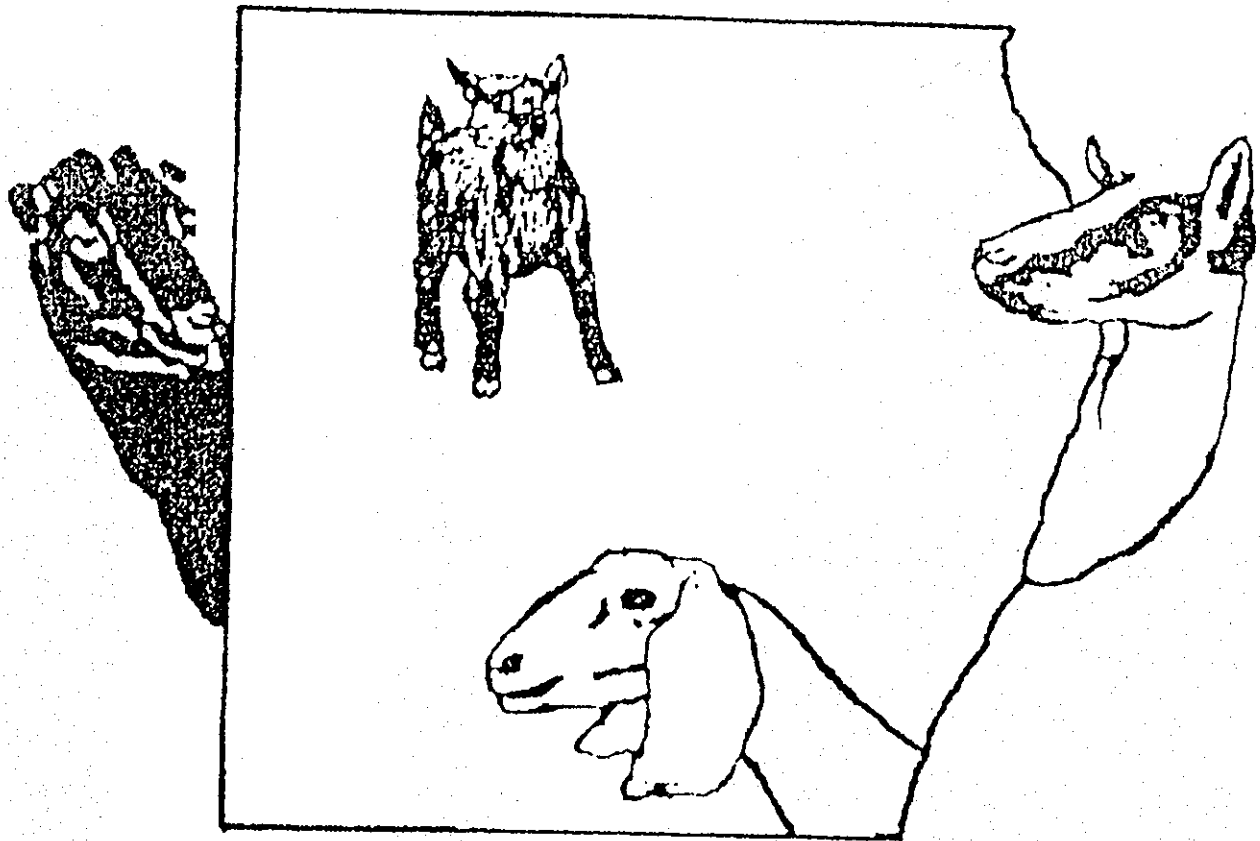


Sheboygan County



4-H

Dairy

Pygmy

Goat Project

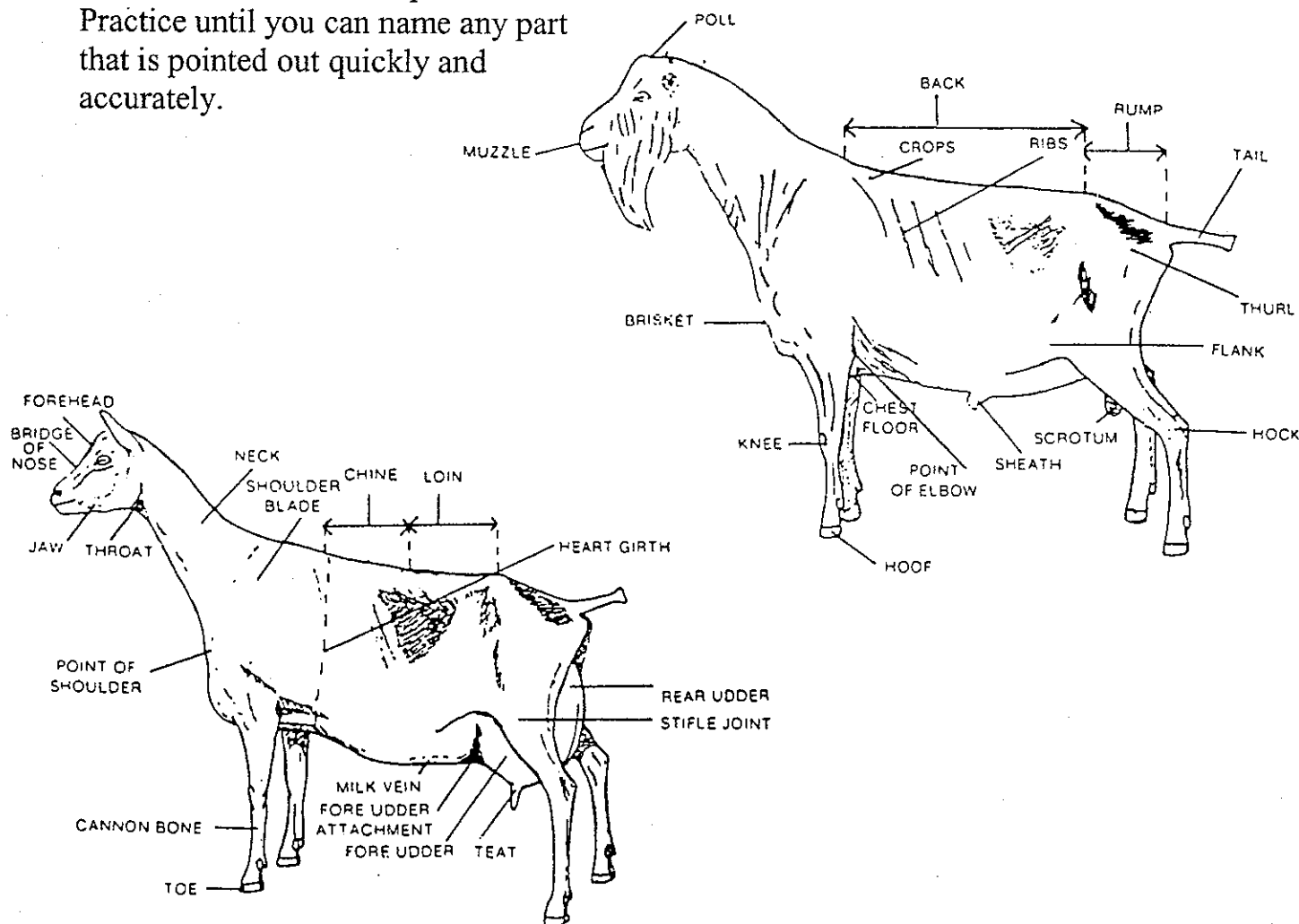
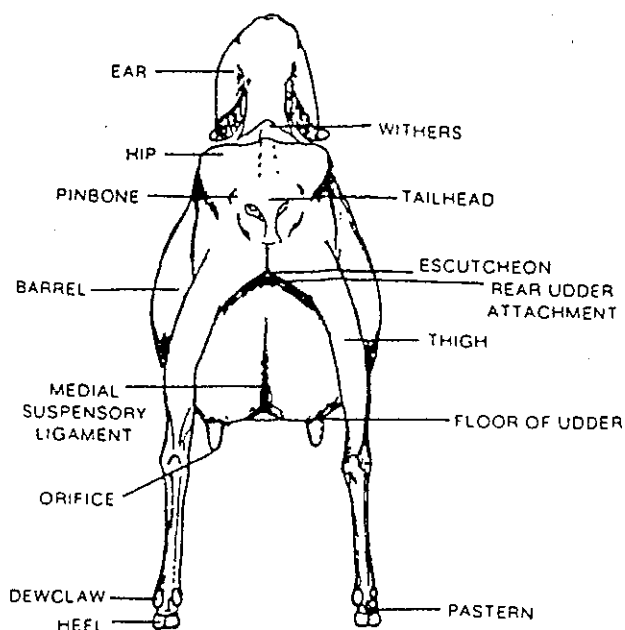
Got Your Goat?

Selecting your goat may be the most important part of getting involved in the project. Learn what a healthy goat looks like and ask lots of questions when you visit a breeder and consider buying a goat. Some important aspects of a healthy animal, no matter what the breed, are listed on this page. If you know what to look for, your chances of coming home with a healthy animal are much greater. The animal(s) you select must also be appropriate for your purposes. For instance, a pygmy goat will not pull a large cart and a dairy animal with a large udder will not be suitable to run along with you and your horse. Decide what you want and then choose a healthy animal based on these guidelines.

- Check the animal's feet and look for hooves not overgrown or twisted and strong legs
- Straight back
- Smooth blending from neck to body
- No swellings on knees, legs, or feet
- No lumps on throat, neck or body
- Ask about any scars that could be from old abscesses
- Appropriate breed characteristics – know what characteristics are desirable for your chosen breed
- Clear bright eyes with no redness
- Dry nose with no discharge and wide nostrils
- Hair coat that is not scruffy and with healthy skin beneath
- Udder should be even and soft regardless of age or stage of lactation
- Two teats are normal on both males and females
- Breeding bucks should have two testicles descended in the scrotum
- Look at the WHOLE herd.
- Ask about health records.

Learning About Your Goat

It is important to learn the proper names and locations of the parts of your goat's body. Knowing these words and parts that go with them will make it easier for you to understand the lessons taught by your project leaders and the judges at the shows. You will find the diagrams of both the dairy goat and the pygmy and Nigerian goat very similar. The shape of the animal's body is somewhat different, but the parts are located in the same place and have the same name. Use the diagrams as well as a live animal to locate the parts. Practice until you can name any part that is pointed out quickly and accurately.

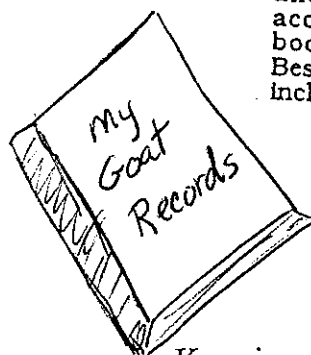


Record Keeping

It is helpful to keep good records for all of your projects, but it is essential for a successful animal project. Accurate records will tell you exactly how much your project cost and what your animal produces (milk, meat, kids). Good records also help to know when to expect heat cycles and babies to be born. If you plan on selling an animal, good records will tell you and the buyer when feet have been trimmed and when vaccinations were given. They should also show milk production.

