

Last N' News

A publication of the
Iowa Dairy Goat Association
Guinevere McIntyre, Newsletter Editor

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2019 Fall



*Kayden McDaniel reuniting with J&J Livestock Final Answer at the Iowa State Fair
 Photo credit David Willey*

Letter from the President



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Howdy! This year has flown by, I'm not sure where the time goes, but it's already breeding season again-Yippee! Here we go again; carefully watching for tail twitching and smelly blubbering bucks.

I would like to invite all of our members to the annual business meeting being held on Saturday, October 5th at 10:30 am. It will be at the Panora Community Center, the address is 115 W Main St., Panora, Iowa. There is ample parking on the north side of the building. Potluck at noon, please bring your own table service, drink and a dish to share. If you are unable to attend but would like something addressed, please let me know.

It's been a busy for year for all. Thank you for supporting the Iowa Spring Classic show in Colfax as well as continuing to attend the Iowa State Fair. We continue to burst at the seams for both shows. If you have never been to either of these shows, please consider it next year!

It's been a pleasure to serve as your President the last 2 years, I hope fall finds you all in good health and ready to conquer the tasks at hand in preparation for winter season.

Best Wishes,

James

Examining Goat Behavior

By George F.W. Haenlein, Ph.D. Professor, University of Delaware

This is the first of a multi-part series of scientific observations of goat behavior.

This issue's focus is the eliminative and sexual behavior of goats.

Ingestive Eliminative

Allelomimetic behavior is a range of activities in which the performance of a behavior increases the probability of that behavior being performed by other nearby animals.

Sexual

Antagonistic

Epimeletic behavior is that of giving care to others, nurturing.

Etepimeletic behavior is calling or seeking attention or care.

Shelter-seeking

The study of goat behavior, like so many aspects of the recorded knowledge of the genus *Capra*, is sketchy at best. Many inferences to the behavioral patterns of goats have been drawn from the more abundant and detailed information available on the closely related genera of sheep, deer and antelopes. While many behavioral characteristics of these genera are indeed similar, it is important to realize that several basic behavioral differences occur. It is these unique aspects of goat behavior that must be understood by the goat owner so that their management system is not at odds with the natural ways of the herd. An understanding of the caprine way is sure to present a twofold benefit to the owner. First, it will enable them to provide a more thorough and efficient management system, thereby deriving an economic benefit. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, a greater knowledge of goat behavior will help cultivate an enhanced appreciation and enjoyment for the species.

Eight basic behavioral systems are generally recognized but the two most interesting in regards to goats are their ingestive and allelomimetic behavior. Sexual, antagonistic, epimeletic (care-giving) and etepimeletic (care-seeking) behavior, while also important, are predominantly of a seasonal nature.

Eliminative Behavior

There appears to have been little evolutionary importance in the development of specific eliminative behavior among goats. There is no evidence, of any form of territorial marking by urination or defecation, as is common to many other animals. However, bucks can determine if a doe is in estrus by sniffing her urine. Elimination occurs at random in the field, with goats avoiding areas of defecation or urination while grazing. This

avoidance behavior is depressed in confinement management and widespread contamination occurs.

When urinating, the doe goes into a squat position similar to the one assumed by a female dog. Even buck kids will arch their back and bend their legs while urinating. This behavior is not displayed in adult bucks. All goats wag their tails back and forth while defecating, although the significance of this act, if any, is not known.

Sexual Behavior

Sexual behavior among most goats at least those derived from the temperate zones is seasonally dependent, with the females lacking an estrus period during the late spring and summer months. The libido, or sex drive, of the buck is also at a low ebb during this time, but semen volume is lowest already in early spring and motility is poorest in the winter. The volume and motility of semen is greatest during the late summer and fall. The return to normal sexual behavior is first achieved by the buck, generally about 2 weeks before does return to estrus. It is thought that the courting of the buck may accelerate the onset of the breeding season. The length of the breeding season is influenced by such factors as day length, temperature, and geographic origin. Those breeds that originate from high, mountainous areas have an abbreviated breeding season. All goats have a peak estrus cycle in the fall of the year, thus allowing for most kids to be born during the favorable spring time.



