One day test	*M (ST)	*D (ST)
DHI Testing:		
* Minimum milk vol *or* bf	*M (AR)	*D (AR)
* Minimum protein	*M (AR)	
* Minimum milk vol *and* bf	*M (AR)	*D (AR)
* Minimum duration & milk vol or bf	*M (AR)	
* Minimum duration & milk vol *and* bf	*M (AR)	
* O/S minimum milk volume or bf, (or protein ADGA only)	*M (ST)	*D (ST)
* O/S minimum duration and milk volume, or bf, (or protein ADGA only)	*M (AR)	

¹Over height does (>22.5”) cannot receive *M award (one day test); Over height does are not eligible for Top Ten recognition; O/S program not eligible for Top Ten recognition

²Over height does (>22.5”) may earn AR or Star program awards but are not eligible for Top Ten recognition; O/S not eligible for Top Ten recognition

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Learning How To Draw Blood on Goats—Vet Science

Lorelei Hallock, [Coyote Kidz](#)

For me, raising goats started out as a fun project to be different from my big sisters in 4-H but quickly became a life passion. I was fortunate to have some wonderful leaders in my 4-H group that gave me hands on experience and taught me how to be independent and successful in animal husbandry. One of my goals now as an adult is to pay it forward. Workshops for 4-H, FFA and other community youth organizations is a great way to be helpful and connect our love of goats with educational programs. I recently hosted the students from my local 4-H veterinary science project to talk about biosecurity and teach some basics for blood draws.

One of the best things we can do as breeders is set up a health plan for our herds and practice some form of biosecurity management. This can be challenging for new goat owners who may not have access to a veterinarian that is familiar with goats or a mentor that can teach them basic veterinary practices. Many goat owners are forced to be more self sufficient with our knowledge of medicine and procedures when goat specific vets are few and far in between. Being able to draw blood for disease testing is one of the best tools a goat owner can have for managing herd health. It's something that a veterinarian can do easily, but for larger herds might not be economic and again a veterinarian my not be available.

We started this workshop by talking about common diseases and why it is important to test for them. Most notably CAE and CL. We discussed how diseases are transmitted, what types of things could put a herd at risk and why testing is important. In my herd for example, we test every goat for CAE but for things like CL, Johnes, and Q fever we test only a few representatives from the herd. This is more economic and the nature of how each disease is spread influences this decision. If a perspective buyer of a goat wishes for the full panel, that is something we can easily do on individuals and is often necessary for transport across state lines or in some cases exportation. We also use blood testing to confirm pregnancy in does which is very helpful in planning for kidding season.

The main event of this workshop was to give the kids a chance to actually do something. While watching is helpful, it is very different when the needle is in your hands. The basic steps for keeping equipment sanitized and eliminating the possibility of cross contamination was discussed as we prepped the first few does for a draw.

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Equipment needed:

- Sterile needles 18 gauge preferably 1 inch in length (this can vary based on preference but that is the size I use), one for each animal plus a few extra.
- Sterile syringes 12 mil. You only need 2-6 mil of blood but the larger size in the syringe means shorter space your hands need to pull the plunger. That is helpful when you have little hands and short fingers.
- Red Top test tubes
- Permanent marker for labeling samples
- Paper towel and or cotton swabs
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Clippers with #10 blade (optional)
- Safe disposal container for spent needles.
- Stand with a grooming head catch, or some way to hold animal with their head slightly raised.

We start by bringing up our first doe to prep. We shave with our clippers a small strip along the neck slightly to the left as you face the goat. This step technically is optional, but important for learning purposes because it allows someone new to more clearly see where they will be putting a needle. Next prep the area with a wipe and alcohol. Attach a needle to a syringe and make sure the cap is loose enough to easily remove. With one hand apply pressure on the neck of the goat just below the draw sight to help push out vein. You can use a finger on the other hand to gently tap to feel the soft bounce that distinguishes the vein from muscle

around it. Place needle almost parallel (very slight angle) to the neck and go UP into the vein. Do not stab “in” as you’ll go through the vein. Then slowly draw plunger. If you are in the right spot blood will flow easily, if not gently pull the needle back and tap the vein to try again. Once you have enough blood in the syringe, pierce the red top tube with the needle and empty the syringe. Make sure to label the tube with the name or number of the goat!