Record keeping is an activity that may require help from an adult and should be done on a regular basis. Good records take very little time when done regularly. Don't depend on your memory to keep track of daily management practices, especially if you have several animals.

The form you use to keep track of your project is up to you. Some sample record keeping forms can be found in this booklet to help you with ideas. You may copy any of them or make your own. Be sure to consider what information you will want to have on your form. If you make a good record form, it is helpful to duplicate it and use the same form for all animals, every year. That way, it will be easy to locate the needed information quickly.



WEIGH TAPE

Specially-marked tape "weighs" a goat by measuring the heart girth and converting length to a fairly accurate estimate of the animal's body weight up to 200 pounds. Besides pounds, tape is marked in inches and millimeters. 44" long.



Keeping track of the weights of your animals is an important part of record keeping. Weights taken every month will tell you if the animal is growing properly or if she is getting too heavy. During pregnancy, the monthly change in weight can be helpful to guess how many kids a doe is carrying. Proper feeding for multiple kids will help provide the doe with adequate nutrients to ensure healthy kids and a healthy mother.

A chart of approximate weights which correspond to the measure of the animal's heart girth measurement is shown following in this booklet. Special tape measures that show the weights on the tape can also be purchased from several companies, including Caprine Supply.

Regular record keeping is part of a good program whether you have one animal or a large herd. It is a valuable experience for all project members and will help to teach a skill that will be valuable in many other areas.

Name _____

Breed _____

Color _____

Sire _____

Dam _____

Birthdate _____

Registration # _____

Microchip # _____

Tattoo (L) _____ (R) _____

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

MALE HEALTH RECORD

Name _____

Birthdate _____

Breed _____

Registration # _____

Color

Microchip #

Sire_____

Tattoo (L) _____ (R) _____

Dam

[illegible]

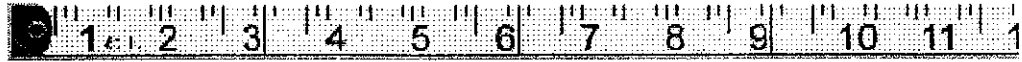
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WEIGHT CHART FOR PYGMY AND NIGERIAN DWARFS

If you weigh and measure at the same time, you may find that the chart is off by a pound or two. Well, that's certainly better than guessing incorrectly by 10 or 20 pounds or more!

Pygmy Bucks & Wethers			Pygmy Does		Both Sexes (relates to age only)	
Age	Heart Girth (inches)	Weight (pounds)	Heart Girth (inches)	Weight (pounds)	Age	Weight Range (pounds)
Birth	-	3.4	-	3	Birth	2.2 - 5
1 mo.	-	10.5	-	9.5	1 mo.	6.5 - 13.5
2 mo.	-	18.2	-	15	2 mo.	13 - 21
3 mo.	-	26	19.7	20	3 mo.	16.5 - 32
4 mo.	-	29	21	24.5	4 mo.	19 - 35
5 mo.	22	32	22	28.3	5 mo.	22 - 43
6 mo.	23	34	23	32.3	6 mo.	23 - 45
8 mo.	24.2	42	23.5	38	8 mo.	26 - 50
10 mo.	25.5	46	26	43	10 mo.	34 - 55
12 mo.	26.5	50	27.5	49	12 mo.	37 - 58
-	27.5	57	28	55	15 mo.	43 - 65
-	28	60	28.5	58	18 mo.	50 - 72
-	28.7	63	29	62	24 mo.	52 - 95
-	30	71	30	68	24 mo. +	50 - 100 +
-	31	76	31	72		
-	32	80	32	77		
			33	80		
Weight does not correlate well with age. These gender guidelines are approximate averages. Heart girth always correlates with weight, regardless of age at measurement.					Does mature at 24 months. Bucks and wethers mature at 30 months, but wethers continue to grow slowly.	



Weight Chart
For the large breed dairy goats.

NOT for meat, hair, Pygmy or Nigerian Dwarf breeds.

A weight chart for Pygmy goats can be found at
<http://hometown.aol.com/goatlist/weights.htm>

Measure around the heart girth, just behind the front legs.
Pull snugly.

INCHES POUNDS		INCHES POUNDS		INCHES POUNDS	
10.25	4.2	21.25	35	32.25	101
11.25	5.5	22.25	39	33.25	110
12.25	6.5	23.25	43	34.25	120
13.25	8	24.25	51	35.25	130
14.25	10	25.25	57	36.25	140
15.25	12	26.25	63	37.25	150
16.25	15	27.25	69	38.25	160
17.25	19	28.25	75	39.25	179
18.25	23	29.25	81	40.25	180
19.25	27	30.25	87	41.25	190
20.25	31	31.25	93	42.25	200

Identification by Tattoo And Photo or Drawing

Why is it necessary to identify your animal on paper or by tattooing when you are quite certain what she looks like? There are several reasons why some permanent form of I.D. is important. If your animal is a purebred and you wish to register her or her offspring as purebreds, it is necessary for the animal to be tattooed.

All animals should be tattooed regardless of breed or sex for purposes of I.D. as mandated by Federal government to aid in the control and prevention of diseases.

A tattoo can tell the animal's age and the herd into which it was born if that tattoo is registered. The age is marked in the left ear and the I.D. of the herd is put into the right ear.

Each year has a designated letter of the alphabet. For instance, 2002 kids registered with ADGA show the letter "R" followed by a number that tells the birth order of the kid. The 5th kid born into your herd in 2002 would be "R5" in the left ear.

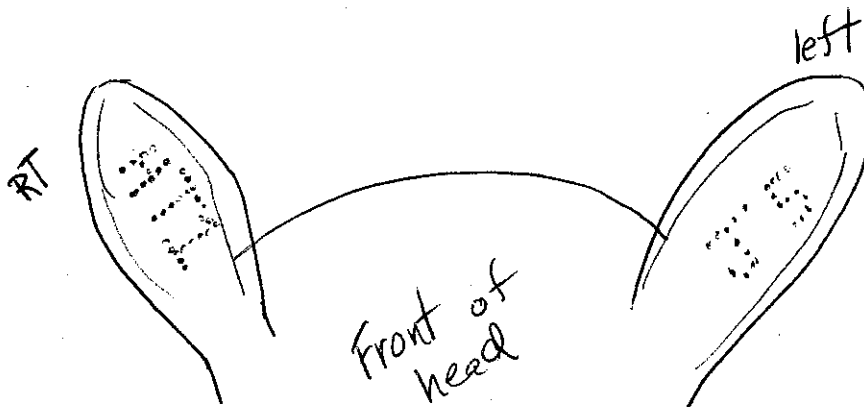
The right ear contains the specific set of letters and numbers that identifies

a particular herd.

Anyone wishing to trace a registered animal can do so with its tattoo that is a permanent record.

Tattoos can also help to trace lost or stolen animals. If an animal is registered, the information from the tattoos can help to establish ownership.

Most breeds are tattooed in the ear. LaManchas, a breed with tiny ears, are commonly tattooed in the web of the tail. The tattoo is usually done while the animal is very young. The procedure is similar to ear piercing. It causes little discomfort, usually no bleeding, and takes only a few minutes. One of your leaders may be willing to tattoo your animals or tell you where to have it done.

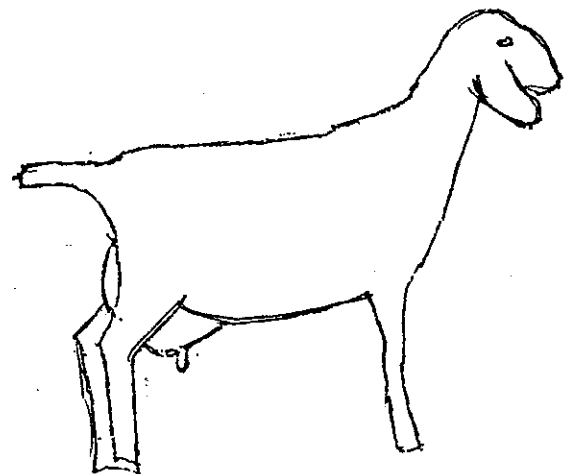
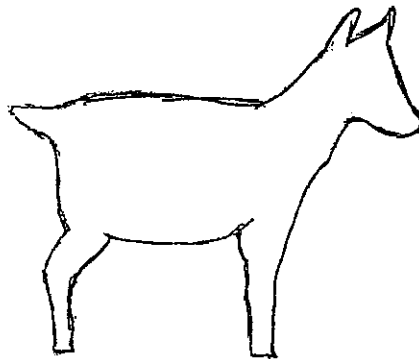
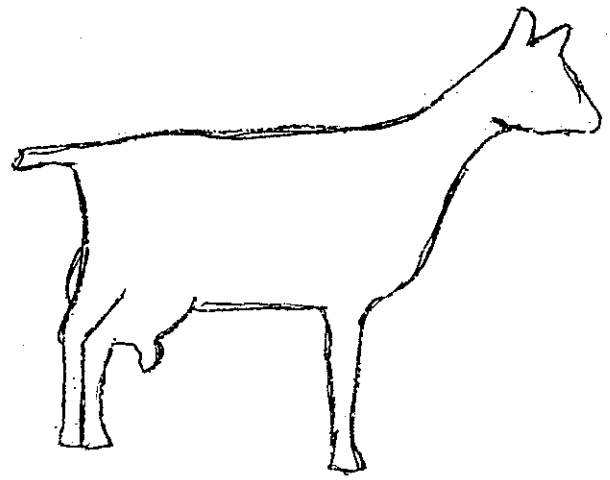


A photographic record of your animal and its growth can also be helpful as well as fun to do. You will be able to look back and see the changes in your project animal as it grows and matures. You will also notice its conformation and general appearance in a photograph.

It is a good idea to have someone hold your animal in a proper show stance while you take the photo or have someone else take the picture. Take photos from several angles so you can see the animal's markings and conformation clearly.

A drawing can take the place of a photo in your records. You can use the basic animal outlines provided in this booklet or draw your own. Be sure to include specific markings if your animal is belted, spotted, or otherwise marked.

Make note of the colors of each marking. Be aware that some animals change color as they mature or are clipped.



Feeding for Healthy Animals

Just as an athlete needs good nutrition to reach a top fitness level and set new records, your animals need proper feed and management to perform at their best.

Both dairy, pygmy and meat goats need the correct amount of protein, adequate carbohydrates and vitamins and minerals. They also need enough fiber to keep their rumens in good condition. Plenty of fresh, clean water is also necessary.

