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Please note that views or opinions
expressed by members are not necessarily
the views or opinions of the MDGA
board or program chairs.
Implementing any animal husbandry
advice found in Mini-Goat Notes is done
so at your own risk.

Miniature Dairy Goat Association Mini-Goat Notes



Letter from the President

The MDGA team (committee volunteers, board members, and paid personnel) has and will continue to do their best to educate, encourage and enlighten our members. We are working with an excellent team that is diverse in geographical area, age, and experience to get the most benefit for the organization as a whole. There are projects, improvements, and committee assignments that are being worked on but these things take time and some are more complex than others. The support of the members is greatly appreciated as MDGA continues to grow and make improvements that will benefit all members.

As always we encourage our members to utilize the best genetics available to make their miniature breeds. Educating themselves to recognize those qualities is key. Attending shows, reviewing reasoning's for show placing's, and attending clinics and workshops is a great way to obtain that education as well as having an experienced mentor. I hope that you will continue to support MDGA by building a better herd, one goat at a time.

Thank you for your continued support of THE Miniature Dairy Goat Association.

For those that are newer to MDGA, it should be noted that the current By-Laws can be found on the right hand side bar of the home page at:
www.miniaturedairygoats.net

~Dee Daniels~
MDGA-President-2022

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Tattoo Letter for 2022

P

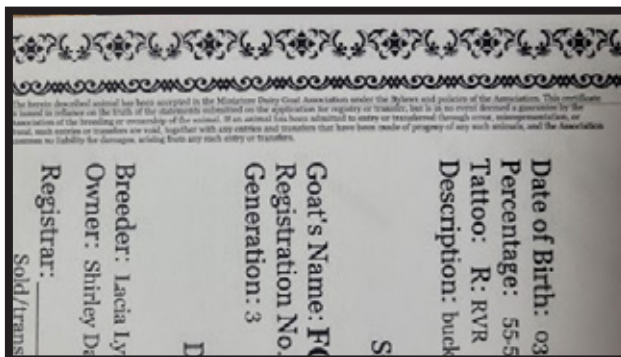
Grade Herdbook

WE "HERD" YOU!

With the overwhelming requests to reconsider the decision to close the herd-book for any new foundation animals, the board asked a committee to come together and present a proposal that would satisfy the needs of our members. The committee met multiple times over the last couple of months and presented a proposal to the board on May 10, 2022. The proposal not only re-opens the Grade Herd-book to new animals but includes some major changes. As a registry, MDGA is in the business to register goats. The Grade committee presented a proposal that was accepted. We will start accepting new applications to the Grade Herd-book on September 1st, 2022. For a complete explanation of the changes and for the official rules, please check out the MDGA website at <https://miniaturedairygoats.net/mdgas-grade-herdbook/>

Disclaimer

You'll notice a new look to any new or updated registration certificates. Thanks to a database update, the following disclaimer will now be displayed on all outgoing registration certificates.



Fall Virtual Show 2022

We've updated our guidelines for a more efficient show, so please take a look before entering.

Fall 2022 Virtual Show Judges Lavinia Allen and Ed Kinser

OPEN FOR ENTRIES 9/1/22

EARLY ENTRIES 9/1 - 10/1

LATE ENTRIES 10/2 - 10/10

NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/10

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out!

<https://miniaturedairygoats.net/virtual-show-entry-guidelines/>

~Josie Kirby~

V-Show Coordinator

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Upcoming Shows 2022

Oregon State Fair & Expo
September 3, 2022
Salem, OR

1 Ring - Judge Scott Rice
MN, AOM, Jr & Sr Does
Show Chair: Tracey Jones
mossridge@netzero.com

KY Mini Dairy Goat Classic - Fall
September 3, 2022
Edmonton, KY
Show Chair: Shirley D. Daniels
dee.daniels71@gmail.com

Floyd County Miniature Dairy Goat Show
September 10, 2022
Floyd, VA
Show Chair: Stephanie Trout
shepherdhillfarm@verizon.net
*Be sure to check out the MDGA website for the most
up-to-date show listings!*

PLEASE USE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION APPLICATION WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

Please note that MDGA no longer accepts registrations via email
(scanning the application and sending photos).

