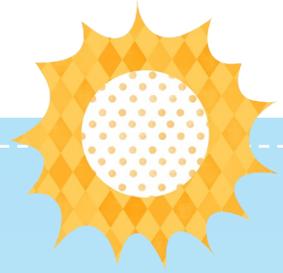


Mini-Goat Notes



Registrar

Jacqui Wilcox
PO Box 1534
Woodland, WA 98674
Phone: 360) 225-1938

Co-Registrar

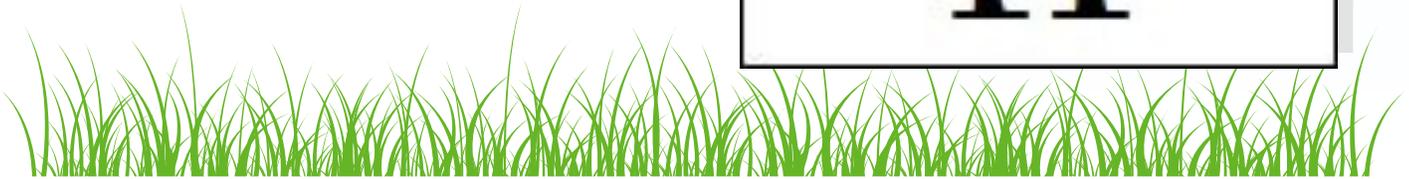
Shelley Weber
10613 S 2058 PR SE
Kennewick, WA 99337
Phone: 509) 396-9922

Registrar's E-mail:
registrar@miniaturedairygoats.net



Tattoo Letter
for 2016

H



Start thinking now about your 2016 milk testing!

- 1) Chose and set up an account with a lab, local to you or lab of your choice.
- 2) Request a milk test packet from the milk test committee:
DHIA@miniaturedairygoats.net
- 3) Register your herd.

Milk Testing 305 Day Fees	1-Day Milk Test Fees
<p data-bbox="402 779 570 814">1-5 = 20.00</p> <p data-bbox="391 863 581 898">6-10 = 24.00</p> <p data-bbox="383 947 589 982">11-15 = 28.00</p> <p data-bbox="378 1031 594 1066">16-20 = 32.00</p> <p data-bbox="378 1115 594 1150">21-25 = 36.00</p> <p data-bbox="250 1192 722 1270">Beyond 25 goats please request a fee schedule.</p>	<p data-bbox="935 772 1422 808">1 owner = 10.00 + \$3.00 per doe</p> <p data-bbox="870 846 1487 882">Several owners is \$20.00 + \$3.00 per doe</p> <p data-bbox="967 1014 1390 1050"><u>All milk star awards:</u></p> <p data-bbox="894 1066 1463 1102">\$3.00 = milk star certificate hard copy</p> <p data-bbox="954 1108 1403 1144">Virtual certificate = <i>no charge</i></p> <p data-bbox="943 1192 1414 1312">Registration certificate updated with milk awards = \$3.00 <i>(send in old certificate)</i></p>

New Regulations for the MDGA 305 Milk Testing Program, Starting 2016

The MDGA Milk Committee will be implementing the following changes, starting January 1, 2016. The purpose of the changes is to help make the program run more smoothly and work better for everyone.

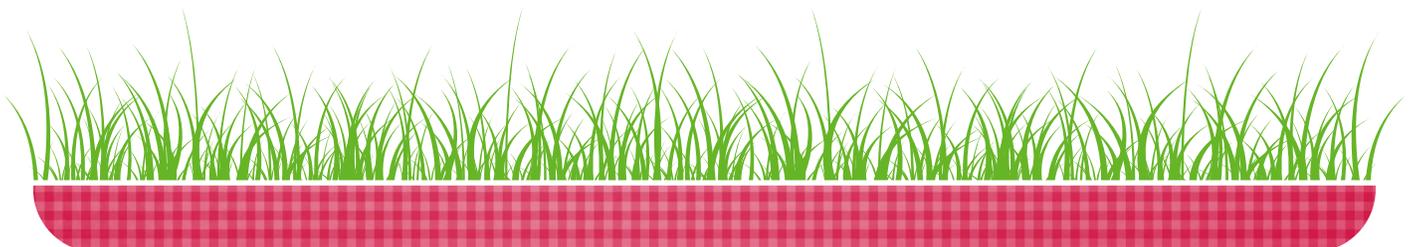
In order to participate in the MDGA Milk Program, all participating herds **MUST** register with the milk committee by January 15th of the year of participation.

