

## GUIDE TO SUCCESS WITH DAIRY GOAT SHOWS

WDGA IS AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND EDUCATION CONCERNING DAIRY GOATS. OUR GOAL IS TO TEACH YOUTH TO SUCCEED IN OPEN SHOWS BY PRACTICING CORRECT PROCEEDURES. WRITTEN TO ASSIST AND EDUCATE FOR ENJOYMENT OF SHOWING FOR BOTH THE EXHIBITORS AND THE SPECTATORS. WDGA SUPPORTS YOUTH WITH AWARDS AT THE WYOMING STATE FAIR AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACTIVITIES AND COLLEGE ATTENDANCE. WDGA SPONSORS TWO OPEN DAIRY GOAT SHOWS EACH YEAR.

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## Contact Information

Web Site: [wydga.org](http://wydga.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wyoming](https://www.facebook.com/wyoming) dairy goat association

## INTRODUCTION:

The Dairy Goat project in 4-H and FFA chapters across the State is not the most popular project by numbers nor is there available information for those charged with developing and actually producing a successful project for youth culminating with the showcasing of Dairy Goats at county fair events.

The WDGA organization's goal of providing this publication is for the purpose of educating individuals involved with Dairy Goats in developing a targeted project for the species that provides a positive experience for all involved.

## SHOW TIMES:

Dairy Goats produce milk. That is the species most important function. In their natural dairy situation, dairy goats produce established amount of milk every 12 hours (twice a day) thus the recognized 5:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M. milking times. When a show is scheduled for an afternoon time slot, this forces exhibitors to milk 12 hours prior to the show. Example: a 3:00 p.m. show would necessitate a 3:00 a.m. milk out to properly prepare an animal for showing. Over uddering can lead to mastitis at worse and a guaranteed reduction in milk production for the lactation. An udder not being milked regularly is instructed to decrease production.

Young Dairy Goats may be exhibited at any time because they are not producing milk. Adult dairy goats producing milk need an early morning show to exhibit at their best.

## SHOW ORDER:

Dairy Goat shows have a specific order based on the individual breeds' milking ability. This order is based on the speed of the udder filling recognized by breed. Saanens and Toggenbergs produce a larger quantity of milk in a lessor amount of time. Thus they are "full" within 12 hours. Nubians, for example,

normally produce "less" milk in 12 hours but are full at 15 hours. The capacity could be the same at show time, but usually as a breed, Saanens fill quicker than Nubians. There are always exceptions to this general rule, but this is the reason the established breed show order is suggested by ADGA.

Dairy Goats are also separated into adults (lactating) or seniors and young stock (non-milking) or juniors for the reasons mentioned above. This actually develops into two separate shows. The senior animals are shown first with the junior animals following. This is different from other species. Even other types of goats, Boer, Angora, Fainting, Kinder, Pygmies, Cashmere, etc. may be shown in other orders. But because of milk production, the senior dairy goats correctly are exhibited at a reasonable time.

## ENTRIES:

The importance of having the correct animals entering the show ring for judging cannot be stressed enough. Not only does the exhibitor enjoy participating in the show experience, the spectators will also appreciate a smooth, quickly completed event. Having fair entries correctly categorized as well as having an individual keeping exhibitors ready and flowing thru the ring is critical. This is achieved when complete understanding of the show system is known. ADGA show rules assist in this endeavor.

Definition of Senior Doe or Milker: Any doe that has ever freshened (produced offspring) is shown in the Senior Division. Most of these animals are currently milking, however, they may be dry at show time or have been dry for a year or more. There are special situations where an animal is milking but has not produced offspring (precocious milkers) and these are also shown in the senior division if being milked regularly.

Definition of Junior Does: Any animal 24 months or less that has never freshened will be shown in the Junior Division.

Most fairs do not allow male offspring of any age to be exhibited. Some allow a special class for the current years' male offspring (less than one year old) that have been castrated to be exhibited. Older Bucks for obvious reasons should not be used at fairs.

Animals are further divided into classes according to age. In the Senior Division the classes generally used are:

- 1 year old but less than 2
- 2 year old but less than 3
- 3 year old but less than 4
- 4 year old but less than 5
- 5 years old and over

Depending on the number of animals in the project, classes may be combined.

