

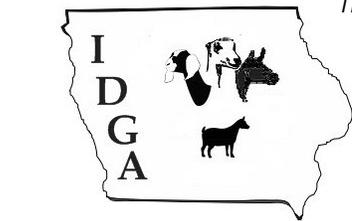
Last N' News

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

Highlights in this issue:

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2020 Spring



The Olson girls and their goats, photo courtesy Robin Olson

Letter from the President

Greetings,

Spring is here. The emotional roller coaster of kidding season should be wrapping up. This should be the time of anticipation as we prepare for the upcoming show season or the excitement of milking our first goat. Unfortunately, 2020 is not starting the way anyone could ever had imagined. No one could have imagined the effect COVID-19 would have on our way of life or on that of the world.

As we wait for the effects of the pandemic to pass, there are several events that have already been canceled for the year. The ISU Block and Bridle event, the IDGA showing and fitting clinic and the Iowa Spring Classic have all needed to be canceled this year. At this writing, we are all still waiting to find out the fate of the 2020 ADGA Nationals in Nebraska.

As frustrating as this is for everyone, the health, safety and well being of our goat families is the most important thing. While it is disappointing to not be together with everyone early in the spring, our hope is that we can all be together at the Iowa State Fair (August 19 through 23).

As always, this is your organization and the Board is here to serve you. We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events throughout the year.

Best Regards,
Dave Peffers

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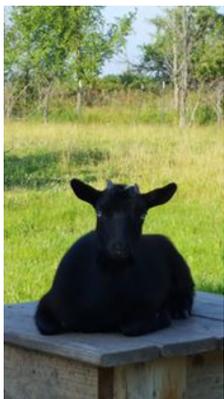
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Goats at Play: Mutual Entertainment!

By Guinevere McIntyre, with thanks to photo submissions by IDGA members



A peaceful place to relax at K Bar S Farms, Susan Tanner

Goats are curious, smart, and a wonderful challenge in so many ways. We've all heard, "if a fence can hold water, it can hold a goat." There is an old saying from Finland, "if you're short of trouble, take a goat." The intelligent and determined nature of a goat can quickly get them into trouble if they are bored. The flip-side of this is that a happy, well-stimulated goat is content and thriving, and if while not 100% an angel (we are talking about goats after all), occupied in healthful ways.

A goat without any means of entertainment may explore ways to entertain themselves, and usually in ways that the owner would not choose. Strolling around outside the fence and eating the rose bushes and fruit trees can be just the tip of the iceberg. Because goats are agile climbers, and have powerful muscles as well as a proclivity to chew on just about anything, they can get themselves into risky and/or destructive situations, such as pushing down fences, chewing on something that gets damaged or leaves the goat with a mouth injury, or climbing onto unsafe surfaces that could lead to a fall. A goat without more interesting things to do is also more likely to resort to bullying behavior. A bored goat can have increased levels of stress and anxiety, which can lead to health problems as well as lowered productivity with less milk production or poor mothering.



King of the washtub, Lucky Star Farm



"They just wanted to help." Robin Ripley of Ripley Farms in Clarinda

When goats are entertained, they can be happier and more engaged, get better exercise, and live fuller, healthier lives. In this unusual time, the benefits that goats experience from entertainment can well be applied to their humans as well, for the greater good of all involved. Goat owners, caretakers, the goats themselves, and their on-line followers will all be tickled and entranced watching the exuberance and silliness.

Happily, there are so many creative and easy ways of entertaining goats to help them exercise their natural inventiveness and ingenuity. Just as with all of us humans, not all goats will enjoy the same activities. Offering several options gives each goat something to explore, and trial and "error" is part of the fun.

Climbing comes naturally to so many goats. A climbing structure can be as elaborate as a wooden jungle gym with steps, ramps and bridges, or as simple as a pile of pallets.