A list of all does intended to be on test **MUST** be included with herd registration. Participants may still eliminate any doe on the list at any time, but may **NOT** add additional ones. (With the exception of transfers from another herd on test.)

ALL does to be tested must have their first test by the time they are 45 days in milk, testing must be done at least every 45 days until dry, up to 305 days.

All test paperwork and lab sheets must be turned in a minimum of every 60 days.

Herds registered, will receive a barn sheet with all the doe information included to be used for your first test. For any does not tested, participants will draw a line through the doe's name and that doe will be deleted from the sheet for the next test. Upon receipt of the first test results, a verification form with all does listed will be provided. Again, any doe may be crossed out if she is to be dropped from the program.



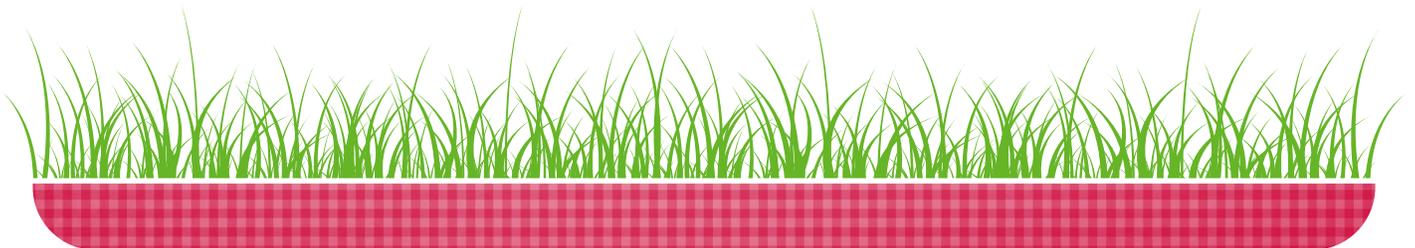
Based on much research the Breed Standard committee has introduced new maximum height requirements.

**MDGA Maximum Height requirement
for all American & Purebred Mini's**

	<u>BUCK</u>	<u>DOE</u>
Mini Alpine	31	29
Mini LaMancha	29	27
Nigerian	23.5	22.5
Mini Nubian	31	29
Mini Ober	29	27
Mini Guernsey	29	27
Mini Saanen	31	29
Mini Sable	31	29
Mini Togg	27	25

There will be NO minimum height requirement for any breed.

All other breed standards will remain as previously written.



Registrar Reports as of 11/23/15

****Mini Nubians** – to date we have **5268**
Grade mini Nubians - to date we have **170**

****Mini Saanen** - to date we have **110**
Grade Saanen - to date we have **19**

****Mini Toggs** - to date we have **107**
Grade Mini Togg - to date we have **3**

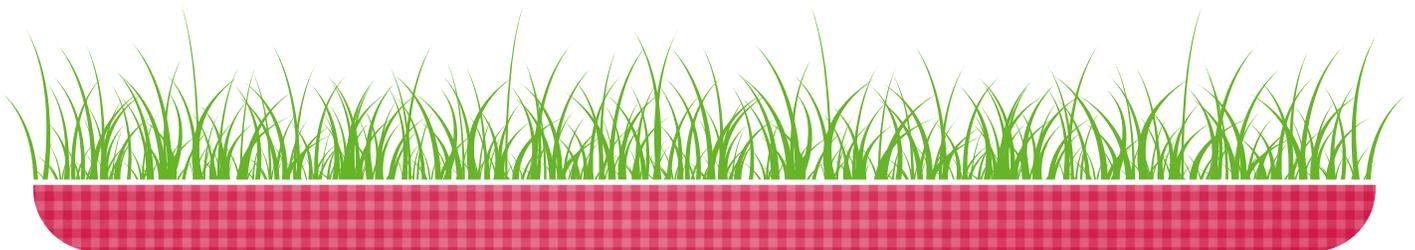
****Alpine** - to date we have **628**
Grade - to date we have **20**

****Guernsey**- to date we have **9**
Grade - to date we have **9**

****LaMancha** - to date we have **3036**
Grade - to date we have **141**

****Nigerian** - to date we have **234**

****Oberhasli** - to date we have **389**
Grade - to date we have **9**



ON THE JOB FOR MDGA

MILK TEST COORDINATORS - Gena Studdard & Crystal Eutsler

Gena & Crystal have agreed to take on the role of MDGA's DHI Milk Test Coordinators. They are still trying to coordinate the records since taking over from the previous chairperson, so bear with them as they get things running more smoothly!

