












American Dairy Goat Association

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The American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) was organized in 1904 to collect, record and preserve the pedigrees of dairy goats and to provide genetic, management and related services to dairy goat breeders.

The office was located in Elyria, Ohio when Robert W. Soens was appointed Secretary-Treasurer in 1953. In 1959, Mr. Soen's health required that he move to a milder climate and the office was relocated to Bostic, North Carolina where it occupied a part of the Soens' residence. As the registry grew, it required more space and the current building site was purchased in 1963. The American Dairy Goat Association is presently first in total dairy goats registered annually in the United States and an organization that consistently registers more than livestock organizations of other species.

ADGA has played a key role in improving the public perception of dairy goats and dairy goat products by directly contributing funds for this purpose. The first Dairy Goat Awareness Day was held in 1986. In Washington, DC, then Secretary of Agriculture, Richard E. Lyng, accepted six baby goats as a gift from members of the ADGA to the school children of America as part of the celebration. Each year since then, the second to third Saturdays in June, National Dairy Month, has been designated Dairy Goat Awareness Week.

-  There are more than 17,000 members from the 50 states and other countries.
-  Annually register over 44,000 animals and record more than 28,000 ownership transfers. Since our inception, we have registered or recorded over 1 million animals.
-  Eight breeds of dairy goats are recognized: Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Sable, Toggenburg and Nigerian Dwarf.
-  A thirty-one member Board of Directors, elected within 8 defined districts, governs the activities of ADGA and oversees an annual budget of approximately \$1.5 million.
-  ADGA staff includes nine full-time employees.
-  ADGA works directly with the USDA to calculate genetic information for production and type traits.
-  Over 9,300 goats are linear appraised each year.
-  ADGA sanctions more than 1,100 shows throughout the U.S. annually. The ADGA National Show routinely has an average of 1,500 entries or more, with the largest show having had over 2,000.
-  The highest recorded milk production in a 305 day lactation is 7,965 pounds. This represents an average of over 26 lbs. or more than 13 quarts of milk per day.