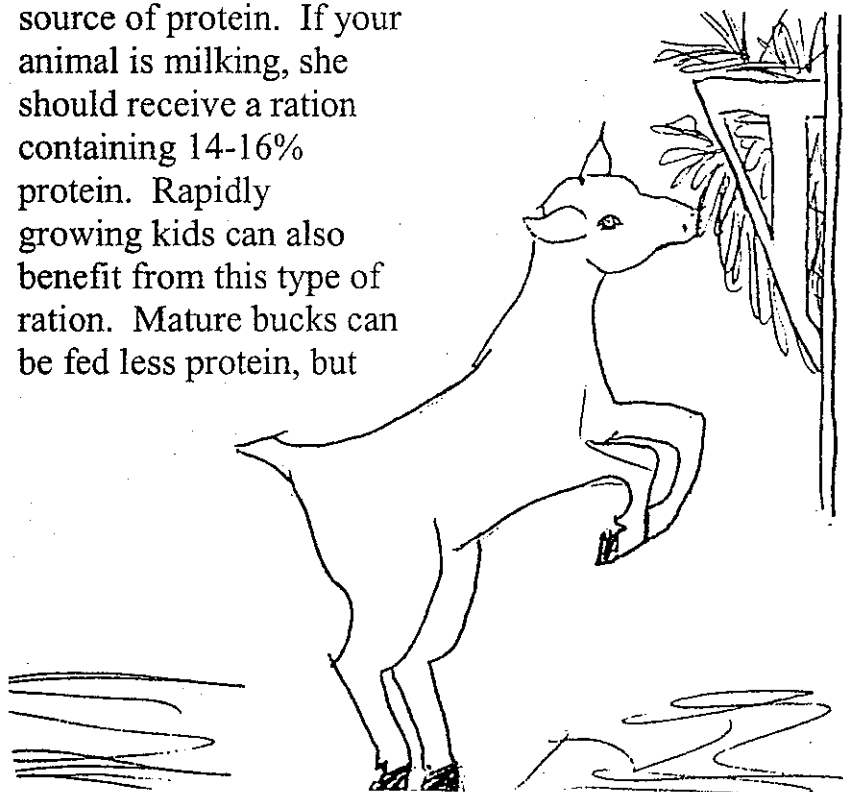
Various types of grains provide protein. Alfalfa hay also is a good source of protein. If your animal is milking, she should receive a ration containing 14-16% protein. Rapidly growing kids can also benefit from this type of ration. Mature bucks can be fed less protein, but

care should be taken to provide them with sufficient nutrients to maintain health and good breeding condition. In this booklet is a sample ration for dairy animals and the guidelines for feeding animals in various stages.

If you are feeding pygmy goats, you will need to adjust the amount of feed to the size of your animal. A mature doe that is dry will need little, if any grain. A doe who is nursing kids may need up to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per day. The frequent checking of weights on your animals is your best indicator of feed levels. A fat doe is not a sign of good health.

Quality hay is an essential part of feeding your goat. The goat receives protein as well as roughage from its hay. You may choose to use hay containing any of the following plants: alfalfa, red clover, timothy, grasses, or dandelions. All of these are acceptable for goats. Do not feed any musty or moldy hay. The organisms that cause mold also destroy the bacteria in the goat's rumen that are needed for digestion.

Goats usually are very fond of treats, especially sweets. Limit their treats to items that are also nutritious. Goats will often eat fruit scraps and peels and leftover vegetables, both raw and cooked. Bread, rolls, cookies, and crackers are also enjoyed by most goats. Sugars and carbohydrates such as these can be useful to treat or prevent ketosis during pregnancy. Avoid feeding chocolate to any animal.



Grain-based Feed Rations

Many types of grain mixtures will be readily available for purchase at feed supply stores. What is most important to know is the nutritional content of that ration and how it will affect the health of your animals. You should know that animals need to be fed according to the amount of "work" that they are expected to complete. Just as people need the proper food to stay healthy, animals have the same needs. A pregnant female, growing kid, or working buck or wether all have special nutritional needs.

Feed rations containing about 16% protein can be used to start most feeding programs. The protein content needed is also dependent on the quality of hay being fed. Dry (non-milking) adult females and adult wethers require less protein than milking, pregnant, or growing animals.

Top quality alfalfa hay should be fed only to those animals pregnant, growing rapidly, or milking. Bucks, wethers, and dry stock should receive a grass hay mixture. Too much calcium (found in alfalfa and grain) can cause kidney stones or excess deposits in bones leading to lameness when fed to animals not using that calcium for conversion to milk or bone growth.

This grain formula is intended for milking does, kids, and bucks under one year of age. It contains about 16% protein and weighs about 1 pound per quart.

- 150 pounds cracked or rolled corn
- 125 pounds crimped or rolled oats
- 90 pounds soybean oil meal
- 75 pounds natural protein pellet supplement (non urea, vegetable based)
- 50 pounds wheat bran
- 50 pounds molasses
- 5 pounds calcium
- 5 pounds salt (NaCl)
- 5 pounds vitamin supplement

Your goats may also need extra minerals added to the feed depending on the feed value of your hay and grain mixtures. It is important to read labels on all feed purchased.

Also important is measurement of grain being fed. Going "by eye" is only appropriate if you are experienced in feeding goats. However, your "eye" and a weight tape will tell you if your goats are gaining too much weight or are too thin.

Milking does may eat as much as a pound of grain for each two pounds of milk produced. Some adult non-milking or working animals will need very little or no grain to stay in good condition.

Included in this booklet are some sources for good grain supplements. You may use any of them or select one that provides the nutrition your animals need and that they will enjoy eating. The best feed value available will not work for your animals if they refuse to eat it.

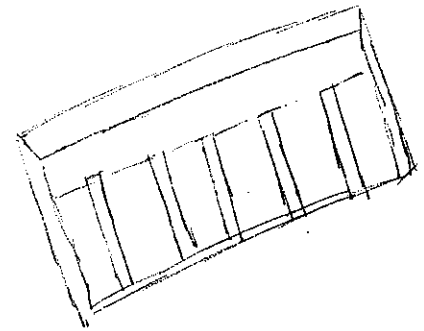
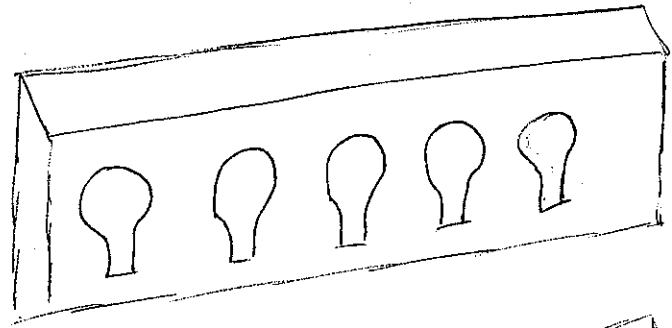
Purchase or mix only enough grain that can be used within a month, especially in hot weather. Moldy or sour feed should never be fed to goats. If they eat it, mold will destroy bacteria in the rumen that the animal needs to digest its food and your goats will become ill.

Please consult the book "Dairy Goats for Pleasure and Profit" by Harvey Considine for additional information and valuable tips on goat nutrition. It is in our 4-H project library.

Pens and Fences

Goats will learn how to open most types of gate and fence closures. Gates should be latched from the outside far enough down from the top so that the animals cannot reach over and play with the latch. Deadbolts or hoods with semi-circular catches securing the hood are usually effective. However, if these latches are within reach of the goat, she will usually play with the latch and ultimately learn to open it.

Do not depend on rope, boards, or other makeshift methods to keep your goats secure. These will usually cause accidents or injury.



Goat feeders can be constructed of many materials, but they should have openings that provide for each animal to have its own space. These spaces can be shaped in many ways, but keyhole shaped feeders will prevent much hay from being wasted. Varying the width of slat feeders also allows animals to eat separately, but may let the goat to pull out too much hay. Once the hay is on the floor, few goats will eat it. This follows the animal's natural inclination to stay healthy by eating only clean food.

Goats should not have to stand on their back legs and put their front feet up to reach the hay. This can lead to injuries through pushing or cause severe stress to pregnant does.

If you have several breeds and sizes of goats, you should provide feeders of different sizes and heights.

Wood?
Wire?

Electric?

How high?

Hoof Trimming

Goats' hooves grow rapidly. If your goats are kept in a pen or on soft ground, it is necessary to trim the feet every 4-6 weeks. Feet that are overgrown can become bent, cracked, filled with debris or infected. These conditions can cripple an animal.

Many tools can be used effectively to trim feet. Examples are utility knives, shears, or trimmers made especially for feet. A small hand plane can be used for the finishing job of leveling. A properly trimmed foot closely resembles the foot of a newborn kid.

Trim carefully and stop when you see pink tissue on the goat's foot. If you do have a minor cut, use blood stopper or iodine to prevent infection. Look carefully at the diagram on the following page to see the correct procedure for trimming. If you purchase of already have an animal whose feet have gotten overgrown, trim them

carefully over a period of several weeks. The blood supply could be close to the surface and the feet could bleed before they are trimmed to an ideal shape. Cutting a small amount of growth at intervals of a week or two will make the job easier for you and safer for the animal.

Treat infected or damaged parts of a hoof with iodine or disinfectant to destroy bacteria and prevent further problems. A lame animal will not walk enough to exercise properly or stand long enough to eat adequately for good health.

Clipping

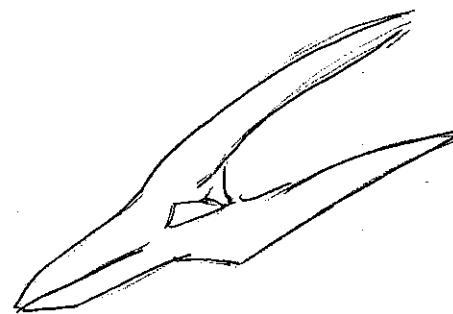
Dairy goats are normally body clipped for showing and may be clipped for summer or just to keep the doe cleaner before kidding and milking.

Any type of electric clipper works fine. It is helpful to have a variety of blade sizes so that the clipped area may be left $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long or cut closer. It takes a

very fine blade to trim an udder.

At project meetings a demonstration may be provided on the proper way to clip a dairy goat for a show. The goat is usually tied or put on a milking stand. The clipping is done in long strokes from the rear to the front against the hair growth. This helps the clipped animal to appear smooth.

A Pygmy goat is not clipped for show, but may be trimmed to show the feet better or to make its coat more even in length. The tail may be trimmed as well. A pygmy's coat may be judged during a show so it is important to have it trimmed, but visible.



*Hoof Trimmer
about \$17 in
supply catalogs.*

Fencing

Goats are experts at climbing, opening gates, and jumping over obstacles. To keep an animal confined, safe and sturdy fencing is needed.

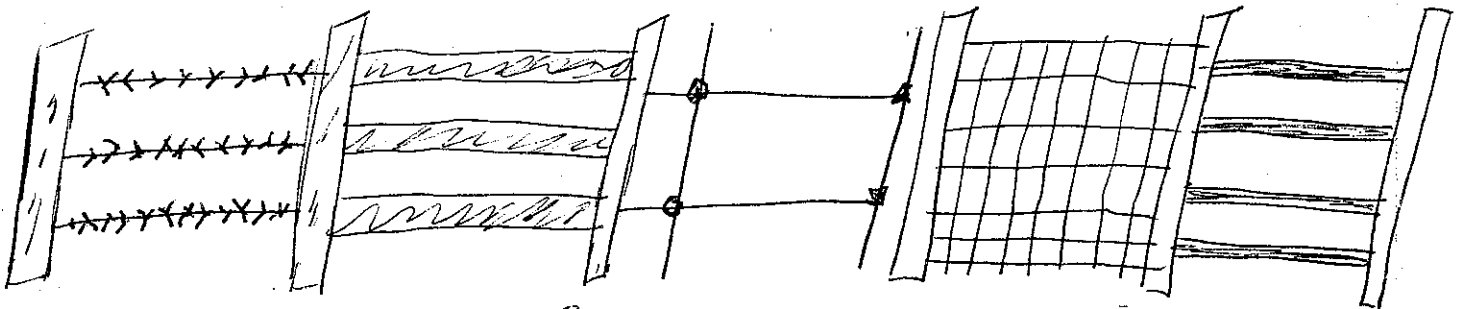
Fencing for pens should be high enough so that the animals can't jump over, usually 5-6 feet. If boards are used for inside pens, they must be spaced so that the goats will not be able to climb through, yet will not get their heads caught. Wire that can be climbed, such as netting, is generally not suited to goats. Barbed wire should not be used since cuts and tears to bodies and udders are a danger.

