
MINI-GOAT NOTES

Miniature Dairy Goat Association Newsletter

Editor

Jill K Hoenmans

newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net

Registrar

Jacqui Wilcox

PO Box 1534

Woodland, WA 98674

(360) 225-1938

registrar1@miniaturedairygoats.net

Registrar

Shelley Weber

10613 S 2058 PR SE

Kennewick, WA 99337

(509) 396-9922

registrar2@miniaturedairygoats.net



Current Members 356

(as of February 15, 2018)

MDGA ended 2017 with 709 members vs 636 in 2016.

Registrations to Date:

Mini Alpine 953 (49 are Grade)

Mini LaMancha 4174 (213 are Grade)

Nigerian 467

Mini Nubian 8066 (342 are Grade)

Mini Ober 447 (10 are Grade)

Mini Guernsey 13

Mini Saanen/Sable 182 (32 are Grade)

Mini Togg 127 (4 are Grade)

Message from the President

Hello all & greetings from Kentucky!

As my role as President comes to a close, I would like to thank our Board of Directors and all of our volunteer committee chairs for all of their hard work this past year. We have seen growth in our membership, in our registrations, and also in our programs! My goal as president, in 2017, was to encourage members to become more engaged in their local area, and I hope that the increase in membership correlates to that goal. I would like to encourage YOU to be active in your area to help promote, encourage, and mentor others. Any action is better than no action and sometimes a small contribution could mean the world to someone.

The annual board of directors meeting was held on Feb. 7, 2018 for officer elections and I would like to introduce the officers for fiscal year 2018:

President - Crystal Eutsler

Vice President - Dee Daniels

Secretary - Shelley Weber

Treasurer - Linda Sennott

Additional Board Members:

Jacqui Wilcox

Erik P. Brown (new)

Thank you for being part of THE Miniature Dairy Goat Association and I look forward to serving as your Vice President this year!

Sincerely,

Dee Daniels, President

The Miniature Dairy Goat Association

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." -

Arthur Ashe

Member Spotlight



**Thanh, Liz, Bob, Belle, and Winny Duong of Green Eggers Farm
(Blackberry's herd)**

What kind of goats do you have and how many?

We have standard Nubians, Mini Nubians and Nigerian Dwarfs, but our focus is with the Mini Nubians. At this time we have a little over 50 goats.

How long have you had goats?

5 years. Learning and experienced a lot over those 5 years with well over 150 born. With our whole family being involved it makes it very enjoyable process.

What got you started?

We just wanted some fresh, healthy, raw goat milk. When we purchased our first Mini Nubian doe from Paradise lines we were hooked. Her name is Blackberry (hence our herd name) and she has the sweetest personality and produces an abundance of sweet and creamy milk. After that we were in search of high quality Mini Nubians with good conformation, big milk production, nice breed characteristics, sweet personalities, and of course a little eye candy doesn't hurt.

Did/Do you have a mentor?

We've met, and are still meeting, so many people along our journey that have helped and guided us. We have a friend that showed us how to dehorn so we now always offer free dehorning lessons to anyone who wants to learn. We always try to share our knowledge with others because we have been so fortunate to have others share their knowledge with us. But of course we still have so much to learn. Our newest fascination is learning and attempting to AI our does and collecting semen from our bucks. Very interesting process!

Do you milk? If so, what do you use it for?

At this time we milk all of our does by hand, up to 15 does a day! We are looking into getting a milk machine to make life easier. But hand milking is very special and brings a connecting bond with us and the does. We use the milk for our own consumption. Our favorite treat to make and share with our friends is goat milk ice cream. We found that with the Mini Nubian's milk there is no need to add any extra cream! Our simple base is milk, sugar, vanilla, that's it! We love to experiment with different flavors. Our biggest hit is Chocolate Ginger.

What have been your biggest challenges to owning goats?

- Learning how delicate they can be.
- Making sure we keep their stress level down. • Finding the right mineral supplements and formula has been an interesting challenge. But we think that through our research and help from other goat friends we have found a good formula that's right for our herd.
- Dealing with a death in the herd is always a challenge but every once in a while it happens. We always make a point to learn from the death so we can try to prevent it from happening again.

