



**OWN A
DAIRY
GOAT**

FOREWORD

The dairy goat's popularity continued to increase rapidly as more people discover the dairy goat's appeal, utility, and productiveness.

This pamphlet was designed especially for you - to introduce you the wonderful world of dairy goats and to acquaint you with the purposes of the American Dairy Goat Association.

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The American Dairy Goat Association:

- a) Maintains herd books and issues of certificates of registration and recordation of dairy goats:
- b) Supervises and publishes official milk production records of dairy goats and issues certificate of production;
- c) Supervise and publishes official type evaluations of dairy goats;
- d) Promoted and regulates matters pertaining to the history, publicity, breeding, exhibition and improvement of dairy goats.

THE AMERICAN DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION

The American Dairy Goat Association is the largest and fastest growing dairy goat organization and registry in the United States. The Association is governed by its membership and their elected representatives, in the form of a Board of Directors. Each Director is elected by members within eight specific geographical districts. Each district has a varying number of directors, the number determined by the percentage of the Association's total membership within that district. The Executive Committee is elected annually by the Board of Directors. The president appoints standing committees each year. Business is conducted through the mail and at the Annual Membership and Board of Directors' meetings. The Association maintains an office in Spindale, North Carolina. As the Association grows, its services expand.

- Registry and closed herd books for Purebred dairy goats
- Registry and open herd books for American breeds of dairy goats
- Recordation of grade dairy goats
- Transfers of ownership
- Annual National Show
- Linear Appraisal program
- Scholarship and youth activity programs
- Opportunity to become an ADGA Youth Representative.
- Registry of herd names and herd tattoos
- Milk records kept through DHIR program
- Research foundation and research grants
- Sanction and regulation of official ADGA shows
- Data collection of dairy goat related information
- Dairy goat judge licensing and training conferences
- Annual Spotlight and Colorama Sale of premium stock
- Annual Convention and Board of Directors' Meeting
- Publication of annual Membership Directory and Guidebook
- Awards and recognition of outstanding individuals in the industry
- Public awareness and networking with affiliate organizations
- Registration of artificial insemination and embryo transplant offspring

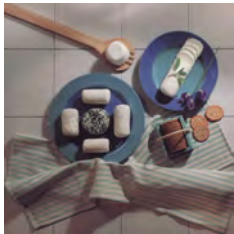


THE DAIRY GOAT

The goat's usefulness to man began before written history and continues into the space age. An ideal family dairy animal, the dairy goat is easily handled and can be kept on small parcels of land. Dairy goat husbandry is often a family project. The dairy goat's appeal to young people is evidenced by the numerous dairy goat projects in the 4-H and FFA programs. It is alert, intelligent, socially inclined and affectionate. A loving and lovable animal, it returns the cost of its feed in a valuable and healthful food product. Its delicious milk, produced so economically, is wholesome and nutritious.

An aspect of the dairy goat industry that is steadily increasing is the modern commercial dairy. Goat milk is marketed fresh, raw or pasteurized, condensed and dried. Grocery stores and specialty shops offer gourmet cheeses and ice creams made of goat milk, as well as body products.

DAIRY GOAT PRODUCTS



There is no perceptible difference between the flavor of properly handled goat milk and cow milk. Goat milk is whiter than whole cow milk. Butter and cheese made from goat milk are also white, but may be colored during processing. Goat milk is delicious, nutritious, and wholesome. It is not a miracle food, but it does have distinct characteristics that make it beneficial. The fat globules are smaller than those in cow milk and the curd is softer and smaller, making digestion easier. Those who are allergic to cow milk may tolerate and thrive on goat milk. Goat milk is used for drinking, cooking, and baking. It is used to make cheese, butter, ice cream, yogurt, and body products. Goat milk is naturally emulsified. Cream does not rise readily, but can be obtained with a mechanical separator. The meat of the goat is chevon or cabrito. It can be barbecued, baked, fried, broiled or stewed. Goat leather is soft and fine grained when well cured. It is used to make many kinds of quality leather items. The dairy goat's pelleted droppings make an excellent organic fertilizer.