ADVANTAGES TO ONLINE REGISTRATION:

Allows you to upload photos and supporting documents
Nothing gets lost in snail mail
Email notification of application submission

Be sure to check out the handy infographics on what forms you need
when registering and how to take the best photos for registration here:
<https://miniaturedairygoats.net/registration-rules/>

Timely Topic: Feeding Branches to the Herd

By Foggy Fork Farm LLC



*Branches for breakfast, limbs for lunch,
and saplings for supper!*

*Foggy Fork Farm LLC has found a
great way to supplement the herd's diet.*

*Limbs shown here secured in bundles
then tied to the fence with grass hay
twine.*

Something fun that I have been trying to remember to get done early enough that I still have daylight to take pictures!

Instead of feeding hay to the retained doelings I am trimming limbs - this is a fun and enjoyable task. Tonight I gathered willow, locust, oak, poplar, and apple to hang for the girls to enjoy while they are penned up at night.

I use hay string to make a loop around the branches and then hang them on the cattle panel fence using a slip knot. This makes the hay strings easy to untie and it's also easy to undo the loop to remove the branches from the night before. There is little to no waste and the branches are easy to remove. We toss them in a pile to burn later on.



Note from the editor – if you are unsure which branches are safe for your goats, there are several plant identification apps and also lists of safe and unsafe trees and shrubs online or at your local extension office.



Herd enjoying the buffet!

Healthy Minis: The Life Cycle of the Barber Pole Worm

By Kendra Rudd Shatswell - Abridged from the Hefty Goat Holler Farm Blog

A Barber Pole worm is classified in the taxonomist group trichostrongyles, or round worms. The adult BP worm is visible to the naked eye, and is about the diameter of a paper clip. Adult females are 20 to 30mm long and males are around 15mm long. The female displays the barber pole design – the white stripe contains her sexual organs, and the red stripe contains her intestinal tract, usually red from feeding on the host's blood. The male worm is solid-colored, usually pink or red. Both lose coloration when exposed to air. The average life span for an adult Barber Pole is 4-6 months, but there is evidence the parasites can live over a year if conditions are right.

The BP has a voracious appetite, sucking half to one drop of blood per day, even though its mouth is only 5 micrometers in diameter – about the same diameter as an average capillary. A drop (.05cc) may not seem like much, but consider that only 1000 worms can suck two ounces of blood per day, or two quarts in a month.

The female is an egg-laying machine, producing anywhere from 2000 to 10,000 eggs in a single day. Most sources report the average eggs laid per day at around 5000. A goat with as few as 500 adult female BP worms can shed 2,500,000 eggs in a single day.

The life cycle can complete in as little as four to five weeks in optimum conditions. It is a tropic worm, thriving in heat and humidity. These worms are less of an issue, or are a concern for a shorter duration, in areas that receive less than 25 inches of rain annually.

Eggs can hatch in as little as 4-10 days of the fecal pellets being deposited into the environment. Eggs cannot hatch into first stage larva – L1 – without adequate moisture and warm temperatures. Ideal hatching occurs at about 86°F and with around a half inch of moisture or at least 60% relative humidity. If hatching conditions are not met, eggs can die in an inhospitable environment – very hot, dry, or cold. Fewer eggs hatch at temperatures lower than 50°F or higher than 96°F. If the pellet is heated over 100°F, nearly all of the eggs and larvae will die. Eggs can survive 5-21 days.

If the egg does hatch, the L1 larva travels through the fecal pellet, eating bacteria and growing. It molts and develops into a second-stage larva – L2 – that also lives inside the pellet, eating bacteria and growing. These two stages of larva are more susceptible to drying out and dying than either the eggs or the infective-stage larvae.

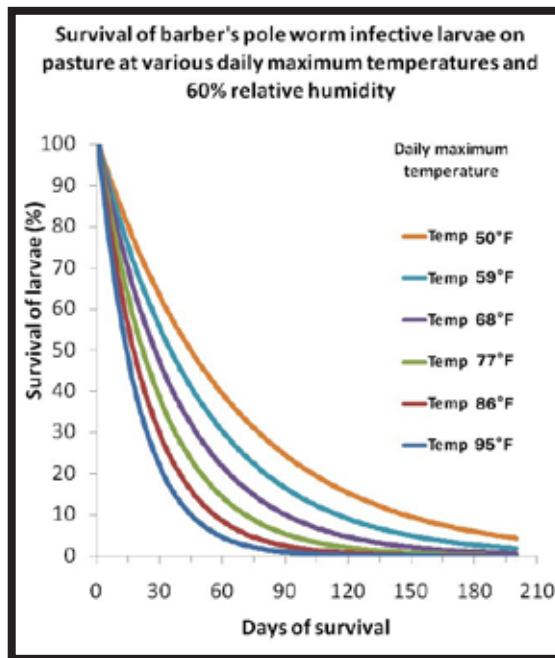
If the L2 larva survives and molts, the larva enters the L3 stage – this is the larva the goat picks up and ingests. The Barber Pole can grow from egg to infective L3 larva in as little as four to six days. However, the molt is incomplete. L3 larvae have only partially shed their protective cuticle. Partial protection makes them less susceptible to drying out than previous stages, but according to the article “Managing the Barber Pole Worm” by Dr. Steve Hart “...the partially shed skin covers his (L3 larva) mouth which prevents him from eating. This means that he must live off his body stores until he gets into your goat. If his body stores run out before he gets into your goat, he dies.”

