

MINI-GOAT NOTES

Miniature Dairy Goat Association Newsletter

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Members (as of July 31 2018) 726

MDGA Numbers

Registrations as of July 31:

breed total numbers (of that number)
 Mini Alpine 1075 (58 are Grade)
 Mini LaMancha 4479 (233 are Grade)
 Nigerian 522
 Mini Nubian 9083 (403 are Grade)
 Mini Oberhasli 463 (14 are Grade)
 Mini Guernsey 19
 Mini Saanen/Sable 204 (36 are Grade)
 Mini Toggenburg 138 (5 are Grade)

Message from the Editor

My sincere apologies to the members for not getting an issue out sooner. As you all know, things will happen with a farm, business and life... I have always wanted the newsletter to bring information, awareness and things of interest to members, so putting out something "just to get it out" was not something I was looking to do. I hope you understand. Having input for future issues is always a wonderful thing. Please, feel free to send ideas, show results, pictures, etc., for upcoming newsletters to newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net

Searchable Database Update

Creating, testing and correcting the database takes time. With so many new animals being added during the spring and summer, it was necessary to hold off on the database until the team is able to focus more on the searchable database, (one breed alone had 407 new registrations generated in June/July, not counting grades, and not including transfers...)

For those who research their own pedigrees, imagine tracing one of your 4th generation goat's parents, grand parents, great grand parents, etc., all the way back to the original Nubian and Nigerian Dwarf. Now imagine doing that for 15,983 animals.

This project is important to the registry, and as such, is being given the necessary time and testing to ensure the launch is a success and a valuable tool for all the membership. We want to be sure we have experienced the headaches and fixed the problems first!

Spotlight

Kim Stokes - Winning the Lottery - Oops, Kid(ding)



Kim Stokes - you just won a raffle kid!

She is Gunnwalkers Little Nugget Jenny. The owners who donated the doeling are Racheal & Spencer Gunn, from Gunnwalker Homestead. I'm super excited to add Jenny to my herd and look forward to some beautiful moon spotted blue eyed cuties! Plus the milk genetics in her pedigree would make anyone happy to have her.

Who is the sire and dam?

Sire: Laz E Acres's Ace of Hearts; Dam: W4's Tullie

We want to know more about you

I purchased my first Mini Nubian in February of 2015, about 6 months after purchasing our 1930's farm. Once we had the farm I really wanted fresh milk, but didn't want to deal with the large quantity that a cow would give! I did my research & decided that a mini Nubian would be perfect for the quantity of milk I wanted. I purchased 2 high quality mini Nubians, a doe that was within a month

of freshening & a bottle doeling. I was hooked as soon as I brought them home, and now have several does & bucks. That is the story behind Rockin Roan Acres, Mini Nubians. I have a website, <https://www.rockinroanacres.com/>, that has more information.

What I like about owning goats is their personalities. I spend a tremendous amount of time with them every day. In my professional career, I manage a large Senior Retirement Community. Every year I take my residents to my farm to visit as soon as the baby goats are born. The joy that those kids give to the residents, is priceless! At the end of the day I spend most all my time hanging out with the goats. They give me great joy.



The Juniors Are Shining (Showing!)

The future always relies on the next generation to carry on - MDGA is no different! Being able to support and recognize the efforts of our junior members, is both a privilege and imperative!



Clayton Thorson - 10 yrs old, 2nd year showing

Livingston County Ag Fair/4H fair - Ten-Year-Old Clayton Thorson, in his second year of showing goats, took 5 does to fair this year. He placed first in all classes and 3 out of 4 up for Grand Champion. Three of the 5 does he showed were Mini Nubians, the other 2 were standard Nubians.

Clayton showed Thorson Farms Centauri (F1) in the senior doe class, where she won champion dry doe. He then showed Thorson Farms Snowstorm (F5) in yearling milkers, where she took champion milker. With 2 champion wins, he then had to show both against each other to determine Grand Champion. Five month old Centauri took Grand Champion and Snowstorm took Reserve Champion!

Good breeding, and knowing how to show your goat, is best portrayed by sharing that, Snowstorm's daughter was first in her class. She is the first purebred (F6) mini Nubian born for Thorson Farm.