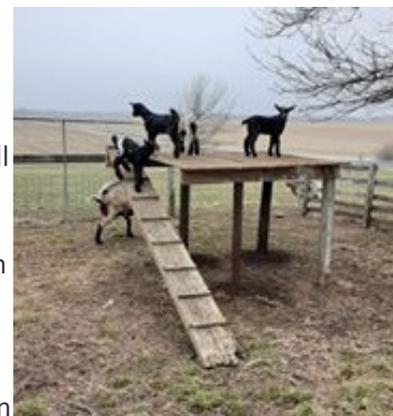
Different sizes of components make for an interesting exercise and play course. Hay bales, old tires, barrels, wooden cable spools, and large rocks can be elements of any climbing structures. Scrap wood from other building projects can be made into tables, benches or other platforms for goats. A bonus of using rocks is that the texture will help keep the goat's hooves worn down as would be natural in the wild. Wooden cable spools are sometimes available at hardware stores, and it's worth checking as they may be free if they are empty of whatever product was on them. Electricians may also be a source. Set up any structures in the middle of their fenced-in area so that the goats don't climb up on the toys and then jump over the fence!



Creative climbing toys at the Olson farm



Marshall on a wooden cable spool at Lucky Star Farm



The Breezy 4 goat playset, Robin Wisgerhof

Tunnels, nooks and hideaways are fun for goats to explore. These could be made up of a simple tunnel of half-buried tires, a large section of pipe, a series of A-frames or trellises, or an open tent. Next time you get your tires checked, keep the old tires that need to be replaced. Tractor tires are especially great: dig a small trench, and let your goats have fun jumping on and running through tractor tires.



Linda and Penny play at Wayward Saints Farm

Allowing goats onto the roof of a shed, garage or barn is a great way to give them more space. Stacked hay bales, bricks, rocks, or wood can give them access to the roof, or you can build a ramp. Just be sure the roof's pitch is safe for them.

A column of rough-edged bricks or cinder blocks is a great do-it-yourself back scratcher. Or cover a post with rough material or bristle brushes so the goats can have a nice satisfying scratch session.

Different sizes, colors, and level of firmness of balls make great toys for goats, and they will kick, butt, and push them around. Goats may even try to climb or balance on larger balls. A tether-ball set-up can be a perfect outlet for head-butting play. Put the ball on a shorter rope than one normally would so no playful goats get tangled up. Treat balls, a snack-

filled toy they can kick and butt, are an extra special diversion. A plastic container such as an old jug is ideal, and you can poke a few holes in the sides. Add a handful of pelleted feed or grain to the jug, and toss it to them for hours of fun.



Tetherball anyone?



"Kids at Black Eagle Ranch love this little car. They push it around, open and close the doors and even honk the horn." - Pat Blank

Toys that human kids have outgrown can be perfect for four-legged kids. Plastic slides, playhouses, kiddie pools, trampolines, and see-saws are great options. Also take a look at recycled items from grown-ups, such as a camper shell or a small boat. Kiddie pools may be enjoyed filled with water on hot summer days, and some goats love an empty swimming pool, hearing the percussive sound of their feet in it.

Offering goats branches and brush will keep them entertained and supplement their feed. Be sure to avoid any potentially toxic plants or prunings when you add them to the goat pen. Remember that clumpy poos may likely follow any change in diet, so observe and react accordingly. Don't overreact but keep an eye out for a transition back to normal berries. As long as the greenery is safe for them eat, they can have so much fun with an edible change of routine, and get nutritional benefit all at once.

It is recommended to change the activities offered every once in a while, to keep the goats enjoying new and different experiences. Consider a combination of permanent structures, with a flexible view towards new and intermittent distractions. Entertaining goats can also be as simple as letting them explore someplace new, such as a different pasture or corral area. If your goats will wander reliably with you, a stroll around your property is fun exercise for all.