L3 rely on moisture to soften the fecal pellet enough to emerge, and to migrate from the pellet to forage using random movement. L3 usually do not move more than a few inches vertically or horizontally from the fecal pellet. In warmer conditions, the cold-blooded larvae wiggle more, using more energy reserves which

thereby shortens their life spans. In cooler conditions, L3 move little and can live much longer, sometimes months. The chart (left) is adapted from “Factors Contributing to Paddocks with Worms” on wormboss.com.au.

If an L3 larva is ingested by a goat, it travels to the abomasum. Along the way, it completely molts its protective, partially-shed skin, becoming an L4 stage larva. The exsheathment process is important because it initiates parasitic infections and is host-specific. Environmental conditions in the rumen trigger signals to the L3's nerve ring, which start the process. If the conditions are not favorable or

the animal is not a ruminant, the larva does not shed the cuticle and eventually perishes in its uninhabitable host. If the host environment is favorable, the nerves



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Mini Goat Classifieds

Members, shows, and clubs - you can advertise your farm, organization, or event to other MDGA members! Fill out the online form at <https://miniaturedairygoats.net/mini-goat-notes-directory-submission/>

All En Time Farm

Lavinia Allen
Floyd, Virginia 240901
allentimefarm@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/AllEnTimeFarm/>
(540) 520-8755
We are a small farm in SW VA raising Mini Nubians since 2012

Knightwolf Farms

Elizabeth George-Chmielewski
Shreveport, Louisiana 71129
knightwolfkennels@gmail.com
(318) 564-0535
We are a breeder focusing exclusively on registered Mini Nubians

Never Forgotten Farm

Sabrina R. Porter
Cedar Hills, Texas 75104
(214) 536-6008
A NFP farm for therapeutic use for individuals with disabilities.

Shadewood Family Farms

Christy Hittner
Fullerton, Nebraska 68638
hittnerfamily@aol.com
(308) 550-2603
Gorgeous show quality Alpines, mini Alpines, and Nigerian Dwarfs

Sol-Orr Farm

Renee Orr
Lignum, Virginia 22726
www.sol-orr.net
(540) 423-9193
Mini Nubians

River Breeze Ranch

Merrit Island, Florida 32953
riverbreezeranchllc@gmail.com
www.RiverBreezeRanch.com
(321) 961-2424
Purebred Nigerian Dwarf and Mini Nubians

Willow Shade AMN Goats

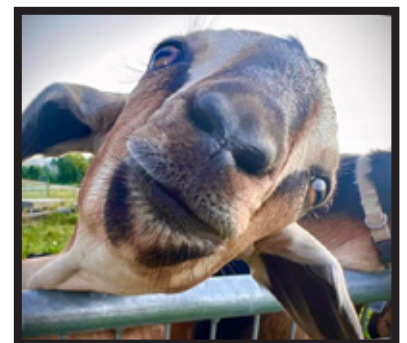
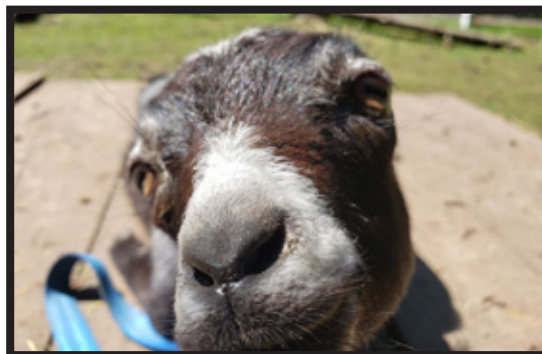
Sandy Pumphrey
Gone, Virginia 22637
willowshadegoats@gmail.com
(540) 664-4349
Breed/Raise/Sell Registered American Mini-Nubian Dairy Goats



My mini 'mancha Puddlehaven Skylark - Madison Weisgerber

*Nun-Uddr-Dan
Rapunzel
- Lucy All*

Photos From the Mini Goat Folks



Klondike from Sunset Ridge Farm - Stacy Lynn

Notes From the Mini-Goat Folks: Showing

For those who attend live shows: what advice can you offer to show “newbies” and what is your favorite thing about showing? How many shows a year do you attend?

