

# Last N' News

## Iowa Dairy Goat Association

### Letter from the President

Winter 2015

Greetings all, it is with huge excitement that I step onto the helm of the ship of the great Iowa Dairy Goat Association. Thank you Shelby for steering us through some troubled waters in the past and setting us on a hugely successful path. We have accomplished so many things these last two years and I can't begin to give each of them justice. I often cringe as we come up with another activity to add to the already many things we're doing, however it seems our board, our committees and our membership is on fire and when we put our minds to it we can conquer the world.

I would like to introduce three new board members, Mary Schmidt, NW Iowa, a long time top Toggenburg breeder and active member, John Walker, NE Iowa, a top quality Saanen breeder and active member, and Long time member and former board member and our Iowa State Fair Superintendent, East Iowa, Ron Dengler. I'm excited to have these new board members and feel our membership has a very balanced crew at your service to accomplish our goals.

Returning to serve again is our Vice President, Deb Konen, from Central Iowa. Her willingness and smiles are priceless. Judi Nayeri is our Treasurer. Her talents are constant, and we have no worries with our purses. Guinevere McIntyre is our Secretary and web manager. We couldn't make it without her. James McDaniel is our mountain, when we need it done he'll move it....

I just returned home from a production Dairy goat Conference in SW Wisconsin this evening and as I've shared so many times, the Dairy Goat Industry is on FIRE. What a glorious time to be involved in such an Industry that has finally come into the lime light it deserves. The public around us, the media, and the world is taking notice of our beloved passion. What do you say we do all we can to embellish on this opportunity and present ourselves to the best we can? If you are given an opportunity to speak at such a point that might go before the public, think about what you can say to help us all, and to hold us to a higher standard that we all deserve.

As many of you know me, you get what you see, you don't need to wonder what I'm thinking. I'm pretty transparent; I strive to stay constantly open minded, and nonpartisan. My glass is always running over, and never empty. My phone is always available, so don't think you're imposing if you call. Don't be surprised if I call you. I'm not bashful and if I think you have a gift, or a talent, or some information that may benefit our great organization, I WILL call on YOU.

THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS. -Gandhi

Best Regards, Butch

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\*Remember to submit  
your membership form  
for 2016!\*

## 2015 Breeders List

### Breed Codes

Capital Letter=  
Purebred/American

Lower Case=Grade

A=Alpine  
N=Nubian  
B=Oberhasli  
S=Saanen  
T=Toggenburg  
L=LaMancha  
P=Pygmy  
D=Nigerian Dwarfs

Others are listed  
\*Buck Service

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Two Dogs Farms - D

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Queen Anne's Lace - D

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Smilin' Goat Ranch - D

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CornFolk Caprines - L

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Hillstar Farms AA,a,s

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Sunny D Acres - E, L

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Goat Hollow - N

Secretary's Report for the 2015 Annual Meeting  
October 10, 2015 in Colo, Iowa

The annual meeting of the Iowa Dairy Goat Association was held on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Colo Community Center. 21 members were in attendance. New officers were elected and are as follows:

President: Butch Sowers

VP: Deb Konen

2 year committee members: Mary Schmidt and John Walker

1 year committee member: Ron Dengler

YTD Income & Expenses:

Current balance \$14,030.27

\$1636 profit from ISF

Treasurer's report approved, seconded, motion passed

2014 meeting minutes read & approved.

Spring Show report:

Ring 1 408 head

Ring 2 394 head

Ring 3 284 head

Ring 4 274 head

Total expenses \$6310.25

Funds received: (Entry fees & sawdust) \$7317.00

Raffle \$595.00

Donations \$1930.00

Total Profit \$3531.75

Discussion for 2016 Spring Show, decisions left to the show committee.

Share-A-Kid program

The first year of the Share-A-Kid program was felt to be a good experience for the most part, some discussion on placing doelings near the donor so that follow up as well as transportation/meeting could be simplified. There were 21 applications received from youth around Iowa, 8 of those were awarded doelings. It was suggested that the deadline for applications be moved up to March 15<sup>th</sup> (previously April 1) and also suggested that donors apply for their donations, this will aide in placing kids closer to the donor, as well as the committee will have a better idea of what breeds and number of doelings may be available when the applications are received/awarded. Suggestion made that a vet reference be added to the application for the youth-and that follow up be done by the mentor assigned. Suggested that when a doeling is placed, the recipient receives a FAQ form including things such as: emergency contact list to call if there is a problem with or a question about the doeling, feeding, worming and hoof care. It was discussed that the transportation of the doeling should be the expense of the receiving youth/family. It was also suggested that there be a limit of one doeling per breed awarded.

