



Last N' News

A publication of the
Iowa Dairy Goat Association

Guinevere McIntyre, Newsletter Editor

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2017 Winter



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Letter from the President

Greetings,

Where has this year gone? Time flies when you are having fun. Show season has come and gone, breeding season is finishing up and here we all sit patiently waiting for those much anticipated future champions to be born. While we wait, let's reflect on events of 2017.

Our show and fitting clinic, held by the Nayeri family, was a huge success. We had kids of all ages, parents, and county fair judges gather for a day of education and training to make their upcoming show season a success.

The 2017 Iowa Spring Classic went off without a hitch. Over 400 head graced us with their presence in our 4 ring event. Some new permanent champions were crowned, some reigning champions showed they can still get it done in the ring. Our show committee continues to work hard to make this an enjoyable experience for all of our exhibitors. Without every one of our committee members, this show would not be a success, so thank you. Hope to see everyone again in 2018, June 2 and 3.

Our 2017 Iowa State Fair was huge; More animals than anyone ever expected. Thank you for working together to get everyone penned. I know it's tight. Thank you to everyone who donated to our auction, and who continue to support the Iowa Dairy Goat Association.

Our annual business meeting was held in October. Some people may not have realized, but all but one of our board members and officers were up for election. There were some changes, a few new faces and a couple faces who decided to move on. John and Butch, thank you for everything you have done for IDGA as boards members and President. It is members like you that make IDGA what it is today. We look forward to seeing you guys at the shows and hopefully getting you on one of our committees.

Your 2018 IDGA Board is listed to the left, with contact information. The board and I look forward to working for the members of the Iowa Dairy Goat Association.

Well, I have rambled on enough for this newsletter. May holiday cheer, a happy new year and healthy kids bless you in the next few months.

James McDaniel
President

P.S. Thank you for celebrating our 50th anniversary with us this year; Here is to 50 more!

IDGA is looking for volunteers to serve on the new Youth Committee. The committee activities include: promotion of dairy goat projects at the county level; promotion of IDGA youth activities (fitting clinic, etc.); act as a resource to provide dairy goat information to extension offices/clubs; assist the Special Event committee with fitting clinic, obstacle course and costume contest; research ideas to get more youth engaged in dairy goats and assist with dairy goat projects; assist with Share-a-Kid participant selection. Please contact one of the IDGA board members if you are interested in serving.

Robyn Van Wyk, Vice-President



Robyn with Dimond at the 2016 Quad States Classic Show

Hello! My name is Robyn Van Wyk and I wanted to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. I raise Alpines under the Van-Wyk-Acres herd name that I share with my parents, Rod and Jan. My family was raising and showing goats well before I was born, so there are many in the goat world that have known me since before I could walk.

Our family milked 120 head in north central Iowa and sold milk to a cheese plant in Wisconsin until 2013 when my folks sold down to a hobby herd and moved to northwest Iowa. We attend a few club shows and the Iowa State Fair every year (my parents have attended for 41 years) and also try to exhibit at the national show when it is fairly close. Our family is also a part of the Quad State Classic show committee.

I currently work for Smart Chicken / Tecumseh Poultry as a field technician in northwest Iowa and part of Nebraska. I live in Sioux Center, so I commute to the farm by Hawarden in my free time to work with my goats. My hope is to get the next generation interested in goats as my nieces and nephews enjoy the farm and they occasionally help out at some of the local shows.

I am looking forward to working with the IDGA board this year and meeting those of you that I have not had the privilege to meet yet. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or questions!

Sara Goemaat, Board Member



Sara with one of her LaMancha does, Fawn

Hello all, my name is Sara Goemaat and I was elected to fulfill a one year term for the IDGA Board of Directors. My husband, Dan, our 1 year old daughter, Lindy, and I live in Belmond, Iowa. I work at our local hospital as the executive assistant and my husband farms row crops.