Thorson farms Snowstorm 1yr old milker took champion milker, besting 2 & 3 year old standard Nubians

Proud mother, Elisa Thorson shared, "He is extremely excited to continue showing Mini Nubians and we hope to try and get a sanction show near us soon!" "Lots of fun and can't wait 'til both our sons are showing against each other next year!"



Snowstorm's (F6) daughter



Thorson Farms Centauri - Grand Champion

YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP FOR THE FLOYD & OTHER LOCAL GOAT SHOWS

Most local fairs offer youth showmanship competition as a way to give young goat owners a chance to show off their skills in properly presenting their goats to the judges. In showmanship, the conformation of the goat is not being examined. Instead, the judge is looking at how well the goat was prepared for the show, how well the goat is managed in the ring, and how much the handler knows about goat anatomy, biology, and management.

To prepare for a positive showmanship experience, there are several good preparatory activities that might be considered:

- Using a diagram, learn the major parts of a dairy goat
- Learn about milking, gestation, kid care, nutrition, and general management.
- Select a calm animal. (A doe is best because, in addition to showmanship, she may also be shown in an open doe show, or possibly a sanctioned show if the doe is registered with the organization with which the show is sanctioned).
- Start working with the goat several weeks before the show, teaching them to lead and to be “set up”.
- Use a collar or chain for leading (and avoid using a lead). Make sure it is tight enough that it doesn't slip off during the show.
- As the handler learns how to “set up the goat”, the goat will become accustomed to having feet handled and to standing in a proper position. The front feet are set directly below the withers. The rear feet are set so the hocks are directly below the pin bones. The rear feet are set wide enough apart to show the udder and/or escutcheon.
- Trim the hooves several days before the show.
- If the show is held during warm weather, the judge may be expecting clipped, washed goats.
- Shows held during colder weather are usually “fuzzy shows”. To prepare, trim only the long hair along the top-line, on the legs, and around the udder. Clip the beard completely off. The goat should be brushed before the show and any soiled spots should be cleaned. Be sure to clean under the tail.
- Clean the hooves before entering the ring.
- Before participating in a Showmanship competition, it would be helpful to watch a show or a video of a show, or to even just watch a class that is presented before competition begins.
- Upon entering the ring, circle clockwise. Keep an eye on the judge and follow directions, always keeping the goat between the handler and the judge.
- If the judge moves such that the handler would be between the goat and the judge, the handler must cross in front of the goat so that the goat is again “in the middle”. There are some good diagrams and suggestions for showmanship and handling here: http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Goat_Showmanship_Manual.pdf
- Every time the animal stops, it should be “set up”.
- The handler should learn about possible requests by a judge, such as changing positions in a line-up, or leading “side by side” with another entry in the class.
- Most importantly, have fun!

Kentucky Mini Dairy Goat Classic



KY Quad Mini Squad – Erik, Dee, Leslie, Susan

By Susan Mings, Blackveil Farm - Horse Cave, KY

On May 26, 2018, the Kentucky Mini Dairy Goat Classic was held at the Metcalfe County Fairgrounds in Edmonton, KY. This is the vision of four crazy people, who are obsessed with miniature dairy goats. I am one of those four crazy people. Calling ourselves the KY Quad Mini Squad, we have set out on a journey to bring a yearly show to Kentucky to highlight miniature dairy goats in the region. Personally, I think we make a fantastic team. We each bring a unique set of skills to the table, which helps us accomplish our goals. Since we are all relatively new to showing, we wanted a show that would be easy for beginners to follow. Therefore, this is an excellent venue for those new to showing goats. Dee Daniels developed an online registration process, which was easy to follow.

Once at the show, the check in table was easy to find. Thanks to Leslie Steele all the goat classes were color-coded, which made it simple to follow. Color-coding everything makes it easy for those who have never shown goats. I provided the flower arrangements for the photo booth and check in table. A self-described "ribbon pig," this year I obtained ribbons for each class so that ribbons for first place, second place and third place could be awarded for each class. For those of us who are new to showing, our animals may not win Grand Champion or Reserve Champion, but the little yellow third place ribbon makes it worthwhile. It also makes you strive harder, to breed better quality animals. Since the MDGA does not have herd appraisals yet, going to live shows gives you an idea of the quality of your goats.