Life is certainly never dull for humans when goats are around. A goat won't hesitate to make a plaything out of a human as well! Ultimately, the connection between us and our goats is the most meaningful and long-lasting. As goat owners during this time, we are uniquely positioned to thrive with the joy of families and farm. Exploring ways to help our goats have fun, watching them have fun, and getting in there with them ourselves is an opportunity to cherish!



At Lucky Star Farm, a car tire is the right size for Nigerian dwarfs



*"A favorite toy to climb on is our backs when we're trying to fix stuff...for sure!"
Ripley Farms Nigerian Dwarfs*

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.

2019 was a very competitive year and the selection committee awarded kids to 10 youth across the state. In this issue we hear from Caden Meyer, who was awarded an Alpine doeling donated by Judi Nayeri of Ma's Acres, Brylie Andersen of Shelby County, who was awarded a Nubian doeling donated by Marilyn and Dale Stertz of Nubilop Acres, and Ben Langel who was awarded a Nigerian Dwarf doeling donated by Pat Blank of Black Eagle Ranch Nigerians.

Caden Meyer and Ulla Bella

By Caden Meyer



Caden and Ulla

My experience with my Alpine doeling has been very rewarding. The people that are in the dairy goat community are so helpful and especially nice to those of us still learning. I really appreciate how tame and intelligent dairy goats are. They are so much fun and enjoy being worked with.

My donating herd uses a letter of the alphabet each year with their doelings to have an easy way to keep track of who was born in what year. This year the letter was "U". I named my doeling Ulla Bella. Her name means "determined beauty" which I thought was suitable for an Alpine show goat.

My experience showing my doeling was quite a bit of fun. I've shown cattle, sheep, horses, alpacas, and pigs along with other small animals. My goats were so much easier to train to lead than my other animals and seemed to enjoy the show experience. I wasn't sure how giving them hair cuts and grooming them for show would go based on my experience with sheep. Again, the goats were so cooperative and seemed to like getting shaved. They are all so well behaved at the shows. They interact with other people showing and the children that came to the fair shows just to see the animals.

My interactions with the donating herd including attending a day of classes getting experience with how to fit goats for show and then how to properly show them. My donating herd also gave me goat milk to feed my doeling. My other goats were already on creep and hay so Ulla Bella took right after eating with them. I had some leftover milk that I froze and was able to make a batch of soap and a batch of lotion. I used the products for Christmas presents that everyone loved!

I also have a buck and have my four doelings bred. I did an ultrasound and confirmed their pregnancies. I can't wait until a few months to have my first experience with kidding and milking my does. Then it will be time to start showing again!



Brylie Andersen and Opal

By Brylie Andersen



Brylie Andersen, Marilyn Stertz, and Opal on pick-up day!

Hi, my name is Brylie and I have been involved in 4H for 5 years. I received my dairy goat from the IDGA Share a Kid program. I found out about this opportunity from the IDGA website. After learning more about the program, I decided I needed to enter! In my essay I wrote about my experience with goats, how I care for them, and what makes them special to me. I sent the essay and hoped for the best!

When early spring came along I attended the IDGA showing and fitting clinic. There I learned more about dairy goat showmanship skills. I also became more confident handling and working with the size of dairy goats.

When I finally found out that I got the nubian that I had been wanting since I wrote the essay, I was super excited and I could not stop asking my mom when we could go pick her up. When the day finally came along that we could go pick up my goat, I could not wait to see the little baby that I would be mothering for the next several months. It was a long drive out to Nubilop Acres for it was in Nebraska.

When my mom and I finally got to the farm Marilyn and Dale already had one picked out for me and she was the perfect one. I loved talking to Marilyn and figuring out exactly how I needed to be feeding her, medicating her, caring for her and showing her. We then started the long trek home.

When we got home everyone was super excited to see the new member of our farm. Our farm dog Addie was especially excited to see her, but my goat wasn't so fond of that. After hanging around with her for a while I decided her name was going to be Opal. Me and Opal bonded right from the start. Opal was introduced to the other goats we have and they didn't get along too well so we separated them for the night. The next day I headed out to see Opal and we went outside to play in the grass.