2014/2015 Youth Ambassador

Ben Lehman was involved in the ISU Learning Day, at the Elkhart city celebration, Central Iowa Fair, Share a kid program and also completed a scrap book of the year and his involvement. It was decided to leave the nomination/decision to the board members to nominate the 2015/2016 Youth Ambassador.

2015 Iowa State Fair report:

Numbers were down, official count was 411 head, 36 4H and 18 FFA does. Ron has discussed with his superior about improving premiums. Also wanted to make it known that the 2016 Oberhasli premiums will be docked 25% due to low numbers. The fairboard has promised that they will make room for any & all Dairy goats that are entered. Discussion for official milk contest, suggested \$5 fee per animal-Jennifer volunteered to help Ron with getting this off the ground.

Select Sale: Nomination of goats are a must & are key to the auction. Deadline for nomination is July 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussion of proxy and phone bids and also about social media advertising. Raffle-donations are always needed!

Newsletter: Discussion of the possibility of an electronic version instead of mailing, please let Judi know or Gunivere if you'd prefer an electronic version. Also requested that anyone can (and is encouraged to) write and submit an article for the newsletter.

New Business:

Spring Show-Reappointed James McDaniel as the show chair, date for the 2016 show will be June 4 & 5. As of meeting date, 2 judges have committed to the show. Jill volunteered to help with ideas regarding the show.

The Judge Training clinic that Butch put on went over well and seemed to be well received by those who participated.

There was discussion about an all day cheese making class, possibly in April of 2016. Potentially limiting the attendance to 25 people.

National Show-Discussion on prices for pens and buildings, potentially the soonest that our bid could be sent in will be for the 2022 Nationals if held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Discussion on the upfront cost that the IDGA will be responsible for as well as some discussion in what Minnesota Dairy Goat Assoc. incurred when they hosted.

The Quad State Classic is potentially scheduled for July 16, 2016-will be a 1 day 2 ring show. South Dakota show date is June 11<sup>th</sup>-1 day 3 ring doe show.

Motion to adjourn at 1357, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

## Share a Kid Stories

Hello! My name is Ellie Karr. I am 11 years old and just starting 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Central Lutheran School in Newhall. I am one of the very lucky winners of the "Share a Kid" contest through the IDGA this year. I received a beautiful Saanen doeling that I named "Lilly" from the John and Ginna Walker family. My experience with this program has been so great because of the Walker's. When I went to their farm to pick up Lilly, Ginna was so kind to give me a tour of their cute little dairy goat farm. She took a lot of time out of her day to show me how they run their dairy farm and answered all my questions. I think I could have talked to her all day ☺ I took Lilly to our County Fair and she placed 1<sup>st</sup> in her class. She behaved like a little angel. She has the prettiest eyes and the sweetest personality. Just before school started, our family was at the Iowa State Fair. As we were getting ready to leave we found that the dairy goats were there that day and so I told my mom and dad we had to go look for Ginna!!! Not only did we find her but we also got to watch her show! Even though she was busy, Ginna took time to talk to me that day too! Because of the "Share a Kid" program, I have made a new friend and have someone I look up to. My interest in dairy goats is just as strong as it has ever been! When I grow up, I still dream of owning a dairy goat farm and milking many goats!!

Thank you for reading my story about how I met Lilly

Love,

Ellie Karr



The last 6 months have been a great time for me because of my three Nubian doelings - the start of my herd! I had decided earlier this year to get a couple dairy goat kids to show at Cass County fair for 4H, & it was just by chance that my mom saw something on the 4H website about the IDGA Share-a-Kid program. I sent my essay in not really thinking that I would get chosen. I was very happy when I got my acceptance letter! My Nubian doeling, Lou Lou is an April fool's baby & came to join my other two Nubians when she was 6 weeks old. My other two are only 2 weeks older. Lou was not a bottle baby, but she took to the bottle right away after coming home with me. She did great on the 2 1/2 hour car ride home from Phred & Jayne Linn's farm. Thank you so much for my little girl Phred & Jayne! She is my lap goat & loves to be held & snuggled! She gets very jealous when one of the other two girls tries to infringe on her lap time! (Continued on next page)

Raising these goats has been a lot of fun, from bottle feeding & snuggles to teaching them to lead & stand for judging at fair. Fair was a good experience for me, I took 3 of the 6 dairy goats for our fair, & we were in the same barn as the meat goats, which totaled over 100. A lot of people stopped to see my goats mainly because they looked different, so it was fun telling people about dairy goats & how I am raising them. There were two Share-a-Kid winners at Cass county fair, myself & Aly Brockob. Both our doelings got blue ribbons & the local newspaper wrote an article on us & the program.