What do you like best about owning goats?

For us it's been such a family project and experience. The bond between our goats and family is priceless and worth all the work we put into our herd.

Editor's note: Spotlight on Members is a chance to get you and what you do visible, and let other members know who you are. Unfortunately, the majority of members selected and contacted either failed to respond or never returned the questionnaire. Going forward, if you want to be in the member spotlight, send an email to newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net to start the process.

2017 Finished Champions

Glimmercroft Danger Danger
 Little Mountains Royal Diablo
 Sageland SS Penelope
 Soaring Heart's Florence Nightengale
 Tippy Hills REM Galaxy
 Enchanted Hill Oreo

Laura Workman
 Julie Winters
 Jessica & Elise Benson
 Wendy Valentine
 Eve Hawkins
 Ed & Joan Kinser

Production Testing

What's the big deal?

by Jill K Hoemans

Milk stars - that's the most common answer, or reason, given for participating in DHIA/DHIR. So just what do those stars mean, and are they really the only reason to make the effort?

Earning a milk star is a by product, and easy identifier, that your animal has proven itself in the milk parlor. It's like getting a recognition award after completing a project. But, the data obtained in the process, just like the end results of a successful project, are worthwhile even if you don't get an "award."



Dairy Herd Improvement was adopted from the dairy cow industry, as a measure of how well producers were managing the overall health and productivity of their herd. We all know that changing environment, feed, even pen-mates, can have an affect on our animals. By measuring the milk output and testing components, on a regular basis, producers are able to see in numbers how their decisions influence what goes in the pail. Changing protein, or other feed components, will change milk output. Additionally, knowing the norm for your animals and herd, allows you to identify potential problems before they affect your milk or overall health of the animal, and herd.

Infections in the mammary can be seen by increases in SCC (Somatic Cell Counts) as well as overall output, before they cause permanent damage, and can also help ensure milk quality remains consistent. Hygienic practices during the pre and post milking as well as how the milk is handled can also be factors - changing a routine, adding new people, etc., can all play a part - and testing the milk can help identify if those changes are impacting your herd health as well as the productivity.

So, if you are on milk test and your does don't get stars, do you quit testing? cull the does? find another job? That will all depend on the criteria you use to manage your herd/farm. A doe that milks 6 lbs a day with good butterfat and protein may be perfect for one person's needs - and knowing that is what can be expected with proper management (and using the testing to confirm) makes more sense than a star attached to a name. Another producer may require each doe to produce 8-10 lbs of milk a day to meet their needs. The goal isn't the star - it's to improve the way you manage your herd.

For example: Here at Little Garden of Eat'n, LLC, especially with the future creamery, Tranquility Acres, in the works, it isn't just volume that makes decisions. While each doe is required to milk 6 - 8 lbs a day (6 for the Mini Nubians, 8 for the Nubians) testing will help identify those that produce the higher component percentages, which translates to more cheese output per pound of milk. And, of course, does that can produce a higher volume of milk and still have the higher protein and butterfat will be considered the super stars. However, a doe that produces 16 lbs of milk that doesn't have the solids to go with the volume, won't be valued higher than the doe that produces

12 lbs of milk with the same cheese yield. Knowing what each animal requires in order to put milk in the pail, knowing what that milk contains, and knowing there aren't any drastic number changes to signify a problem, is valuable in itself.

Achieving stars just makes it easy for anyone interested in your lines to know what they might expect from an animal produced by your herd - valuable, but not the only reason.

Details are available at http://miniaturedairygoats.net/production_page.html

Note on Milk Test from Crystal Eutsler

What a wonderful time to be involved with Mini Goats. Our membership is growing, registrations are pouring in and those participating in our programs grow every day. It is not surprising that among the programs our members are taking advantage of is Milk Testing. We had a good year last year but 2018 promises to be the best year yet. We have more participating and there are some super exciting things coming in our department. MDGA is always striving to improve our programs, and Milk Testing is not to be out done. There are big improvements coming in the next few months. If you have thought about becoming involved in testing, now is the time to do it. There is still time to get your feet wet this year with a one day test. If you would like to participate in the year long 305 test, start preparing now for next year. You have until January to get your testing preparations made. If you need help someone on our team will be glad to answer any questions you might have. Watch the website, and social media for some exciting announcements to come in the next few weeks and months about MDGA's Milk Test Program.

