



**TATTOO LETTER
FOR 2020**

M

Inside

- Registry Numbers
- Memberships stats
- Contact info for registrars/committee chairs
- Choosing a Good Dairy Goat
- Listeriosis in Goats
- How to measure your goat
- Breeder spotlight article
- Resource links
- Life Members list
- Club listing
- Show listing
- V-Show news
- Classified ad section
- Tattoo letters for each year
- Newsletter submission deadlines
- Contact info for Newsletter

MDGA by the Numbers

Registered Minis as of end of July 2020

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mini Alpine.....1,260 | Grade Mini Alpine.....76 |
| Mini Guernsey.....23 | |
| Mini LaMancha.....5,147 | Grade Mini LaMancha.....332 |
| Mini Nubian.....12,097 | Grade Mini Nubian..... 591 |
| Mini Oberhasli.....472 | Grade Mini Oberhasli.....24 |
| Mini Saanen/Sable.....208 | Grade Mini Saanen/Sable.....41 |
| Mini Toggenburg.....144 | Grade Mini Toggenburg.....06 |
| Nigerian Dwarf.....743 | |

MDGA Membership

As of end of July 2020

Members - 1011

Lifetime Members - 135

At the close of 2013 there were 378 members

Be sure and check out MDGA's FaceBook pages.

https://www.facebook.com/1mdga/?ref=page_internal

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/124086251322601/>

This second link is for chats, a place to ask questions & get information

The Registrars:

Tiffany Hunter

Mini-Nubian, Mini-Saanen,
Mini-Sable, Mini-Toggenburg &
Grades
registrar1@miniaturedairygoats.net
360-953-7040 or 360-918-3864

Shelley Weber

Mini-Alpine, Mini-LaMancha, Mini-
Guernsey, Mini-Oberhasli, & Nigerian
Dwarf
registrar2@miniaturedairygoats.net
360-953-7056

The Program Chairs:

DHI Milk Test

Dee Daniels
DHIA 305-Day coordinator
305day@miniaturedairygoats.net

DHIA 1-Day Milk Test Chair

Tiffany Hunter
1day@miniaturedairygoats.net

Artificial Insemination Chair

Thanh Duong
ai@miniaturedairygoats.net

**Membership & V-Show chair/
Webmaster**

Tiffany Wilcox
membership@miniaturedairygoats.net
vshow@miniaturedairygoats.net

Live Show Chair

Shelley Weber
show@miniaturedairygoats.net

Judges Training Chair

Ed Kinser
judgestraining@miniaturedairygoats.net

Davis Testing Chair

Carla Kirby
davis.testing@miniaturedairygoats.net

Evaluation Development Chair

Linda Sennott
Jacqui Wilcox - coordinator

Newsletter Chair

Jacqui Wilcox
Newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net

**Because MDGA is growing so rapidly
there was a need to make changes that
will affect registrations.**

****Please note****

**Tiffany Hunter is now the registrar for
Mini-Nubian, Mini-Saanen, Mini-Sable,
Mini-Toggenburg, as well as all Grades.**

**If you need guidance or advice on registering
any of these breeds call or email:**

**registrar1@miniaturedairygoats.net
360-953-7040 or (360)9183864**

**Shelley Weber will continue to do the
Mini-Alpine, Mini-LaMancha, Mini-Guernsey,
Mini-Oberhasli, & Nigerian Dwarf
contact info is:**

**registrar2@miniaturedairygoats.net
360-953-7056**

**For help with anything mini
Contact info:**

**Jacqui Wilcox - Member support
360-953-7040
mdga@miniaturedairygoats.net**

Help with all things Membership

**Tiffany Wilcox - Membership Chair
Help with membership/herdname/tattoo:
membership@miniaturedairygoats.net
360-953-7040**

Choosing a "Good" Dairy goat

A "good dairy goat" is not just a doe with a pretty udder or one that milks 4,000 pounds a year. A "good dairy goat" must have a combination of positive qualities, all of which allow her to produce lots of milk, have numerous kids, and live a long productive life. Many traits go together to make a "good" goat, and if you learn to recognize these traits, you'll be able to improve your breeding program and purchase better goats.

No matter what some-one tells you, no one can look at a young kid and tell that she'll be a permanent champion or have great udder attachment, but you can learn to recognize certain positive traits that does of all ages can possess.