Courting time, Jasper Farm Nubians, Grinnell, IA

The doe is usually on a 21-day cycle during the breeding seasons. This cycle is somewhat variable among individuals, as is the duration of estrus, or standing heat. This period generally lasts 18 to 24 hrs, although it may even last considerably longer. At the beginning and end of each breeding season, the doe may go through a "silent" estrus in which ovulation is not accompanied by normal estrus behavior. In other species, this

has been attributed to a lack of circulating levels of estrogens at the time of estrus.

The "goat odor" of bucks is of significance in sexual behavior in that it serves as a stimulus to the doe. Through conditioning and previous sexual experience, the odor elicits a series of responses in the female that serve to facilitate the courting and breeding process. The doe will rub her neck and body



*SG Rosasharn SH Chaku of Engle Acres in classic "Flehmen" posture
Courtesy Jeremy Engle*

against the buck, and will stand to receive his attentions.

Behavioral patterns of the buck are more unique and complex among the two sexes during the breeding season. He becomes aggressive as he struggles to attain and maintain the position of lead (alpha) buck. He is more active and verbal during the breeding season, constantly on the lookout for does in estrus and invading "Flehmen" posture),

searching for the olfactory and gustatory stimuli that indicate to him that the doe is in estrus.

Upon identifying a doe in estrus, the buck will follow her, and then move up in an attempt to herd the doe away from the rest of the flock. Once separated the buck will begin to paw the ground around the doe in an apparent display of masculinity. During these and subsequent stages of precopulatory behavior, the buck emits a frequent hoarse, "baaing" that is often termed a "grumble". The buck can also be observed to run his tongue in and out of his mouth during these first two stages and is generally very excited. Next he proceeds to sniff and nuzzle the genital areas of the doe, while intermittently rubbing against the side of the doe.

Copulation is achieved by the buck mounting and gaining intromission through repeated thrusting movements of the hind quarters. If the doe is fully receptive and experienced, she will stand completely still to receive the male. If she is not fully receptive or lacks previous sexual experience, she may move about or even begin to walk away, thus making it more difficult for the buck to gain intromission. This creates a greater expenditure of both time and energy on the buck's part, and if many does behave in this fashion, it may cause problems in getting the flock covered by the buck.

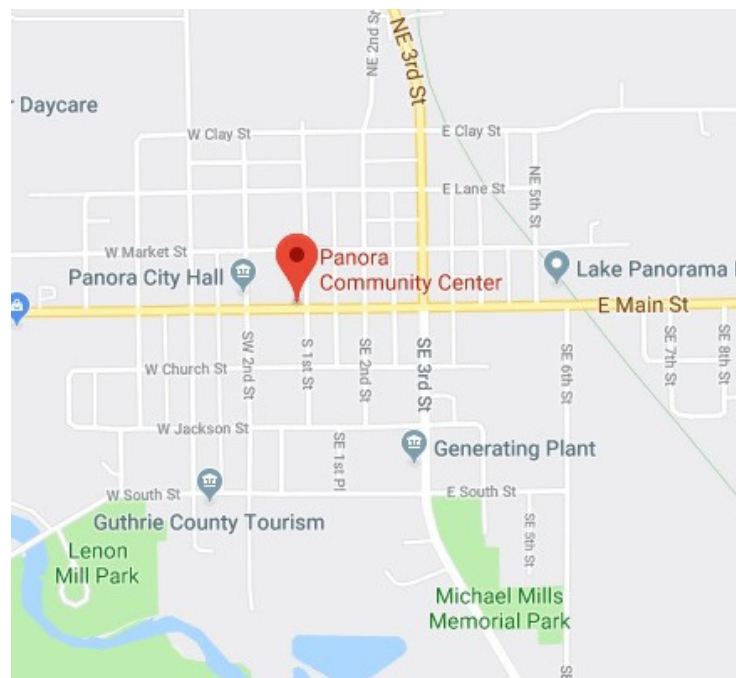
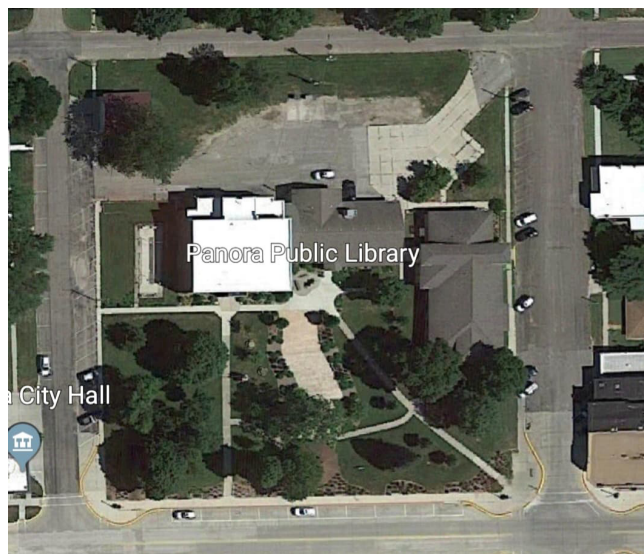
IDGA Annual All-Member Meeting & Potluck

Be a part of planning exciting future activities!