DNA Testing

by Carla Kirby

Excited to share how our members are utilizing our member services programs! July 2017 MDGA entered into a contract with UC Davis /VGL to provide members discounted DNA services. MDGA members were ordering tests before we were officially set up with the program! It took a little time to learn the new system and work out the glitches. A big shout out to all those who patiently worked with us while we learned the system! The MDGA is very impressed with our Miniature Nubian Breeders and their commitment to the integrity of the breed by testing for G6S. We are happy to be able to provide these services to our members.

Total tests (7/2017- 2/2018)

G6S- 49

DNA/Parentage - 5

Casein - 1

For those that may have missed the announcement last summer, the contract with UC Davis/VGL allows MDGA to provide members with the ability to utilize testing at a discounted rate!

Testing services include G6S, Parentage, Casein, and recently added Scrapie.

Services are available to members only, but animals are not limited to those that are MDGA registered.

We will be working on revising the application submission form.

Tips for filling out the submission form and sending in test kit

- Review all information before submission
- Don't forget to enter sex of goat (we make no assumptions based on name of goat)
- How you fill out your form is exactly how information is entered
- It is best to use goats name on kit, barn names cause confusion and may delay VGL testing
- When entering Reg # remember to use the 0 (zero), if applicable. "O,o" will not be corrected and will be submitted as is

Appraisal for Minis?

From the Editor

There are members who started with standard goats, discovered minis, and were hooked! I was one of them! As a firm believer in Mini Nubians, I hold them to high standards - in production and conformation. The only thing I get from my standards that is missing in the minis, is an objective appraisal.

Yes, showing can give you input as to how your animals stack up to other breeders - and this is important. But, what about a general assessment of your animal and herd. This, to me, is priceless.

I have always been a "put your effort where you mouth is" type of person. So, I am trying to find a way to bring a form of appraisal/assessment program to MDGA - one that is tailored to us and not affiliated with any other registry. However, to do that, there is data that exists from established registries that tells us cost and commitment required. And a well known registry has had to cut back in order to meet cost and demand,

So, what does that mean for the Miniature Dairy Goat?

Since we don't have the same research or data other registers have to assign to mini dairy goats, we need to develop a tool that will enable producers to objectively identify traits in their animals and herds that make sense for them. To put this together will require training and resources, and the actual appraisal will be an added expense to members - as yet undetermined. The benefit to members is having an experienced eye assess your herd, in a non show environment.

There have been efforts made, in the past, to bring this to members. But, to make it happen, MDGA will need to be able to hire appraisers and cover associated costs. To put that in real terms, other registries require a \$250 per stop minimum commitment - with their per animal cost being between \$6.50 and \$8.50 per animal, plus an application fee of \$35 - \$75, depending on postmarked date.

So, is having an appraisal program a valuable tool to offer members? As a member, is it something you would be willing to support? Your comments are welcome - email newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net and put APPRAISAL in the subject line.

Describing Colors/Markings

We've all been there - that beautifully colored/marked kid that doesn't seem to conform to an obvious color/marking choice. Here are some tips to help you the next time you register your goats/kids. With kidding season upon us, it's a good time to access resources.

Buckskin



Same black, chocolate, or red cape that covers the head, neck, and shoulders, with the remainder of the body a lighter color (brown/tan/creme/etc.) The face and legs have coordinating stripes. Buckskin can come in several different colors. The most common is just your classic, "buckskin" (black and tan).

Chamoise/chamoisee pattern.



Described as being tan or brown in color with solid black legs, black underbelly, a black stripe down the back, and a pair of black stripes that run down the face. There are two different spellings of this pattern.

Chamoise: Is used to describe a male.

Chamoisee: Is used to describe a female.

The Sundgau Pattern.



The sundgau will have a solid dark color with lighter markings on underbody, facial stripes, etc. Color combinations of black with white, chocolate brown with orange/tan or black and tan are seen.

The "Cou" Patterns.



Cou Noir (coo noo-ar): Literally meaning "black neck." A cou noir will have black front quarters, with white hind quarters.