The Junior Division generally contains the following classes:

- Junior kids– 1 – 3 months
- Intermediate kids – 3 months – 4 months
- Senior kids - 4 months- 6 months
- Yearlings – 6 months – under 24 months

These classes also may be combined based on number of entries.

The age classes are further divided by breeds or groups of breeds depending upon entries. Example: A class may be composed of Swiss Type and another class of Nubian Type while still using the age groups.

## SHOWMANSHIP:

Showmanship is a very special contest when using Dairy Goats. As many species are just led around the show ring, posed for inspection, little interaction between judge and exhibitor, and placement based mostly on control of an animal. Dairy Goat Showmanship is unique by testing the skills of the showman involved with the animal as a team. During judging, there are numerous movements involving interaction between the showman and the Dairy Goat that must be learned and practiced. Dairy Goat Showman are also expected to “trade” animals to demonstrate their skills with the species. In addition, the judge discovers the depth of knowledge of the showman by questioning each showman on the management, body parts, faults, attributes of not only their own personal animal, but the animals in the show ring. There is a detailed point system that the showman must be familiar with and knowledge of the terms used in judging the species. This type of intense contest not only creates a situation where education is maximized but interaction between showman and Dairy Goat is an integral part of the experience.

Because of the movements involved in the showmanship contest, the age groups usually devised to separate the showman, (junior – (8-10) intermediate-(11-13) senior- (14-18) may be needed to be combined enabling the exhibitors to complete the maneuvers. A minimum of three animals are necessary to complete judging of Dairy Goat Showmanship. Placement of winners can be separated, but to complete the contest, the minimum number of animals are needed. A stand-in may also be necessary if enough dairy showman are not available.

FFA Rules may not allow wethers to be used as showmanship animals. Their rules state that the showmanship animal must be entered in a breed class.

## CROWD PLEASERS:

Dairy Goats create special project display situations in many ways. Dairy Goats are such curious animals and appeal because they interact with the public. They do not hide shyly in the back of a pen but usually watch and greet the on lookers. Dairy Goats also are exhibited with the young animals being shown. Baby goats are the definition of “cute and loveable”. Because they come in various sizes, colors, and styles, they are a display the public comes to view. Add the item of decorating pens and the attraction is increased. Nothing is more appealing than “Goats in Hats” either.

However, the largest appeal to the crowds must be the milking aspect. Setting up a separate Milking Parlor with publicity of milking times, will draw the public in large numbers. This showcases the most important aspect of Dairy Goats, their production.

## KEEPING AND INCREASING THE PROJECT:

Because the Dairy Goat Project is not a short summer market type event and often involves years of participation, the commitment can be great. Goats are a wonderful project for this very reason. The education increases as the project evolves. Listed below are some of the added fun and visual aids to keep the youth enthused.

Decorate Pens – wooden or paper outlines of goats painted in various ways to either show special interests the individual has or representing individual animals.

Create Posters for display around the barn. Educational on breeds, products, management, or fun (how many squirts to fill a cup).

Milking Parlor – separate from the penning area with milking stands and milking supplies

Costume Contest – dress-up for goats, Style Show or goats in hats contest

Production Chart – all milkers participate and complete a bar graph for the week of fair- compare breeds for production.

Demonstrations – publicly present a demo - Packing, pulling carts, obstacle courses, coats, collars, for goats.

Fast Draw Contest – timed milking and weighing of milk- involve the public

Programs: Create for both the show situation, spectators and exhibitors. Also create a get to know each other. Match name of exhibitor with goat, cross-word puzzle of goat terms, etc. hand out at beginning of fair to complete for a prize.

## KEEP THAT INTEREST GOING:

Contact WDGA members to share knowledge with youth and present clinics on all aspects of Dairy Goats. Kidding, grooming, management, hoof trimming, showmanship, genetics, breeding, etc.

## SHOWING PROCEDURES EXPLAINED:

### Junior Does:

Step 1: Each age class enters the ring and a 1<sup>st</sup> – number of entries- are chosen.