In college I needed to do a summer internship and had no idea what I wanted to do. I stumbled across the IDGA website and found the number for the one and only Butch Sowers. When I called him to ask if he knew of someone in the area I could do a summer internship with on a goat dairy, I believe his response was laughter. Oh how glad I am that I made that random phone call.

Butch was a great help in getting me started and involved with IDGA. I started out that year showing one goat, Moon Pie, and had a great time. I now have a small herd of 15 La Mancha and Recorded Grade goats that I show at the annual IDGA show in Colfax and enjoy making soap and lotions with the goat milk as a hobby. Spring is definitely my favorite time of year. The new batch of kids brings excitement for continuing and improving the quality and correctness of our herd.

I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year and hope you all take advantage of the great opportunities IDGA has to offer its members.

At the Movies with a Goat:



Artois the Goat

Movie review by Lori Wells

The first time I saw this movie, I thought it was a silly movie about a guy who loses his girl, meets some weirdos and a goat, makes some cheese and gets the girl back.

The second time I watched it, it seemed like a completely different movie. Yes, the plot was the same, but I actually found some very interesting things. As the action progresses, there is narration from time to time dispensing wisdom on goat keeping, foraging, cheesemaking and handling milk. We later learn that the narrator is the author of a cheesemaking book.

In the opening scene we find a handsome man opening some unusual cheeses, the descriptions provided by the narrator. The next scenes show Virgil and Angie, young and in love, picnicking and eating cheese. Angie really, really loves cheese.



Artois and Virgil

Virgil attempts to make cheese with store milk but suffers failure after failure. Jens, Virgil's friend and German baker tells Virgil that in order for cheese

to be good, the milk must come straight from the teat.

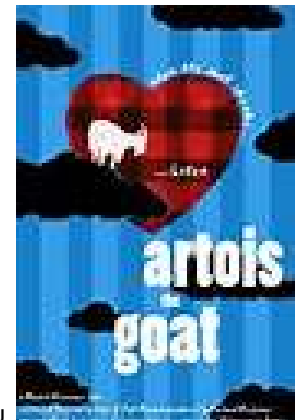
Virgil acquires Artois the goat by saving him from going to the market. Virgil was lonely because Angie's job led her

to move very far away. Virgil asks another friend if he can keep some goats on his property. Jens and Virgil build a milk stand and proceed to learn to milk a goat. His first time milking reminded me of my first time – the milk just doesn't come out until you get the technique right. Then the friends build a cheese press and the cheesemaking begins in earnest with the help of the cheesemaking book by the narrator.

Virgil is obsessed with cheese and nearly refuses Angie's attempt to rekindle their romance when she visits for his birthday. But he caves in, digs a big hole and chucks all his cheesemaking supplies into it. He follows Angie to the frozen tundra of Detroit, only to be miserable in the cold. He realizes that he really just wants to make cheese.

Back in Texas, he digs up his cheese, press and milk stand. Of course the cheese has aged wonderfully underground and is so delicious that Virgil resumes his passion. And it leads to a very happily ever after.

It's a fun movie to watch, but you could also learn how to make a milk stand and press. And it is about two of my favorite things – dairy goats and cheesemaking!



Movie Cover

It's IDGA membership renewal time!

\$12 Membership (one size fits all...family members!)

\$8 additional for Breeder's Listing in Last 'N News and on IDGA website

Renew and pay online at www.iowadairygoat.org

Or by mail, use the renewal form on the back of the newsletter

Almanzo's Dairy Goats

By Sarah S. Uthoff, with side notes by Guinevere McIntyre

All photos accompanying this article are published here with the permission of the National Archives and Records Administration – Hoover Presidential Library. Why does the Hoover Presidential Library have so many photos from Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder? Their daughter Rose Wilder Lane was an early supporter and biographer of Herbert Hoover. Explore many more photos of the Rocky Ridge, the Wilder's farm, at <https://hoover.archives.gov> or visit the museum in West Branch, IA!

