
MINI-GOAT NOTES

Miniature Dairy Goat Association Newsletter

Editor

Jill K Hoenmans
newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net

Registrar

Jacqui Wilcox
PO Box 1534
Woodland, WA 98674
(360) 225-1938
registrar1@miniaturedairygoats.net

Registrar

Shelley Weber
10613 S 2058 PR SE
Kennewick, WA 99337
(509) 396-9922
registrar2@miniaturedairygoats.net



Members (as of October 1, 2018) 772

MDGA Numbers

Registrations as of October 1:

breed total numbers (of that number)
Mini Alpine 1094 (58 are Grade)
Mini LaMancha 4531 (234 are Grade)
Nigerian 538
Mini Nubian 9399 (418 are Grade)
Mini Oberhasli 466 (15 are Grade)
Mini Guernsey 19
Mini Saanen/Sable 210 (36 are Grade)
Mini Toggenburg 139 (5 are Grade)

Message from the President

Dear Members,

MDGA has had a very productive summer for sure. We have a record number of registrations and our membership is growing. As we approach this fall rut season, let's not forget some important things coming up. Now is the time to start planning to be on milk test for 2019. The packets will be available after October 15, so please send a request to receive a packet Don't forget to renew your MDGA membership. It is an exciting time at MDGA as our minis gain momentum in the dairy world. Thank you for your help and support in promoting our mini breeds.

Crystal Eutsler
MDGA President

Evaluation Committee Update

After a delayed start, primarily due to getting members to serve on the committee, we have begun reviewing the progress made several years ago, and putting together notes to solidify, revise or add to the guidelines.

We hope to have a progress update ready in the spring

Kidding is Serious Work - Part 1

Your Buck Should be as Good as, or Better, than Your Doe

by Jill Hoenmans

Breeding season is well underway around the country. Those who maintain bucks, are well aware that “love is in the air.” Does call and flag, bucks blubber and compete for attention, and the process of adding new kids to herds, and a new season of milking, begins.

It is obvious if a doe is “doing her job,” when she freshens and is being milked. Most breeders readily embrace the concept that good physical structure, udder attachment, capacity and teats (good sized, well placed with suitable orifices,) are important criteria to evaluate when deciding to keep/breed or cull. When talking to new breeders, they also seem to grasp this quickly. But, ask them about the buck, and often times the answer indicates less thought, planning and money goes into selecting the right buck for the job.

If you are looking to improve, or even maintain, the quality of your herd, and, in turn, add to the betterment of the genetic pool for others, the selection of the buck, or bucks, you use, is just as critical as the selection of the doe. Maybe more so, since a single buck can influence future genetics in one season, than a doe may in her lifetime. After all, does typically have 2-4 kids a year, and, assuming she is productive for 10 years, will likely produce 20-40 offspring over the course of her lifetime. A single buck, however, can cover 20 or more doe, each of which capable of producing 2-4, resulting in 40 or more kids in one season.

When asked what someone should expect to pay for a “decent” buck, my standard response is, “skip the decent, and buy the best you can afford. I would sell a few does or kids to raise the funds needed to add excellent genetics to my herd, rather than use a buck just because he was available.” Prices range based on location, trends, recognizable bloodlines, breeder, etc. But, taking the time to look at the buck, look and his dam, sire and sire’s dam, and, whenever possible, look at any offspring already on the ground that have freshened. Milk stars and showing records are also valuable when determining what kind of impact a buck will have as a herd sire. The selection should not rest solely on ribbons and stars, though. An assessment of the physical traits of the buck are equally important.

Just as when looking at does, a buck should have good feet, pasterns and legs, a long deep body with correct angulation, width, correct shoulder assembly, a nice wide deep jaw, and the desirable traits of the specific breed. Breeding to a buck that has conformation flaws will just add that genetic material into your future breedings. Similarly, a buck that is narrow in the hip and thurl, can pass that on to offspring, regardless of the show record, milk stars or “famous names” in his pedigree.

Investing time and money in a doe seems obvious. But the same attention should be paid to the buck - they are 50% of your future herd. So, breeding to your neighbor's buck, while it may be convenient, may not be in your best interest if you are looking to build a herd. Selecting a buck that compliments your doe, or does, and possibly improves on them, will be a worthwhile investment over the long term. In the mean time, be prepared to cull, cull, cull, until you find a buck for your herd that has you thinking, "I want a barn full of that!"