The first thing that hits your eye is general appearance. Structurally, the doe should have a strong, level top line; her withers should blend smoothly into the shoulder blades (no bumps or humps as you run your hand down her neck over her withers and shoulders). Her front legs should be wide apart, strong, and straight (not curved as you look at them from the side); her rear legs should be set wide apart at the hocks, with a wide arched opening in the escutcheon area. As you look at her rear legs from the side, they should be nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern. Look for short, strong pasterns, not ones that are broken and weak. Does with these positive structural traits should be productive does; they will have the strength to withstand the rigors of heavy milking and strenuous kid bearing for many years.

Dairy character is also important. A doe should look feminine; she should walk with gracefulness and animation. She should be an "open" doe - her ribs should be set wide apart; they should be flat (as should all her bones) and long. To feel the difference between flat-boned and round-boned does, run your hands down the ribs of a number of does. Flat-boned does? bones actually feel flatter; the space between ribs will usually be wider. The more times you do this, the easier finding that flat-boned doe will be. With more experience, you'll actually be able to pick out "dairy" does from across the barn or ring; they ooze femininity, angularity, and, well, dairyness.

A "good" doe has body capacity, and you can see some of this potential capacity even in kids. Look for a doe with deep heart girth (more room for the lungs and heart). In small kids, look also for width of the chest floor; a really narrow, pinched kid will never develop tremendous body capacity. When choosing a kid, don't worry about size of barrel as much as body length in general. In older does, look for increasing depth from front to rear as you look from the side. Remember that large body capacity means more room for food and for kids. Be careful, though, not to mistake a fat, beefy doe for a capacious doe. You're looking for a doe with body capacity and dairy character.

For a doe to milk well over a long lifetime, she'll need to have a well-attached udder. Udders without much attachment tend to flop around, get stepped on, and generally are more prone to injury and disease than udders that have strong attachments. Look for a high, wide rear udder attachment and ideally a smooth, well-extended fore udder. A doe can have a small pocket in the fore udder, though, and still have a functional udder - if she has strong rear udder attachment and a correctly attached medial suspensory ligament. The smooth fore udder is icing on the cake. The medial suspensory ligament is the udder's primary support; if it's weak, the whole udder will sag. Finally, the udder must be capacious (that means large in relation to the doe's size), and when the doe is milked out, ideally there should not be a whole lot of "beef" or "meat" in the udder. The more there is, the less capacity there is for milk.

Why do you need to know what a "good goat" looks like? Remember, it costs the same to feed a structurally sound goat as an unsound one, and a "good doe" will give you many more years of service, more milk, and more kids, with fewer health problems. However, no matter how structurally sound a goat is, if she doesn't have good management, she'll never reach her potential. So you must give your "good does" a sound program of health care, feeding, and general maintenance, to insure that they live up to their potential.

Courtesy of:
Caprine supply
<https://www.caprinesupply.com>

LISTERIOSIS IN GOATS

Dangers of Feeding Moldy Hay

Circling Disease and Silage Sickness are other names for listeriosis in goats, commonly associated with feeding moldy hay. Listeriosis is a life threatening disease primarily caused by the bacteria *Listeria monocytogenes*; however, ruminants may also get listeriosis from *Listeria ivano vii*. *Listeria* is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be transmitted from animals to humans.

Listeria can live almost anywhere in soil, manure piles, grass, and the gastrointestinal tracts of healthy animals. It thrives in aerobic conditions, such as the top layer of silage and moldy hay or feed. It is commonly found in the feces of infected birds, animals, fish, and insects as well as sewage. It can contaminate water, milk, and food. It can withstand temperatures from 34-113 degrees F. While outbreaks can occur year round, in livestock they are most prevalent in spring and fall.

People and animals in good health are usually not affected by listeria. In humans, the highest risk is for pregnant women and the immunocompromised. *L. monocytogenes* can be carried by a host without appearing sick and can shed in milk and feces. It is transmitted when an animal ingests contaminated feed or water, but bacteria can also be inhaled from fecal dust. Researchers have also suggested that it can be sexually transmitted in goats.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF LISTERIOSIS IN GOATS?

There are two forms of listeriosis in goats: encephalitic and septicemic. Clinical signs of listeriosis are seen more frequently in adult goats than kids.

The encephalitic form has the highest mortality rate and is most prevalent in small ruminants. It is characterized by inflammation of the brain resulting in neurological symptoms. The bacteria enter the body through damaged mucous membranes in the mouth or other openings, and migrates to the brain. Early symptoms are depression, loss of appetite, decreased milk production, and fever. As the brain swells, the animal develops weakness and incoordination, and will circle in one direction. As the disease progresses, symptoms such as partial facial paralysis, the head pulled back with a rigid neck, ear drooping, salivation, slack jaw, and seizures may appear.