Also, with Christmas coming up...there is a new book out for those interested in learning more about Laura Ingalls Wilder and her way of life, *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*. In her Nov. 20, 2017 NY Times book review, Patricia Limerick writes, "For anyone who has drifted into thinking of Wilder's "Little House" books as relics of a distant and irrelevant past, reading "Prairie Fires" will provide a lasting cure. Just as effectively, for readers with a pre-existing condition of enthusiasm for western American history and literature, this book will refresh and revitalize interpretations that may be ready for some rattling."

One of the things Almanzo Wilder is known for in later life and the subject of the photos sold by the Laura Ingalls Wilder/Rose Wilder Lane Home gifts hop in Mansfield, Missouri, was Almanzo's herd of goats. After checking with my favorite goat experts and the Iowa Dairy Goat Association, I feel very confident saying that they are Swiss ancestry dairy goats. There was agreement that there were at least a couple of Saanens. There was disagreement over whether the rest were Alpines or crossbreeds.

In Almanzo's later years, as they sold off land and settled into semi-retirement Almanzo wasn't quite ready to completely give up farming and so he turned to dairy goats. Goats and sheep are smaller and easier to handle than large animals such as cattle and horses. Both animals have a wonderful ability to be a natural lawnmower and helped Almanzo keep the grass and brush under control (always an issue on acreages, too big to treat like a lawn, too small to efficiently make hay on). Sheep are more likely to stay close to home and goats are natural escape artists who like to get out.

Photo to right: The handwritten note on the back of this photo reads: "The goat by the tree gave 217.8 lbs of milk in May." No known production records other than this note have surfaced, nor does ADGA have any record of goats registered under that herd name. Perhaps we can look forward to future research by Stephen Considine, who says "I can find no record of that herd name [Rocky Ridge] being registered in AGS and no record of animal ownership within AMGRA during the 1920's. However, I am greatly intrigued by the subject."





Rocky Ridge Farm, Mansfield, MO



Rocky Ridge dairy goats.

Almanzo's goats weren't any old goats though, they were dairy goats. Domesticated goat breeds are divided into two camps, those bred for more milk and those bred for more meat. Dairy goats like those Almanzo raised are bred for producing large amounts of high-quality milk. "A really good milk goat can produce a gallon or more of milk per day for about 10 months." That means you have to milk your goats at least once a day, often twice a day, every goat for roughly 10 months of a given year. (Even animals bred for milk production are on a lactate cycle

where they give off more milk when they are nursing, or should be nursing their offspring, and then eventually slacken off milk production when it's time to wean them or when food stocks suffer during winter months.)

Every morning she [Laura] cooked breakfast at seven o'clock, while Almanzo cared for the milk goats, calves and the Rocky Mountain burro. "Then he [Almanzo] works in the shop where he loves to tinker while I do up the housework and go down the hill to the mailbox for the mail. I take our big brown and white spotted bulldog with me and we go for a half-mile walk before we come back. After that the day is always full, for I do all my own work, and to care for a ten-room house is no small job. Besides the cooking and baking there is churning to do. I make all our butter from cream off the goat milk."

*From Laura Wilder of Mansfield
by William T. Anderson*



Almanzo Wilder making hay with Morgan horses Buck and Billy.

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The Wilder's kitchen. Quite a few pots for putting that goat milk to use!

Almanzo took care of the milking itself, using a milking stand. As a good farmer who takes care of his herd, he kept rags nearby to wipe of the teats before the milking process. Laura refused to wash these for him. (I don't blame her, there's nothing quite as odoriferous this side of a bloated carcass than raw milk left out to rot. It's a very distinctive smell and indescribable if you don't know it.) Instead Almanzo took them into town where a woman took in washing did them for him for pay. (I hope VERY good pay. I'm sure she earned it.)