The first two goats I demonstrated this for the 4-Hers, then let them get right in to try for themselves. We drew

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***Showmanship* Question of the Month:**

What percentage of wethers are born every year?

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blood on 25 goats and they took turns practicing. By the end they were all able to make a clean insertion directly to the vein and draw blood on the first try. It was a small group so it was easy to keep the goats calm and relaxed even when they needed to try a few times. This was a great way to get practice on multiple animals and a huge chore out of the way for me! The parents that attended were really pleased that their kids got the hands on experience instead of just the usual lectures that can be somewhat boring to many teenagers. I had kids tell me that they wanted to do more! It is truly a rewarding experience to see excitement in youth after learning

what we may take for granted as basic farming tasks. This is what keeps youth interested in agriculture.

I was able to send the samples to UBRL to confirm all negative for unwanted diseases and all but 4 does settled, including 2 very exciting AI's.

For anyone who wants a more detailed article on how to draw blood with more pictures, a personal favorite of mine is a blog post from a friend and vet tech who happens to raise Lamanchas. Her pictures are great and her blog is a real hoot!

[The Adventures of Noodleville: A Noodleville How To: Goat Blood Draws \(noodlevilleadventures.blogspot.com\)](http://noodlevilleadventures.blogspot.com)

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understand how the titles are similar. The two registries that are the subject of this review have specific production requirements for Nigerian Dwarf: American Dairy Goat

Association (ADGA) and the American Goat Society (AGS). *Table 1* highlights the titles awarded by these registries. As you can see, some have Star (ST) programs in addition to Advanced Registry (AR) programs. Generally, the Star programs are either One-Day or Owner Sampler (O/S) programs, while the AR programs are long-term testing through the DHIA program and quality assurance. In addition, generational indicators often are included as a prefix to the title, eg

3*M which means that this doe is the 3rd successive generation to have been awarded the *M in her maternal lineage.

Registries have programs where Star Merit may be achieved during a One-Day Test. These programs typically require 3 supervised milkings in 24 hours.

Milk is weighed, and samples are taken for component (% butterfat) analysis by specified laboratories. Points are granted for the volume of milk, percent butterfat, and also take into consideration the doe's stage of lactation.

Table 2 highlights the point structure and minimum requirement

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Table 2: One Day Test Point Calculations

	ADGA Points	AGS points
Per pound of milk	1	5.5
Per pound of butterfat	20	111
# days fresh	0.04 per 10 full days*	0.0555**
Minimum Total Points for Star Award (Nigerian)	7	35

*maximum of 1.44 points for miniature breeds (equivalent to 360 days fresh)

**maximum of 19.98 points for AGS (equivalent to 360 days fresh)

for earning the One Day Star for Nigerian Dwarves.

While One-Day Testing is a useful tool to get “a snapshot” of a doe’s lactation, many breeders are interested in documenting the lactation over a

length of time in order to evaluate the persistency of lactation. Some does will have very high production for a few months as when she would normally be feeding her kids, and then dramatically drop production when kids would normally be weaned. Other goats may have such persistent lactations that they are difficult to dry off at all! DHI programs are valuable for following lactations over many months, typically testing once a month

for overall volume as well as butterfat and protein. Minimum volumes of milk, fat, and/or protein have been set by various registries which qualify does to be recognized with Star or Advanced Registry titles.

Table 3: Production Merit Awards for Bucks

Earned through:	ADGA	AGS
Ancestry	*B	*S
<input type="checkbox"/> Both parents star animals	*B ¹	*S ²
<input type="checkbox"/> Both his dam and sire’s dam are star animals	*B ¹	*S ²
<input type="checkbox"/> Dam has earned AR or one day award and sire has a progeny award	*B	*S ²
Progeny	+B; ++B	+S; ++S
A. 3 daughters from 3 different dams who have earned AR star	+B (AR)	AR +S
B. 2 sons that have earned AR plus	+B (AR)	AR +S
C. A and B above	++B (AR)	AR ++S
D. 3 daughters from 3 different dams who have earned star	+B (ST)	+S (ST)
E. 2 sons that have earned plus (ST)	+B (ST)	+S (ST)
F. Has one AR son and one plus (ST) son	+B (ST)	+S (ST)
G. 2 daughters that have star, and 1 son that has earned plus (AR)	+B (ST)	+S (ST)
H. 2 daughters that have star, and 1 son that has earned plus (ST)	+B (ST)	+S (ST)
I. Combined 2 different qualifications (D, E, F, G &/or H)	++B (ST)	++S (ST)