October 5, 10:30am, Panora, IA

Panora Community Center

(building east of library in picture below)



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 IDGA Share-A-Kid Program provides the opportunity for youth, 4th to 12th grades or an active FFA chapter member, and residents of the state of Iowa, to own a registered dairy goat kid, by way of a competitive essay application process. Doelings are donated by IDGA members. 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.

This was the most competitive year yet and the selection committee awarded to 10 youth. In future issues you will learn more about each winner and their doeling! In this issue we hear from a winner both from Buena Vista County: Amelia Stark, who was awarded a Nigerian dwarf doeling donated by Richard and Christy Hanson of 7 Dwarfs.

Amelia Stark and Vidia

My name is Amelia Stark and I am 14 years old, just leaving the 8th grade. I am one of the winners that received a Share-A-Kid from the ADGA. I have been in 4-H for four years and my club is Providence Go-Getters in Buena Vista County. If you don't know where that is, it's Storm Lake where I live with my Mom and Dad along with my seven siblings, which I am the youngest. Soon there is only going to be three of us left in the house after September, because my oldest brother Waylon is Iowa National Guards and he leaves in September. I guess I will have to annoy a different brother into taking me places once he is gone.

I was told about the contest when I attended a workshop from one of the staff at the Extension office, Stacey. I went home and asked mom. Of course she said yes I could enter. Though she said if I did this, I would have to do research on the proper care of a goat. She has said this for all the animals I have as pets and show for 4-H. She is like that, wanting me to know what I am getting into. Goats aren't like the rabbits and the pigeons I already was caring for.

Someone had told me since I didn't have any experience in raising goats and didn't own one when I entered that I would not be chosen. So I bought a bottle goat anyway and decided if I only had my bottle goat (my brother got a goat that day also), I would be happy with just my StormFly. So I put winning a doeling out of my mind.

It came as a shock one night after we came in from doing night chores, my Dad said I received a phone call. I called the person back and it was Guinevere telling me I had won a Nigerian Dwarf doeling. I was so happy.

That was the beginning of my wonderful journey in getting Vidia, my little doeling. I was ready. Or so I thought I was ready for my little wild child, as the Hanson's had called her and now I call her this still.

The day arrived where I could go meet Vidia, though at the time I didn't know her name. Mom and I drove to Westside, Iowa to the Hanson farm, where I met Rich and Christy along with their two kids Jordan and Jacob...and of course Vidia. (The name Vidia came from the Disney movies Tinkerbell. Vidia is one of the fairies. The Hansons name their goats after Disney Movies characters. How cool is that?)

The first glimpse of Vidia was from inside of the barn where she was outside playing. I did get to meet Vidia's mom. She was super sweet. All the goats were. When Vidia came inside she was prancing and dancing in her own little goat way. She was definitely the cutest little thing I have ever seen. I love her markings and color, brown and white.

I was able to take her outside where she romped around while I watched. I should have known then that she was going to get into some mischief later on. Well, that is perfect for at times I do get into mischief also, so we are a perfect pair. I held her for a long time in my arms. It was sad to leave Vidia there because she couldn't go home with me. She was still nursing from her momma.

The day came that Mom got the call that Vidia was ready to come home. Guess where I was? I wasn't even in the area. I was in Ames at ISU for the youth conference where I was accepted into the Animal Science Round-Up, where I learned about raising goats. Mom thought it would be a good experience to learn about my goats and how to raise them, learning from professionals in the field of goats. I also got to make goat milk soap. I made lavender which is my mom's favorite scent. It was a blast. I am going to go back next year. So to those 4-H kids who thinks it won't be fun, take it from me, it's lots of fun and you meet new friends.