Electric fencing can be very effective if the animals are given a training period to learn about the fence. Be prepared to replace fence for the first few days until all animals have tested it and learned. Goats generally do not test the fence again after receiving an electrical shock. Most goats will not jump electric fence if they have adequate feed and water within the fenced area.

If a large area is set up as a pasture, electric fencing that can be easily moved is an option to consider. Goats quickly adapt to being in a new area and will respect the electric wire once trained.

Stock panels can be a good way to fence in an outside yard for goats, but may cost more than other fences and may not be effective with kids.

Goats should not be tied outside. They tend to like to move around frequently and often become tangled in ropes or chains. Stray dogs could also kill or injure a goat that is tied.



*Choose fencing carefully
Consider safety and cost.*

Disbudding Kids

Kids should be disbudded at 1-2 weeks of age. It is easier on the kid and the handler and more likely to produce good results if the job is done early.

An electric dehorning iron is the best method of disbudding. The iron needs to be very hot to be effective.

The kid can be restrained by hand or put in a box. Apply the iron for 10-15 seconds and rotate it to cover the edges well. The area around the horn bud should have a copper ring around the outside after the procedure. Horns can also be removed by using a caustic paste. This is not always effective. If the kid rubs the paste on itself or another kid, they can suffer burns.

Castration

All buck kids not intended for breeding stock should be castrated at 1-2 weeks of age.

Several methods of castration can be used. The owner of the kid should choose a method that she can perform comfortably or seek help from someone with experience. Before any method is used, make sure that both testicles have descended into the scrotum. If not, seek the advice of a professional.

Surgical castration is easy and sure. No questions remain about whether or not the job was complete. A sharp knife or scissors is the only tool necessary. Follow the steps given here.

Surgical Castration

- Using a sharp knife or scissors, cut the bottom of the scrotum completely off while taking care not to cut into the testicles.
- Grasp one testicle and push it downward and out the cut end of the scrotum.
- While holding the scrotum firmly, slowly pull out one testicle and the fibrous outer membrane covering it. Continue to stretch the attaching cord until it narrows and breaks.
- Follow the same procedure with the second testicle.
- Spray an antibacterial spray into the empty scrotum.
- In warm weather, repeat the spray daily until no drainage appears. This will keep flies away.

Normally if this procedure is done on young kids, there will be little or no bleeding. The kid will recover and move about normally within a short time. After 6 or 8 weeks, the buck kid may be too mature to use this method without risking serious bleeding. Goats mature sexually at an early age. Blood vessels enlarge with growth and may rupture.

Elastrator castration

- Using the elastrator, stretch the castrating band.
- Push the scrotum through the stretched band.
- Release the band around the neck of the scrotum.
- Make sure the band is tight and both testicles are pushed all the way into the bottom of the scrotum beneath the band.

When using this procedure, make sure the kid is moving about and eating. Make sure the band does not break. Also watch for infection that could include gangrene if not treated. The buck is not castrated until the testicles wither and the entire scrotum falls off. This process could take up to two months. There is danger of infection during this entire time. The kid needs to be kept in a clean, dry area.

Emasculatome Castration

- Place the crushing tool above the testicles in the scrotum.
- Locate the cords that attach to the testicles.
- Make sure the cords are in the jaws of the emasculatome tool.
- Clamp down and crush the cord that supplies blood to the testicles.
- Be sure that both cords are crushed.
- Check the job often to see that the testicles wither and do not grow.

The buck is not castrated until both testicles are shriveled and dry.

Housing Needs

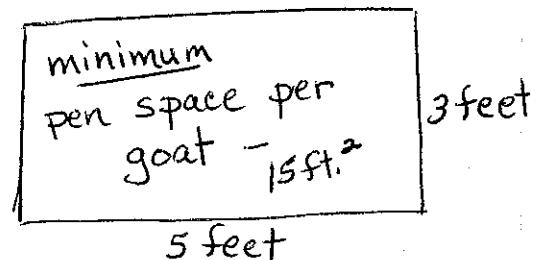
The basic requirements for goat housing are simple: adequate light, draft free, clean, and dry. Since goats are hardy, naturally healthy animals, they need only basic housing. They don't require heat or heavy insulation. Windows that provide sunlight all year are very helpful as is a yard that allows the goats access to outside air and exercise. Either dirt or cement floors can be used, but any floor should be covered with enough bedding to keep the animals warm and dry.

If you have many animals, it is best to provide separate pens for animals of different ages. This will help to eliminate fighting over food and space. Dry does may need to be fed separately from milking does so that each group will receive the proper feed.

Goats do better in loose housing rather than tied or in stalls. They should have at least 15 square feet per animal if no outside yard is available. More than one feed bunk should be used for groups so that less aggressive animals will be able to eat. Water containers should be filled and clean. Make sure feed and water are placed at the appropriate height for the size of the animals in each pen.

Goats get many benefits from an outside yard. Ideally, they should be able to go in and out at will. If the area is sheltered from cold winds, the goats will choose to go outside even in winter. The yard should not be constantly wet and muddy. Feed should not be placed directly on the ground outside.

If goats are given sufficient shelter of the correct size, they will be able to keep warm and comfortable in most weather conditions. Good living conditions will result in healthy, productive animals.



- space
- draft controlled
- light / windows
- adequate bedding
- clean & dry
- safe & secure

Selecting a Goat

All buyers want and expect the goat they purchase to remain healthy and productive for a long period of time. When selecting a doe for dairy or to raise kids or a goat for a pet, it is important to consider several factors.

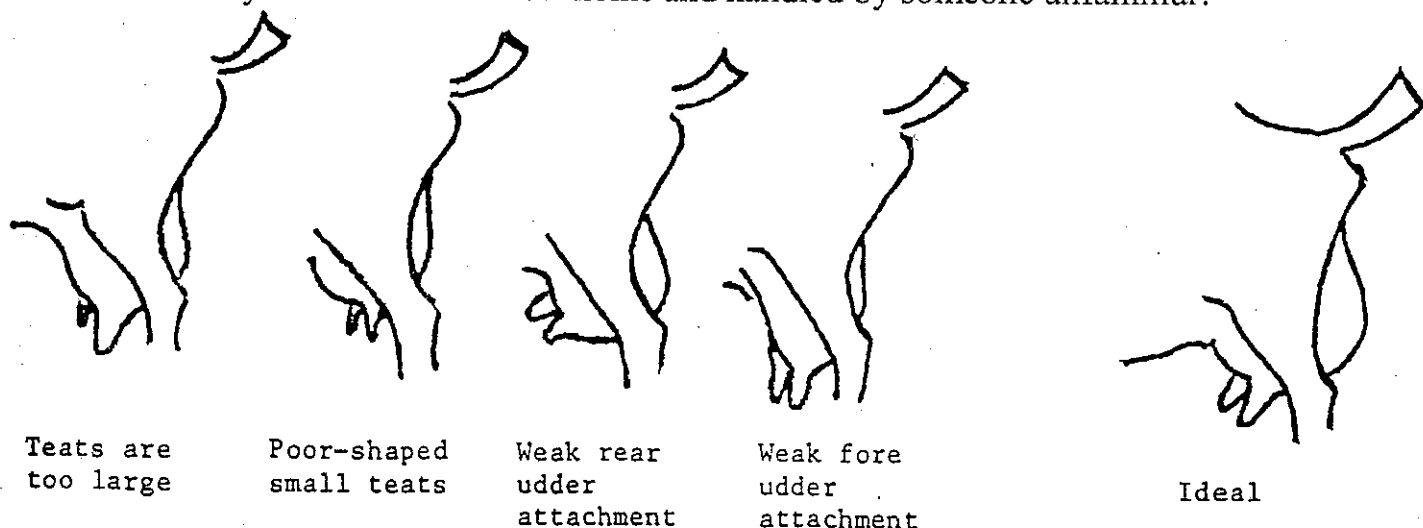
- Structural soundness – read the scorecard (in appendix) for your breed of goat and learn some of the more important aspects of soundness.
- Straight, strong legs and straight, well-trimmed feet
- Wide strong body to provide lung capacity and space for a large, well-functioning rumen
- Dairy character if she is expected to produce milk
- Straight topline, especially in the chine and loin
- Withers higher than back and smoothly blended

If you are selecting a doe, the udder should be considered carefully and checked for the following points:

- Milking udder should be of good size for the doe's body size
- Udder should not hang beneath the doe's hocks
- Udder should be held tightly to the doe's body by strong suspensory ligaments in both front and rear
- Teats should be of medium size and uniform and pointing straight down
- Udder should be soft and pliable when empty with no obvious lumps or thick portions

Ask to milk the doe before you buy her so that you will know if the milk flows easily and that the udder empties completely. You will also know the quantity of milk. Ask to taste the milk to judge the quality as well.

Many people prefer to purchase a doe when she is dry to provide her time to adjust to a new situation before freshening. Most does will decrease in milk production when they are moved to a new home and handled by someone unfamiliar.



Breeding and Gestation

All goats are seasonal breeders. That means that they usually come into estrus (heat) during the fall and winter months and will produce kids about 5 months later. The Swiss breeds usually begin their heat cycles later in the fall and stop cycling before spring. Nubians are more likely to breed well into spring or summer.

Detecting heat is simple if a buck is nearby. The doe may show the following signs:

- Excess noise
- Move close to buck pen if possible
- Wag tail often
- Urinate often
- Go off feed
- Decrease milk production
- Appear red and swollen around vulva

Some does show little sign of heat and may not show any sign if a buck is not present.

Heat periods usually last from 1 to 3 days and occur from 17 to 28 days apart. The normal length between heats is about 21 days. The doe in heat should be taken to the buck pen. She can be left for the entire heat period if he is not too large or aggressive for her or she can be left with the buck only long enough for breeding to occur. It is best not to leave a milking doe in the buck pen.

A doe that does not settle the first month may not have been bred near the time she ovulates. Remaining with the buck for a longer time may help. Occasionally a doe does not ovulate and may need hormone treatment to stimulate ovulation.

A doe should be gaining weight at the time of breeding if she is to settle easily and produce multiple kids. However, be careful that she is not getting fat. An extra 3-10 pounds is usually enough, depending on the size and breed of goat.

The gestation period of all goats ranges from 145-155 days. During the early part of pregnancy, the kids are very tiny. At 60 days, they are the size of mice and at 90 days, about the size of hamsters.