¹ Dam must have earned *M AR on milk volume and butterfat or a *M ST doe (milk volume and butterfat both for if O/S ST).

²AR*D must meet both milk and butterfat requirements.

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Table 4: Minimum Requirement for Advance Registry or Star Production Awards

Age Fresh (yr-mo)	ADGA			AGS	
	Milk (lbs)	Fat (lbs)	Protein(lbs)	Milk (lbs)	Fat (lbs)
≤2-00	600	21.00	18.00	500	25.00
2-01	603	21.09	18.08	502	25.10
2-02	605	21.18	18.15	504	25.20
2-03	608	21.26	18.23	506	25.30
2-04	610	21.35	18.30	508	25.40
2-05	613	21.44	18.38	510	25.50
2-06	615	21.53	18.45	512	25.60
2-07	618	21.61	18.53	514	25.70
2-08	620	21.70	18.60	516	25.80
2-09	623	21.79	18.68	518	25.90
2-10	625	21.88	18.75	520	26.00
2-11	628	21.96	18.83	522	26.10
3-00	630	22.05	18.90	524	26.20
3-01	633	22.14	18.98	526	26.30
3-02	635	22.23	19.05	528	26.40
3-03	638	22.31	19.13	530	26.50
3-04	640	22.40	19.20	532	26.60
3-05	643	22.49	19.28	534	26.70
3-06	645	22.58	19.35	536	26.80
3-07	648	22.66	19.43	538	26.90
3-08	650	22.75	19.50	540	27.00
3-09	653	22.84	19.58	542	27.10
3-10	655	22.93	19.65	544	27.20
3-11	658	23.01	19.73	546	27.30
4-00	660	23.10	19.80	548	27.40
4-01	663	23.19	19.88	550	27.50
4-02	665	23.28	19.95	552	27.60
4-03	668	23.36	20.03	554	27.70
4-04	670	23.45	20.10	556	27.80
4-05	673	23.54	20.18	558	27.90
4-06	675	23.63	20.25	560	28.00
4-07	678	23.71	20.33	562	28.10
4-08	680	23.80	20.40	564	28.20
4-09	683	23.89	20.48	566	28.30
4-10	685	23.98	20.55	568	28.40
4-11	688	24.06	20.63	570	28.50
≥5-00	690	24.15	20.70	572	28.60

Table 3 and Table 4 highlight requirements for bucks and does. Please note, this is a review and the detailed requirements vary with registry and may change with time, so please refer to the detailed regulations for your registry of interest

Resources

American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) <https://adga.org/>
 Production Testing <https://adga.org/performance-programs/production-testing/>

American Goat Society (AGS) <http://www.american-goatsociety.com/>

Production Testing <https://americangoatsociety.com/dhi-rules-procedures.php>

DHIR Basics

Elizabeth Straw, Indiana State Dairy Association

There are 3 parts to all DHIR testing: a Service Affiliate (SA), a lab, and a processing center. The processing center calculates the records, the lab collects the data from the samples, and the SA works between the two and the farm to make sure everything goes smoothly. Normally a herd would choose the SA first however you could start with a lab first and work with whichever SA they tell you they work with. You used to be able to google Service Affiliate ADGA and the list would come up. I know they've been working on their website, it used to be <https://adga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/REGIONAL-AFFILIATES2021.pdf>. Normally if the SA is willing to work with ADGA, they will work with MDGA, AGS, etc.

Each SA has a processing center that they work with along with a lab (sometimes more than one). We process records with Dairy Records Management Systems (DRMS) which has an office in Raleigh, NC and Ames, IA. To my knowledge DRMS does the bulk processing for dairy goat records.