It was two days after I returned that I was actually able to go get Vidia. My boss allowed me to get the day off so I could go get her. We met the Hansons in Denison. Their daughter Jordan was there to help lead a showmanship clinic in goat showing. I stayed because you can always learn something at these clinics and I did, since this was going to be my first year in showing goats. I

watched and learned and even got to shear a goat, which I didn't know that was to be done. So while we were at the clinic Vidia decided she didn't like to be in the cage in the Hansons vehicle. So when Jordan asked who would bring a goat to the fairgrounds, because a goat was running loose, she realized that it was Vidia. So we all started to go chase after the naughty little girl. We finally got her and the kid chase was completed. Boy, can Vidia evade someone when she wants to run.

When I finally got her home and in the barn she was introduced to the other goats that we had gotten and one little pygmy goat named Hurricane. (He needed a home.) Hurricane and Vidia hit it off immediately, for those two seemed to get out of the goat corral in the barn constantly just so they could run around with the chickens and turkeys that I was raising for fair this year. They never wanted to stay in the pen with the other three, though they were only a few months older than she was. Some mornings when I went to feed she was in the pen or outside with the others, but then she would just crawl through the wire to eat elsewhere.

Fair was very interesting. It was going okay at first. We placed the three goats together in the same pen along with pens of other 4-H goats. Vidia, who one just cannot keep in at all, decided to make friends. She crawled through the wooden slats to meet the other goats in the next pens. At various times mind you. So I decided I could prevent her from going into other pens by placing her feeding trough over one slate and then the hay bag on the other area. This would stop her correct? Nope. She then started jumping out of the pen to greet fair goers or other 4-H kids. There was nothing I could do for that. I wasn't about to prevent her from jumping in case she broke her leg. It happened with another one of our goats after we got her and we learned do not stop them from jumping. Since parents of other 4-Hers and 4-H kids knew who Vidia was, she was just placed back where she belonged. One time I was walking toward the goat barn when I saw Vidia and she saw me - she jumped right back into the pen.



Amelia helps a Clover Kid show Vidia

At fair I showed her in the Jr. Doeling dairy class along with my other goat StormFly. Vidia and I received reserved Jr. Doeling and I also received Champion Jr. Doeling for StormFly that I raised from 2 weeks as a bottle kid. I also received Intermediate Showmanship with Vidia which came with a banner that I could put above her pen. After the 4-H goat show their was the clover kids goat show where Vidia was paired with a Clover Kid. I was standing right behind the child and Vidia to assist the child in showing a doeling. Vidia was the star of the fair this year. Everyone loved her.

The Hansons had come for the show to see me show Vidia. I do have to thank Jordan Hanson for starting Vidia's training until I got her home. I got her only a week or so before fair, since she wasn't able to come home to me because she was still nursing. When I did get her home I

worked every day with her so she could get used to me. During this time I was interviewed along with the Hansons by the Storm Lake Times. It was wonderful to have them there for that.

Since fair week I moved Vidia to a different place where she runs along with my friend's goat and her horses. She still gets out to play with Rufus the Australian shepherd of my friend. She is also running with the chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. At times she gets in with the horse to steal their hay, as if her hay isn't the same. She and I are happier with the new farm she is on. It is much safer since when she does get out, there is no highway to worry about, just open land on a slow gravel road.

I have learned much since getting Vidia. I know there will be more that I will learn about caring for her and the other goats. I do plan on showing her next year at fair and who knows what she can get into next year at the fair. She may think she can join the horse show.

Vidia has been the best goat. I am proud to have the honor of caring for this goat who has changed my life in many ways. She has the biggest personality, trying to get away with mischief like most of us, humans and animals alike. She is shy but is always there when you call her name. Though at times she just stops and looks at you saying you want me...I don't think so. I thank the ADGA for choosing me to receive such a wonderful precious animal like Vidia.



Amelia and Vidia



Amelia and Vidia at the Buena Vista County Fair

Our Goat Family

by IDGA Senior Youth Ambassador
Hannah Willey



Hannah Willey, IDGA President James McDaniel, and Elizabeth Willey at the Iowa State Fair

As most of you know the Iowa State Fair is already insane. So, how can we make it even crazier? With a barn flood of course! It's become almost a yearly tradition to have a giant storm or two during the fair. Guaranteed there will be a storm while the dairy goats are in the barn that flood the worst. This year it flooded at 3:00 AM. (Why can it never happen when I'm NOT trying to sleep?) Everyone sleeping in the barn got up. There's

no sleeping through that amount of noise. I'm amazed, still how everyone just bands together and tries to get the water out faster than it comes in.