Lou got invited to the Griswold Care Center where my grandma works. We went to visit & told the residents about her, dairy goats, & the program. Everyone loved her and it sparked many trips down memory lane for the residents that used to have goats.

I look forward to breeding her next year and learning to make soaps and cheeses. I plan to take these milk products as fair projects.

The Share-A-Kid program is a great experience that I am proud to be part of. Thank you to everyone at IDGA that made this possible for me & others! I look forward to many years of raising dairy goats!

-Jocelyn Amos

I received a goat as part of the IDGA Share a Kid program. The gift came from Pam Clapp of Stargazer Goats, a member of the Iowa Dairy Goat Association. Maggie was a Nigerian Dwarf doe kid about seven pounds when I first met her in May. We were both uncertain about what to do and how to care for her. She was missing her herd so I decided to spend most of my day taking her for walks. I helped her to find dandelion



flowers, her favorite greens. We sometimes fell asleep on the lawn. We got to know and trust each other. By the time of the Plymouth County Fair, we were a team! Tim Schmidt, also an IDGA member, helped me by inviting me to a sanctioned show. I went and was able to see lots of dairy goats and ask questions. I was concerned about how long her disbudded horn buds would remain. They fell off the week before the fair. Maggie was four months old and weighed 26 pounds at fair check in time. She showed well, with attention to the change in direction and she let the judge touch her without jumping. Maggie received a reserve champion ribbon.

For the future, I am looking at getting Maggie bred. I hope to bring her to the fair as my 4H project next year. Through the busy summer Maggie and I have become good friends. She has been great in keeping me company and seems to enjoy being with me as well. Thank you to IDGA for this opportunity to learn about dairy goats and the gift of my new friend Maggie. With the summer over, I am excited to be on the adventure of raising my own goat!

-Garrett Gorczynski

## **COPPER NUTRITION IN GOATS by Judi Nayeri**

Copper (Cu) is an essential nutrient required in minute quantities for all species of livestock. All vary in their needs but it is an important dietary requirement in goats. Copper is a building block in a great number of enzymes which in turn function in a number of body systems to maintain a balance providing vitality, health and productivity. Copper is essential for the formation of collagen which provides a matrix for the phosphorus and calcium deposition leading to proper bone formation. Elastin is another product necessary for healthy formation of the walls of major blood vessels and arteries, as well as a building block for long elastic ligaments, tendons and skin. Copper contributes to proteins that convert iron in the liver to forms that can be incorporated into the hemoglobin in the red cells. This also occurs in the intestine. It is essential to the development and maintenance of myelin which is the insulating material of axons and nerve fibers making it an important component in the development of the central nervous system. Copper is involved in melanin synthesis, insulin function, and lipid metabolism. As mentioned above, copper is involved in iron metabolism and protects the body from oxidants. At higher levels (ie: 100 mg Cu/day) it contributes to stimulated growth, feed efficiency and the control of nematode parasites.

Acute copper toxicity in goats is rare, but constant small excesses can eventually lead to problems. There is a capacity to store up to 1000 mg Cu/kg DM (dry matter) in the liver. A major stressor could cause metabolic changes that could lead to a significant release into the bloodstream causing toxicity. Keep in mind, although this is possible, it is uncommon in goats. Chronic copper toxicity, which is more likely, has two stages. The first stage is the pre-hemolytic stage. During this stage the accumulation of copper in the liver exceeds 1000 mg Cu/kg DM. This can take from a few weeks to more than a year to occur. The second stage is the hemolytic crisis. Copper is released from the liver. The plasma copper level raises causing anemia, jaundice and bloody urine. This can last hours to days. Ammonium molybdate or sodium sulphate in the diet will reduce the absorption of copper if a chronic toxicity is detected.