Laura did have to take care of the milk. Unless you fed it straight to some other animal (hogs, cats, etc.) it would have to be processed like cow's milk as Laura described in detail in *Farmer Boy*. Good farm wife that she was I imagine Laura was using it for cooking and for making butter and maybe cheese.

Sarah S. Uthoff is the main force behind Trundlebed Tales fighting to bring the History, Mystery, Magic and Imagination of Laura Ingalls Wilder and other greats of children's literature and history to life for a new generation. Attend one of her programs, schedule one yourself, watch her videos, or listen to her podcast...all by visiting her website at www.trundlebedtales.wordpress.com. You can also find her on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, and Academia.edu. She is currently acting President of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy and Research Foundation. Professionally she is a reference librarian at Kirkwood Community College and director of the Oxford (Iowa) Public Library.

USDA To Survey Sheep & Goat Operations

Starting in late December, the U.S Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure sheep and goat inventories and wool and mohair production during a nationwide survey.

"Interest in sheep and goat data continue to grow with increased diversification in agriculture and consumer demands," said Greg Thessen, Director of the NASS Upper Midwest Regional Field Office in Des Moines, IA. "The Sheep and Goat Survey gives producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions and trends in the industry."

Iowa operators surveyed will be asked to provide information about their sheep and goat inventories, counts of lambs and kids born during 2017, and production and prices received for wool and mohair. In Iowa, NASS will contact about 900 operations to request their responses to the survey.

"Accurate data on sheep and goat inventory, as well as wool production, is a significant decision-making tool for USDA and the industry to be more responsive to domestic and international markets and consumer needs," Thessen said. "The information can also help create public appreciation for the many benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their needed products," added Thessen.

To make it as easy as possible for consumers to participate in the survey, NASS offers the option of responding online, by telephone, mail, or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data in aggregate, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS will publish the survey results January 31, 2018 in the *Sheep and Goats* report. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Iowa Field Office at (800) 772-0825.

The Share-A-Kid Program

The Iowa Dairy Goat Association is always on the look-out for ways to help nurture a life-long appreciation of dairy goats and dairy goat products in youth throughout the state. The Share-A-Kid program provides an opportunity for youth in the state of Iowa, 4th to 12th grade or an active FFA chapter member, to win a registered dairy goat of their own, by way of a competitive essay application process. Doelings are donated by IDGA members.

Applications are accepted from January 1 to March 15 (postmarked). More information about the Share-A-Kid program can be obtained by visiting www.iowadairygoat.org or contacting Guinevere McIntyre at jasperfarm@live.com or 641-325-1585. In this issue, we have included the 2018 Share-A-Kid application form. Feel free to copy and share it!

In this issue of Last 'N News, we introduce Alexandria Klein, a 2017 Share-A-Kid winner, and her Nigerian Dwarf doeling donated by Ann Alecock of Two Dogs Farms.

My name is Alexandria Klein, and I live in rural Carroll County, IA. I am 14 years old and very active in 4-H, play in the community orchestra, and I LOVE my goats. This March I submitted an application to the IDGA Share-A-Kid contest. I was contacted about being one of the winners. My reaction: I was beaming for a week. I submitted an essay because I love new opportunities, and I wanted to pursue my interest in dairy goats, but I didn't know how to get started. IDGA Share-A-Kid gave me this start.

Lexa was donated by Ann Alecock. At the farm, Ann shared with me some great information to get started. Although I could sustain life, I honestly had no idea where to start with raising goats. I am now into the groove of raising goats, but I am still learning so much, especially about how much goats like to jump.

When Lexa came home, she was skittish, and fair was just three short weeks away. Earlier that spring I earned another kid for doing chores for my neighbors, who I named Melodie. Lexa and Melodie became great friends right away. I was worried Lexa wouldn't be ready for fair but she warmed up to me, and after giving her an hour of attention each day, I had her ready to show at fair.