During the first three months, the doe will not require extra feed if she is already in good condition. She may still be milking, but will begin giving less milk. At the start of the fourth month of pregnancy, the doe will require a change of diet for the growth of the kids and to dry off milk production at the same time. Consult the section of feed to help you make these changes. Amounts of feed will vary for pygmy and Nigerian goats and should be adjusted for their size.

Keep track of the doe's eating patterns and her weight during her pregnancy. Weight gain is important as it can be an indicator of fat or of multiple kids. The feeding for either of these conditions will be very different.

Kidding and the Care of the Doe and New Kids

One of the most exciting times on any farm is the season of birth and new kids. While we look forward to kidding, sometimes those new to the process will experience some nervousness at the prospect of guiding new babies into the world. Let us assure you that most of the time, all goes well. Nature seems to take care of most problems quite well. To help you be aware of what is normal and what could be a problem as well as when to call for help, we will try to give you the basics of what happens during labor and delivery.

After a successful pregnancy of 145-155 days, your doe will be ready to go into labor and deliver her kids. You will want to have some items on hand before labor begins. Prepare a box with the following items:

- Iodine – for dipping navel cords
- Towels – to dry the babies
- Bottle and nipple – if the baby will be bottle fed or to feed a baby too weak to nurse
- Container – to milk colostrums
- Mild soap – to wash your hands and clean the doe's vulva
- Lubricant – if you need to reach inside doe to assist
- heat lamp – if weather is cold
- string – fine, strong string to tie off an umbilical that bleeds
- scissors – to cut an umbilical that does not break

Labor

The onset of labor has several signs that are fairly obvious. When you see any or all of them, it is time to have your doe in a clean, dry, and relatively quiet pen. Most does prefer to be alone, although some like to be with a "best friend". Move water buckets out of the area where a kid could be dropped to prevent drowning.

The most obvious signs of labor are easy to notice, but sometimes owners see nothing except the sudden appearance of kids. Here are some of the signs you may see:

- doe paws grounds and seems restless
- hollow in doe's flank is more noticeable as the kids move into position for birth
- tail head is very loose
- doe picks at feed or refuses feed
- thick mucus discharge that may be clear or pinkish (it should NOT be bright with blood)

The above signs are early labor. During the next stage, other signs are more easily seen.

- Doe has obvious contractions and you see her back hunch and sides bulge out
- Discharge may increase
- Doe may "talk" to her kids

Delivery

When birth is imminent, you will be aware of the following:

- Contractions will become more frequent and often harder
- Doe will begin pushing and straining with contractions
- A bag of fluid may protrude from the vulva
- Clear fluid may gush from the vulva

As labor continues, the next sign you see should be the front hooves and the nose of the new kid. Soon the doe will push the head out of the birth canal. When the head is clear of her body, you may take a coarse towel and rub away the mucus from the kid's nose and mouth. The kid will begin breathing and must have a clear passage for air.

As the doe pushes again, grasp the kid by the shoulders and guide it down and out. Towel the kid dry and allow the doe to lick it unless she is immediately beginning to push out another kid.

Dip the kid's entire navel in 7% iodine as soon as possible to prevent bacteria from entering. A firm canister makes a good container for this purpose. Once the doe has delivered all her kids, she may be allowed to clean them. They will soon be ready to nurse.

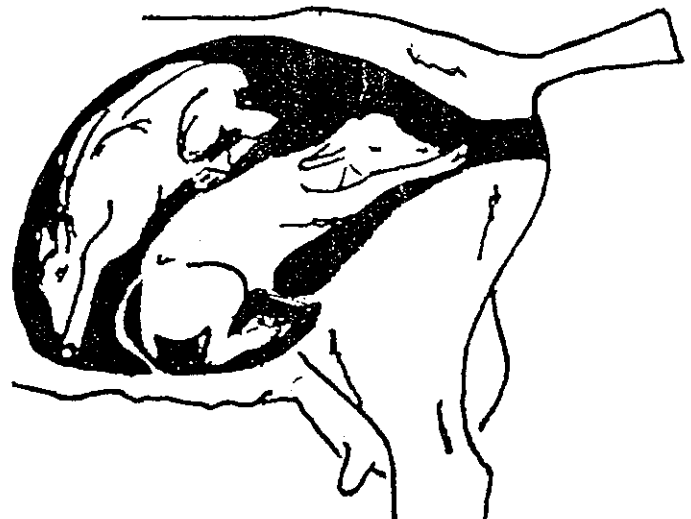
Often they will suck before they can stand if placed next to the doe as she lies. The sooner kids nurse, the quicker they gain warmth and strength.

If kids are to be bottle fed, milk some colostrum from the doe and place it in a warm bottle and try to feed the kids. If they are not ready to suck, keep them warm and try again soon. The kids should eat from one to four ounces within an hour.

If you choose to pasteurize your colostrum for purposes of disease control, you will need to proceed to do that before the kids can be fed. Colostrum is very easily burned and becomes thick if heated too quickly.

Weak or chilled kids can be provided with quick energy by placing a teaspoon of corn syrup under its tongue.

Normal twin birth position



Feeding Kids

Large dairy kids will take up to 24 ounces a day for the first few days. Pygmy and Nigerian kids will take from 8-16 ounces depending on their size. If kids are nursing their dam, make sure that all of them are getting enough milk. Don't assume they are all sucking unless you see them. It is essential for their survival that they eat well in the first hours after birth. Kids who do not get enough colostrum may not survive.

Both pygmy and dairy kids should receive milk from their dams or from a bottle for at least 8 weeks after birth. Many people feed milk for 12 or more weeks if they have a plentiful supply.

Dairy kid should receive at least one quart of milk per day for at least 8 weeks. Pygmy and Nigerian kids usually nurse, but may be fed from a bottle. They require about 16 ounces of milk per day.

By one week of age, all goat kids will begin to nibble at grain and hay. It is a good practice to have clean food in front of them at all times. It should not be placed on the floor as they will nibble and pick up parasites and diseases from floors. Almost anything will work as a feeder for kids as long as they can reach it and the feed stays clean. Kids may also begin to drink water out of a pail. Do not

make the mistake of assuming they no longer need milk. Their digestive systems are not capable of taking in enough solid food for survival for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Weaning

When you are ready to wean your kids, you have a choice of several methods. If the kids are on the dam, you may begin by separating them overnight. In the morning you will want to milk the dam before turning the kids out with her if she is a dairy doe. In the case of pygmys and Nigerians, simply cutting down the chance to nurse may encourage the doe to wean the kids by herself.

Be cautious about buying or selling kids who have not been successfully weaned as they will experience a double shock if they are removed from milk and moved to a new home at the same time.

Sometimes a doe will become very upset when her kids are removed. Be careful that the doe does not go off feed and become ill. Gradual separation is easier for both doe and kids.

Diseases and Illnesses

Most goats are normally very healthy animals. Sometimes they can contract an illness or contagious disease. Minimal contact with other herds will greatly diminish the possibility of such illnesses. However, taking animals off the farm to shows or for breeding can expose them to a number of conditions.

Only a few of the most common health problems are discussed here. Consult veterinary manuals for a complete list.

Enterotoxemia

Enterotoxemia or overeating disease as it is commonly called, results from bacteria that are normally present in the rumen, reproducing rapidly. The problem occurs when feed is changed suddenly or when kids have access to large amounts of milk and grain. Presence of this type of toxin should be considered when animals exhibit any of the symptoms.

Large numbers of bacteria from the *Clostridium* family produce a toxin that poisons the animal. If left untreated, the animal can quickly die. Early signs of the disease may include going off feed, diarrhea, droopy appearance, bloating, abdominal pain, and unwillingness to move. All of these are not always visible. The

best indicator is usually the unwillingness to take food or drink of any kind.

An antitoxin for the disease is usually available from a vet. It may need to be given more than once. Consult a vet or someone familiar with the disease for the correct dosage for your goat.

All goats over 4 weeks of age should be vaccinated for enterotoxemia. The dose is dependent on body weight.

Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is caused by the overabundance of a small organism commonly found in the gut. It often strikes kids or animals moved to a new environment and may be made worse by stress.

Symptoms include a general unthrifty appearance, dark diarrhea, loss of energy. Suspect this disease when kids seem to stop growing although they are eating well and look rough-coated.

Treatment for this disease can best be determined by your vet or someone knowledgeable and with experience. Most treatments include medication by mouth or in the water or milk fed to the goat. Prompt treatment can prevent permanent stunting of growth and continuation of poor condition.

Coccidia are also present in animals such as cats and chickens, but they are host specific.

Pinkeye

Pinkeye is an infection of the eye brought on by irritation from dust, excessively bright light or wind. It can be spread by flies moving from one animal to another. One of the first signs of the disease is excessive tearing. Goats may also show reddened membranes around the eye. Eventually, the eye becomes cloudy and whitened. If untreated, the goat will go blind.

Antibiotic powder, spray, or ointment put directly into the eye is very effective. Most goats recover completely if treated promptly.

Pinkeye is highly contagious. Care should be taken to isolate the infected animal and check the rest of the herd often to be sure that others are not infected.

Ringworm

Ringworm is actually a fungus often found in animals housed in dark, poorly ventilated conditions. Ringworm appears as a thick, gray, scaly patch on the skin. Hair often falls off the affected area.

The fungus can be treated with one of several fungicides, including a spray commonly called BlueKote.

This fungus is very contagious and can be passed to other animals and to people. Care should be taken to wash thoroughly and avoid touching the infected area.

Abscesses

An abscess is an infection caused by bacteria. It usually shows itself as an enlarged area in one of the lymph glands. The abscess grows larger and finally will be from golf ball to grapefruit size. The hair falls out and finally the abscess bursts open. The material that comes out is highly infectious.

The goat being treated for an abscess should be isolated. The area should be disinfected and cleaned out so that healing can take place. The drainage should be burned. The animal should also be treated with an antibiotic.

An entire herd can be contaminated by an improperly treated abscess. Goats that have had one abscess will usually develop more. An abscess can develop inside a goat where it can burst and cause a general infection that may ultimately cause death.

Lice

Lice can be a problem particularly in dark housing during cold weather. These small insects live close to the skin and suck blood from the goat. A severe infestation can cause the goat to appear unthrifty and cause anemia. Lice can be easily passed from one animal to another.

Effective treatment includes using a good dusting powder or spray repeatedly until lice are gone.

Mastitis

Mastitis is an infection of the mammary gland. It can be caused by injury or unsanitary conditions that allow bacteria to enter the teats and udder.

Symptoms of mastitis can include hard, hot portions of the udder or the infection may not be obvious. The milk from the infected area may be thick, cheesy looking, or stringy. Several indicators are available that will show if the suspect milk comes from a mastitic condition.

The infected udder must be milked out frequently to remove as much of the infected secretions as possible. Treatment may include infusions into the udder or antibiotic treatment given systemically by injection. A veterinarian should be consulted for severe mastitis.

Untreated mastitis can cause a general body infection or even gangrene of the udder. In such a case, the doe may die. If the doe survives, the udder will be useless. Sometimes even falling off from the effects of gangrene. Massive treatments of antibiotics are necessary to save the goat.