ALPINE

The Alpine dairy goat is a medium to large size animal, alertly graceful, and the only breed with upright ears that offers all colors and combinations of color, giving them distinction and individuality. They are hardy, adaptable animals that thrive in any climate while maintaining good health and excellent production. The hair is medium to short. The face is straight. A Roman nose, Toggenburg color and markings, or all-white is discriminated against. This breed is composed of several varieties, including the British, Rock, and Swiss Alpine, but the French Alpine is by far the most numerous.



LAMANCHA

The LaMancha goat was developed in the U.S. It has excellent dairy temperament and is an all-around sturdy animal that can withstand a great deal of hardship and still produce. Through official testing this breed has established itself in milk production with high butterfat. Any color or combination of colors is acceptable with no preferences, the hair is short, fine, and glossy. The LaMancha face is straight with ears being the distinctive breed characteristic. There are two types of LaMancha ears. In does, one type of ear has no advantage over the other. 1) The “gopher ear” is described as follows: an approximate maximum length of one inch, but preferably nonexistent, and with very little or no cartilage. The end of the ear must be turned up or down. This is the only type of ear which will make bucks eligible for registration. 2) The “elf-ear” is described as follows: an approximate maximum length of two inches is allowed, the end of the ear must be turned up or turned down and cartilage shaping the small ear is allowed.

NIGERIAN DWARF

The Nigerian Dwarf is a miniature breed of dairy goat originating in West Africa and developed in the United States. The balanced proportions of the Nigerian Dwarf give it the appearance of the larger breeds of dairy goats, but does stand no more than 22.5" (57 cm) and bucks stand no more than 23.5" (60 cm). Any color or combination of colors is acceptable. The medium length ears are erect and alert. The face is either straight or dished, and the hair is short and fine.





NUBIAN

The Nubian is a relatively large, proud, and graceful dairy goat of mixed Asian, African, and European origin, known for high quality, high butterfat milk production. The head is the distinctive breed characteristic with the facial profile between the eyes and the muzzle being strongly convex. The ears are long, (extending at least one inch beyond the muzzle when held flat along the face), wide, and pendulous. They lie close to the head at the temple and flare slightly out and well forward at the rounded tip, forming a “bell” shape. The ears are not thick, with the cartilage well defined. The hair is short, fine, and glossy. Any color, solid or patterned, is acceptable.

OBERHASLI

The Oberhasli is a Swiss dairy goat. This breed is of medium size, vigorous and alert in appearance. Its color is Chamoisee. Does may be black, but Chamoisee is preferred. Chamoisee is described as: Bay-ranging from light to a deep red bay with the latter most desirable. A few white hairs through the coat and about the ears are permitted. Markings are to be: two black stripes down the face from above each eye to a black muzzle; forehead nearly all black, black stripes from the base of each ear coming to a point just back of the poll and continuing along the neck and back as a dorsal stripe to the tail; a black belly and light gray to black udders; black legs below the knees and hocks; ears black inside and bay outside. Bucks often have more black on the head than does, black whiskers, and black hair along the shoulders and lower chest with a mantle of black along the back. Bucks frequently have more white hairs through the coat than does. The face is straight. A Roman nose is discriminated against.





SAANEN

The Saanen dairy goat originated in Switzerland. It is medium to large in size with rugged bone and plenty of vigor. Does should be feminine, however, and not coarse. Saanens are white or light cream in color, with white preferred. Spots on the skin are not discriminated against. Small spots of color on the hair are allowable, but not desirable. The hair should be short and fine, although a fringe over the spine and thighs is often present. Ears should be erect and alertly carried, preferably pointing forward. The face should be straight or dished. A tendency toward a Roman nose is discriminated against.