If you could send in **ALL** your test and lab sheets for this calendar year, in one email. it would be of great help. They will send you an up to date herd sheet with all your totals to this point!

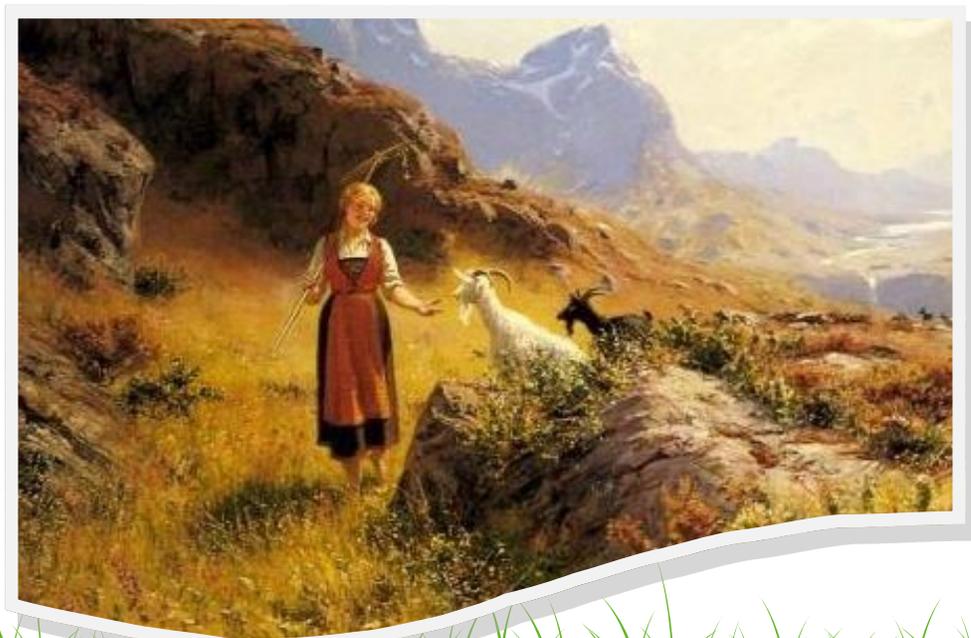
Contact them at dhia@miniaturedairygoats.net

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR —Tiffany Wilcox

Tiffany has been the webmaster and V-show coordinator for MDGA for three years now. More recently she has taken on the position of membership chair now that Suzy had to step down due to family health issues.

If you have any membership questions contact her at:
membership@miniaturedairygoats.net

As of 11/24/15 we have 580+ members!



MDGA JUDGES' TRAINING

With the completion of the MDGA Judges' Training Manual in April of this year, MDGA has been able to initiate training of its own judges. The Judges' Manual is available through the MDGA website for the price of \$25 (which includes shipping and handling). One page of the Judges' Manual contains a suggested schedule for a Judges' Training Session. Though a session has been completed in a single day, two days are recommended. At least a half day should be spent on the four basic topics covered on the written test. These topics include: dairy goat anatomy, the MDGA score card, fault sheets, and show and judging rules (especially those specific to MDGA). The questions on the written test are objective, and trainees will typically complete the test in approximately a half hour. A second half day of training should be spent using goats to look at anatomy, relate score card entries to physical features, compare and place sets of two to four animals, and to practice giving reasons using comparative terminology.

The final portion of Judges' Training is the judging of four or five classes of dairy goats, each with three or four animals. Each of these classes is first judged by the trainers and then the trainees are given time to place the class. Each trainee is also expected to present the class and to give oral reasons.

During Judges' Training, the trainees are graded on the written test, their placings of the classes, and their presentation of the class with reasons. In order to be awarded their MDGA licenses, trainees are expected to score a minimum of 75%.

MDGA now has a nucleus of licensed judges and just this summer has supported two sessions of training for judges. Any individual or group wishing to organize an MDGA Judges' Training Session may want to "put out feelers", evaluating to find out if there is enough interest to support the event. At this time, MDGA does not have a set plan for offering or financially supporting training sessions. A session needs an on-site organizer, one or more trainers, a location with a classroom setting, and enough goats for examination and practice as well as animals for the test classes. Making plans to hold a Training Session during a two-day show is a good way to start. Trainers do not have to be MDGA-licensed judges but should be licensed dairy goats judges with a least a few years of experience. The expenses associated with hiring a trainer and renting a facility should be taken into account. In the recent sessions, the organizers set up the sessions and costs were split among the trainees.