Cleanliness and care during milking will go far toward reducing the incidence of mastitis in any herd. The important concept to remember is that the udder needs to be treated gently yet the teats and udder need to be clean if milk is to be good quality.

Parasites

Many types of parasites and worms can be found in all animals, including goats. Some of the conditions that foster parasite infestations include dirty pens, overcrowding, poor grooming, and insufficient nutrition.

It is good to establish a schedule for regular worming and parasite control. Chemical wormers are available that are given orally or by injection. Several organic or herbal wormers are also available. Consult a vet or research to find the method you prefer.

A good timetable for worming is before breeding and immediately after kidding for does. Bucks should be wormed after breeding season or in summer so that any chemicals used will not affect semen quality.

Parasites such as lice and ticks can be treated by providing adequate light in winter and clipping in summer.

Tetanus

Tetanus is caused by bacteria that live in the soil and thrive without oxygen. This makes it very dangerous in a puncture wound or one from castration or dehorning. Tetanus will be fatal. Vaccination will prevent this disease. An antitoxin can be given after exposure if a preventative vaccine has not been used. (see section on regular vaccinations)

Johne's Disease

Johne's Disease is a serious wasting disease that is found in goats and many other animals. It is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*) that is mainly found in animal intestines but can survive outside the animal for several months.

Johne's disease causes a thickening of the intestinal wall which blocks the normal ability of the body to absorb and use food. The animal eats but cannot use any nutrients. The animal becomes thin and unhealthy and finally dies. There is no cure for this disease.

Young animals are the most susceptible to the disease but infection can occur at any age. The bacteria spreads through contaminated feed, water, bedding, and from udders. A fetus may also be infected before birth by the mother.

A diagnosis may be made by culturing feces and tissue. After death, intestinal examination may also be used to diagnose. Skin testing is not always reliable.

Infected animals should be culled immediately to control the disease. Maintain a clean environment for all animals, especially kids. Consider removing all goats from the farm if most of the herd tests positive. Many experts recommend that the farm should not have clean animals introduced for at least 1 year.

Scrapie

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease of the central nervous system. It is a type of encephalitis and is contagious. More is being learned about this disease each year. It may be linked to similar diseases in cattle and even people.

Three main theories are now being considered.

1. the agent is an unusual virus
2. the agent is a prion, a malformed protein in the brain
3. the agent is a virino, a small piece of DNA that acts like a virus

The scrapie agent is very resistant to heat and normal sterilization. The normal immune system does not react to scrapie.

It is thought that scrapie spreads from mother to baby through contact with the placenta and fluid. Signs of the disease usually appear in 2-5 years after contact.

Infected animals usually show changes in behavior, tremors, and lack of coordination. Animals may appear to itch and bite at feet and limbs. Weight loss may also occur. Death will occur.

Positive tests can only be done after death by examining the brain.

The federal government is putting into place a program to identify all animals and those which die from scrapie in an attempt to control the disease.

Coccidiosis

The coccidian parasite may cause diarrhea, unthrifty appearance, chronic cough, or poor growth. This infection is especially common in young kids kept in unclean housing without outside access. Treatment may be given by mouth from several types of medication. Extra vitamins, especially B complex may be needed because some medications destroy production of these vitamins by the goat's body.

Vaccinations and Injections Commonly Given to Goats

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Administer to</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Dosage</u>
Tetanus	pregnant does	3-4 wks. Before kidding	½ to 1 cc.
	Kids	4 wks. & 6 wks. of age	½ to 1 cc.
	Bucks	once a year (not breeding time)	½ to 1 cc.

*Give antitoxin if animal may have been infected and not immunized.

Enterotoxemia	pregnant does	3-4 wks before kidding	2 cc.
		2 nd dose if not previously vaccinated	
	kids	4 and 6 wks. of age	2 cc.
	bucks	once a year (not breeding time)	2 cc.

*antitoxin – given when symptoms of illness are observed
dosage depends on size of goat and severity of symptoms
small kids – 1-3 cc. with repeated dosage if needed
large kids – 3-5 cc. with dosage repeated as needed
antibiotics may be needed along with antitoxin if symptoms are severe

Selenium	pregnant does	3-4 wks before kidding	2 ½ cc.
	Kids	4 & 6 wks. of age	2 ½ cc.
	Bucks	once yearly (not breeding time)	2 ½ cc.

Weak kids may benefit from a minimal dose of ¼ cc. at birth

Worming Medication

Any chemical designed kill parasites should be administered to does before breeding and after kidding. In general, pregnant does should not be treated.

Bucks should be treated before breeding season and after as needed.

Kids can be treated at 2-4 months of age as needed. Chemicals should be measured according to weight.

Care should be taken to keep treated animals out of contaminated pens or pastures to prevent reinfection.

Management Project

The goat management project is intended for all 4-H youth who are not able to own their own animal. Several volunteer families are available to work with the 4-H member and allow an animal to be used for project activities, shows, and the county fair.

The managerial member signs a contract along with the adult who monitors the project. This contract details the responsibilities of the youth and the owner. The contract may be individually tailored to the wants and needs of both host family and 4-H member. The age, experience, and ability of the member are considered when the contract is signed.

A copy of the contract is included near the back of this booklet.

Cart Goats

Goats can be trained to pull many types of carts. Harnesses can be custom made or purchased from supply houses. Wethers of large breeds are ideal cart goats since they grow large enough to pull a cart and are docile. They can be used singly or in pairs. Most cart goats will readily adapt to being driven as well as led. Training should start when the animal is young to be most successful. A well-trained cart goat will provide many years of useful and pleasure activities.

The project owns a cart and harness that can be borrowed by any member. The terms of borrowing are available from a project leader.

Pack Goats

Goats can be trained to carry a pack on a special saddle across their backs. Depending on the size of the goat, the pack may weigh from 20 to 50 pounds. Pygmys must have a much lighter pack such as those for dogs. Wethers are ideal for this use, but some people use does for the decided advantage of having fresh milk on long trips.

Training for a pack goat should start when the animal is young. They first learn to carry an empty pack and add weight as they grow and progress. Goats are taught to follow rather than be led along trails.

A good pack goat has several advantages over horses or mules. They do not require bulky food carried along as they can browse almost anywhere. They are easier on the environment because of their habit of taking only a few bites from any one place. Their droppings are easily broken down and do not remain obvious on a trail. Goats tend to stay close to their humans and will not stray as a loose horse or mule would do. Goats do not usually require hobbles or ties at night. They are also very surefooted on rough terrain.

Pack goats are becoming more popular as people take care of the environment. They provide a good service for their owners.

The project owns packs that can be borrowed by any member. The terms for borrowing are available from a project leader.

Managerial Contract

This contract was created as a guide for 4-H project members. Keep in mind you may want to be more specific on what you and your managerial may want. Feel free to add or delete items that don't pertain to you and the member.

The goal is to set some standards on things required for the managerial project to be a success. We believe this contract outlines many of the important things a managerial member should do in order to get full benefit of showing and knowing their animal that is being used in the project.

Good communication between the managerial members, their parents, and the owner of the animal is the main key for this to be a success.

Sincerely,

The Sheboygan County 4-H Goat Committee

4-H Goat Project – Managerial Contract

The following is a contract between the goat project member and the owner of the animal(s) being used in the 4-H project. It is to read and signed by the animal owner, the project member and the members parents or guardians.

1. Project members will be expected to spend time at the owner's property. This time will be set up between the owner and the member's parents. The member is required to spend a reasonable time throughout the year at the owners property doing various activities which may include but are not limited to:
 - A. Lead training and show training
 - B. Assist with general maintenance with the care of the animal, such as hoof trimming, vaccinating, worming and grooming care.
 - C. Assisting with pen clean up and maintenance
 - D. Feeding if time appropriate
 - E. Any other project related activity (Kidding, milking, etc.)

Managerial members are encouraged to spend reasonable time with the hands on experiences to gain the most knowledge about the goat and the responsibilities that go hand and hand with maintaining the goat with good health practices.

The owner will also provide a record sheet that will stay on the farm premises. This record sheet will be a log of time spent on the farm along with a list of tasks completed. This will be signed and dated by the managerial member and owner.

Shows

The managerial member will be expected to prepare the goat in a timely manner before a show. The managerial member will be expected to set this time up in advance with the owner.

1. What is expected of managerial member regarding shows:
 - A. Assisting with loading and unloading of the goat(s) and all necessary supplies.
 - B. Maintaining a clean pen
 - C. Taking care of food and water needs
 - D. Assist with any milking that may be needed
 - E. Turn in entry forms by the appropriate due dates along with any fees associated with the show.

The Judging Scorecard

The judging scorecard for both dairy and pygmy goats is included in this booklet. The scorecard is the standard by which all goats are judged. Each of them highlights the areas that are important for each type of goat. A particular point value is given to each trait based on its importance in the overall structure of the animal.

Knowing and understanding the scorecard for your goat will help you to judge your own animal and any others you see. You will learn what traits are important to the health and sound body structure of your goat. Since these scorecards were developed over many years, you can be sure that much thought went into the point value assigned to each trait. The scorecard is the method that any judge will use when your animal is evaluated at a show or fair.

ADGA® SCORECARD	POINTS		
	SR. DOE	JR. DOE	BUCK
A. GENERAL APPEARANCE An attractive framework with femininity (masculinity in bucks), strength, upstandingness, length, and smoothness of blending throughout that create an impressive style and graceful walk.	35	55	55
Stature —slightly taller at withers than at hips with long bone pattern throughout.	2	2	2
Head & Breed Characteristics —clean-cut and balanced in length, width, and depth; broad muzzle with full nostrils; well-sculpted, alert eyes; strong jaw with angular lean junction to throat; appropriate size, color, ears, and nose to meet breed standard.	5	10	8
Front End Assembly —prominent withers arched to point of shoulder with shoulder blade, point of shoulder, and point of elbow set tightly and smoothly against the chest wall both while at rest and in motion; deep and wide into chest floor with moderate strength of brisket.	5	8	11
Back —strong and straight with well-defined vertebrae throughout and slightly uphill to withers; level chine with full crops into a straight, wide loin; wide hips smoothly set and level with back; strong rump which is uniformly wide and nearly level from hips to pinbones and thurl to thurl; thurls set two-thirds of the distance from hips to pinbones; well defined and wide pinbones set slightly lower than the hips; tailhead slightly above and smoothly set between pinbones; tail symmetrical to body and free from coarseness; vulva should be normal in size and shape in females (normal sheath and testes in males).	8	12	11
Legs, Pasterns & Feet —bone flat and strong throughout leading to smooth, free motion; front legs with clean knees, straight, wide apart and squarely placed; rear legs wide apart and straight from the rear and well angulated in side profile through the stifle to cleanly molded hocks, nearly perpendicular from hock to strong, yet flexible pastern of medium length; strong feet with tight toes, pointed directly forward; deep heels with sole nearly uniform in depth from toe to heel.	15	23	25
B. DAIRY CHARACTER Angularity and general openness with strong yet refined and clean bone structure, showing freedom from coarseness and with evidence of milking ability giving due regard to stage of lactation (of breeding season in bucks). Neck —long, lean, and blending smoothly into the shoulders; clean-cut throat and brisket. Withers —prominent and wedge-shaped with the dorsal process arising slightly above the shoulder blades. Ribs —flat, flinty, wide apart, and long; lower rear ribs should angle to flank. Flank —deep, yet arched and free of excess tissue. Thighs —in side profile, moderately incurving from pinbone to stifle; from the rear, clean and wide apart, highly arched and out-curving into the escutcheon to provide ample room for the udder.	20	30	31