SABLE

The Sable dairy goat is medium to large in size with rugged bone and plenty of vigor. Does should be feminine, however, and not coarse. Their hair is short; ears should be erect and alertly carried, preferably pointing forward. The face should be straight or dished. The Sable may be any color or combination of colors, solid or patterned, EXCEPT solid white or solid light cream.





TOGGENBURG

The Toggenburg is a Swiss dairy goat from the Toggenburg Valley of Switzerland. This breed is of medium size, sturdy, vigorous, and alert in appearance. The hair is short to long in length, soft and fine. Its color is solid, varying from light fawn to dark chocolate, with no preference for any shade. Distinct white markings are as follows: white ears with dark spot in middle; two white stripes down the face from above each eye to the muzzle; hind legs white from hocks to hooves; forelegs white from knees downward with a dark vertical stripe below knee acceptable; a white triangle on each side of the tail; white spot may be present at root of wattles or in that area if no wattles are present. Varying degrees of cream markings instead of pure white acceptable, but not desirable. The ears are erect and carried forward. Facial lines may be dished or straight, never Roman.

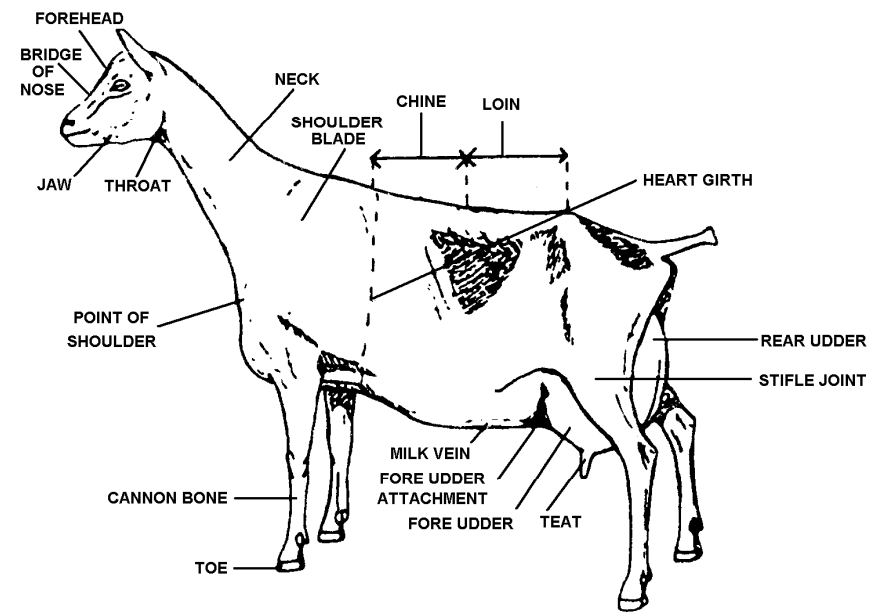
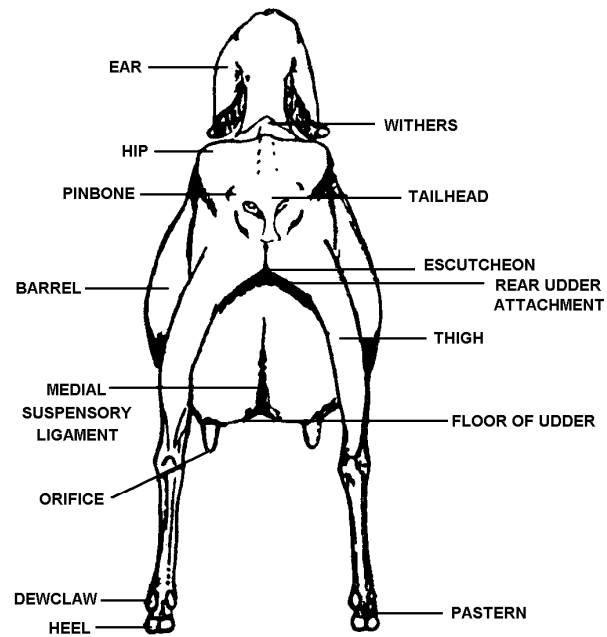
HUSBANDRY