Before training sessions begin, all trainees should purchase and become familiar with the MDGA Judges' Training Manual. All trainees must submit an application for training (found in the back of the Manual) along with a payment to MDGA for \$50 to cover the costs of testing and licensing.

In June of this year, a Judges' Training Session was set up by Gena Studdard in Clinton, MO, with Tim Flickinger as the trainer.

Gena Studdard, Crystal Eutsler, and Wade Bunting earned their MDGA licenses.

In July, a Judges' Training Session was set up by Ed Kinser in Dublin, VA. Trainers were Ed, Katie Wolf, and Jean Lucas. **The four trainees earning licenses were Lavinia Allen, Timothy Bell, James Oller, and Regina Tervo.**

For additional information about setting up a Judges' Training Session, contact Ed Kinser (ejkinser@cox.net), Chairperson of the MDGA Judges' Committee.

JUDGES HELPING MDGA

MDGA has been lucky to have the support of judges licensed by other dairy goat associations. The first MDGA judges were Katie Wolf, licensed by ADGA, as well as Penny Tyler and Ed Kinser, licensed by AGS. The recent session of Judges' Training in Clinton, MO, was led by Tim Flickinger, a long-time ADGA judge. In Virginia, the Judges' Training ran smoothly with the coordinated efforts of Jean Lucas, another ADGA judge, along with Katie Wolf and Ed Kinser. In appreciation for their help with Judges' Training, the MDGA Board voted to grant MDGA Judges' Licenses to Tim Flickinger and Jean Lucas.

MDGA-LICENSED JUDGES

AUGUST 2015

*Allen, Lavinia--Floyd, VA; 540-520-8755; jolineallen@yahoo.com

Bell, Timothy—Christiansburg, VA; 540-808-5598; belltimothy13@gmail.com

Buntin, Wade—Marion, KY; 270-965-2691; s-wbuntin@hotmail.com

Eutsler, Crystal—Bois D'Arc, MO; 417-689-0356; ccand3@gmail.com

Flickinger, Tim—Wakarusa, IN; 574-862-4378; sablegoats@aol.com

Kinser, Ed—Bent Mt., VA; 540-330-7023; ejkinser@cox.net

Lucas, Jean—Pearisburg, VA; 540-921-2073; kismet.jlucas@gmail.com

Oller, James—Harrogate, TN; 606-670-9539; aqhorsetalk@gmail.com

Studdard, Gena—Wasola, MO; 417-265-1369; jbargfarms@outlook.com

*Tervo, Regina—Trenton, NC; 252-725-7799; rtbythesea@gmail.com

Tyler, Penny—Allyn, WA; 360-620-9881; countinggoats5@gmail.com

Wolf, Katie—Lexington, KY; 304-886-6874; katie@whiterockfarm.com

*These two judges have chosen to participate in some apprentice work with licensed judges before going "solo" to judge at *live* shows.

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Before training sessions begin, all trainees should purchase and become familiar with the MDGA Judges' Training Manual. All trainees must submit an application for training (found in the back of the Manual) along with a payment to MDGA for \$50 to cover the costs of testing and licensing.

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For additional information about setting up a Judges' Training Session, contact Ed Kinser (judgestraining@miniaturedairygoats.net), Chairperson of the MDGA Judges' Committee.

McCracken County Fair

Paducah, KY

The FIRST MDGA show in Kentucky was hosted on June 26, 2015 at the McCracken County Fair in Paducah. The show was made possible by our judges Wade Buntin and Jane Robinett, and sponsor, the Studdard Family. With over 300 goats in attendance for the ADGA show on Saturday and Sunday, the MDGA show was hosted on Friday night and secretaried by Gena Studdard of Missouri. While this 2 ring show had a low turnout, it was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and the spectators. There were lots of questions answered regarding our “little” goats and what constitutes a “Miniature Dairy Goat” in the MDGA registry.

Please visit the website at
<http://miniaturedairygoats.net/Shows/2015/2015.html>
for a list of the winners.

MDGA-sanctioned Floyd Miniature Dairy Goat Show

The Floyd Miniature Dairy Goat Show, held at Chantilly Farms in Floyd, VA, was on September 19, 2015. The judge was Timothy Bell from Christiansburg, VA. Six exhibitors entered 17 goats in the Junior Doe Division and 12 goats in the Senior Division. Grand and Reserve Champions, all Miniature LaManchas, were:

Please visit the website at
<http://miniaturedairygoats.net/Shows/2015/2015.html>
for a list of the winners.