Step 2: From each age class the 1<sup>st</sup> place return to the ring to pick the GCH of breed. In age descending order.

Step 3: To Choose RCH. The remaining 1<sup>st</sup> places are joined by the animal that stood 2<sup>nd</sup> place vacated by the GCH.

Step 4: From these, the RCH is chosen. If there is not a 2<sup>nd</sup> place from the class, the remaining group is considered for RCH.

Step 5: Each breed representative of GCH return to the ring to choose Best Junior Doe in Show. Also in show order.

Senior Does:

Step 1: Each age class enters the ring and a 1<sup>st</sup> thru (Number of entries) are placed.

Step 1 ½: Each age class may contain a best udder placement per class.

Step 2: From each age class the 1<sup>st</sup> place return to the ring to pick the GCH of breed.

Step 3: To choose RCH, the remaining 1<sup>st</sup> places are joined by the animal who stood in 2<sup>nd</sup> place vacated by the GCH.

Step 4: From these, the RCH is chosen. If there is not a 2<sup>nd</sup> place vacated by the GCH. The remaining group is complete and will be considered.

Step 5: Senior does have an extra class for past show winners termed Champion Challenge. This class is for GCH animals. If there are animals entered in this class, they will enter the ring following the selection of the GCH of breed and compete with the Champion of the Day (GCH that has just be chosen) for the placing of Best of Breed. There is no RCH from this class. If there is not a Champion Challenge class, the GCH is the Best of Breed.

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Step 6: If this award is held, Winners from step 1 ½ class return to ring to choose Best Udder of Breed.

Step 7: The winner of Step 5 (Best of Breed) returns to the ring after all breeds have been shown to complete for Best Senior Doe of Show.

Step 8: Winners of step 6 will return to the ring to complete for Best Udder in Show. Not all shows have this award. No reserve is chosen.

LIST OF YOUTH SHOW JUDGES:

Adam Bohlmeier 970-356-7543, Kirstan Castro 307-631-4676  
Billy Wood-307-421-1743 , Joseph Larson-970-686-6672  
Carlee Stutz-stutzfive@gmail.com, Kaitlin Butler -307-640-2699  
Emily Balfour-307-315-1956 ,Erin Lile-307-760-7046

Amy, Lauren, and Courtney Newman, doesgoats@hotmail.com

Contact Community Colleges or Universities about judging team members who may have proficiency in the species.

SHOWS IN AREA:

WDGA Fuzzy Goat Show – Memorial weekend – Torrington, Wy

Tri-County Goat Show – June – Longmont, CO

Wyo. State Fair: - August – Douglas, WY

Harvest Goat Show – Sept – Longmont, CO

Colo. State Fair – Sept – Pueblo, CO

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## Harnessing Your Goat

The purpose of a harness is not only to pull the cart, but also to keep the cart in place and preventing it from going up, down, forward, or backward. Each part of the harness has a specific function. The parts are pictured and labelled on the following page and their function is as follows:

Breast piece and Tugs: Pull the cart forward

Long Lines: Steer the goat

Butt Strap and Hold back strap: Prevent the cart from running into the back of the goat

Tie Down Straps: Keep the cart from flipping up

Shaft Loops: Keep the cart shafts from falling down

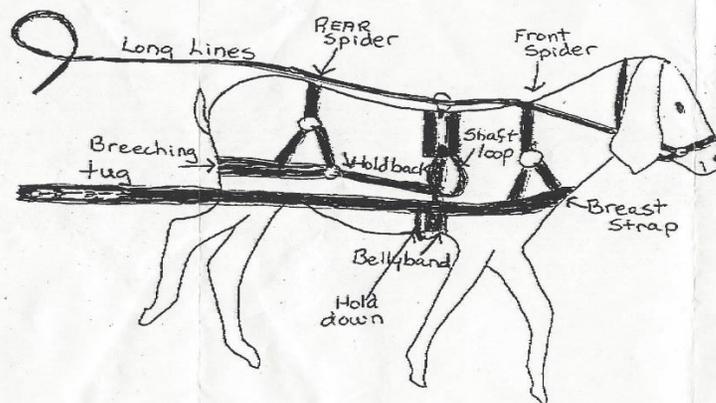
Backband and Belly band: Attach the harness to the goat