Flood aftermath!

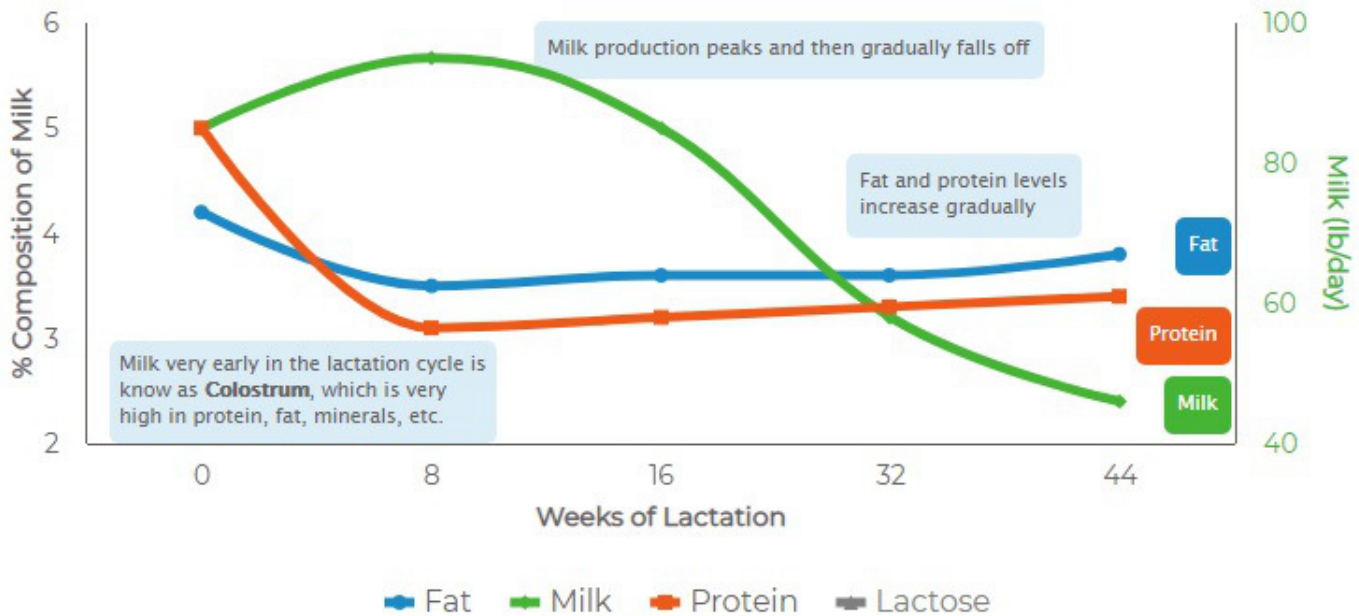


A representative of Hannah's herd, Goat Momma Ranch

We work better than a few friends showing together. We are family. We care about each other, their goats, and their children. I spent most of the "great flood" checking on other's children to make sure they were alright and not too scared. The dairy goat exhibitors are by far the closest of all the livestock exhibitors. Maybe, mainly because of our yearly flood. It's a weird connection but it brings us all together, running in the same circle at the same time. I'm definitely not saying I'm thankful for the yearly flood, but there is something about it that makes us closer. I've only been showing dairy goats for a few years, but every year I find more and more people I can call my goat family. With or without the flood.

Stage of Lactation

Changes in milk yield and composition during lactation



Graph of milk composition during lactation cycle (cow)

Data taken from Minnesota Dairy Extension - Feeding the dairy herd

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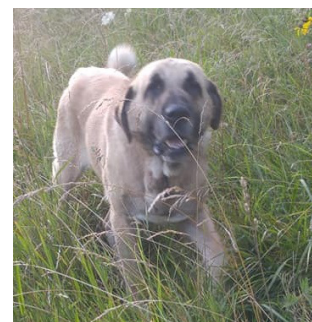


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When a goat gives birth to a kid, she will begin to produce milk for ~305 days (on average). This is called the lactation cycle. The first milk, the colostrum, has high levels of fat, protein, minerals, and antibodies. From there, fat and protein drop off and milk quantity increases. As the lactation continues, milk yield decreases and fat and protein increase (a reverse dilution effect, becoming richer in solids as fluid level decreases).