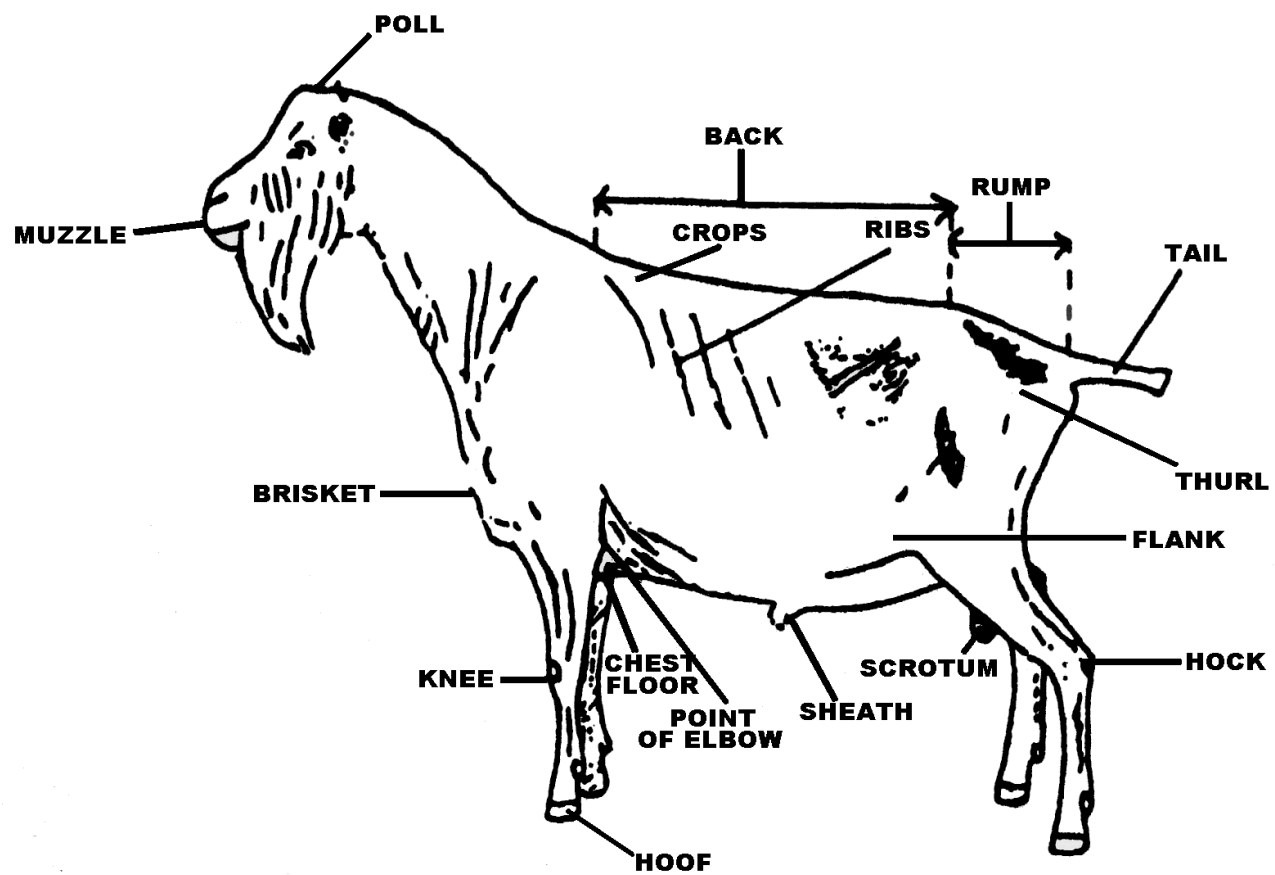
The female dairy goat is a doe; the male, a buck; the young, kids; and a castrated male, a wether. Dairy goats are hardy animals with a life span of eight to twelve years. They are gentle and intelligent and can be kept successfully in all climates. They do not need elaborate housing, but do require clean, dry, well ventilated, but draft free shelter. Dairy goats have a strong herd instinct and prefer the companionship of a least one other goat. Bucks should be kept in separate quarters away from milking does.