The septicemic form, while also present in ruminants, is most common in single-stomach animals. The bacteria also enter through damaged mucous membranes and then the bloodstream, where it spreads to other organs. It is characterized by diarrhea and abortion. Mastitis caused by *L. monocytogenes* is rare, but does occur, and results in prolonged shedding of the bacteria in milk. Newborn kids exposed to shedding of listeria in colostrum or milk may show signs of septicemia. It is recommended that aborted kids and placentas be handled with sterile precaution, as people have developed fatal meningitis, septicemia, and rashes on the arms after handling tissues contaminated with listeria.

Diagnosis of listeriosis in goats is done primarily by clinical signs, since fatalities occur within 24- 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. With prompt aggressive treatment, the Merck Veterinary Manual suggests a 30 percent survival rate. Tests are available, but the results take longer than the progression of the disease. They are used to positively identify the presence of listeria in a postmortem examination or necropsy.

Diagnosing the encephalitic form of listeriosis in goats is challenging, as the symptoms can appear very similar to polioencephalomalacia (cerebrocortical necrosis) or goat polio. Goat polio is a result of a vitamin deficiency, specifically thiamine, rather than bacteria, and as such is not contagious. It presents as uncoordinated staggering, excitability, stargazing, circling, diarrhea, tremors, head pressing, and apparent blindness. It progresses to convulsions and, untreated, results in death in 24-72 hours. Kid goats are more susceptible to polio than adults.

Because of the similarities of the two goat diseases, it is recommended to treat animals for both. Neurological symptoms are not necessarily indicative of listeriosis or polio. They can also be caused by toxins. It is important to know poisonous plants for goats and rule out the possibility of poisoning, which requires an entirely different course of treatment.

Abortions and diarrhea can also be attributed to other causes.

How is Listeriosis Treated?

Treatment for listeriosis in goats is high doses of procaine penicillin every six hours until symptoms have disappeared.

Sufficient doses are needed to cross the blood/brain barrier and deliver the antibiotic to the central nervous system. While the antibiotic is readily available over the counter, its use in goats is considered extra labeled, requiring consultation with a veterinarian for proper usage and dosage.

Dexamethasone or Banamine, both requiring prescriptions, are administered to reduce the swelling of the brain. Be aware that dexamethasone will cause abortion in pregnant does. Do not use dexamethasone with Banamine, as it could cause fatal hemorrhaging.

Producers also use herbal remedies in conjunction with pharmaceutical treatment. Usnea extract is made from a lichen that is believed to specifically target listeria bacteria. Thyme, oregano, rosemary, and garlic have also shown therapeutic effectiveness. Apple cider vinegar can help to acidify the rumen. While these may be effective as supportive treatments, they are not able to cross the blood/brain barrier and alone cannot reverse the disease progression.

Intravenous administration of fluids and nutrition may also be necessary for animals that are severely compromised.

How do You Prevent Listeriosis?

The best way to prevent listeriosis in goats is good hygiene and sanitation on the farm. Clean soiled feed bunks and water troughs often, to reduce the growth of mold. Keep wild birds away from where the herd feeds. Store feed properly.

Know what to feed goats. Do not feed goats silage unless you are very familiar with handling and storing it. Avoid wet, moldy hay and grain. Moist feeds formulated with molasses have a high incidence of mold, especially in hot weather. Do not feed grass clippings. Do not allow animals to graze boggy areas or close to the ground where the soil has a high pH. Do not feed rough, coarse feed that has a tendency to injure the mouth and predispose an animal to infection.

Protect the rumen balance of your goats. Stressors such as weaning, parasites, sudden weather changes, confinement, changes in herd structure, and abrupt changes in feed can alter the pH of the rumen, making it less acidic and giving the listeria bacteria an opportunity to grow. Polio is also triggered by changes in the rumen. Too much grain decreases the pH and leads to decreased thiamine production.

Isolate animals showing symptoms and use sterile precaution when treating. If a doe is shedding listeriosis, raise kids on a milk replacer or milk from a clean doe. In the event of death, submit the animal or aborted tissue to a lab for necropsy. A postmortem is the only way to determine the true cause of death so if other animals in the herd are affected, the proper treatment can be administered. If a postmortem cannot be done, dispose of the carcass by burning.

While you cannot eliminate the presence of listeria in the environment, you can limit the risk of introducing the bacteria and take precautions that will protect your goats from disease.