****Results posted from show chairs who sent
in info in and asked to have it newsletter**

Homesteading, Backyard to Table

The Miniature Dairy goat, 1st in a series ~ By Regina Tervo

What kind of image do you get from the word “Homesteading?” Does it bring up pioneering and hardship, going back to the land, rural country living, urban suburban with solar panels on roof tops or a home in the city raising vertical gardens, with side yard settings?

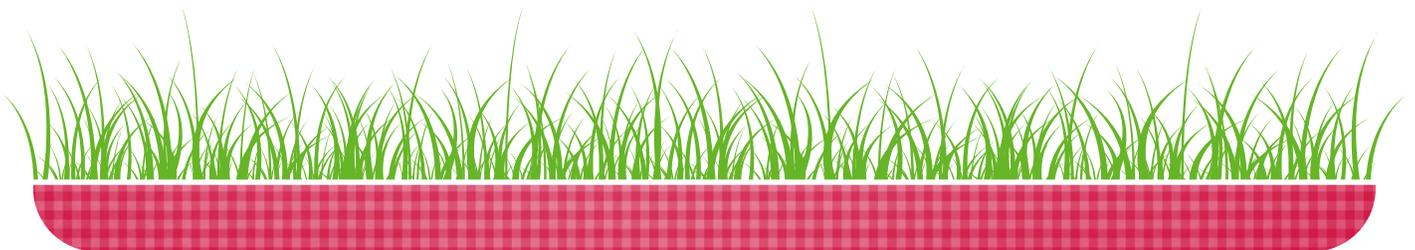
Actually homesteading has been all these things. I found an article written by Heidi Hunt at www.motherearthnews.com that goes into more detail of the history of the use of the word of homesteading.

Today Homesteading is about taking the idea of living a more self-sufficient lifestyle, a little bit or all the way doesn't really matter, and applying it. Growing wholesome foods for self, family or community. Using less energy or creating your own, leaving less of a footprint on this earth, teaching your children how to raise and grow their own food and where it comes from and how to apply the information. Making a business out of it or not. A lot of land or backyard doesn't matter. If you are applying any principle of trying to make a healthy wholesome food, use less energy, eco home style, you may find that though you did not know it, you may be a Homesteader.

I learned this about myself one day when I pondered what was homesteading. I had been making homemade Organic goat milk soaps with aromatherapy, making my own Organic fragrance free laundry detergent, milking my own Miniature La Mancha dairy goats, making cheeses & Kefir and buying from local Organic Farms. I was reusing my plastic bags and making my own dog food.

I didn't have a hole in my stomach anymore and both my husband & I were much healthier than we had been. I didn't start this all at once and I didn't say one day I'm going to be a homesteader. It started with an idea. A simple idea and the desire not to hand over \$7.99 for a ¼ pound of Feta goat cheese at the local grocery store. The idea; for that price or near to it I can buy goat food, and make my own cheese. So I did.

Where had I gotten so dependent on others to provide our food? If the store is closed, no food. If the lights go out, they shut down the store, no food. What is the one thing that we need to live, food?!



Goat's milk is very nourishing, it is loaded in calcium, riboflavin, vitamin B12, minerals, protein, potassium, phosphorous, amino acid, tryptophan, and it is easy to digest. There was a study done that showed that you can live quite well on just goat milk, and a little vegetables. Having milk without additives of growth hormones, pesticides, antibiotics and unpasteurized sounded really good and healthy.

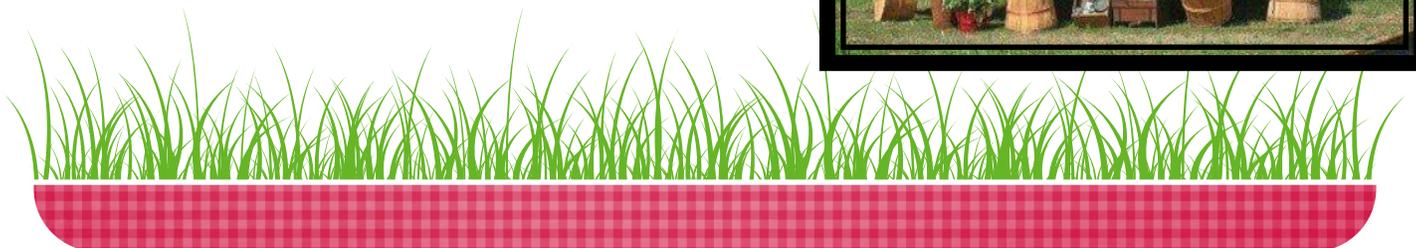
The search for the perfect goat for a small family of two was on. I didn't take it lightly. I researched for 3 years before deciding on the Miniature Dairy Goat. I chose the Mini La Mancha, they really were different, had the attitude that appealed to me and well I like a different look and they had that with the tiny ears.