Dairy goats will graze grass pastures, but prefer to browse brush lands and a varied selection of pasture plants, including non-noxious weeds. Dairy goats seldom thrive when tethered, but may be kept in a dry lot if fed adequate roughage. They should be allowed shade and space to exercise. A curious and agile animal, the dairy goat requires well built fences for containment and protection from predators.

Dairy goats need a year-round supply of roughage, such as pasture, browse or well-cured hay. Winter browse and pastures should be supplemented with hay. Milking, breeding and growing stock need a daily portion of legume hay, such as alfalfa. Kids and bucks need a balanced grain ration and milkers should be fed a standard dairy grain ration. Kids are milk fed until two to three months of age. All dairy goats must have slat and fresh clean water. Mineral supplements are desirable. Dairy goats have fastidious eating habits and are particular about the cleanliness of their food. Their natural curiosity may lead them to investigate newly found items by sniffing and nibbling, but they quickly refuse anything that is dirty or distasteful.

Dairy goats are usually seasonal breeders with most breedings occurring in late summer through early winter. The doe has an 18-21 day estrus cycle and a “season” which lasts from a few hours to two or three days. The gestation period is five months. Twins are common, but single or triplet births are not rare. A doe milks approximately ten month following kidding, then is held dry for two months before her next freshening. A dairy doe should be milked in the same manner as a dairy cow, using good dairy hygiene. Does may be milked by hand or machine. The milk requires the same careful attention to cleanliness and cooling as any other milk. Bucks have a strong musk-like odor during breeding season, but are not offensive with proper management. The doe has no odor at any time. Many small herds do not keep a buck if stud services are available from other local herds. Only bucks from high quality parents should be kept for breeding purposes. Artificial insemination is another option.





ADGA MEMBERSHIP

Dairy goat owners and enthusiasts are invited to join and actively participate in the American Dairy Goat Association. Members are entitled to special membership rates on registrations, transfers and various other ADGA services. Each year the Association publishes a Membership Directory that lists the names and addresses of ADGA members, and volumes containing the past year's show and production records. Throughout the year, members also receive announcements of the Annual Membership and Board of Directors' Meetings, notices of rule changes, minutes of official meetings and voting materials for general membership balloting and elections. Write to the American Dairy Goat Association office for a membership application: PO Box 865 Spindale, NC 28160. Phone: 828-286-3801, Email: adga@adga.org.

DAIRY GOAT REGISTRATION/RECORDATION



The American Dairy Goat Association maintains herd books for the registration of Purebreds, Americans, and Experimentals, and has a program for the recordation of Grades. Eight breeds of dairy goats are recognized by the Association: Alpine, LaMancha (developed in the U.S. by crossing the "earless" dairy goats from Spain and Mexico with the breeds in the United States), Nigerian Dwarf (a miniature breed originating in West Africa and developed in the United States), Nubian (developed in England by crossing Indian or Egyptian goats with native British goats), Oberhasli, Saanen, Sable (known as Swiss breeds), and Toggenburg. Complete rules for registration/recordation and transfer of dairy goats appear in the Association's Guidebook.

Purebred - Dairy goats and their linear descendants, imported from the eastern hemisphere, duly registered in the countries of their origin before importation, and then registered by ADGA in conformity with ADGA rules. D

American - Dairy Goats with recorded ancestry showing at least 7/8 purebred lineage for does and 15/16 for bucks.

Experimental - Offspring of registered, experimental or crossbred dairy goats that meet specific requirements.

