

Getting Started With Dairy Goats & Sheep

Presenters:

Heidi Passino & Sarah Vogeley

Information

- Goats were the first animals domesticated by man in 10,000 BC
- Goat milk has superior ease of digestion and buffering properties, making it an ideal convalescent diet for people with digestive upsets or ulcers.
- The protein in goat milk differs from cow milk, and provides an alternative for some individuals with cow milk allergies.
- Goats were the first animals to be used for milk by humans
- Worldwide more people drink milk from goats than from any other single animal. Over 440 million goats (worldwide) produce an estimated 4.8 million tons of milk annually.
- Goat milk is broken down in the stomach in twenty minutes; it takes over an hour for the stomach to break down cow's milk.
- Sheep's milk is rich in Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium and Sodium. It also has Selenium, Zinc and Iron.

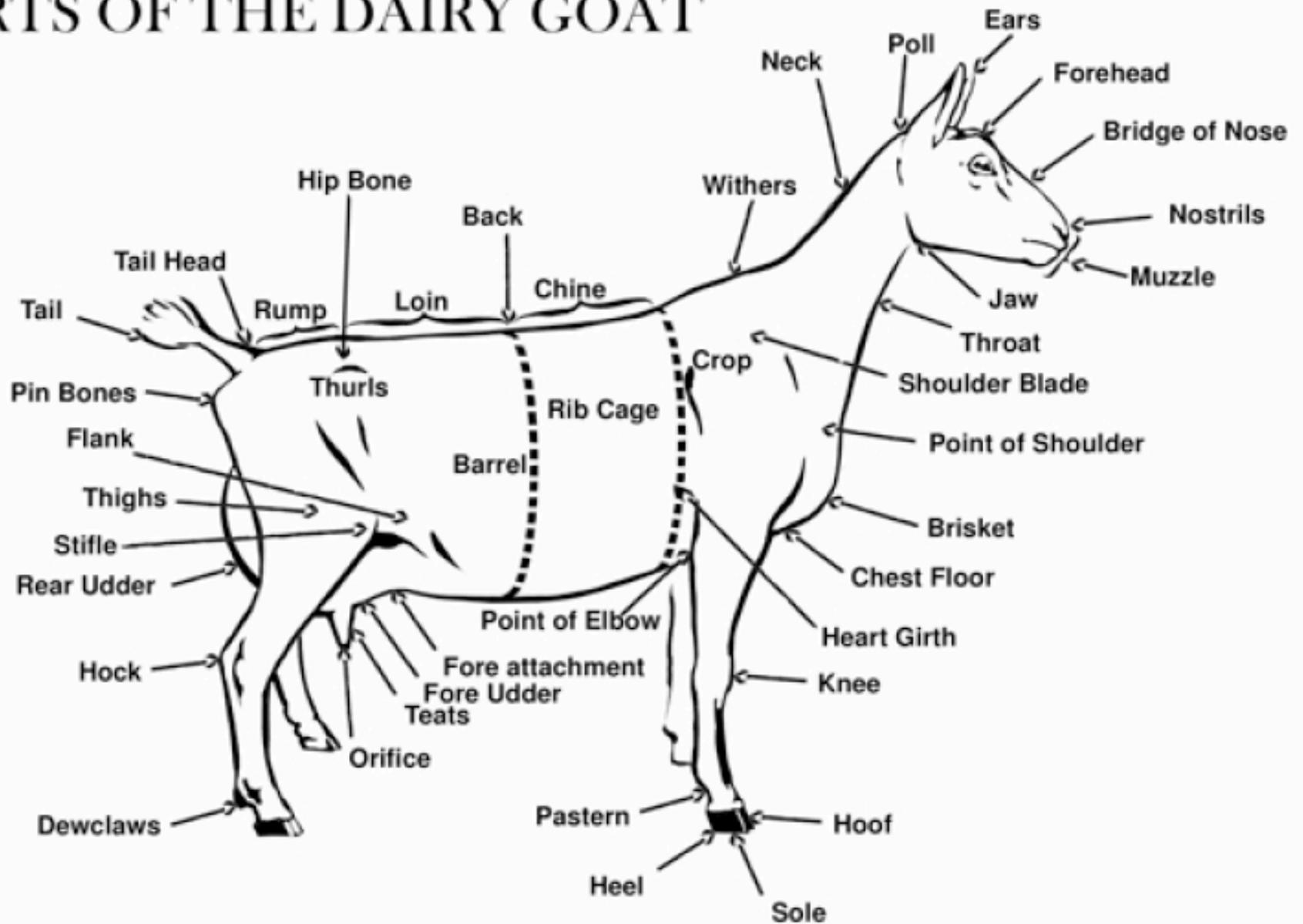
Choosing the right goat for you...