They also were known for their butter fat from both the Standard and the Nigerian sides of the breeds and sweet abundant milk, all this in a mid-size goat to fit in a smaller area. That was the ticket.

What I wasn't prepared for was how much unlike a livestock animal they were. They were more therapeutic and became friends to me. They were smart with loads of character and how much these amazing sweeties were going to give to us. Their production was incredible as far as I was concerned.

I had 2 does and within 2 months I had 40 gallons of milk in the freezer not to mention the milk that we were using every day. What does one do with all that milk if you only have chickens to feed it too? Make cheese, soap, butter, cream, kefir, yogurt, and ice cream! Trade it for veggies, meat or your favorite pound cakes. Let your idea's grow like a seed. The whey from making the cheese can be sold, used for stews, stocks, in cooking rice, and pastas.

Also bring up the weight on your livestock. It also can be used in baths to reduce pain in joints and muscles and it's excellent as a skin toner and in your skin care regiment. A milk bath with a little lavender after a hard day of work is one of my favorites with some whey splashed in, then a glass of cold goat milk with some homemade cookies, when you wake up in the morning before you know it, you could discover you're homesteading.



How to Trim Your Goat's Hooves—by Eliya Elmquest

Hoof trimming is essential for goat health. Over grown hooves can cause many issues and weakens the legs. A goat whose hooves are not trimmed regularly is at risk of developing problems like:

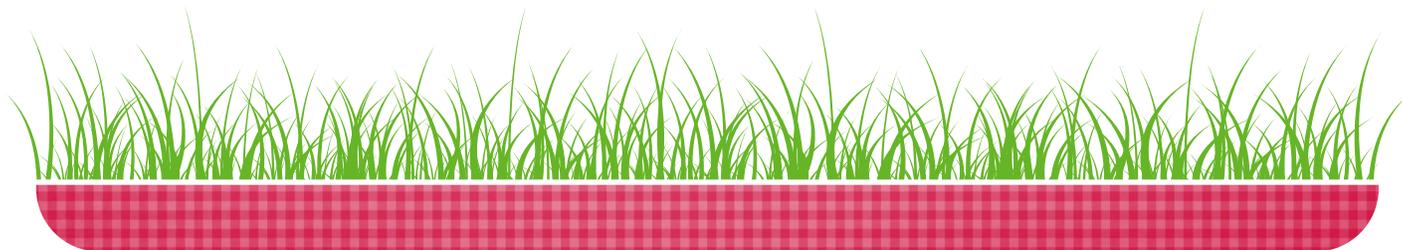
- Hoof rot
- Soreness
- Lameness
- Broken down pasterns
- Joint and back problems

Properly trimming your goats takes practice, but is not difficult. Study newborn goat hooves to see what a well trimmed hoof should look like. I don't have any pictures of baby hooves as I haven't ever shaved a newborn and their hair hides the hoof unless you lift it to peek. Below are a few pictures of well trimmed hooves:

Close-ups of front feet:



Close-ups of rear feet:



Here is **HOW to clip your goat's feet correctly** so that they can live long and healthy with strong feet.

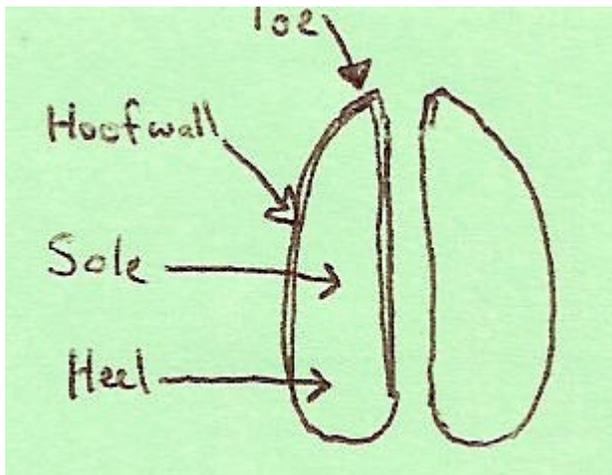
First, gather all your tools. You will need:

- A hoof trimmers (I like the orange handled ones)
 - Work gloves (optional, but helpful for preventing cuts)
- Hoof plane (also optional, but very helpful for getting the hoof flat)



Next, straddle the goat with it's head between your legs. This is the easiest position to trim hooves in. You can tie the goat up instead if they are very wild, but the angle is more awkward to trim the hooves.