For those that have NOT shown: What’s the main reason you haven’t shown in a live show? Do you participate in the virtual shows offered by MDGA?

Elisa Thorson

Main reason haven’t shown in a MDGA live show is none close enough to me to be able to show! Would love to start a show in central Illinois! *Champion Mini-Nubian outdid the standard girls at the local county fair! (right) - Elisa Thorson*



Kate Walker

I haven’t shown my own goats because I don’t have a trailer, and I’ve only had goats for just over a year. But I attended a show and volunteered. That was an amazing way to learn!

Joanna Marie

I have entered my goats in the last 3 virtual shows. We don’t have any even remotely local mini shows, unfortunately. The virtual show is a great way to get feedback on our goats and on others’ goats. It’s a great learning tool. One of my does won reserve grand champion senior under judge Lavinia Allen last spring! I am still so proud of her! - photo center



Jessica King

I don’t show because my kids are so busy with sports and theater that I barely have time to love on my herd the way that I want. These years are short so once they fly the nest, I’ll be showing. Until then we do three shows a year together.

Advice from a 4-H Mom:

Clip the week before.

Keep Vaseline, baby wipes, and baby oil in your kit.

Practice your show clip on a goat not going.

Wear aprons up until you enter the ring to stay clean.

Practice walking your goats with show collars, not dog

collars so they learn not to pull.

A tiny clipper (like for beards & sideburns) does a great job doing detail on your showmanship goat. If you put powdered Gatorade in your water at home and at show, they won’t “go off water” when it tastes different than home.

Sarah Elizabeth Drga

I have not done any live shows mostly because of my location. There are no shows close to me! And also because of time. I don’t have the time to travel to the shows. I would also be concerned about biosecurity.

Diane Walser

I’ve done one live show and I had to leave the state to get to it. It’s expensive because I have to get health certs on all the goats going. Also, my vet said they would all get

sick and they did. Nothing serious but cost me more money. Regardless, it was fun, and I am going again this year. I am hoping next year the mini show at the SW Washington fairgrounds will happen. I am hoping to get involved with the group that runs the dairy show in Monroe, Wa and hopefully I can get mini Nubians added.

The best part about showing in person is meeting the people behind the goats I secretly stalk. It’s really interesting to see the goats in person. I also really enjoyed listening to the judge and I’m starting to see how she looks at goats. Lastly, as an educator, I like interacting with the public and teaching people about goats in general and mini Nubians specifically.

I didn’t have any does in milk last year but I had two juniors that took 3rd place in their large classes. One of

Notes From the Mini-Goat Folks: Showing

continued...

the two is going to the show as a FF this year, and I am excited to see how she measures up.

Things to know: have all your registration paperwork in order. If going out of state, you must have your health certs in place. Bring your own milk stand, hose, shampoo, towels, shaver, goat treats, an assortment of show collars, leashes, brushes, buckets and bucket hangers, and hay bags. Also bring zip ties to "lock" the gates for the night. Don't forget chairs and a table for your tack stall. You are there for hours and hours. Since I am a 4H mom, I knew to have signs made with my farm name. I hung fliers that listed each goat and hung their ribbons on those signs. The public loves that kind of thing.

Make sure your goats are prepared for their adventure. Practice walking them on a leash and leading with a show collar. We had some goats that acted like toddlers in a grocery store an hour past nap time. The judge can't accurately judge them when they are having a drama fest. (Topsy and Baby G, I'm looking at you!) I don't know why we thought they would pull it together in front of a crowd. Lesson learned. We are actively working with all goats going to the show in September this time. It's hard to find time but it will pay off.

Sharon East Joyce

There is one annual MDGA sanctioned show near me. I've entered goats a couple of times and helped out another time.

Look at pictures of other goats that have been shown and research proper dairy goat conformation.

Your goat doesn't have to be perfect. Take the goats you are feeling good about, and you will learn so much about them. It will help you plan for improvement.

Wendy Valentine

We enjoy showing for several reasons - meeting other breeders - seeing more goats! I bought my most influential buck at a show. I've met animals whose lines I brought into my herd because I loved them. I've matched some goats to new owners this way too. Getting input from well-trained judges has helped me immensely in improving my herd. Watching classes and placing in my head with reasons has been great learning. Of course I am a bit competitive so seeing a successful breeding's outcome is rewarding too. Yes, biosecurity is

always a concern, but can easily be mitigated. We spray down our pens with a disinfectant before unloading, positioned our pens to keep contact to almost zero with other goats, AND we blood test every year months after show season to run a biosecurity panel. I highly encourage folks to attend shows even if not showing goats - live stream ADGA National show- and if a herd near you is doing LA ask to observe!