A couple of weeks later we started training; we went outside on walks almost everyday. I constantly brushed her off. I was setting up her feet and making her stand still. It was a couple of weeks before the fair when I realized that I hadn't given Opal a bath. I didn't want to make her cold so I started problem solving. I decided the best way to give her a bath would be in the shower. I put on my swimsuit and hopped in with her. We gave Opal a fresh new haircut. I was working with her everyday. Fair was just around the corner.



Brylie and Opal talk to the judge at the Shelby County Fair

The day finally came when I got to bring Opal to the Shelby County Fair, and I was super excited. I got Opal situated in her pen to make sure she was comfortable. Show day came and I was as ready as ever. I could not contain my excitement to get in the show ring. I was super happy with how I showed. We got Grand Champion In her class, overall Grand Champion dairy goat, and Reserve Champion junior showman.

When we got home I was so thankful that everything went well at the fair. I was honestly kind of sad that it was over, but I knew soon to come would be more baby goats (however not from Opal). She is too young to have babies yet. I am super excited to see what will come next with my adventure with Opal and to see her future kids! Thank you IDGA Share a Kid and Dale and Marilyn with Nubilop Acres you have blessed me with an amazing goat that could never be replaced.



Brylie and Opal



Brylie and Opal at the Shelby County Fair

Ben Langel and Cookie Doe

By Ben Langel



Ben with Cookie Doe and donor Pat Blank

My name is Ben Langel. I am 13 years old and in 7th grade at IKM-Manning Community School. My application was selected through the Share-A-Kid Contest, and I received Cookie Doe, a 2-month old Nigerian Dwarf goat donated by Pat Blank of Black Eagle Ranch. I have been active in 4-H for 3 years and am a member of the Aspinwall Achievers of Crawford County. I live on a family farm and my dad runs a cow-calf operation and we have other animals such as rabbits and chickens that we bring to the fair. My mom works at IKM-Manning schools as the technology coordinator.

My mom follows the IDGA, which is where she learned about the Share a Kid program and suggested trying it to me and my sisters. I decided to give it a shot and was excited when I got the call that my essay was selected as one of the winners.

We met Pat at Ma's Acres where I attended a dairy goat workshop to learn how to groom and show goats. If you want to learn more about showing goats, you should try this free workshop. You don't even have to have a goat. After I got Cookie Doe, we put her with the 2 other goats we had at the time. She is super friendly and loves to play. I always have fun playing with her.

We had a busy summer getting ready for our county fair. It took a lot of work teaching her to lead. It was the first time we've shown goats and weren't really sure about what we were doing. I had to clip her about a week before the fair so she would be ready to show. I watched several YouTube videos to see how to trim her hooves and show her in the ring. My hard work paid off and I received a purple ribbon in my class showing Cookie Doe. I also did showmanship, and received first place. I learned that the judge watches you the entire show and is seeing how you treat your animal. I plan to show Cookie Doe again at this year's county fair as a dry yearling.

We plan on breeding Cookie in the future so she can return to the fair again. I'm very happy about entering in this contest. Cookie has been an awesome goat to start with and I encourage others to do the same thing.



Ben at the 2019 IDGA Showing & Fitting Clinic at Ma's Acres

Naming Your Goats

By Lori Wells

As kidding season approaches or finishes for us goat folk, we are always faced with the challenge of naming our kids. Some breeders allow the buyer to name the kids, but as we thought of this, we didn't want our herd name associated with a silly goat name like Tongue Blister or Paper Cut. So, we do name all our goats and of course, the buyer can call the kid anything they want.

Our first year kidding, we felt a little overwhelmed by naming. But then we came up with a system that has worked well for us. We maintain a spreadsheet list of names we like for both male and female. When we hear a name we like, we add it to the list. Currently, there are about 100 or more names available for our use.