Share-A-Kid winner Alexandria Klein and Nigerian Dwarf doeling Lexa at the Carroll County Fair



Donor Ann Alecock of Two Dogs Farms, Share-A-Kid winner Alexandria Klein, and Nigerian Dwarf doeling Lexa

At the Carroll County fair, Lexa and Melodie were famous. I caught a lot of people taking selfies with them and photos of them. They even managed to get on the front page of the newspaper. Everybody gets famous in a small town, even goats apparently. In the show ring, Lexa did an excellent job. The judge gave her a red ribbon because he didn't fancy how tiny she was. I am excited to see how she will place when she is bigger. I really enjoyed showing her, and I won Champion Goat Showmanship.

Lexa keeps growing, and is comfortable at home. She's always excited for feeding time, loves attention, is friends with the cat and hates rain. Her two favorite things are eating my shirt and teasing the dogs from behind the fence. She stands up on her hind legs, then bounces across the pasture, dogs following. It is the funniest thing to watch. Lexa is a healthy and happy goat.

Before I end, I want to thank the IDGA and especially Ann Alecock for this opportunity, I have learned so much! Through this Share-A-Kid program, I have planted a new passion, and it will, definitely, continue to grow.

2018 Share-A-Kid Contest Entry Form

Each year, the Iowa Dairy Goat Association promotes interest in dairy goats in our state. One of the ways we encourage our young people in this aspect of agriculture is through our Share-A-Kid program.

Winning applicants are selected from the essays they send in. This statewide contest is open to 4th to 12th grades, and who are a member of IDGA, 4-H, FFA, or other agricultural groups. We can only award one goat per family per year; however, siblings are encouraged to apply.

The entry form, as seen below, must accompany the essay. Be sure to complete the form with all required signatures.

The essay, of 100 words or more, should tell why the applicant would like to have a dairy goat, how they are going to take care of her (food, shelter, and medical care), if they have ever raised a goat before and if not, who will help them, why they love goats, and what they love about goats. Photos of the planned goat accommodations are requested. Spelling and content count. The essay can include drawings, photos, or any other creative touches. No essays will be returned, and if your essay is selected, it will be given to the donor, so be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

Goats are herd animals; potential homes with no current companion goats will need to make plans to acquire a companion for their Share-A-Kid doeling, and should note how they plan to do this in their application. Also, dairy goats are disbudded and can be at a serious disadvantage when housed with horned animals; potential homes with horned goats should demonstrate readiness to house their Share-A-Kid doeling separately from the horned herd, and with an appropriate companion goat.

Breeds available are: Toggenburg, Oberhasli, LaMancha, Saanen, Alpine, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, and Recorded Grade.

Within the first year, winners are required to show their animal at a county fair or open class goat show, submit regular health updates to their assigned mentor/donor, and write a brief article for the IDGA newsletter, Last'N News, about their doeling. If within one year of receiving their goat, the winner finds that they cannot keep their doeling, the donating party is to be contacted concerning the goat's future. Winners are not required to give a doe kid back to the program, but are encouraged to do so.

Everyone will be notified by late April about the status of his or her entry. Questions? E-mail Guinevere McIntyre at jasperfarm@live.com.

Please attach this entry form to your essay. Entries will be accepted postmarked from January 1st to March 15. Mail your entry to:

Guinevere McIntyre 4853 Hwy T-38N Grinnell, IA 50112

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ email _____

Breed 1st Choice: _____

Breed 2nd Choice: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Club/Chapter: _____

Club/Project Leader Signature: _____

Club/Project Leader Phone number: _____

Veterinarian Signature: _____

Veterinarian Phone number: _____

Youth Ambassador

Jamy with
Hawkeye Farm
Fern at the
2017 Iowa
State Fair



Hello, my name is Jamy Randol. Some of you may recognize my name, because last year I was serving as Youth Ambassador for the 2016-2017 year, and I was reappointed to the position this year (2017-2018). I'm very excited to see what this year has in store for everyone.