Shelly Young

Love the goat folk! Biggest reason we show. Also...helps to get another opinion on your animals.

Hate the clipping.

Have been showing ADGS shows 28 years. I judge non-sanctioned shows. May get to attend our first mini show in August.

Shannon Rastorfer

As someone who participated in their first show, advice I have is as follows:

- * Don't forget your shavings!

- * Bring extra collars, and quick/snap clips/carabiners to latch gates.

- * Bring a chair (and cooler with food/drinks--sometimes the food trucks and vendors aren't good; other shows may not provide these things)

- * Don't just practice showmanship at home, make sure you also read up on show protocols. By that I mean, if your goat is in 2nd in its class, it can get called back into the ring to contest for RCH so don't rush off to lock your goats up

- * Bio-Security--most people get extra pens they don't need for their supplies and to keep distance between their goats and other people's herds. Use of tarps helps also to prevent noses touching/ droplet contacts.

Vaccinate your herd in advance of the show, and don't bring any animals with runny noses or diarrhea. Even if you think its just 'dust or allergies.'

- * Try to make the show 'normal' for your goats. Bring water from home if possible, try to feed them as you would at home, with the same products. Don't throw them any curveballs. Any sort of normalcy/routine they can get will help them adjust better.

- * Last but not least.... MICROCHIP! Tattoos can fade or not turn out well... microchips are a great back up, and may help you keep your wins if the tattoo isn't legible.

I am NOT the kind of person that likes crowded busy events. It's super-stressful. My anxiety was through the roof the whole time, but I learned a lot, and it was a great experience. Plus, I got invaluable LIVE feed back on my animals from two great judges. Pictures don't do what a real live judge or appraiser can do for your herd/ breeding selections.

Eliya Elmquest

Main reason we don't show in live shows is biosecurity. Plus, we have no shows in our area. I do attend ADGA shows in the area to watch & learn. I have been able to go watch a couple of MDGA shows when traveling. Very fun!

Oh! And yes, I participate in MDGA virtual shows. In fact, I was the first virtual show chairwoman and ran the first several years.

Natalie Epler

So much already said.

Bring at least some water from home or gallon bottles of water. Start goats on BluLyte or flavored water at least a few days ahead of the show so you can fill up with water at the show, flavor it, and they will drink it.

Shave black goats an extra few days before the show,

like seven days, so the hair grows a little bit back in and doesn't look as funny.

When you get home don't "get around to it." Put all the stuff you took to the show away properly, and clean out the trailer so it's ready to use. Get your dairy whites cleaned and pressed for the next time now!



*My daughter Reagan and mini lamancha Carpenter Creek GG Camembert *P in the BIS ring last summer at a show. She won BIS in the 3rd ring. (right) - Natalie Epler*

Healthy Minis: The Life Cycle of the Barber Pole Worm

continued...

stimulate hormones that begin the exsheathment process.

Able to feed after exsheathment, the L4 attaches to abomasum and blood forms a clot around the larva. It develops sexual organs while feeding inside the blood clot. The larva emerges from the clot in about three days, and molts into a fully-mature adult. The adult Barber Pole worm now attaches to the mucosa lining of the abomasum and begins sating its gluttonous appetite. It mates, and females lay eggs in as little as two to three weeks.

Sometimes, the development of the L4 larva becomes arrested. It can enter a dormant stage, residing in the abomasum but not maturing; this is called a hypobiosis. L4 dormancy is ultimately a survival mechanism, enabling the Barber Pole worms to survive the winter when the eggs are not hatching and adult worms are dying from old age. Dr. Steve Hart writes that, "The arrested larvae are in reserve, safely nestled down in the glands in the stomach where they do not trigger an

immune response...The main trigger for the arrested form to develop into an adult is kidding or lambing. The exact mechanism for triggering the development of the arrested worms is not known, although, longer day length, kidding, lactation and green grass are all supported by scientific evidence." The rise in gastrointestinal parasites around kidding is referred to as the preparturient or periparturient rise and can occur up to two weeks before kidding and as long as eight weeks after.

Understanding the biology and life cycle of *Haemonchus contortus* is especially important in terms of pasture management strategies and utilizing the most effective deworming strategies.