Susan with her GCH (unofficial) Sr Doe – Blackveil Farm Bow Peep

Erik Brown secured the use of the Metcalfe County fairgrounds and their public address system. In addition, Erik and Dee found two fantastic judges, James Oller and Jim Dowell. James Oller did a fantastic job with the showmanship classes for both youth and adults. After the class was finished, he demonstrated proper techniques for leading the goat. This was extremely helpful for those of us new to showing. His tips will help me in the future. Jim Dowell also did an amazing job. His one on one comments and critiques will prevent those new to showing from making mistakes in the future. He gave me great advice. I was making a mistake, and he corrected me. If he had not taken the time to tell me, I would continue to make the same mistake in future shows. His input was priceless..

We could not have done it without our volunteers, Shelly McMullan and Victoria Guillebeau, who acted as ring steward and worked at the check in table. Everyone is so friendly and helpful. This is why I feel our venue is perfect for those who are new to showing goats. The KY Quad Mini Squad will continue with its mission to increase awareness regarding miniature dairy goats. Therefore, you can expect to see great things from us in the future. We have already started planning the May 25th, 2019 show. So, if you are new to showing or have never shown before, this is a great place to start.

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Ribbons won by first year Mini Alpine breeder – Polly Lush from Clarkson, KY



Summer V-Show Entries

Results can be seen at
http://miniaturedairygoats.net/V-show/vshow_current_show.html

Alpine:	Nubian:	Nigerian:
Sr. Does: 13	Sr. Does: 29	Sr. Does: 2
Jr. Does: 22	Jr. Does: 54	Jr. Does: 8
Sr. Bucks: 8	Sr. Bucks: 22	Sr. Bucks: 2
Jr. Bucks: 5	Jr. Bucks: 16	Jr. Bucks: 3
LaMancha:	Oberhasli:	
Sr. Does: 14	Sr. Does: 3	
Jr. Does: 18	Jr. Does: 0	
Sr. Bucks: 8	Sr. Bucks: 2	
Jr. Bucks: 10	Jr. Bucks: 1	

Fall V-show Entry deadline will be September 15

Upcoming Live Shows

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 3

Oregon State Fair Mini Dairy Goat Show
sponsor: Oregon State Fair
Oregon State Fairgrounds
Salem, Oregon
Christina Strickland - 503-407-9875
christilynn@wavecable.com
more info: oregonstatefair.org

SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

Floyd County Miniature Dairy Goat Show
1 Ring AOM
Floyd County Agricultural Fair
Floyd, VA
Show Chair: Ed & Joan Kinser 540-330-7023
Judge: Jean Lucas

Stars & Inheritance

by Jill Hoenmans, Editor

We all know that breeders and owners work hard when building a herd to show that their animals are "proven." Showing and milk test are the key indicators for the Mini dairy group.

Milk stars are awarded based on measurable and achievable criteria - but the standards for attaining stars are established by the individual registries to recognize specific production levels within a breed. This is important to consider when dealing with both the addition of the Nigerian Dwarf, and looking at offspring of standard animals with star recognition from within their registries.

MDGA is often asked why the stars from proven registered animals from other registries (ADGA, etc.) aren't accepted, nor represented as inherited to F1 offspring. I confess, I had to think about this myself - but, in the end, I have to agree. Mini dairy goats are the result of mixing 2 breeds, both of which have different requirements in terms of production within their registries. The criteria cannot be translated to the offspring, as they now carry genetics not yet proven together, as a new breed. How will those genetics translate in the crossing is anyone's guess. As a new breed, we cannot evaluate it by the standards set for either parent, so it cannot inherit the star it's parent was given.

Another consideration, production stars are about recognizing what the animal has proven within the confines of the breed and registry. There are standard breeders who are on milk test who do not do so within the boundaries of a registry - and, while they have proven production records through DHIR, are not awarded stars - not because they didn't meet the standards, but because they weren't enrolled for milk testing through a Registry.

Having animals with existing stars from other registries, or inheritable stars, that don't translate to MDGA, isn't a slight against the animal or breeder - it is an equalizer. And those who have these accolades behind them, will, no doubt, "shine" within the registry.

We all expect the offspring of exceptional producers to inherit some of that production potential. As such, they will quickly gain recognition from within the registry.