Once your goat is secure, pick up one of the front hooves. Looking at the bottom of the hoof, you will see the hoof walls and the sole. The heels are toward the back of the hoof and the toes are in the front. See Diagram below:



First, use the tip of your hoof trimmer to dig out dirt and other debris caught in the hoof. Then you will want to trim off any excess hoof wall - it should be level with the sole of the hoof. The wall will often fold over the sole, so you will need to get one part of the trimmer under that to trim it.

To see the rest of the article go to:

<http://www.greengablesmininubians.com/thegoatmentor/articles/hoof-trimming.html>

Used with permission of Eliya Elmquest

Meet Our Family of Members

Lauren Rode Her Dairy Goat to College

Over the last few years, I have had the pleasure of watching a young high school student grow into an inspiration. Here is a little Q & A explaining her story. I hope that her story will inspire other families with dairy goats. ~ Brenda Lou

How did you get into Dairy Goats?

My grandmother bought my first doe for me in August of 2013, and my boyfriend bought her a companion Nigerian Dwarf doeling. The plan was to provide my grandmother with fresh goat's milk, because she could not digest cow's milk. I fell in love with raising goats. I had horses at the time, and I decided to sell all of my horses in order to focus all of my attention on my goats. I now have a herd of seven dairy goats. Although there are highs and lows when raising any type of livestock, I find that the highs always outweigh the lows. I named my lit-



How has having Dairy Goats helped you?

It has taught me responsibility, loss, time management, and money management. Anyone who raises dairy animals knows how strict of a schedule you must maintain to keep the animals comfortable and healthy.

I take care of my goats 100% on my own both physically and financially. I was only sixteen and still in high school when I first got dairy goats. Some of my friends have had a hard time understanding my strict budget and schedule. I often had to turn down fun activities with friends because of it interfering with the milk schedule.

Sometimes I would have to say no to going to the movies, because I knew if I spent that \$10 I wouldn't have enough money to buy the loose minerals I was almost out of. At one point, I worked two part time jobs, sold my soaps, attended Wednesday evening Young Entrepreneurs Academy classes, maintained a relationship with my boyfriend of 3 years, lived between my two divorced parent's houses, and continued to go to high school and receive good grades.



There were times when I considered throwing in the towel; however, I can't tell you what exactly has kept me going, all I know is that I have a passion and a drive to be the best I can no matter how young I am. I will never allow my age to restrict me.

I do live a different life than most high-school students, but that is something I am okay with. To me, being unique and being different are not things to be upset about; they are things to embrace.

I am preparing to go to college this fall for a business degree with a minor in sustainable land systems-all in preparation to start my own organic farm.

I am doing the responsible thing and cutting down my herd to a manageable 2 or 3 does in the meantime.

I just launched my hand crafted goat's milk soap company, LuLu's Suds & Such, and I won the Young Entrepreneurs Academy contest here in my county with my business. They sent me to the Regionals competition in Boca Raton, Florida to compete against around 30 other young entrepreneurs.

Although I did not win, I had an amazing opportunity to network. Who would have thought that by getting two little goats several years ago could have led me to this?

Through raising goats, I have had more opportunities than I ever could have imagined. Although doing it all on my own has been hard, my parents did the right thing by forcing me to do it this way.

Trying to decide what food was best to feed my goats launched me on an intense research on goat feeds . Through this research, I developed a strong passion for raising animals humanely on organic and non-GMO grass based diets.

Because of the path that those two little dairy goats took me on, I have been given a position on my local Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

**Interview by:
Brenda McCallister**



Goat Jokes

Two boys are walking through the woods and come across this big deep hole.

"Wow...that looks deep."

"Sure does, toss a few pebbles in there and see how deep it is."

They pick up a few pebbles and throw them in and waited... no noise

"Man! That is REALLY deep... here.. throw one of these great big rocks down there. That should make a noise."

They picked up a couple football-sized rocks and tossed them into the hole and waited... and waited. Nothing.

They looked at each other in amazement. One gets a determined look on his face and says, "Hey...over there in the weeds, there's a railroad tie. Help me carry it over here. When we toss THAT sucker in, it's GOTTA make some noise."

The two dragged the heavy tie over to the hole and heaved it in. Not a sound comes from the hole.