As gleaned from:

A GUIDE TO COMMON GOAT AILMENTS

Karen and her husband Dale own Kopf Canyon Ranch in Moscow, Idaho.

They enjoy "goating" together and helping others goat.

They raise Kikos primarily, but are experimenting with crosses for their new favorite goating experience: pack goats! You can learn more about them at Kopf Canyon Ranch on Facebook or www.kikogoats.org.

How to Measure Height

BY TIFFSTER · 01/17/2019

It is important to learn to stand your animals the right way to measure their height correctly. If you are measuring incorrectly you can easily add on or take off an extra inch or so.

- It is important to make sure that the animal is standing in a relaxed position and not leaning backwards or forwards.



- Height Measurement is to be taken at the highest point of the wither to the ground with the animal standing squarely on all four feet with all legs in a vertical line to the ground & head in relaxed upright position. Hooves should be neatly trimmed.
- Measurement Device should be an official measuring stick. Many feel the best measuring device is a miniature horse stick. It has a level on it to help with accuracy. Placement of the measuring stick is very important. Place the stick just behind the front leg. NOT BESIDE IT! Now raise the level over the withers until the bubble is in the center, while the animal is standing correctly on a solid surface. No pressure should be applied to hold the device down on to the wither.
- Measurement Surface must be a flat level surface, concrete, wood, solid level ground, pavement.
- Dirt floors/solid ground may be off by at least 1/2 inch. Concrete or wooden floors work best.
- The measurer must take particular care to ensure that the surface on which the goats are to be measured is solid and level.
- Make sure that the goat's head is just a little above level. Too high or too low will give you a wrong measurement. A total of three measurements may be taken, then added together and divided by three. This will give an overall average and the result shall be deemed to be the height of the goat. Unless all three measurements are the same, then there is no need to add and divide.

East Fork Goat Milk Soaps & Lotions

This is an article written up in a newspaper on one of our mini LaMancha breeders, Erik Brown, KY. It is great to see how breeders use their milk, and love their goats!



By JENNIFER MOONSONG
Jobe Publishing
Regional Features

East Fork Goat Milk Soaps: A bleating success

Kentucky Department of Agriculture, has a special place in his heart for milk goats.

"Milk goats are very hands-on, and that creates a bonding process," he said.

Although the goats are raised to sell, Brown finds it hard parting with his farm friends and admits he keeps many of the animals. He now has approximately 60 goats, and has, at times, had up to 30 milkers.

Needless to say, there is a lot of milk, and Brown began looking for an inventive way to put the milk to good use. He first got the idea to make soaps a few years ago but did not pursue it.

Last October, he decided to apply some purpose to his passion.

"A friend of mind started making soap and it

rekindled my interest in it, and she put me in touch with a woman who makes the soap," he said.

Although Brown is not currently part of the hands-on process for making the soap, he is very much involved in the production and supply of the milk which is used. He also decides what scents and kinds of soaps, bath bombs and lotions his small business offers.

"At some point I hope to become a bigger part of actually making the soap," he said.

For now, with Brown's many obligations, making the soap himself is not an option, but he enjoys being able to offer something that begins on his farm and is pleased with the community's response.

"Edmonton has been

very supportive. I have been very pleased with my first year of production."

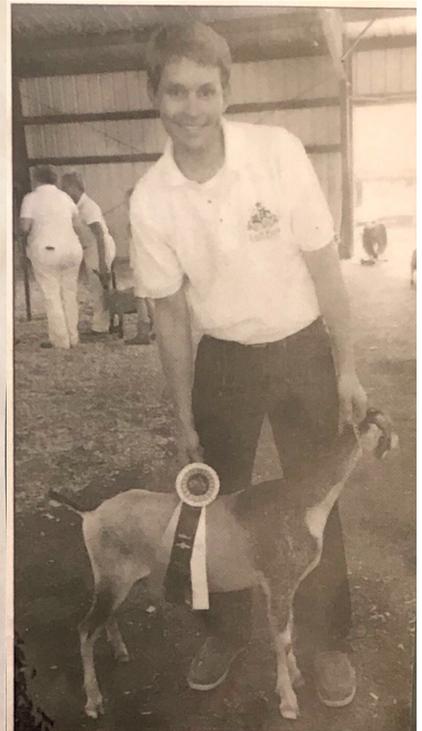
With a huge offering of scents, he is still trying to figure out what people like best.

"What I like, you might hate," he said.

"My favorite is pomegranate and not a lot of those sold. Almond Vanilla and Black Raspberry Vanilla have been good sellers."