Cou Blanc (coo blanc): Literally meaning "white neck". A cou blanc will have white front quarters and black hind quarters with black or gray markings on the head.

Cou Clair (coo clair): Literally meaning "clear neck." A cou clair will have tan, saffron, or off white front quarters, with black hind quarters.



Solid; no white markings.

A solid color can be any pattern or color, but will have no white markings with the exception of having a white poll, frosted ears or muzzle, or if there are moon spots on the goat. So you could have a goat with a pattern description of "solid chocolate with moon spots" or "solid gold with frosted ears and muzzle; white poll." A goat with any other white on it will not be

considered "solid."



Pinto/white markings.

Pinto is a way to describe a white overlay, scattered white, broken white, or abundant white, rather than the longer description of the color and location of white.



Moon spots

Moon spots are irregular, somewhat round spots of color on top of the coat pattern. They are randomly placed on the coat and have no order or pattern. Moon spots vary in color, ranging from light creme to dark brown. They can come in many different colors, but will never be *true white or *true black. Moon spots on kids often start out very dark and will lighten

as they age.



Roaning

Roan is generally defined as an even mixture of white hairs with the base color that does not change or fade as the animal ages. Roan is a pattern that is easily passed onto a goat's offspring. It can occur on any coat pattern.



Frosted ears and muzzle.

Frosting occurs around the muzzle, base to tip of ears, and sometimes around the eyes and/or underside of the tail. In extreme cases, I have seen frosting cause white ticking through the coat. Frosting is white in color can range from a very minimal expression to a very extreme expression. Any color goat can have frosting. Some goats will have just a little bit of ticking around the muzzle, others will look like they dipped their whole nose in white paint, so the pattern does vary. Some goats have frosting, some don't, but it is regularly seen in the

Nigerian Dwarf breed and seems to be passed along to kids easily.

White poll



A white poll refers to the white, somewhat round spot on top of the head (the poll of the goat.) Commonly seen in Nigerian Dwarfs and regularly passed onto the kids from a parent. A good term to know when writing the color description for your goat or kid's registration application, especially if they have no other markings.

From the Recipe Box

Spinach and Feta Triangles (Spanakopita)

you need:

1 medium red onion, minced
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 6-8 cloves garlic, minced
 1 8-10 oz bag frozen spinach
 (or 1 lb fresh)

4 oz Feta
 Zest of 1 lemon
 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
 Salt and Pepper to taste
 1 box puff pastry dough (thawed)

Sauté onion in olive oil until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and spinach (if using frozen spinach sauté until excess water is cooked off) stir well to mix. Turn off heat and allow to cool a bit.

Crumble Feta in medium bowl and add the cooled spinach mixture, lemon zest, nutmeg and salt and pepper. Cover and chill for at least an hour. While this is chilling, prepare the puff pastry. Unfold, cut into 12 squares approximately 4 x 4 inches. Place a heaping tablespoon of chilled filling in center and fold one corner over to form a triangle. Press edges of triangle together to keep filling from escaping. Place filled pastry on plate and set in freezer.

Preheat oven to 400 F. Bake frozen pastries on baking sheet for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Pastries can also be kept in the freezer (in a freezer bag) for later use.

Upcoming Live Shows (pending)

MAY 26, 2018

KY Mini Dairy Goat Classic

sponsor; The KY Quad Mini Squad

Metcalfe County Fairgrounds

Edmonton, KY

Dee Daniels 270-792-3868

JUNE 8 & 9 2018

Wine Country Classic Dairy Goat Show & Youth Showmanship Specialty

sponsor; Wine Country Goat Club

Benton County Fairgrounds

Kennewick, WA

Taffy Mercer 509-531-2153

JUNE 10, 2018

Mighty Mini Milkers Miniature Dairy Goat Show

sponsor; Southern California Dairy Goat Association

Rawhide Ranch

Bonsall, CA

Angela Davidson 760-488-1060

JULY 19,20,21 2018

Kool Kids Clover Mini & Nigerian Show

Featuring 1 Day Milk Test

sponsor; Kool Kids 4-H Club

Blackfoot, ID

Amy McClellan 208-589-7647