We also use the list to record the sire and dam, date of birth, ADGA registration number as well as the name of the buyer.

This helps us to keep sorted out and prevents us from attempting to duplicate a name. It's also fun to look back at all the kid's names from the past and makes us wonder how those kids, now adult goats, are doing.



2020 Goat Hollow Nubian Kids – feeling inspired to name them?

IDGA Youth Ambassador Notes

By Taryn Peffers and Vinh Nguyen



Taryn Peffers winning the 4-H Alpine class at the 2019 Iowa State Fair

Hello! My name is Taryn Peffers and I am excited to be one of the Iowa Dairy Goat Association Youth Ambassadors again this year! I look forward to spreading information on dairy goats and giving presentations to youth from around the state.

This is my fifth year showing and owning my own herd of dairy goats. I got into dairy goats by applying for the IDGA's own Share-A-Kid Program and look forward to promoting this wonderful opportunity. It helped me start into dairy goats and I hope other recipients go farther than just their local county fair and get involved in showing like I have. One goal I have this year as a Youth Ambassador is to promote and educate the public on dairy goats. I plan to attend the Showing & Fitting Clinic and other local events to showcase an animal that is usually not taught and understood by the general public. I also plan to attend the 2020 American Dairy Goat Association National Show in Nebraska and other open shows with my family throughout the year.

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Vinh Nguyen showing Lucky at the 2019 Adair County Fair

A little background about myself:

I'm a seventeen year old senior at Orient-Macksburg High School. I've shown dairy goats for over seven years now, mostly due to my grandfather, Robert Houghtaling's influence. He's been in the dairy goat business for 40+ years, and I plan to follow in his footsteps. I've watched goats being shown at the Iowa State Fair for as long as I can remember. The first time I ever showed a goat myself, I was just five years old, showing one of my grandpa's Alpines, Yahtzee. If I'm not showing one of my own goats, it's a safe bet I'm showing someone else's. My other experiences in dairy goat showing include the Iowa Spring Classic in Colfax, IA.

This is my first time as a Youth Ambassador, but I hope that I will work with all of you well, and expand my knowledge of goat showing in the process. See you all at the shows!

My name is Vinh Nguyen, and I'm a Youth Ambassador for the Iowa Dairy Goat Association. I want to say that I'm grateful to be selected for this position, as it allows me to interact with a larger group of fellow showmen. I'm thrilled to have a chance to promote the association and build interest in raising and showing dairy goats. Special thanks to Deb Konen for informing me of this position.



Vinh Nguyen with Jen at the 2019 Adair County Fair

Everything Bagel Chevre Balls

By Susan Tilton

Here is a simple and easy goat cheese appetizer recipe. Kathy Bohan of Ballasalla Farms gave me this recipe, and I have used it many times.

All you have to do is roll some chevre into balls about the size of a quarter. Next roll the chevre balls in "Everything" bagel seasoning. Place on a platter/serving tray.

I like to chill the everything bagel chevre balls for about 30 minutes to 1 hour to allow flavors to blend, then serve.



Iowa State Fair Dairy Goat Show News

Greetings Iowa State Fair exhibitors,

It is with guarded breath that I announce Kurt Schnipke as our 2020 Iowa State Fair dairy goat judge. With all the spring shows being canceled, and many jobs on hold or lost, \$crimp, and \$ave and let's all hope the 2020 Iowa State Fair will be a grand reunion for us all.

Best regards, Butch Sowers

ADGA Current Update

Linear Appraisal: Our linear sessions for April were cancelled, and we will assess each month as we progress through the year. Notices about this are under the Performance Programs – Linear Appraisal tab on the ADGA website. Those members that have had or may have a cancellation are being contacted individually.

DNA testing services: Our contract lab, VGL, has made adjustments to their routines, but remains open at this time. We are not experiencing any lag in services. However, requests may take longer to process due to ADGA staff limitations. The online request form is the best way to order DNA and is found in the Forms section of the ADGA website.