The harness consists of four main sections:

1. Breast piece and traces: The part that is actually used to pull the cart forward.
2. Long Lines: Used to control the goat and guide it.
3. Main Harness Parts: Used to keep the cart in place and hold it away from the goat.
4. Driving Halter

1. Begin by placing the backband over the goat's back at the wither and fasten the belly band under the belly just behind the front legs.
2. Pull the breeching back and drop it over the rump and adjust top straps so that it rides comfortably across the butt.
3. Place the breast piece around the goat's chest with the neckstrap over the shoulder as pictured.
4. Bring the cart shafts up on each side of the goat and pass them through the loops hanging on the side of the backband. Adjust the height of the loops so that the cart shafts are about midway on the side of the goat and forward so that the ends of the shafts are just past the front of the goat's chest.
5. Pass the traces back to the cart and hook them on the hooks at the back of the shafts or onto the single tree.
6. Bring the hold back lines (straps attached to dee rings on each side of the breeching) forward and buckle them through the loop on the top of the cart shaft.
7. Bring the straps attached to the dee rings on the belly band up and buckle snugly around the shafts of the cart. (wrap twice around the shaft and buckle) These keep the cart shafts from rising up.
8. Attach the long lines one on each side of the driving halter and pass them back through the terrets on the top of the backband.
9. If everything is hooked up properly, your cart should be held firmly in place, unable to get out of position.

## HAPPY DRIVING



## XVII. ADGA SCORECARDS

The goal of the Unified Scorecard is to aid in the selection of the type of dairy goat that can function efficiently over a long productive lifetime.

### Application of the Scorecard:

General appearance in senior does and junior does are to be evaluated identically, giving due regard to the advantage of structural correctness maintained into full maturity. In evaluating the general appearance of bucks, heavier emphasis should be placed on front end assembly, legs, pasterns, and feet. This places a high priority on correctness and smoothness of movement in males.

Dairy Character is to be evaluated similarly in senior does, junior does and bucks.

Body Capacity evaluation in junior does and junior bucks should show more emphasis on chest than barrel since extreme depth and width of barrel, particularly in the flank, can be a sign of over maturity for the age. Mature bucks will carry more weight when out of rut, so their body capacity evaluations, particularly barrel, should consider this phenomenon.

The Mammary System in junior does and bucks have no assigned points. However, very serious defects are to be discriminated against in junior does, though no comment should be made on precocious udders, unless such an udder shows clinical signs of potential health abnormalities. In bucks, comments should be restricted to items listed as dis-qualifications in the evaluation of defects. Buck teats of normal structure, yet with milk, should not be discriminated against.

### POINTS

- A. GENERAL APPEARANCE . . . . .
- An attractive framework with femininity (masculinity in bucks), strength, upstandingness, length, and smoothness of blending throughout that create an impressive style and graceful walk.

Stature--slightly taller at withers than at hips with long bone pattern throughout.

Sr. Doe	Jr. Doe	Buck
35	55	55
2	2	2

**POINTS**

**Head and Breed Characteristics**--clean-cut and balanced in length, width, and depth; broad muzzle with full nostrils; well-sculpted, alert eyes; strong jaw with angular lean junction to throat; appropriate size, color, ears, and nose to meet breed standard.

**Front End Assembly**--prominent withers arched to point of shoulder with shoulder blade, point of shoulder, and point of elbow set tightly and smoothly against the chest wall both while at rest and in motion; deep and wide into chest floor with moderate strength of brisket.

**Back**--strong and straight with well-defined vertebrae throughout and slightly uphill to withers; level chine with full crops into a straight, side loin; wide hips smoothly set and level with back; strong rump which is uniformly wide and nearly level from hips to pinbones and thru to thurl; pinbones; well-defined and wide pinbones set slightly lower than the hips; tail-head slightly above and smoothly set between pinbones; tail symmetrical to body and free from coarseness; vulva normal in size and shape in females (normal sheath and testes in males).