ADGA® SCORECARD	POINTS		
	SR. DOE	JR. DOE	BUCK
B. (continued)			
Skin —thin, loose, and pliable with soft, lustrous hair.			
C. BODY CAPACITY Relatively large in proportion in size, age, and period of lactation of animal (of breeding season for bucks), providing ample capacity, strength, and vigor.	10	15	15
Chest —deep and wide, yet clean-cut, with well sprung foreribs, full in crops and at point of elbow.	4	7	7
Barrel —strongly supported, long, deep, and wide; depth and spring of rib tending to increase into a deep yet refined flank	6	8	8
D. MAMMARY SYSTEM Strongly attached, elastic, well-balanced with adequate capacity, quality, ease of milking, and indicating heavy milk production over a long period of usefulness.	35		
Udder Support —strong medial suspensory ligament that clearly defines the udder halves, contributes to desirable shape and capacity, and holds the entire udder snugly to the body and well above the hocks. Fore, rear, and lateral attachments must be strong and smooth.	13		
Fore Udder —wide and full to the side and extending moderately forward without excess non-lactating tissue and indicating capacity, desirable shape, and productivity.	5		
Rear Udder —capacious, high, wide, and arched into the escutcheon; uniformity wide and deep to the floor; moderately curved in side profile without protruding beyond the vulva.	7		
Balanced, Symmetry & Quality —inside profile, one-third of the capacity visible in front of the leg, one-third under the leg, and one-third behind the leg; well-rounded with soft, pliable, and elastic texture that is well collapsed after milking, free of scar tissue, with halves evenly balanced.	6		
Teats —uniform size and of medium length and diameter in proportion to capacity of udder, cylindrical in shape, pointed nearly straight down or slightly forward, and situated two-thirds of the distance from the medial suspensory ligament on the floor of each udder-half to the side, indicating ease of milking.	4		
TOTAL	100	100	100

Showmanship

The showmanship class in any goat show is the process of judging the handler and not the quality of the goat. The reason for this class is to make the participants aware of the correct method to use when presenting the goat for judging and the procedures for helping the goat to appear at its best. Specific rules for movement within a line and for the position of the goat and handler will be taught during the orientation for this class. Listed below is the scorecard for showmanship of a dairy animal. Pygmy rules are similar and will be discussed.

ADGA* SCORECARD		Points	Sub-Total
E. SHOWMANSHIP			
1. APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL			40
Condition and Thriftiness—showing normal growth—neither too fat nor too thin.	10		
Hair—clean and properly groomed. Hoofs—trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally. Neatly disbudded if the animal is not naturally hornless.	10		
Clipping—entire body if weather has permitted, showing allowance to get a neat coat of hair by show time; neatly trimmed tail and ears.	10		
Cleanliness—as shown by a clean body as free from stains as possible, with special attention to legs, feet, tail area, nose, and ears.	10		
2. APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR			
Clothes and person neat and clean—white costume preferred.	10		10
3. SHOWING ANIMAL IN THE RING			50
Leading—enter, leading the animal at a normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking on the left side, holding the collar with the right hand. Exhibitor should walk as normally and inconspicuously as possible. Goat should lead readily and respond quickly. Lead equipment should consist of a properly fitted collar or small link chain, which is inconspicuous, yet of sufficient strength to maintain proper control. As the Judge studies the animal, the preferred method of leading is to walk on the side away from the Judge. Lead slowly with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage, and graceful walk.	10		
Pose and show an animal so it is between the exhibitor and the Judge as much as possible. Avoid exaggerated positions, such as crossing behind the goat. Stand or kneel where both Judge and animal may be observed. Pose animal with front feet squarely beneath and hind feet slightly spread. Where possible, face animal upstage with her front feet on a slight incline. Neither crowd other exhibitors nor leave too much space when leading into a side-by-side position.	15		

ADGA* SCORECARD		Points	Sub-Total
When Judge changes placing, lead animal forward out of line, down or up to the place directed then back through the line, finally making a U-turn to get into position. When a Judge changes placing in a head-to-tail sequence, lead animal out of line and up or down the line on the side next to the Judge. It is the responsibility of another handler to accommodate changes by moving up or down on the side opposite the Judge. To step animal ahead—use slight pull on collar. If the animal steps badly out of place, return her to position by leading her forward and making a circle back through your position in the line. When Judge is observing the animal, if she moves out of position, replace her as quickly and inconspicuously as possible. Be natural. Overshowing, undue fussing, and maneuvering are objectionable.			
Show animal to best advantage, recognizing the conformation faults of the animal you are leading and striving to help overcome them. Showmen may be questioned by the judge on their knowledge of proper terminology for parts of a dairy goat, breed standards, evaluation of defects, and ADGA scorecards.		15	
Poise, alertness, and courteous attitude are all desired in the show ring. Showmen should keep an eye on their animals and be aware of the position of the Judge at all times—but should not stare at the Judge. Persons or things outside the ring should not distract the attention of the showmen. Respond rapidly to requests from judges or officials, and be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times, respecting the rights of other exhibitors. The best showmen will show their animals at all times—not themselves—and will continue exhibiting well until the entire class has been placed, the Judge has given his/her reasons, and he/she has dismissed the class.		10	
TOTAL			100
Suggested Uniform: Long-sleeved white shirt, regulation white pants; 4-H or FFA necktie; 4-H or FFA cap (if applicable), with matching shoes and belt in either black, white, or brown.			

THE PYGMY GOAT BREED STANDARD

May 1, 1975

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Pygmy Goat is genetically small, cobby, compact. Its frame is clearly defined and well angulated; limbs and head are short relative to body length. Full-barrelled and well-muscled, the body circumference in relation to height and weight is proportionately greater than that of other breeds. The Pygmy Goat is hardy, alert and animated, good-natured and gregarious.

2. BREED CHARACTERISTICS:

Coat - The full coat of straight, medium long hair varies in density with seasons and climates. On females, beards may be non-existent or sparse, or trimmed; on adult males, abundant hair growth is desirable; the beard to be full, long and flowing, the copious mane draping, cape-like, across the shoulders.

Color - All body colors are acceptable. The predominant coloration is a grizzled, agouti pattern produced by the intermingling of light and dark hairs, of any color.

Markings - a. Breed-specific markings are required: muzzle, forehead, eyes, and ears are accented in tones lighter than the dark portion of the body in goats of all colors, except in goats that are solid black. Front and rear hoofs and cannons (socks) are darker than the main body coat, as are crown, dorsal stripe, and martingale except in the solid black. On all caramel goats, light vertical stripes on front sides of darker socks are required.

b. Optional markings: Light areas (on darker backgrounds) that appear as complete or partial girth belts are acceptable. All other patches are seriously faulted.

Head - Short to medium long; profile somewhat dished. Muzzle rounded, not snipey; nose short, wide, flat. Chin and underjaw full; bite even, neither over- nor undershot; jaws broad, strong, well muscled. Forehead broad, flat or concave. Eyes set well apart, bright, prominent but not protruding. Ears medium sized, firm, erect, alertly mobile. Genetically horned; disbudding and dehorning permissible.

Neck - Well muscled; shorter, rounder, more full-throated than other breeds; more slender in females than in males.

Shoulder - Muscular, well angulated and well laid on; point of shoulder placed posterior to the prosternum.

Back - Strong, laterally straight, level along chine and loin, rising slightly toward the iliac crest.

Loin - Broad, strong, nearly level.

Rump - Medium long, medium wide, neither level nor steep:

Hips - Wide, nearly level with back;

Thurls - High, wide apart;

Pin bones - Wide apart, somewhat lower than hips, pronounced;

Tail - Set high; wide at the base, symmetrical, carried high.

Legs - Strong, well muscled, wide apart:

Fore legs - Short, straight, wide apart and squarely set, with elbows close to the ribs; cannon bone short.

Hind legs - When viewed from the rear; straight, widely set to accommodate large barrel; femur and tibia proportionately longer than in other breeds and angulated toward a more pronounced stifle joint, thus compensating for the short hock (rear cannon). Bone flat and flinty.

THE PYGMY GOAT BREED STANDARD

(continued)

2. BREED CHARACTERISTICS (continued):
 - Hocks - Cleanly molded, sharply angled; metatarsus short.
 - Pasterns - Short, strong and resilient.
 - Feet - Well-shaped, proportioned to size of animal; deep heel and level sole; hoofs symmetrical.
3. DAIRY CHARACTER:
 - Animated, agile, generally open.
 - Withers - Nearly level with spine.
 - Ribs - Wide apart, well sprung; rib bone long, wide, flat.
 - Flank - Deep, set low on barrel, well defined.
 - Thighs - Long and wide, well muscled; incurving towards udder.
 - Skin - Clean and resilient.
4. BODY CAPACITY:
 - Large in proportion to size of animal, providing ample digestive and reproductive capacity as well as strength, vigor, and stamina.
 - Barrel - Broad, deep, increasing in width toward flank, thus giving an impression of perpetual pregnancy; symmetrical, well supported by firm abdominal wall and well-sprung ribs. The disproportionately large circumference of the paunch is greater in females than in males.
 - Heart girth - Large, resulting from long, well-sprung fore-ribs; wide chest floor, full at the point of elbow.
5. MAMMARY SYSTEM:
 - Udder - Firm, rounded, small to medium sized.
 - Rear attachment - High, halves evenly balanced, symmetrical.
 - Front attachment - Well forward, tightly attached, without pocket, blending smoothly into body.
 - Texture - Silky smooth, elastic, pliable but firm; free of lumps or scar tissue.
 - Teats - Cylindrical, of uniform length and size - sufficient for milking with two fingers and thumb; symmetrically placed; free of obstructions, deformities, or multiple orifices.
6. REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM (BUCKS):
 - Testicles - Two, fully descended, of fairly equal size, healthy and firm.
 - Teats - Two, non-functional.