There are many factors that affect the composition of milk. Stage of lactation is one such factor, but there are many others, including, but not limited to: nutrition, goat-to-goat variability, season, feed, etc. The graph to the left is a general representation of a trend, not a steadfast rule.

Italy's Milk Mountains

By Guinevere McIntyre



Vincenzo Caprile, self-portrait, 1914



The Amalfi coast



The Amalfi coast of Italy, in green

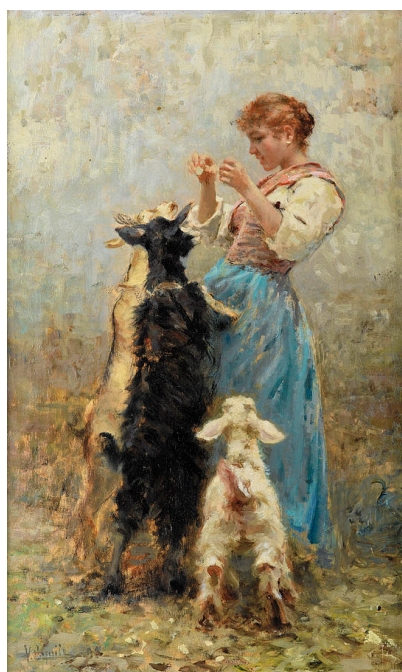
Among the beautiful paintings created by Italian painter Vincenzo Caprile are several featuring goats from his native region. There is very little information available on Caprile himself, other than his life span of 1856 to 1936, all spent in Naples, including his formal studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in the same seaside city.

Caprile is best known for his pastoral scenes of the Amalfi coast, located in the south of Italy. In addition to pastoral scenes, Caprile painted many views of towns and waterways. He worked almost exclusively in oil on panel or canvas, and in portraiture of varying styles, from formal portraits to characters such as fishermen, old men at bars, to people simply caught in a moment of their daily life. They are very occasionally whimsical, as with one of his most valued works, *Figura di Vecchio in Bottega (Old Man in a Workshop)*. Examples are included here in which Caprile worked with the same model in slightly different settings. The majority of his art is untitled, and it seems that many of the titles listed today were added more recently. Paintings by Vincenzo Caprile seem to be available through art galleries and auctions every once in a while.

A last name like Caprile is just too close to “caprine” and “capra” to be entirely coincidental. In a region known for its goat, sheep, and cow dairy herds that graze freely in the mountains, surely this indicates that his family had strong ties to dairy goats as well. The pastoral scenes he painted often include goats of various breeds, many appearing to be crosses of the breeds we are most familiar with here in the United States. Within the idealized images of country life, these works reveal aspects of



Peasant with Goats, Vincenzo Caprile



Untitled, Vincenzo Caprile



Untitled, Vincenzo Caprile



Untitled, Vincenzo Caprile

capriculture that we still see today, and give us an idea of the valued position of goats in the community. The relationship between the goats and humans in Caprile's art is clearly intimate and loving, showing them as more than just livestock.

The mountain regions of the Amalfi coast, of which Naples is the largest city, have supported great numbers of dairy herds for over 2000 years. Claudius Galen, a Greek philosopher and physician in the 3rd century BC, praised the goodness and healing properties of the milk and cheese produced by shepherds in the region. The mountains themselves were identified as *Lactaria Montes*, or sometimes Lattari Mounts, both which translate to Dairy Mountains.

The Lactaria Montes continue to live up to their ancient name today, with a number of small, not fully mechanized, family-run dairies. The region is known for its delicious ricotta, provola, provolone, caciocavallo, and smoked cheeses, all of which have their own centuries-long traditions. Provolone is basically just a

smaller version of provolone, with provolone being the more commonly used name for both cheeses. Caciocavallo, "cheese on horseback" is an extension of provolone...when the mountain breezes would cool enough, shepherds would be able to make this more seasoned, longer-lasting cheese by tying two provolone balls together and aging them *a cavallo*. It's fun to envision cheeses hanging across the backs of horses but really they were (and are) aged straddling a stick or piece of sturdy wood, as one would straddle a horse.