Our organization sold our lab in 2015 and actually has contracts with 3 different labs depending on the herd's needs. For goat herds, we work with DHI Cooperative out of Ohio. They've provided the best services for our smaller herds. - Side note DHI Cooperative like some organizations is both a lab and an SA.

After a test day, your test papers go to your SA and your samples go to your lab. The SA will enter your raw data and "upload" the test to the server. From there your records are divided and go to two different places. The first is the processing center, they start their initial calculations such as days in milk etc. The second place is that a "racking list" aka sample order is sent to the lab. The racking list is compared to your samples when they arrive to ensure that your samples are in the correct order as the computer thinks they are. If they aren't the lab will put them in order. This ensures that each animal's samples are accurately coded to the correct animal. While this may seem a bit silly, I've had herds that have samples 1-4 put their samples as 2, 1, 4, 3 in the box - therefore it's important to make sure the order is correct with the computer file.

Once the samples arrive and are tested at the lab, they will create a file that has the results that correlate to each animal. This file is then sent back to the processing center to finish their final calculations. They will ensure there are no errors with the file and finish processing. The processed results are then available to the owner and the SA for download. Copies of the results are also uploaded to the Council of Dairy Cattle Breeding where breed associations like ADGA or MDGA can pull the records.

Custom Ribbon Wreath

By Cheryl Lloyd, T Bar C Farm

Do you have a stash of ribbons sitting around collecting dust? Looking for a unique way to showcase your farm name while at a show? Cheryl Lloyd of T Bar C Farm shows us how to make a custom ribbon wreath.

Materials

- 4 spools 5.5" polypro mesh ribbon
- 1 Floral wire wreath
- 1 Package pipe cleaners
- Glue Gun
- Glue Sticks



1. Cut pipe cleaners into 1.5 inch pieces.



2. Gather the mesh ribbon and twist the end in preparation to attach to wire wreath.



3. Attach the end of the mesh ribbon at one of the brackets of the wire wreath using a piece of pipe cleaner.



4. Move 8 to 10" down the ribbon and gather the ribbon together again and attach to the wire wreath. You want to only attach to the outside wire.



5. Attach the mesh ribbon 4 times in each section. Continue all the way around the wreath. Once finished with the outside ring, continue to do each of the other rings.



6. Once finished adding the mesh ribbon all the way around all 4 rings, you can add any decorations you choose. We added the tops of our show ribbons by attaching with glue sticks, and a wooden sign by typing it to the inside ring.

Have fun and use your imagination!

Record Keeping

By Jessica Dessert, Topolino Farms

I know. Record Keeping is probably the most boring part of farming. You would rather clean out the barn than sit at a computer or table making notes. However, it's one of the most important things we can do for our farm. So stick with me while I explain how record keeping has saved lives and saved money! Yes, it's saved money.

So how does it save lives? This is as simple as I keep track, therefore I know what's going on. CDT, rabies, all the shots.. Yep, they're up to date. That doe was off her feed at the same time every month – she's probably in heat, so now I know when she'll kid. Everything you can record gives you one more thing to reference in case of emergency or for general care.

I went through my favorite doe kid having rabies. I am the ONLY person on record in the state of New Hampshire to have a goat with state lab confirmed rabies. The case was sent to every vet in NH and my records went with it. My records, which include video of the rabid skunk and the rabid goat kid, have given the state of NH extremely valuable information on rabies. THAT is how important record keeping can be. (Goat kid was "4MFVT Morning Dove" in Newport NH. Seen at Riverbend Vet Clinic in Plainfield. Records and video links available through our blog and [website](#).)

Being so detailed in my record keeping has also saved me money at the vet and earned their respect. They know that when I call and list symptoms, it is ALL the symptoms. They don't need to repeat unnecessary procedures to get the timeline or the background for this situation. This saves them time which saves me money. I've also, more than once, received pretty decent discounts as a personal thank you from vets and vet techs. This isn't my intention, but it is so nice!