**Legs, Pasterns & Feet**--bone flat and strong throughout leading to smooth, free motion; front legs with clean knees, straight, wide apart and squarely placed; rear legs wide apart and straight from the rear and well angulated in side profile through the stifle to cleanly molded hocks, nearly perpendicular from hock to strong, yet flexible pastern of medium length; strong feet with tight toes, pointed directly forward; deep heels with sole nearly uniform in depth from toe to heel.

**B. DAIRY CHARACTER** . . . . .

Angularity and general openness with strong yet refined and clean bone structure, showing freedom from coarseness and with evidence of milking ability giving due regard to stage of lactation (or breeding season in bucks).

**Neck**--long, lean and blending smoothly into the shoulders; clean-cut throat and brisket.

**Withers**--prominent and wedge-shaped with the dorsal process rising slightly above the shoulder blades.

**Ribs**--flat, flinty, wide apart, and long; lower rear ribs should angle to flank.

**Flank**--deep, yet arched and free of excess tissue.

Sr. Doe	Jr. Doe	Buck
5	10	8
5	8	10
8	12	10
15	23	25
20	30	30

**POINTS**

**Thighs**--in side profile, moderately incurving from pinbone to stifle; from the rear, clean and wide apart, highly arched and out-curving into the escutcheon to provide ample room for the udder and its attachment.

**Skin**--thin, loose, and pliable with soft, lustrous hair.

**C. BODY CAPACITY** . . . . .

Relatively large in proportion to size, age, and period of lactation of animal (of breeding season for bucks), providing ample capacity, strength, and vigor.

**Chest**--deep and wide, yet clean-cut, with well sprung foreribs, full in crops and at point of elbow.

**Barrel**--strongly supported, long, deep, and wide; depth and spring of rib tending to increase into a deep yet refined flank.

**D. MAMMARY SYSTEM** . . . . .

Strongly attached, elastic, well-balanced with adequate capacity, quality, ease of milking, and indicating heavy milk production over a long period of usefulness.

**Udder Support**--strong medial suspensory ligament that clearly defines the udder halves, contributes to desirable shape and capacity, and holds the entire udder snugly to the body and well above the hocks. Fore, rear, and lateral attachments must be strong and smooth.

**Fore Udder**--wide and full to the side and extending moderately forward without excess non-lactating tissue and indicating capacity, desirable shape, and productivity.

**Rear Udder**--capacious, high, wide, and arched into the escutcheon; uniformly wide and deep to the floor; moderately curved in side profile without protruding beyond the vulva.

**Balance, Symmetry & Quality**--in side profile, one-third of the capacity visible in front of the leg, one-third under the leg, and one-third behind the leg; well-rounded with soft, pliable, and elastic texture that is well collapsed after milking, free of scar tissue, with halves evenly balanced.

**Teats**--uniform size and of medium length and diameter in proportion to capacity of udder, cylindrical in shape, pointed nearly straight down or slightly forward, and situated two-thirds of the distance from the medial suspensory ligament on the floor of each udder-half to the side, indicating ease of milking.

Sr. Doe	Jr. Doe	Buck
10	15	15
4	7	7
6	8	8
35		
13		
5		
7		
6		
4		
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100

**E. SHOWMANSHIP**

1. **APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL** . . . . .  
**Condition and Thriftiness**--showing normal growth--neither too fat nor too thin.  
**Hair**--clean and properly groomed.  
**Hooves**--trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally.  
**Neatly disbudded** if the animal is not naturally hornless.  
**Clipping**--entire body if weather has permitted, showing allowance to get a neat coat of hair by show time; neatly trimmed tail and ears.  
**Cleanliness**--as shown by a clean body as free from stains as possible, with special attention to legs, feet, rail area, nose, and ears.
2. **APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR** . . . . .  
 Clothes and person neat and clean--white costume preferred.
3. **SHOWING ANIMAL IN THE RING** . . . . .  
**Leading**--enter, leading the animal at a normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking on the left side, holding the collar with the right hand. Exhibitor should walk as normally and inconspicuously as possible.  
**Goat should lead readily** and respond quickly. Lead equipment should consist of a collar or small link chain, properly fitted.  
**As the Judge studies the animal**, the preferred method of leading is to walk on the side away from the Judge.  
**Lead slowly** with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage, and graceful walk.  
**Pose and show** an animal so it is between the exhibitor and the Judge as much as possible. Avoid exaggerated positions, such as crossing behind the goat.  
**Stand or kneel** where both Judge and animal may be observed.  
**Pose animal** with front feet squarely beneath and hind feet slightly spread. Where possible, face animal upstage with her front feet on a slight incline. Neither crown other exhibitors nor leave too much space when leading into a side-by-side position.  
**When Judge changes placing**, lead animal forward out of line, down or up to the place directed then back through the line, finally making a U-turn to get into position. When a Judge changes placing in a head-to-tail sequence, lead animal out of line and up or down the line on the side next to the