DHIR: The Executive Committee has waived the 150 maximum days in milk for verification tests for Owner Sampler herds. You can schedule your VT at any time during the lactation year for your herd so can wait until the situation improves. We do recommend that as soon as it is safe to do so, that you schedule this VT.

For supervised herds:

Consider stretching out your test interval – there is no requirement regarding numbers of days in milk between tests. Visit the DHIR FAQ site for additional information. Discuss options with your DHIA – possibly apps can be used for video supervision of tests. We have heard from at least one that would consider such an alternative.

If you are not interested in Top Ten awards, you may want to consider going to an Owner Sampler plan. Records would qualify for AR or ST *M dependent on the requirements in the guidebook. Discuss options with your DHIA if you do not have a tester training document that would allow the use of the records for AR.

For herds concerned about management information, you can send in samples that are not part of your usual test schedule to the labs provided they are open for business. Work with your lab to know any special scheduling they may be implementing. Use this time to check your records – a checklist guide is available on the ADGA website. Production records are being received as usual from CDCB for electronic upload at ADGA and we anticipate no change in the genetic evaluation schedule.

The Executive Committee will re-evaluate ADGA's 2020 DHIR in 90 days as more information is known. If you have questions, please send an email to performanceprograms@adga.org.

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S, B

Early, Bruce & Delores
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http://earlyacresfarm.weebly.com/
Early Acres – D

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Osage, IA 50461
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Hillstar Farm – A, a, s

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http://7th-harvest-acres.com
7th Harvest Acres- A*

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Sunny D Acres – E, L

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712-829-2479
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G.L.C. - A, AA, N, AN

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Guitar Goats – S

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Gunn Stock Homestead – D

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7 Dwarfs - D

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King Creek - A, D, E

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Konen's Kids – D

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Pleasant-Grove – A*, S*

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Alton, IA 51003
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www.meadowvalleydairygoats.com
Meadow Valley – T, AT
Ranschau Acres – N, AN

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Krolls Hilly Acres – L, D

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Spring Creek Farm and Breeding – D

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Windy Pines 472 – T, E

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J&J Livestock – S, N*

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Jasper Farm – N

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Miller's M 100 – T*

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A, E

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Ma's Acres – A*, N*

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Ripley Farms – D*

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Lyn Farm- L, S

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Green Ash Farm – D

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EZ MARK – T, B, N

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Schmidt/ECF – T*

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Nubilop Acres – N, L

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Painted Oak Ridge – D

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Ten Oaks – S, N

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Van Wyk Acres – A, N

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Windy Hill Ranch- D

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319-239-7683 (Ginna cell)
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Viriden Creek – S

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Goat Hollow – N

Willey, Hannah
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goatmommasoap@gmail.com
515-505-0155
Goat Momma Ranch – N

Wise, Allison
24684 Hackberry Road
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D*

Woster, Pepper
Emerald Acres Organics
1908 Hwy 20
Lawton, IA 51030
712-522-9393
www.emeraldacresorganics.com
PEP HER GRAVY - D

Cuteness in all shapes and sizes! Pictured to the right, at the Meadow Hill dairy goat farm: Briar playing house with her 'go go'!



Additions or corrections to your breeder's listing here & on the website should be sent to Guinevere McIntyre at jasperfarm@live.com. Remember you can include pictures and more information about your farm and herd in your breeder's listing on www.iowadairygoat.org!

Annual membership dues are \$12, or \$20 for membership plus Breeder Listing in our newsletter and at www.iowadairygoat.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Herd Name: _____

Breeds: _____

Pay online with PayPal at www.iowadairygoat.org.

Consider buying a membership for someone new, it's a great way to help someone get connected with the goat community!

Join/renew online or mail form and check to:

Iowa Dairy Goat Association
Beth Buscher Konen, Secretary
15582 NE 104th St
Maxwell, IA 50161



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