Recorded Grade - Dairy goats (does only), properly recorded with ADGA, that do not qualify for the American, Experimental or Purebred herd books.

PRODUCTION TESTING AND LINEAR APPRAISAL

Many dairy goats, in their prime, average 6-8 pounds of milk daily (roughly 3-4 quarts) during a ten-month lactation, giving more soon after freshening and gradually dropping in production toward the end of their lactation. The milk generally averages 3.5 percent butterfat. A doe may be expected to reach her heaviest production during the third or fourth lactation.

The American Dairy Goat Association maintains an official testing program that operates within standard Dairy Herd Improvement Registry rules. ADGA sanctions a Star program and official milking competitions. ADGA recognizes dairy goats which have attained specified milk production levels, either themselves, or through their parents or offspring, in an Advanced Registry and Star program. A more detailed explanation of the performance programs can be found in the ADGA Guidebook, which is revised annually.



Linear appraisal provides the herd owner with an unbiased evaluation of the conformation of each animal in the herd. There are fourteen linear traits in the ADGA system. Licensed appraisers measure most of the traits by visual observation and some are actually measured. By using summaries of these evaluations, sires can be selected that will bring about the greatest possible degree of improvement in the herd.

OFFICIAL SHOWS AND JUDGES

The dairy goat show standard is a practical standard that describes the ideal dairy goat, stressing the functional aspects of conformation. The show goat is appealing to the eye, but it is not just idle beauty. The points on which it is judged have a direct relationship to its strength, stamina and performance as a dairy animal.

Shows give exhibitors an opportunity to compete for awards and to demonstrate the type and quality of their stock. Many show dairy goats as a family project while young people often exhibit dairy goats in open competition and 4-H and FFA shows. It can be a learning experience for both spectators and exhibitors, for each may see and compare the conformation of the dairy goats being shown and hear the evaluations given by the judge. Every official American Dairy Goat Association show is judged by a person who has been trained and licensed by the Association specifically to judge dairy goats.

American Dairy Goat Association shows may be sanctioned for mature does, doe kids and bucks. With the exception of grade bucks, that can be neither recorded nor shown, dairy goat shows are sanctioned for all breeds, including grades and experimentals. The Association's Guidebook contains a complete explanation of classes and all show rules. Contact the American Dairy Goat Association, local dairy goat clubs, fairs or stock shows for shows, dates, locations and entry details of ADGA sanctioned dairy goat shows. Contact ADGA for more information at PO Box 865, Spindale, NC 28160, 828-286-3801, Fax: 828-287-0476 or adga@adga.org.



JOIN ADGA AND ENJOY GREAT BENEFITS!

- Reduced fees for registering and transferring goats
- Membership Directory with names and addresses of other ADGA members and local dairy goat clubs across the U.S. and around the world
- Contact information for goat-related supply companies (including magazines, books, equipment, novelties, and more!)
- ADGA Guidebook of rules for the Association (including information on ADGA programs and breed standards)
- Participation in DHIR (Dairy Herd Improvement Registry) testing program, which gives you recognition for production records earned by your herd
- Opportunity to serve on an Association committee dealing with specific areas of problem solving
- Participation in Linear Appraisal evaluation of your goats
- Reduced DNA Typing fees
- Eligibility to apply for an ADGA Jim Morrison Scholarship
- Participation in official ADGA shows –some 1200 held each year–all across the nation; also information about annual National Show held in locations rotating around the U.S.
- Quarterly edition of the *ADGA News & Events* to keep you informed of ADGA news and programs
- Miscellaneous Fact Sheets and flyers on various goat-related topics
- Announcements of our Annual Meeting and Convention which features a week-long schedule of seminars and programs, plus an exciting auction of top quality dairy goats
- ADGA Scorecard and Ringside Guide available

For complete list and price of materials available contact:
ADGA • PO Box 865 • Spindale, NC 28160
Phone: 828-286-3801 • Fax: 828-287-0476 • adga@adga.org



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