The liver normally contains 200-300mg Cu/kg DM. Concentrations <20mg Cu/kg DM along with <0.5 mg Cu /l in plasma is copper deficiency. Long term this will lead to hypo chromic microcytic anemic (small red cells with decreased oxygen carrying capacity). Based on functions previously discussed, there can be improper bone development and uneven bone growth. This can lead to generalized osteoporosis and occasional bone fractures. Copper deficiency can also lead to connective tissue disorders as well as defects in articular cartilage, ligaments and tendons; cardiovascular disorders, depigmentation of hair, scouring, infertility and increased susceptibility to disease. When does are deficient during the third trimester, the kids may demonstrate neonatal or congenital ataxia because of insufficient myelin synthesis in the fetal brain. There may also be a delayed ataxia at 1-2 months affecting mostly the hindquarters with a paralysis or failure in mobility due to insufficient myelin synthesis after birth for proper development of the spinal cord nerves. Clinically this may mimic the neurological form of CAE, encephalitis virus infection in young kids or even polio. Other less critical forms of deficiency may be fading coat colors, unthriftiness, persistent parasitism, or hair loss at the tip of the tails. The tip of the tail will be bald and the hair will separate in opposite directions causing a “fish-tail” appearance. Be careful not to confuse this with tail biting.

Actual requirements for copper in the goat’s diet vary in the literature. It is important to remember that absorption is more important than the actual concentration in the feed. Absorption in young animals on a liquid diet can be up to 90%. This is more efficient than in older animals. There are elements or trace minerals which may be consumed or produced by microorganisms in the gut that may interfere with the absorption of copper. Recent data suggest 8-10 mg Cu/kg in the diet, but higher levels in goat milk suggest a higher need in the feed of lactating does. There are conflicting reports in the literature whether higher intake increases growth and efficiency in young animals. (Continued)

Final recommendations of the National Research Council of the National Academies are lactating does 15 mg Cu/ kg DM, mature bucks 20 mg Cu/kg DM and young goats 25 mg Cu/kg DM. This assumes recommended ratios of other trace elements be adhered to or the benefit may be nullified due to the absorption being blocked. Additionally, alfalfa is a good source of copper higher than most temperate grasses and acid soils may produce plants higher in copper as opposed to alkaline soils.

Complete commercial goat feeds are the route of choice to avoid copper imbalance and its consequences. There are multi-species or goat/sheep feeds but these will not contain the proper balance of the needed trace minerals for goats. Other species do not tolerate or need copper to the extent of goats. For example sheep will become toxic at the levels required by goats. The best choice is to use the commercial feed specific to goats which will contain the proper ratios of trace minerals or if you choose another method to feed your herd, offer free choice mineral specifically designed for goats. There are commercial products available to correct a deficiency, but some have more bioavailability than others. Consult your veterinarian first if you have concerns, confirm your diagnosis and follow his recommendations if supplementation is needed. There is a lot of detailed information available. References are available upon request.

Information provided is general in nature and is provided without guarantee as to results. The information is not intended to be and should not be construed as legal advice.

### **The Iowa Dairy Goat Association Share-A-Kid Program**

Each year, the Iowa Dairy Goat Association promotes interest in dairy goats in our state. One of the ways IDGA encourages our young people in this aspect of agriculture is through the Share-A-Kid program. Winners of the Share-A-Kid program receive a free doeling, as well as one year of free membership in IDGA. Winning applicants are selected from the essays and supporting material (such as photos/artwork, etc) that they send in. 2015 Share-A-Kid winner Jack Lauer says, "My doeling Zelda is not only a great doeling but also a great learning experience. I plan on showing her next year and eventually in a Mother and Daughter class."

In reaching out to youth, the Share-A-Kid doelings have been shown in county fairs throughout the state of Iowa, and have also made community-minded appearances such as visits to nursing homes. Their Share-A-Kid doeling has brought winners immeasurable experiences and fun. Share-A-Kid winner Natalie Young describes her experience at the fair this year: "My absolute favorite part of the 2015 Johnson County Fair was sitting in the goat pen and watching people of all ages walk up to my pen of goats and admire the friendly, sweet little Alpine doeling who constantly had her head through the fence to investigate all the visitors."

This statewide contest is open to those between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age, and who are members of IDGA, 4-H, FFA, or other agricultural groups. IDGA can only award one goat per family per year; however, siblings are encouraged to apply. Entries are accepted from January 1 to March 15, 2016, and winners are notified by the end of April. 2016 is expected to be a very competitive year with many qualified applicants, so entrants are encouraged to really do their very best on their application. Winners are required to show their animal at a county fair or open class goat show and to stay in touch with their appointed mentor with updates every 2 weeks. More information and the application form can be found by visiting [www.iowadairygoat.org](http://www.iowadairygoat.org) and following the "Youth" link from the home page.



### **New board member Mary Schmidt**

My name is Mary Schmidt and was recently elected to my first time on the IDGA board. We have been members since 2000, the same year we started showing goats. Our family consists of my husband Tim and daughters Kara and Callie and we live in northwest Iowa in Hawarden. We raise registered Toggenburg goats under the herd name of Schmidt/ECF and our farm name is Eagle Creek Farm.