Please refer to

<https://www.heftygoathollerfarm.com/post/the-barber-pole-worm-for-a-complete-list-of-references-and-sources>

Letter to the Editor: Photographing Udders

By: Laura Workman of Glimmercroft

Since I breed Mini Lamancha DAIRY goats, potential customers are naturally going to want to see the udders behind any kids I offer for sale. Of course, it's ideal to have the doe all tidied up, feet trimmed, etc., and udder optimally full when you take pictures, and it's lovely when you can pull that off. But things can happen while you're waiting for that ideal opportunity. I was waiting for just such an opportunity three weeks into the third freshening of a finished champion when she was destroyed, and I never got any pictures of her jaw-dropping third freshening udder. So get 'em while you can.

Make no mistake, a picture of an udder that isn't properly full is not going to do the trick. There are some things you can tell from an empty udder, but there are a lot of things you can't tell. The udder needs to be properly full, like the way a doe a month fresh is after 12 hours. Full. Almost taut. Do not make the mistake of buying stock based on pictures of a flaccid udder. I once had a Nigerian with a beautiful, smooth foreudder when she was empty, and a pocket you could park a truck in once she filled up. Also, you will never know what a rear udder really looks like unless you see it full, end of story. So when choosing breeding stock, demand pictures of a full udder, ESPECIALLY if you're buying a buckling. You'd better believe people wanting to buy his kids from you are going to want to see that udder as well, and your best bet for getting the pictures you will need is to get them before you buy the buckling.

So how does one get decent udder pictures that show enough for people to make sound purchasing decisions? We're not talking about udder pictures you want on your website, here. We're talking about pictures you'll want on hand in case your doe dies, or gets really sick and loses her lactation. Pictures you can show people who want all the details on babies they're considering.

Pictures that, while not flashy, provide all the necessary information.

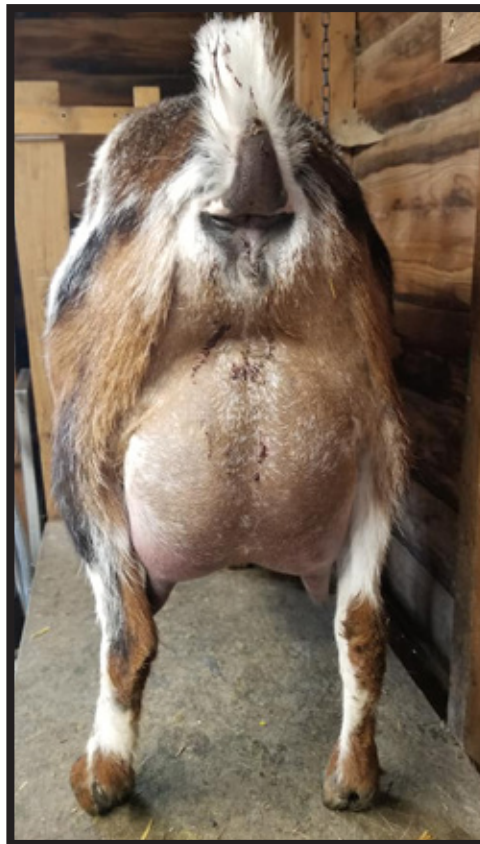
In order to have these pictures on hand when you need them, well, you have to go ahead and take them. Pull the trigger. As soon as you can. You can (almost) always take better ones later if you want to. Don't worry too much if your doe is hairy (it's winter, right) or her feet are long (I don't trim the feet of heavily pregnant does). Don't worry if there's some goo on the udder, or she's not standing perfectly. We've all seen goo, and there's still plenty of

excellent information available in a proper series of pictures, so just go ahead and take them, before you make the unpleasant discovery that it's too late.

In this series of sample pictures, the doe is two weeks fresh. I gave her a birthing and udder clip with a #10 blade, and took the pictures the next day. I did not shave her udder closely to show the delineation between udder and escutcheon. Heck, I didn't even wipe her down thoroughly! I DID clip her foreudder, particularly where the Medial Suspensory Ligament is attached.

This is the udder series I like to have on hand for my does. Sometimes I do the same thing in video, just because depth perception seems to be better in videos than photos. I take these series just after the doe hops up onto

the stand. I usually don't try to position a doe's legs at all, as that often causes her to crouch, putting an end to the photo session.



In the first shot (above), even though her left rear leg isn't positioned perfectly straight, one can easily determine height, width, and arch of the rear udder, as well as getting a good idea of teat size and placement and strength of MSL. We can also see where the udder floor sits in relation to the hocks, as well as the width of hips and thurls in comparison to the width of the udder.