Bring On the Clubs!

Wondering how to get more awareness and interest in Miniature Dairy Goats in your area? Why not form a club? There are clubs being created across the country, working together to make mini milkers a big presence.

Have you created a club and want to have your news, events and stories shared? Send an email to newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net to get details on how to have your club featured in future newsletters.

Hill Country Mini Milkers

by Kerry O'Neal

It all started with a Facebook message from myself to Margo Begy of Screaming Goat Farm in Bandera, TX. "Hey Margo! Do you think this group would ever consider a Mini show in conjunction with one of their shows?" I had just seen an advertisement for an ADGA Dairy Goat Show taking place in North Texas in November. "We can always ask," Margo replied. The next day, we got word that they went for it! "RALLY THE TROOPS!"

This was the beginning of the new Miniature Dairy Goat Club in Texas, the Hill Country Mini Milkers! We put out the word, and we were able to raise over \$800 to secure the judge for our show. Money poured in from all over the country, and it was great to see all the Mini breeders rally together to help us with our first show. Margo headed up initial fundraising efforts for the show, and has been working hard as Show Chairperson to put on a great show!

After the judge was secured and our show ring was finalized, the real work began in forming the club. Karen Orth of Texas Little Rascals Farm in Dripping Springs, TX joined the cause, bringing her expertise in non-profit organizations. She pulled together all of the paperwork and got us our official 501(c)(3) status.

We formed a Facebook page, created a website, developed an accounting system, and diligently began recruiting members and working on the November show.

Goat people are great people, and we took the opportunity to create a club whose purpose would be the development and promotion of the Miniature Dairy Goat breeds; the encouragement of closer fellowship among the members through shows, meetings, correspondence, circulation of useful information, news and ideas, and the cooperation with other organizations like MDGA.

As the club continues to grow, we will seek input from members on future activities. We are currently planning at least two shows per year; a late spring/early summer show, and a fall show. We are also planning on hosting a Goat Field Day early next year, with Demonstrations and Clinics: General Goat Health, Grooming, Mastitis, Kidding, Parasites, AI, Conformation, Nutrition, Disbudding, Goat First Aid, Showmanship, and Goat Products.

Join us! Please check out our website for more info and to watch our club grow!
www.HillCountryMiniMilkers.org

If forming a Miniature Dairy Goat club in your area sounds like something you'd like to do, stay tuned! I'll be helping put together a "Club Pack" for MDGA with all the details and steps you need to form a club.

With more clubs across the country, we can have more Mini shows. We can have more Mini education, and we can continue to develop all of the Mini breeds towards greatness! Wish us luck with our first show, November 3. Or better yet, see you there!

Kerry O'Neal
Vice President – Hill Country Mini Milkers
Rafter O at Cordova Creek (www.RafterO.com)
Canyon Lake, TX

Upcoming Live Shows

November 3, 2018

Hill Country Mini Milker Fall Frolic
Wise County Fairgrounds, Decatur, TX
www.hillcountryminimilkers.org
hillcountryminimilkers@gmail.com

Judge: Yvonne Blosser
1 Ring - Senior Mini Nubian Does, Junior Mini
Nubian Does, AOM Does

Recipes From the Archives

Halloween is around the corner, and time for some sweet treats. Why not try one of these recipes, shared from the files

Fudge

1/2 cup cocoa
3 cups sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons dark or light corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla 4 tablespoons butter
1 cup goat milk

Combine sugar, salt, syrup, cocoa, and goats milk.
Bring to a soft ball stage(240 degrees).
Remove from heat and add butter.
Cool to 110 degrees.
Add vanilla and beat until thick.
Pour into buttered pan.
Cut into squares.

Caramel candy

1/2 pound butter
2 cups light corn syrup
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup sifted flour
2 cups goat milk
1 teaspoon vanilla

Melt butter in heavy saucepan.
Add sugar and syrup.
Boil for five minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly.
Mix flour with 2 cups of goat milk, and add to the sugar mixture.
Cook to hard stage of 260 degrees, stirring constantly. (Be very careful as it burns easy.)
Remove from heat and add vanilla.
Add chopped nuts if desired.
Pour into buttered 9x13 pan.
Chill slightly, then turn onto a cutting board and cut into squares.
Wrap each piece in waxed paper.

Your news, events, etc., could go here!

newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net