- Purebred or not
- Grade, American, Purebred (ADGA or AGS)
- Showing
- Breed and pedigree
- Goals: Milk, breed improvement, or BOTH
- Milk Records (ADGA)
- Conformation & mammary system

Conformation of the Dairy Goat



PARTS OF THE DAIRY GOAT



Basic Care & Housing

Heidi Passino - afternoon talk

- Feeding & Nutrition
- Housing
- Health maintenance

Milking Equipment & Supplies

- Milk Bucket (seamless stainless steel)
- Strip Cup
- Milking Stand & stool
- FightBac spray or teat dip
- Scale & milk record sheet
- Paper towels
- Strainer & filters
- Pasteurizer & thermometer
- Ice bath for fast cooling

Equipment & Supplies

- Halter & leadropes
- Hoof trimmer
- Drenching Gun
- Medicine Cabinet
- Dewormers (chemical/herbal)
- Mineral Feeder
- Baking Soda
- Water buckets (heated in winter)
- Hay Racks (don't feed on the ground)
- Dehorner
- Kidding supply Kit

Herd Health

- Choosing a small ruminant vet
- Deworming - parasite control
- Hoof trimming
- Coccidia prevention
- CAE/CL, Brucellosis, Johnnes
- CD&T Vaccination
- Bo-SE vitamin E & selenium supplement
- Consult with veterinarian for scheduling vaccinations and deworming
- Fecal analysis

Famacha© Anaemia Guide

Color Chart	
Inner eyelid coloring	
Quick Check Guide	
Parasitic Anemia	
1	Optimal <small>no dose</small>
2	Acceptable <small>no dose</small>
3	Borderline <small>dose?</small>
4	Dangerous <small>dose!</small>
5	Fatal <small>dose!</small>

Colors Based on
the Famacha© Anaemia Guide

Housing & pasture

- Dry, draft free stall or pen
- Outdoor access
- Bedding (straw or shavings)
- Keep hay OFF the ground
- Location of goats & milking area
- Escape artists

Feeding

- Fresh clean water, heated in winter
- Hay (alfalfa, orchard grass, fescue, timothy, mix)
- Grain (textured, pelleted, extras)
- Supplements
 - Minerals (species specific)
 - Baking soda
 - Himalayan salt
 - Kelp

Milk Handling

- Proper sanitation precautions at all times.
- Wash the udder and hands with sanitizing solution. Wipe away loose hair & dirt on udder and belly.
- Dry udder, then discard first few squirts of milk from each teat to clear orifices, and visually check milk for blood, clumps or strings (mastitis).
- Milk out udder thoroughly.
- Use teat dip or FightBac spray on each teat to seal the orifice.
- Immediately strain milk through proper strainer/filter system designed for this purpose.
- Pasteurize, then fast cool in ice bath before refrigerating.

Breeding

- Estrus runs late August - February
- 21 day heat cycle - signs
- Standing heat - 1 hour up to 3 days
- Gestation is 150 days
- Pregnancy testing
- Lactation period - average 305 days
- Bucks in rut

Kid Care

- Newborn care
- Feeding and Coccidia prevention
- Bottle versus dam raising kids
- CAE prevention
- Milk “sharing” with kids
- Selling/retaining kids

Links

- See handout

Happy Dairying!