Suddenly, out of the nearby woods, a white goat appears, running like the wind. It rushes toward the two boys, then right past them, running as fast as it's legs will carry it. Suddenly it leaps in the air and dives into the hole.

The two boys are astonished with what they've just seen... A few minutes later, out of the woods comes a farmer who spots the boys and ambles over.

"Hey... you guys seen a white goat out here?"

"You bet we did! Craziest thing I ever seen! It came running like crazy and just jumped into this hole!"

"Nah", says the farmer, "That couldn't have been MY goat. My goat was chained to a railroad tie."

*"You know what really gets my goat?
.....A handful of pellets!"*



"FINALLY GOT MY NEW SHEEP NUMBER BED"

Recipe Corner

Goat Milk Fudge - by Cheryl K. Smith

Preparation time: 15 mins.

Chill Time: 1 hour

Yield: 24 servings

3 c. sugar

2/3 c goat milk

3/4 butter/margarine

6 oz chocolate chips

7 oz marshmallow crème

1 tsp. vanilla flavoring

1. Combine sugar, milk & butter in heavy saucepan. Stirring constantly, slowly bring to full rolling boil
2. Reduce heat to medium & continue boiling 5 mins.
3. Remove from heat & stir in chocolate chips until melted
4. Add marshmallow crème & vanilla, beating until well mixed
5. Cool at room temperature

If you like, add 3/4 to 1 cup nuts during step #4



Goats Milk Hot Chocolate

4 c goat milk

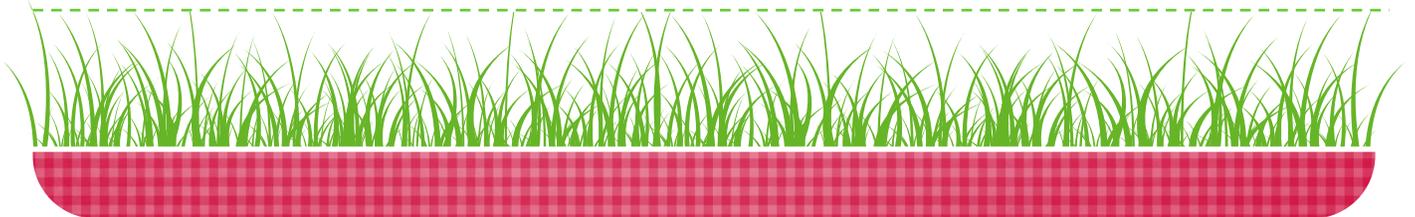
1/4 cup chocolate powder

1/4 maple syrup

2 tsp. vanilla

Mixed ingredients , stirring occasionally till hot. Enjoy!

***Have a great goat product recipe to share?
Send it to us for the next issue!!***



Picture Contest Winners - peoples choice

1st place: Our Little "Bucks"



Photo by: Amber Pepple

1st place receives 3 free registrations

2nd place: All the Boys



Photo by: Jerry & Carol Sardone

2nd place receives 2 free registrations

3rd place: Take Off!



Photo by: Kailey Wilcox

3rd place receives 1 free registration

***Winner's don't forget to mention this when registering your goats this year if you haven't used it already!**



G6S diagnostic testing

Q: What is G6S, and why should I test for it?

Caprine Mucopolysaccharideosis-IIID is a lysosomal storage disorder, caused by a genetic mutation (a point mutation) which results in a defective G6S (N-Acetylglucosamine-6-sulfatase) enzyme. The only method for testing for this genetic defect is with a DNA test identifying the causative point mutation.

Goats should be tested prior to breeding to minimize the risk of future kids born with this heritable defect.

G6S deficient goats may present with neurological deficiencies, which negatively affects growth and development, and can often lead to early death.

More info at:

http://tvmdl.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/06.15-G6S_FAQupdated.pdf



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Mini-Nubian, Mini-Saanen/Sable, Mini-
Toggenburg
P.O. Box 1534
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360-225-1938
registrar@miniaturedairygoats.net

Co-Registrar - Shelley Weber
Mini-Alpine, Mini-Guernsey,
Mini-LaMancha, Mini-Oberhasli
& Nigerian Dwarf
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509-396-9922
registrar@miniaturedairygoats.net

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Artificial Insemination Chairperson -
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ai@miniaturedairygoats.net

DHIA Chairperson - Gena Studdard &
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DHIA@miniaturedairygoats.net

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360-225-1938
vshow@miniaturedairygoats.net

MDGA Webmaster - Tiffany Wilcox
webmaster@miniaturedairygoats.net