Note that udder shots really need to include everything from the top of the animal AT LEAST to below the hocks, and preferably including the rear hooves. I see so many close-up pictures of shapely udders with zero markers to tell where that udder is sitting on the animal. Then sometimes when you see the doe, surprise! The udder is basically on her belly and there's a foot between her vulva and the top of her rear udder, and the photo didn't show that at all. Even in a good side picture, it is often hard to tell how tightly the udder is held into the escutcheon area. I will ALWAYS want to see the whole rear end with a full udder.

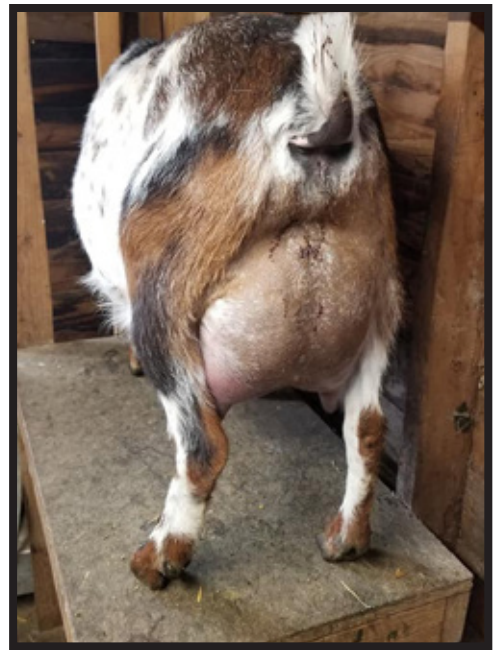
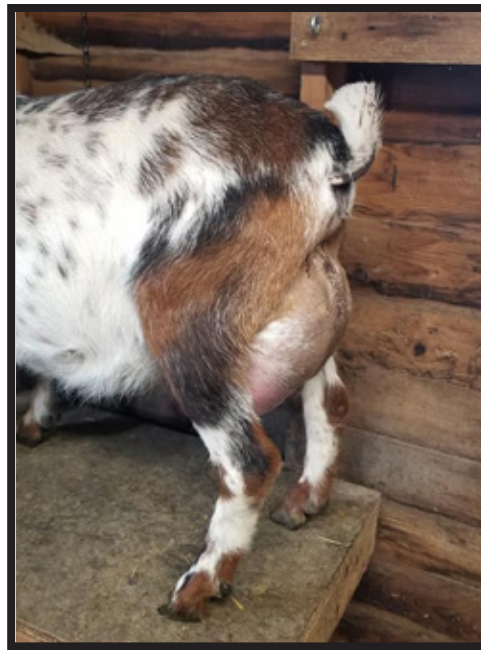
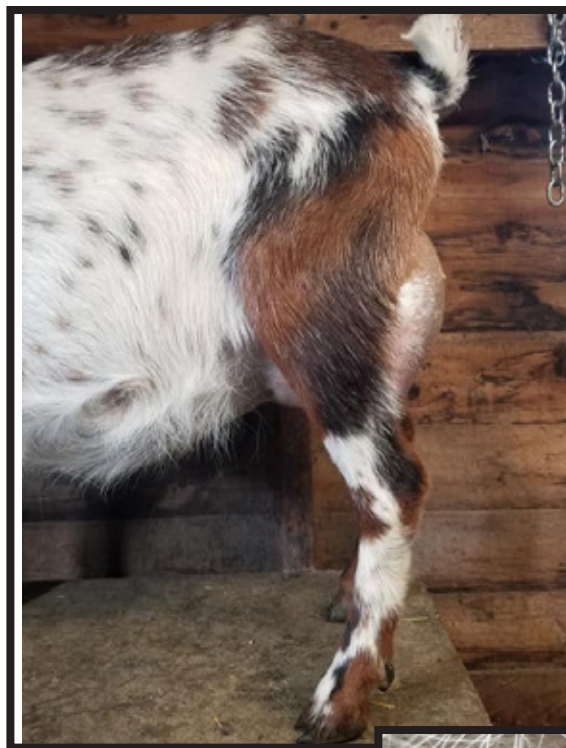


Photo 2 & 3 above - these angles enables us to clearly see the rear udder extension, and whether the udders is snugged up into the escutcheon.