THE PYGMY GOAT BREED STANDARD

(continued)

BODY MEASUREMENTS:

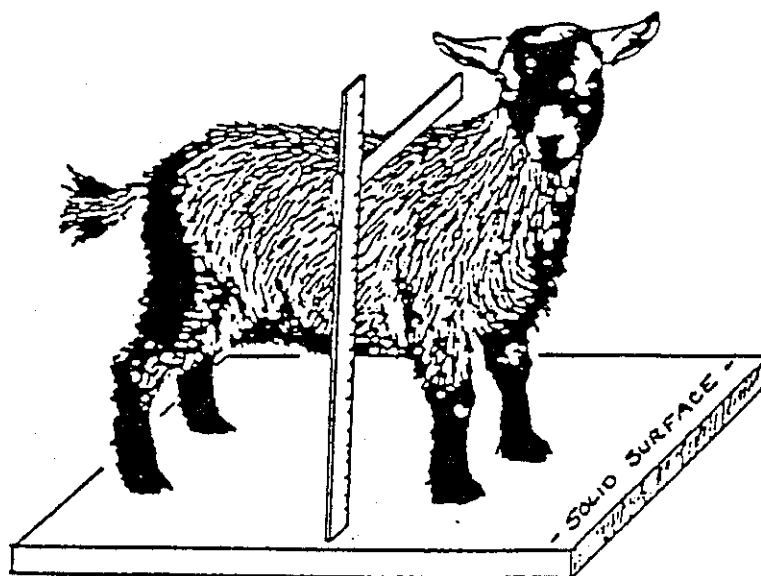
		INCHES		CENTIMETERS				INCHES		CENTIMETERS	
		MIN.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.			MIN.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.
DOES						BUCKS					
6 mos.	Withers height	13	18 1/2	33.0	47.0	6 mos.	Withers height	14 1/8	19 5/8	36.0	50.0
	Cannon length	2 3/8	3	6.0	7.8		Cannon length	2 1/2	3 1/4	6.3	8.2
12 mos.	Withers height	13 3/4	18 7/8	35.0	48.0	12 mos.	Withers height	14 1/2	19 5/8	37.0	50.0
	Cannon length	3 1/4	4 1/4	8.3	10.8		Cannon length	3 1/4	4 3/8	8.3	11.2
24 mos.	Withers height	16	22 3/8	40.6	57.0	30 mos.	Withers height	16	23 5/8	40.6	60.0
	Cannon length	3 3/4	4 1/2	9.6	11.6		Cannon length	3 3/4	4 5/8	9.4	11.8

Allowable margin of error: 1/8th inch or .17 cm

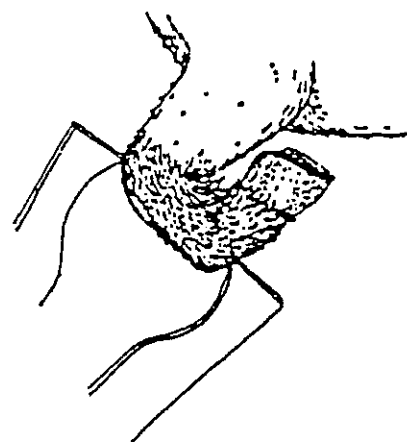
The 7 month old uses a 12 month minimum and maximum measurement. The 3 year old doe uses a 24 month doe minimum and maximum measurement. Kids under 6 months use maximum measurement only.

Height at withers is measured on a firm-flat surface with a right angle device set perpendicular to floor and level across withers. Goat to be standing in a normal pose. Head held in typical position, neither drawn up, down nor pulled out, any of which may significantly alter height measurement. Front legs set evenly under the goat's shoulder, not forward or backward of the shoulder line. Rear legs positioned properly, neither drawn too far back nor inwards. The cannon bone is measured with calipers set at the outer edge of the knee and pastern joints, with both joints sharply bent.

NATIONAL PYGMY GOAT ASSOCIATION, INC.
Breed Standard Committee, January 11, 1990



WITHER MEASUREMENT



FRONT CANNON MEASUREMENT

American Dairy Goat Association

BREED STANDARDS

ALPINE

The Alpine Dairy Goat is also referred to as the French Alpine and registration papers for this dairy goat use both designations and they are synonymous. 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 colors 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. Alpine colors are described by using the following terms:

- **COU BLANC** (coo blanc)—literally “white neck”—white front quarters and black hindquarters with black or gray markings on the head.
 - **COU CLAIR** (coo clair)—literally “clear neck”—front quarters are tan, saffron, off-white, or shading to gray with black hindquarters.
 - **COU NOIR** (coo nwah)—literally “black neck”—black front quarters and white hindquarters.
 - **SUNDGAU** (sundgow)—black with white markings such as underbody, facial stripes, etc.
 - **PIED**—spotted or mottled.
 - **CHAMOISEE** (shamwahzay)—brown or bay—characteristic markings are black face, dorsal stripe, feet and legs, and sometimes a martingale running over the withers and down to the chest. Spelling for male is chamoise.
 - **TWO-TONE CHAMOISEE**—light front quarters with brown or gray hindquarters. This is not a cou blanc or cou clair as these terms are reserved for animals with black hindquarters.
 - **BROKEN CHAMOISEE**—a solid chamoisee broken with another color by being banded or splashed, etc.
- Any variation in the above patterns broken with white should be described as a broken pattern such as a broken cou blanc.

LAMANCHA

The LaMancha goat was developed in the U.S.A. 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.

The LaMancha face is straight with the 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 (2.54 cm) 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 (5.08 cm) is allowed, the end of the ear must be turned up or turned down and cartilage shaping the small ear is allowed.

Any color or combination of colors is acceptable with no preferences. The hair is short, fine and glossy.

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 [2.54 cm] 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 or colors, solid or patterned, is acceptable.

OBERHASLI

The Oberhasli is a Swiss dairy goat. This breed is a 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 udder; 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 shoulder 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.

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 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.

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From ADGA Guide Book - 2002

Showring Technique

1. Enter the showring and proceed in a clockwise direction.
2. Hold your goat with one hand by her collar.
3. Position your goat between you and the judge.
4. Walk slowly and at an even pace.
5. Keep one eye on the judge at all times.
6. Move slowly, but promptly when directed to do so by the judge.
7. Do not allow your goat to touch or bite at any other goat in the ring.
8. Keep a distance of about 4 feet between you and the person in front of you.
9. When lining up side by side, keep enough room for the judge to walk between goats.
10. When the judge examines your goat, use two hands if necessary to control your goat so that the judge is able to complete her examination without incident.
11. Answer all the judge's questions as clearly and promptly as possible. Do not volunteer your opinions unless asked. Never argue with a judge.
12. Do not talk to anyone else in the ring or on the sidelines unnecessarily.
13. Do not shove or drag your animal. Coax patiently if needed. Never hit or use your feet to move a goat. You may use a knee to brace the chest as a control measure.
14. You should stop with your goat if she must urinate.
15. Do not "pass" other goats unless directed to do so by the judge.
16. You may stoop or put one knee on the ground if it helps you to show the goat better when you are standing still.
17. Keep a smile on your face at all times!

Fair Needs

What to Bring

- Your own bedding – shaving, sawdust, straw
- Water buckets, grain pans, hay feeder
- Hay and grain – due to lack of storage space, you won't be able to bring large amounts at one time
- Tools to clean pens – shovel, fork, wheelbarrow to share with others, if possible
- Sign or decorations for your pens – may be put up after 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening before the fair opens – pens will be labeled with your name

What to Do

- Get your pen ready before you bring your goats if possible
- Bring goats to the fair between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Check in with one of the superintendent before you put the goats in the pen. All goats must be inspected for health concerns.
- Sign up for times when you can be on barn duty – keep aisles clean, check animals, clean water buckets, answer questions from fairgoers
- Check the classes on your entry forms and make sure you bring the right animals for each class
- Tell a leader or superintendent if you have decided not to bring any goat
- Check your goats often for clean water and adequate food. Take care of them at least twice each day
- Clean your pens daily – remove wet bedding and manure and replace with clean bedding before 8 a.m. or after 10 p.m. – place used bedding outside the barn on the north end in the designated area
- Do not remove your goats to walk around outside the building
- Goats may go home after 6 p.m. on Monday

Show supplies

- Collars to fit each goat
- White clothes – shirt, pants or skirt, clean shoes
- Supplies to clean your goats before the show begins

The show will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. We will start with Senior showmanship followed by Intermediate and junior classes. Breed classes and blue ribbon sale classes will follow showmanship and open class will be last.

All milkers should be milked out after the show and not left until evening.

Note: All animals should be clipped and cleaned before they arrive at the fair. Last minute trims and hoof cleaning can be done immediately prior to the show.

The project will supply

- basic first aid supplies, soap, paper towels, and supplies for last minute grooming.
- A milking stand to share

Users of tools are responsible to clean and disinfect any items used from the common tack box.

Glossary

- Abscess – site where infectious material collects under the skin; eventually breaks and spreads contaminated material to others
- Anterior – front end
- Buck – male goat
- Castrate – remove the testicles of a male goat so it can't reproduce
- Chevon – meat of the goat
- Chine – backbone or spine; behind withers to widest part of barrel (end of rib)
- Colostrum – first substance secreted by the udder after giving birth; contains antibodies and vitamins necessary for the health of the newborn
- cull – to remove substandard animals from the herdd
- dairy goat – animal bred for its ability to produce milk in sufficient quantities to make milking profitable
- dam – mother
- dehorn – removing horns
- dewclaw – horny projections above hoof at the back of the foot
- disbud – remove the beginnings of the horn cells before horns develop
- doe – female goat
- dorsal – back
- dorsal stripe – linear marking along spine, usually a different color than rest of hair
- dry – period of rest prior to kidding when doe does not give milk
- enterotoxemia – disease caused by unchecked growth of clostridium bacteria in the digestive system of the goat; can be fatal if untreated; occurs often in large kids; vaccine available
- escutcheon – inverted U-shaped curve where the rear udder is attached
- estrus – the heat period, when the female is receptive to the buck and fertile – occurs about every 21 days during fall and winter and lasts 1-3 days
- freshen – process of giving birth to kids and coming into new milk
- gestation – time during which the doe carries unborn kids; pregnancy
- grade – resembles one or more breeds of goat, does not have purebred background
- heart girth – circumference of chest measured behind the elbows and over the withers
- hock – back leg location comparable to the knee
- ketosis – metabolic disorder resulting from improper balance of nutrients, usually occurring in the pregnant or newly freshened doe
- kid – immature goat of either sex, sometimes called buckling or doeling
- kidding - process of giving birth to young goats (kids)
- kinder – intermediate size breed of goat; cross between a Nubian and Pygmy
- lactation – time during which milk is produced, usually about 10 months long
- loin – part of spine or backbone from barrel (behind last rib) to hip

mastitis – bacterial infection of the udder, may be contagious; may cause permanent damage or death, may result from injury
mature – does at 24 months, bucks at 30 months
pastern – portion of foot between dewclaw and hoof
pin bone – posterior point of the pelvis
polled – naturally hornless
posterior – behind or at the rear of
purebred – goat has papers proving ancestry and registered in a breed association's books
pygmy – small breed of goat, between 16 and 22 3/8 inches at maturity for a doe;
between 16 and 23 5/8 inches for a buck
rump – upper portion of the rear
sire – father
teat – finger-shaped projection on the udder which provides an outlet for the milk produced by the udder
tetanus – bacterial infection caused by a member of clostridium family; usually found in puncture wounds; bacteria lives commonly in soil
udder – glands where milk is produced and stored, located between rear legs
vaccination – injection given as a disease preventative
ventral – pertaining to the belly side; beneath or lower
wattles – short finger-shaped appendages of skin and flesh on neck; nonfunctional, optional
weaning – process of discontinuing milk feedings to a kid at 8-12 weeks
wether – castrated or neutered male goat
withers – the highest part of the back, point where shoulder blades almost touch