Caciocavallo



Contadinella a Positano,
Vincenzo Caprile



Untitled, Vincenzo Caprile

Vincenzo Caprile's paintings allow for perspective on the beloved role of goats in such a well-established dairy region. Caprile was a prolific painter, certainly a true working artist, and many of his paintings are still available today, passing through auction houses with some frequency, in prices ranging from around \$300 to \$30,000! *Contanidella a Positano* recently sold for 750 euros (~\$821). For dairy goat breeders and lovers, though, the true value lies in the charm of the paintings and the glimpses of the function and position of goats in the Amalfi Coast. And, happily, it appears goats continue to be a thriving component of this beautiful dairy region today!



Provolone



"As we were driving in the hills on a small road to return to Napoli, we saw a mass moving toward us. It was two large shepherding dogs leading a herd of goats along the road! Everyone looked happy, and the shepherd even paused from coaxing the goats along to say, "Buongiorno," to us as he walked past." (Veronique Kherian, 2015)

Photos courtesy Veronique Kherian Headshot and Portrait Photographer, Vero Kherian Photography, misscheesemonger.com

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Pleasant-Grove – A*, S*

Korver, Justin & Brittany
4312 440th St
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712-541-0125
korver4@c-i-services.com
www.meadowvalleydairygoats.com
Meadow Valley – T, AT
Ranschau Acres – N, AN

Kroll, David & Pam
19329 310th St
Sioux City, IA 51108
712-239-4418
krollshillyacres@netllcwb.net
Krolls Hilly Acres – L, D

Langille, Shamani
27816 Paddock Ave
Malvern, IA 51551
712-355-0954
shamani@prairielandschiropractic.com
Spring Creek Farm and Breeding - D

Macke, Deb & Sharla
N3690 Elmwood Rd
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715-563-0052
raintree.lamancha@gmail.com
www.raintreedairygoats.com
Raintree-Calico Dairy Goats – L, A, E

Mastbergen, Sherry
26154 Key Ave.
Merrill, IA 51038
mmoldgoat@wildblue.net
M&M Goats- N, E

McDaniel, James & Jamie
419 3rd St NW
Mitchellville, IA 50169
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mfd5712@gmail.com
J&J Livestock – S, N*

McIntyre, Guinevere & Eric
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641-325-1585
jasperfarm@live.com
www.jasperfarm.net
Jasper Farm – N

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605-543-5051
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Miller's M 100 – T*

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A, E

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menanayeri@gmail.com
Ma's Acres – A*, N*

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641-780-8600
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Misfit Manor – A, L

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jamyf@netins.net
Hawkeye Farm - N

Reasoner, Deb
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Reasoner Farms – N, n, A, a, E

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cell 712-370-0971
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Ripley Farms – D*

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Lyn Farm- L, S

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greenashfarm@gmail.com
Green Ash Farm - D

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susantilton@yahoo.com
515-408-5255
EZ MARK – T, B, N

Schmidt, Tim, Mary, & Family
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schmidt.tm@gmail.com
http://eaglecreekfarm.tripod.com/
Schmidt/ECF – T*

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Hickman, NE 68372
402-792-2441
nubilopacres@gmail.com
www.nubilopacres.com
Nubilop Acres – N, L

Stypa, Shari
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stypahome@gmail.com
www.paintedoakridge.com
Painted Oak Ridge – D

Tanner, Kevin & Susan
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Russell, IA 50238
susqt45@gmail.com

Umble, Melanie
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Runnells, IA 50237
515-971-9519
mumble@shomo-madsen.com
Ten Oaks – S, N

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on the website can be sent to
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jasperfarm@live.com

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Hawarden, IA 51023
712-552-1378
Van Wyk Acres Dairy Goats
Facebook page
Van Wyk Acres – A, N

Vry, Michelle
12450 SE 23rd Ave.
Runnells, IA 50237
515-669-3145
michelle@windyhillranch.farm
Windy Hill Ranch- D

Walker, John, Ginna, & Stefanie
1428 E. Bennington Rd
Waterloo, IA 50703
319-233-5645 (home)
319-239-7683 (Ginna cell)
john.ginna.walker@gmail.com
Viriden Creek – S

Wells, Jeff & Lori
2674 Cumming Rd
Van Meter, IA 50261
515-468-5175
wells2674@hotmail.com
www.goathollowiowa.com
Goat Hollow – N

Willey, Hannah
4210 Wakonda Parkway
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515-505-0155
Goat Momma Ranch – N

Wise, Allison
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D*

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