Breeding season is wrapping up at my place. Next year I'll be freshening 9 does, the most I've ever freshened before. The first one is due to kid mid February and I still have a few does left to see if they settle, so we'll see how long kidding season lasts for me. What will be nice this year is, over the summer, we put up a big barn that has a small parlor/ milking room, an office, and then four 10x12 stalls with runs that lead out to grass. We're still finishing the inside and the fencing, but once it's all done I'll be moving my milking ladies in there where it's warmer and I can keep a closer eye on them.

The kids from this year are highly anticipated but those who know me, know I'm a big fan of looking through genetics. So here I am at the end of the year already planning out crosses for next breeding season. I'll probably change my mind on most of them, but oh well it's the thought that counts right?

Hopefully you all had a nice breeding season, and are looking towards an uneventful kidding season.

Goat Milk Caramels

A perfect cold weather treat that will keep you reaching for "just one more." Or wrap them up and give them as gifts, if you can stand to part with them!



- 1 cup (or 1/2 pound) butter
- 2 1/4 cups white sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar (not packed)
- 1/4 cup corn syrup
- 2 cups goat milk
- 1 teaspoon Kosher salt
- Sea salt (optional, for sprinkling on the finished caramels)
- Candy thermometer

Prepare a 9- by 13-inch glass pan by buttering the bottom and sides with the wrapper from the stick of butter. Set aside on top of hot pads or a trivet.

In a medium-size, heavy-bottomed pan, place the butter, white sugar, brown sugar, corn syrup, salt and 1 cup of goat milk. Stir the mixture over medium heat until the sugars are dissolved. Bring to a rolling boil and add the second cup of goat milk. Place candy thermometer in the pan, making sure it is not touching the bottom of the pan as you take the temperature up to 252. Stir the mixture every 5–10 minutes to make sure it doesn't burn on the bottom. Also watch for boil-overs as it heats up. When the thermometer reaches 252, remove the pan from the heat and quickly transfer the caramel to the buttered glass dish. Allow to cool slightly and then sprinkle with the sea salt if desired. Transfer to the fridge and cut with a butter knife into 2- by 2-inch pieces. Wrap each one in waxed paper and store in the fridge.

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The IDGA Breeder's List online is a great way to provide additional information about your goat herd, and is included in your Breeder's List membership.

Send information on your farm and any pictures you would like posted to Guinevere McIntyre at jasperfarm@live.com. Learn more about your fellow goatherds by searching the Breeder's List at www.iowadairygoat.org.

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Lyn Farm- L, S

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eaglecreekfarm.tripod.com/
Schmidt/ECF – T*

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Goat Hollow – N

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Susan@luckystarfarm.com
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Judi Nayeri 515-250-4836 jlnayeri@gmail.com

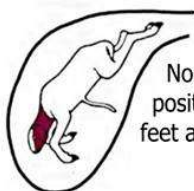
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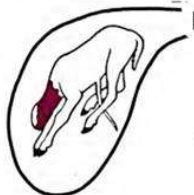
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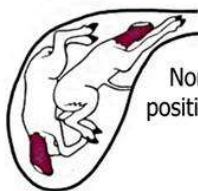
Kidding Positions



Normal Birthing position. Both rear feet are coming first.



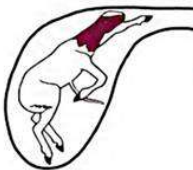
Breech Birth. Butt first. Assistance may be needed. Push kid back in, maneuver one rear leg so it is coming first, and then maneuver the other leg forward.



Normal Birthing position for two kids



Normal Birthing position. Both front feet and head forward single kid.



NOT normal. "one front leg bent back".
You need to reach in and gently pull the "bent back" leg forward.



NOT normal. "Head bent back"
You need to reach in gently push and push the kid back, try to get the head to face forward.



NOT normal. 2 kids are trying to come at once. Reach in gently and feel which parts belong to which kid. Push one kid back, to allow the other kid to come first.

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