Now you're thinking, okay but how? Honestly, setting yourself up is the hardest part and where you can make or break your records. Good old pen and paper work for lots of people. I want to be able to search quickly with CTRL-F or a search bar within a program. There are lots of programs out there. With no affiliation, payment or reimbursement of any kind... Kintraks is hands down the BEST record keeping program available. It's only downfall is the lack of mobile compatibility. I've gotten around it easily with quickly made Sheets to jot things down,

then transfer to the PC. Kintraks is free up to 200 records (then is a one time fee of around \$25usd) and has tons of amazing features. The most basic and most important is the Health+ and Journal section. You fill everything out so there's no worry that the program doesn't know what Ivermectin is. Just type it in on the first animal and it will show up in a drop down menu forever! Kintraks works for any species of animal and you can create multiple databases if you'd like to.

Take your time setting up your record keeping. The biggest challenge is staying organized and sticking to your system. The other challenging part of record keeping is an attention to detail that actually extends beyond the paper/pixel record. You need stuff to record, right? So make it a habit of checking simple things like Famacha, fecals, weight, tooth health, and record hoof trimmings and vaccinations. Recording all of these things means there's no guesswork when something goes wrong! You know exactly when and what and can narrow down the problem much more quickly.

I hope this helps get you started keeping better records for your herd!



The back pages of the annual ANDDA calendar can be a great reference resource for kidding! It has a place to track heats, number of kids born, sire, and notes if there was difficulty or issues with delivery.

The calendar is a promotional giveaway to members joining or renewing during our discounted period of December 31.

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GCH Buffalo Clover Yes Yes 4*M, GCH Buffalo Clover Vieux Carre 2*M, GCH Buffalo Clover Patches 3*M, CH Buffalo Clover Monte Carlo,
GCH Buffalo Clover Shining Glimmer 1*M, GCH Buffalo Clover Delta Allorain 2*M, CH Buffalo Clover Mardi Gras, CH Buffalo Clover Pink,
CH Buffalo Clover Mojave, CH Buffalo Clover Honey Long *B, GCH Buffalo Clover Queenie 2*M, CH Buffalo Clover Cabernet, GCH Buffalo Clover Koto 1*M,
GCH Buffalo Clover Katrina 2*M, CH Buffalo Clover VAL Fergie, CH Buffalo Clover NIK Susie

Buffalo Clover Farm - Jan Nelson - Collinsville, Texas
Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats available for purchase - www.buffalocloverfarm.com - 817-239-4781
Buffalo Clover Farm received the honor of being one of the recognized herds for the new ADGA Herd of Distinction Award in 2021!

Sugarbeet Farm
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Goats
Since 2015
Livingston, NY

Recipe of the Month—Goat Milk Soap

Telitha Proffitt, Landrun Lamanchas

- 9.0 oz Frozen Goat Milk
- 4.03 oz Lye
- 9.8 oz Olive Oil
- 8.5 oz Coconut Oil
- 8.5 oz Palm Oil
- 1.2 oz Castor Oil
- (Total Oils 28 oz)

Please take safety precautions when using lye. Soap in a well-ventilated area using long sleeves, gloves, and safety goggles.

Measure the frozen milk into a container that is appropriate for lye. A scale with a tare feature is helpful with this step.

Slowly add lye to the mixture a small amount at a time, mixing with a non-reactive spoon to make sure the milk does not scorch.

Continue to stir until all lye flakes have been dissolved. Undissolved lye flakes in soap can cause skin irritation or burns, so check the bottom and sides of the container before continue to the next step.

Once the lye is completely dissolved, the mixture may be a light cream color. The cooler the container, the lighter the mixture.

In a separate non-reactive bowl, measure, melt mix oils together.

The oils should be at or below 130° before adding the lye mixture.

Add the lye mixture slowly to the oil mixture.

Once all the lye mixture is added, continue to blend until it reaches a thin to medium “trace.”

Pour the mixture into a prepared mold. Tap firmly to release any air bubbles.

Allow the soap to stay in the mold 3 to 4 days to set up, and 6 weeks to cure.

We're on the web
www.ANDDA.org



**PROMOTING THE
NIGERIAN DWARF
BREED SINCE 1996**

Editor:
Karen Goodchild
OK Doe K Dairy Goats

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

**If you don't know where
you are going, you will end
up someplace else.**

- Yogi Berra