His soaps are on display at Wall Works in Edmonton. In coming months, he hopes to offer them at more locations, with the help of his family, which he says has been very supportive of the venture.

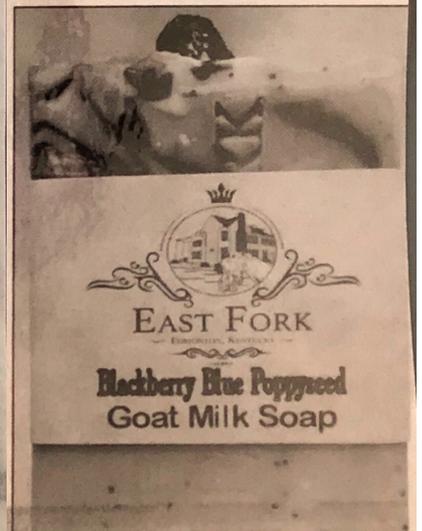
To learn more about the soaps, you can visit the East Fork Goat Milk Soaps & Lotions Page on Facebook.



Erik Brown and one of his prize-winning goats.



A sampling of East Fork Goats Milk Soap Company's product line.



Resource Links

The links listed here can be useful to any dairy goat owner – List is organized in alphabetical order, not in order of preference.

SUPPLIERS:

Caprine Supply

<http://www.caprinesupply.com/>

Hamby Dairy Supply

www.hambydairysupply.com

Heritage Animal Health

<http://www.heritageanimalhealth.com>

Jeffers

<http://www.jefferslivestock.com/>

Jolly German Livestock Supplies

www.goatworld.com/store/

Mid-States Wool Growers Co-op (Sheep & goat supplies)

<http://www.midstateswoolgrowers.com/>

Nasco Farm and Ranch

www.enasco.com/farmandranch

PBS Animal Health

<http://www.pbsanimalhealth.com/>

Pipestone Veterinary Supply

<http://www.pipevet.com/>

Premier

<http://www.premier1supplies.com/>

Valley Vet Supply

<http://www.valleyvet.com/>

The Goat Shop

<https://the-goat-shop.com>

APL Farms/Hoegger Supply

<https://www.aplfarms.com/>

<http://hoeggerfarmyard.com/the-farmyard/>

Goat health links:

A Life of Heritage

www.alifeofheritage.com

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGabNsZ4TN0tQnmU5NUgpvg>

Fiasco Farm

www.fiascofarm.com

Hoegger Farm Yard - health info

<http://hoeggerfarmyard.com/the-farmyard>

Thank you to all our lifetime supporters

Adetoro, Zaheed - Allen, Lavinia(20 judge) - Barnhill, Teresa,
Bates, Gary - Beecher, Ryan - Bell, Steve,
Bellamy, Sarah - Berger, Tonya,
Bischoff, Jessica - Braund, Chelsie - Brinkley, Michele,
Brown, Ronald - Buoni, Valerie - Burns, Dusty-Lyn,
Caldwell, Holly - Campanali, AshleyAnn,
Carpentier, Kelly - Clark, Shelley - Colunio, Geraldine,
Cox, Darren - Crawmer, Kimberly - Crockett, Jason,
Dahm, Ruth - Degenhardt, Sonya - DeGuire, Karen,
Deitch, Courtney - Denyes, Laura - Derer, Annette,
Doyle, Allison - Duong, Thanh. - Elkins, Jessica,
Elmquist, Eliya - Epler, Natalie - Eutsler, Crystal (20' judge),
Evans, Hannah - Fernicola, Vincenzo - Fitch, Kara
Floyd, Kristina - Ford, Scotty - Foster, Loretta,
Franklin, Nora (Christy) - Gayler, Mariah - Gettler, Joe,
Gibson, Elizabeth - Goodart, Marie - Groth, Kathryn,
Gunn, Jr, Keith - Hackman, Dannelle - Hale, Lindsey,
Hall, Maureen - Harwell, Julie - Hayden, Deborah,
Hitzel, Megan - Hodges, Patricia - Hoenmans, Jill,
Hunt, Joslyn - Hunter, Tiffany - Hurlburt, Kathleen,
Jantz, Jami - Jernigan, Missy - Joyce, Sharon E,
Keyser, Geneme - Kirkbride, Kevin - Kline, Heather,
Kyle, Barbara - Kurth, Amy - Larsen, Christy,
Le Brun, Anita J. - Lewis, Carol - List, Missi,
MacFadden, Missi - Maher, Benjamin - Mellerup, Justin,
Marta, Cassandra - Menard, Magan - Metcalf, Michelle,
Miller, Ramsey - Minck, Susan - Montague, Elisabeth,
Moots, Airin - Morgan, T - Moze, Daryl - Murray, Deirdre,
Myer, Kathleen - Newberry, Jessica - ONeal, Kerry,
Parkinson, Kristie - Pfaltzgraff, Elise - Pittson, Danielle,
Poston, Judy - Purvis, Stephanie - Reed, Kristi T,
Reed, Melissa - Reich, Krystal - Reithinger, Hannah,
Rogers, Kara - Rosell, Jimena - Roy, Brittany,
Sanders, Ashley - Schmidt, Elizabeth - Sennott, Linda,
Shaw, Quintin - Sherman, Karie - Shinkle, Rose,
Smathers, Teia - Smith, Beverly - Snipe, Jeanell,
Steiner, Stacy - Stephens, Addie - Studdard, Gena,
Tarver, Paula - Terrill, Paula - Tervo Regina(20' Judge)
Thomas, Terry - Tritt, Leslie - Valentine, Wendy,
Vestnes, Helge - Voissem, Jeunique - Weber, Natalie,
Weber, Shelley - Webster, Jared - Welk, Karen,
White, Amy - Wilcox, Jacqui - Wilcox, Tiffany,
Wilcox, Kailey - Willard, Tammy - Wolff, Clarence F. Jr.,
Wood, Timothy - Woodard, Elizabeth - Workman, Laura,
Youmans, Katie - Zandbergen, Jennifer