POINTS	
	40
10	
10	
10	
10	
	10
	50
10	
15	

Judge. It is the responsibility of another handler to accommodate changes by moving up or down on the side opposite the Judge.  
**To step animal ahead**--use slight pull on collar. If the animal steps badly out of place, return her to position by leading her forward and making a circle back through your position in the line.  
**When Judge is observing the animal**, if she moves out of position, replace her as quickly and inconspicuously as possible.  
**Be natural.** Overshowing, undue fussing, and maneuvering are objectionable.  
**Show animal to best advantage**, recognizing the conformation faults of the animal you are leading and striving to help overcome them.  
**Poise, alertness, and courteous attitude** are all desired in the show ring. Showmen should keep an eye on their animals and be aware of the position of the Judge at all times--but should not stare at the Judge. Persons or things outside the ring should not distract the attention of the showmen. Respond rapidly to requests from judges or officials, and be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times, respecting the rights of other exhibitors. The best showmen will show their animals at all times--not themselves--and will continue exhibiting well until the entire class has been placed, the Judge has given his reasons, and he has dismissed the class.

POINTS	
15	
10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	
	100

**Suggested Uniform:** Long-sleeved white shirt, regulation white pants, 4-H or FFA cap (if applicable), with matching shoes and belt in either black, white, or brown.

**F. HERDSMANSHIP**

**1. PREPARATION OF THE EXHIBIT**

- Adequate, clean bright bedding
- Animals attractively spaced in pens
- Decorations neat and attractive
- Appropriate signs
- Well-chosen color scheme--background, tack-boxes, etc.

**2. APPEARANCE AND ATTITUDE OF EXHIBITORS**

- Knowledgeable, courteous, friendly, able to answer questions about exhibit or dairy goats.
- Clothes and person neat and clean, appropriately dressed.

**3. CARE OF THE EXHIBIT**

- Dairy goats clean, clipped (before show), feet trimmed.
- Aisles kept neat and clean.
- Attractive, organized feeders and feed equipment.
- Feed and equipment stored neatly when not in use (out of sight if possible), and kept clean.

**TOTAL**

POINTS	
	40
10	
10	
10	
5	
5	
	15
10	
5	
	45
15	
10	
10	
10	
	100

**APPLICATION OF SCORECARD TO SENIOR DOES, JUNIOR DOES, AND BUCKS**

The goal of the UNIFIED ADGA DAIRY GOAT SCORECARD is to aid in the selection of the type of dairy goat that can function efficiently over a long productive lifetime. Senior does and junior does are to be evaluated identically for general appearance and dairy character, giving due regard to the advantage of structural correctness maintained into full maturity. In considering the body capacity of junior does, slightly more emphasis should be placed on chest than barrel since extreme depth and width of barrel, particularly in the flank, can be a sign of overmaturity for the age. Although junior does have no points assigned for mammary system, very serious defects are discriminated against. No comment should be made on precocious udders, unless such an udder shows clinical signs of potential health abnormalities. In evaluating the general appearance of bucks, heavier emphasis should be placed on front end assembly and legs, pasterns, and feet. Correctness and smoothness of movement assume a higher priority in males. Bucks can be expected to carry more weight when out of rut; their body capacity evaluation, particularly barrel, will be affected most by this phenomenon. Comment on the mammary system of a buck should be restricted to items listed as disqualifications in the evaluation of defects. Buck teats of normal structure yet with milk should not be discriminated against.

**PRODUCTION CHART**