Photo 4 (left) - direct side photo

In the second and third shots, the angle enables us to clearly see rear udder extension, and whether the udder is snugged up into the escutcheon. As with most shots, I try to take these pictures with the camera held at roughly the level of the doe's center of gravity. Taking the shot with the camera held well above the doe is likely to create an inaccurate impression of snugness in the rear udder. If I were the potential buyer and only a high angle shot were available, I would ask for a new picture from a lower angle, like the ones in this series.



correctly, and we can guess from that how close to the ideal 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 this doe's udder positioning is.

The last picture (below) is a closeup of foreudder attachment. We can see where the MSL attaches well enough to determine whether the attachment is smooth when her udder is full. This picture also shows lateral extension of the foreudder.

So next time you go out to milk in the morning, go ahead and take your phone and snap a few milkstand udder pictures from these different angles. You're not obligated to share the pictures, but you might decide you want to, and it's good information to have in your breeding records anyway.



Best of luck in your breeding efforts!

Like the other pictures in the series, the direct side picture isn't perfectly posed. We can see that her leg is more forward than it should be, so we would expect to see a bit more foreudder if her leg were positioned

DIY: Hay Feeder

By: Moonrise Hill Farm

In the past, we've built a few different hay feeders, but all with a similar design. We always stuck with the slanted hay rack and built-in tray to catch the hay that fell out because it seemed like that design created the least amount of waste.

For the hay rack part, we initially experimented using thick wire instead of wood that connected from the top of the feeder to the bottom just as the wood slats would have. It worked well at first, but after a while we noticed that the wires were being bent by the goats trying to push further into the feeder, making some of the spaces narrower or wider than the rest. Not only were our goats having the fur rubbed off their faces by the narrower spaces, but there was more hay waste from the wider spaces. After that experience, we went back to our original design using all wood.

After the new barn was built and it was time to build a new feeder, we tried to think of ways to make the new hay feeder less wasteful still – a problem that we'd dealt with for a while. It wasn't until the feeder was built

and put into use that we noticed that our small changes made such a big difference.

All we did was change two things.

(1) We built the feeder higher than we did with our past feeders. This made a big difference because on our other feeders we—unknowingly—built them too low and that made the goats shove the hay upwards, throwing it into the air and tossing it onto the ground, hence, more waste. It had also allowed them to drop their pellets into the tray.

(2) We made the tray a little wider than the rack, so less alfalfa fell to the ground.



Since the new feeder is higher, we've seen that our goats haven't been shoving the hay off the feeder anymore, but the kids still manage to lay up there to eat. The kids love lying underneath it to eat, too! Our does have been using it for about a month now, and we are so happy to see that not only is there less waste, but our goats are also enjoying it!



Tools

Power Driver

Materials

3 1/2 and 2 inch screws

1/2 inch plywood

2x4 boards

2x3 boards

5/8 in thick x 2in wide wood for slats

Method

1. First secure 2 pieces of 2x4x8 on the top and bottom onto the wall of the barn using 3 1/2" or 4" screws, and make sure that the screws go into the stud frame of the building because the kids will definitely get onto the feeder and that extra weight will need to be supported!

2. Then, build the frame of the tray and screw on the plywood. (For the back of the feeder as well as the tray we used 1/2 inch plywood then screwed on 2x4's for the rim of the tray to help hold in any hay that fell. Most of the framing was done with 2x4's, except for the top of the hay rack where we used 2x3 so that it wouldn't be too heavy.)

3. The feeder has three legs that support the feeder which are screwed in at an angle into the actual barn studs. Each leg is made up of two 2x4's screwed closely together.

4. For the hay-rack, we used 5/8 thick, 2 inch wide wood and spaced them evenly by 2 inches.



Photos from the Mini Goat Folks

Showing off those minis!



*Pepper Orr
and Nehi
Minis Roy-
HM Kamille
winning
Reserve
Champion
at the Ozark
Empire Fair*



*May in the
Motherlode -
at ease!
Photo by
Wendy
Valentine*



*Cole Gorham and Little G Acres showing in 4H.
Ruby took 1st place udder and Reserve Champion
Best Udder and was one of the three does
representing Little G Acres in the group class, in
which they placed third. - Becky Gorham*



*Hill Country Mini Milklers Texas Two Step - Photo by Alyssa Downs
ZyGoat Farms Spicy Hot Cocoa Blue (owned by Alyssa Downs of
Diamond D Ranch) won 1st place in ring 1.*

*ZyGoat Farms MS Princess Nagini Blue (owned by ZyGoat Farm)
placed 2nd in ring 1 and 1st place in ring 2*



*SAB Sassafrass
took AOM
Champion
and Junior
Champion at
the KoolKidz
MDGA
show - Jessica
Gardener
Bischoff*