We were brought to goats when we needed a nurse goat for the orphan lambs for our sheep flock and we purchased a couple Nubians. We then acquired some Toggenburgs and soon after the sheep and the Nubians left and the Toggs stayed and entered our lives for the duration.

Our family has been actively showing goats at many shows in several different states each season and also loves to attend the National Dairy Goat Show when it works for us. We have had some great honors while showing there and have made some great goat friends from around the country that have proven to be wonderful resources.

Tim and I farm with crops, hogs and cattle plus both girls are off at college now so our herd has gotten a little smaller yet we will still be freshening 25 does this year. We participate in DHI group milk test and also occasionally do linear appraisal.

I am looking forward to helping on the IDGA board and look forward to representing all who have memberships in this association.

### **New board member John Walker**

Hello, from NE Iowa. For some of you breeders who don't know me so well my name is John Walker, newly elected IDGA board member. My wife Ginna and I have a small herd of Saanen goats that we inherited from our daughter Stefanie who started the herd as a 4-H project. The news from our farm is that Stefanie is engaged and marrying a Minnesotan next summer. So the show dates on or around July 16 will have to be put on hold! We've had a great year here around Waterloo. It's been quite a bit dryer in this part of the state then some of the rest of you have experienced. A few of our high points this year was having BOB and BUOB with two different does at the MN State Fair in September. The weekend after that show we appraised and all five of our milking does we're EX mammary. We also had a first freshener score 89. One thing we learned this year after raising goats for quite a few years is our goats were copper deficient and that their bald "fishtails" we're not from them chewing on each other's tails. We've begun bolusing with copper bolus and increasing the mineral keeping careful watch of the copper content. Since I found a very good article about this problem I'm not going to detail a lot about it, but there is a very informative piece you can Google on the Hoegger Supply blog site. On another note we've had an excellent breeding season with all the does we wanted bred coming in and settling on the first mating except an older doe "Snowbell". Next week the vet comes to figure out if there is a problem or if somehow Snowbell found a boyfriend after the sun went down!!! More on that later.

John

## **Tack Pen Philosophy**

Greetings All,

I got home from a Dairy Goat conference today with so many new ideas and wisdom that I'm bursting. Every time I go to a meeting or a sale, a farm visit, or sit with you in a lawn chair, I often ask you questions until you may become uncomfortable. Yet I'm not trying to pry into your private world or pick upon your weaknesses or sins, but rather I pick at you for knowledge. I ache for new ideas and facts and solutions constantly. I often tell my children that I'll never live long enough to do or try or learn all the things I want to accomplish in this world. The challenges are before us. The world is at our feet. The Dairy Goat has risen up from the back yard clothes line and shines. For you many commercial dairymen that have milked for decades, your glory days are here. For now your surplus high quality animals are worth more than it costs to raise them up. You can bask in the high value of your replacement bucks and does. You are past due. To my showing friends, are you doing your homework? As I travel among my Amish friends I find myself explaining many times about the virtues of correct mammary systems and sound feet and legs. They have been told that "Show goats don't milk" So let's not just produce a gorgeous animal that shows herself to champion ribbon and then quits milking after August. Prove her out, increase her value, and build up your net worth. If you think you can cash in on this current trend of high worth of dairy animals on your goats good looks alone, you are mistaken. I'm constantly watching non registered, high production bucks bringing \$1600 to \$2000 each in aggressive sales. Hello opportunity is knocking.

On a different note, there are rumblings about hosting a future National ADGA show here in Iowa. Our biggest grief is locating a facility that will work when we would like to hold it. It seems we have the enthusiasm to drive this venture however hurdles have to be crossed. If you are interested in helping with this monumental task, please leap forward and volunteer.

Welcome to our newest members, and forgive our wackiness. You will see that when we work, we work hard; when we play, we really get after it. I've mentioned it before but if you think there's someone out there that might be interested in goats or would enjoy our organization, give a gift subscription to the IDGA. What a wonderful, inexpensive holiday present. I have several people that have helped me with IDGA projects throughout this year that are not members. They will be receiving a subscription to IDGA and a thank you. Until we meet again, fold out a chair, open your mind, and teach me something.

Best Regards Butch, the Tack Pen Philosopher.

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Complete the form and mail with a check made out to IDGA Judi Nayeri, 9398 NE 100th AVE Bondurant, IA 50035. Feel Free to copy this and share this form with all your goat friends. Annual membership dues are \$12 for a standard membership or \$20 for membership plus a breeder listing in our newsletter and on the IDGA website.

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