If I have missed listing any life members here, please contact me & I will be sure & list you in the next newsletter

Shows/Events

Unfortunately most of the MDGA shows have been canceled this year due to the Covid-19 virus lock-down in many states. Please check with the shows secretary to be sure the show you wish to attend isn't one that needed to be canceled.



ADVERTISING

We are starting a section in the news letter to advertise your goats for sale, goats wanted & goat milk products

The cost would be 10.00 per issue for a basic post of up to 20 words (the "For Sale", or "Wanted" would not be included in the 20 words)
If you wish to include a photo it would be 5.00 more.

Contact Jacqui the Newsletter chair to get more details.
360-953-7040
mdga@miniaturedairygoats.net

Mini Goat Clubs

Listed free
Texas

Hill Country Mini Milkers
Boerne, TX
Email: hillcountryminimilkers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.HillCountryMiniMilkers.org>

Washington

Pacific Northwest Dairy Goat Club
Longview, WA
Email: pnwminidairygoatclub@gmail.com
Website: <https://pnwmdgc.com>

Goat Health Info.

Temperature = 102.5 - 104 - This varies depending on the temperature of the goat's surroundings.

Pulse rate = 70 - 80 beats per minute

Respiration = 15 to 30 per minute

Rumen (stomach) movements = 1 - 1.5 per minute

Puberty = 7 weeks - 8 months
(separate bucks from does at 2 months)

Estrus/Heat Cycle = 17 to 23 days

Gestation = 143 to 155 days

Life span:

Does = 11-12 years average age, but... usually the death in does is kidding related. Does that are "retired" from breeding around age 10 live longer: 16-18 years

Wethers = 11-16 years average age

Bucks = 8-10 average age - Bucks usually live shorter lives than does and wethers due to the stresses of going into rut each year.

Full growth size: Most goats do not reach their full size until they are about three years of age. (They keep growing for about three years)

Info courtesy of Fiasco Farms/Molly's Herbsals. -

<https://fiascofarm.com/goats/index.htm>

Tattoo Letters List by year

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 2010: A | 2017: J | 2024: S |
| 2011: B | 2018: K | 2025: T |
| 2012: C | 2019: L | 2026: V |
| 2013: D | 2020: M | 2027: W |
| 2014: E | 2021: N | 2028: X |
| 2015: F | 2022: P | 2029: Y |
| 2016: H | 2023: R | 2030: Z |

The letters "G," "I," "O," "Q," and "U" are not used to designate a year, as they can be mistaken for another letter if the tattoo is not clear.

Newsletter Deadline Dates:

January 15th - January/February issue

March 15th - March/April issue

May 15th - May/June issue

July 15th - July/August issue

September 15th - September/October issue

November 15th - November/December issue

**Have a story, club, show, resource link, recipe
or anything else Mini goat related you think members
would enjoy or benefit from?**

Send them to: Jacqui at newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net

Please submit your ideas by the 15th of the month.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions.