

ABOUT OFFICIAL MILK RECORDS AND TITLES

When a doe on official milk test meets the standards set for her breed and age, she is eligible to bear the title of AR doe (Advanced Registry doe) and *D (star doe). The herd owner is responsible for submitting a copy of her official milk record to the registration association. The association then awards the title.

A doe can only earn one star. If her daughter also earns a star, she becomes a 2*D. If her granddaughter earns a star, she becomes a 3*D, and so on. A doe is also eligible for a star if she meets the standards for her breed and age on a one-day milk test. In this case, she would not be an AR doe, which is reserved for those does on DHIR test. A doe can also earn a star if she produces three *D daughters, or two +S sons, or two *D daughters and one +S son.

If the doe is also a Master Champion (she has won GCH at official shows three times under at least two different judges), she will become an ARMCH*D.

A buck can be born a *S (star sire) if his dam is a *D and his sire is a +S, or if both his dam and his sire's dam are *D's. The star can be added to his record if he becomes eligible later in life.

A buck earns a +S title if three of his daughters out of different dams earn stars, or if two sons earn a plus, or if two daughters are *D's and one son is a +S. If he has three daughters who are *D's and two sons who are +S, he earns two pluses. Thus a buck from a line of tested does can eventually become a ++*S. A buck becomes an AR sire if his progeny earn their titles through DHIR testing and if an AR sire becomes a Master Champion his title will be ARMCH++*S.

Now that you've learned all there is about the titles, how about those milk records? Here is how it works:

Example:

4.07-20³/₈-305-1431-95(6.6%)61(4.3%);
347-1547-104-66

This means that the doe was four years, seven months at the time she freshened, and was officially measured at 20³/₈" during the lactation (miniature breeds only). In 305 days, which is the standard length of lactation, she gave fourteen hundred and thirty-one pounds of milk, 95 pounds of fat averaging 6.6%, and sixty-one pounds of protein averaging 4.3%. She milked past her 305 days, so her final record was one thousand-five hundred-forty-seven pounds of milk, one hundred and four pounds of fat, and sixty-six pounds of protein in three hundred and forty-seven days.

A complete list of the DHIR rules as well as the calculation formula for the one-day milk test are included in the AGS members handbook and on the website at www.americangoatsociety.com.



May 2003



AMERICAN GOAT SOCIETY
MILK PRODUCTION STANDARDS
Effective January 1, 1998



AGE FRESH	STANDARD BREEDS		MINIATURE BREEDS	
	LBS MILK	LBS B'FAT	LBS MILK	LBS B'FAT
2.00 or less	1,500	52.50	500	25.00
2.01	1,506	52.71	502	25.10
2.02	1,512	52.92	504	25.20
2.03	1,518	53.13	506	25.30
2.04	1,524	53.34	508	25.40
2.05	1,530	53.55	510	25.50
2.06	1,536	53.76	512	25.60
2.07	1,542	53.97	514	25.70
2.08	1,548	54.18	516	25.80
2.09	1,554	54.39	518	25.90
2.10	1,560	54.60	520	26.00
2.11	1,566	54.81	522	26.10
3.00	1,572	55.02	524	26.20
3.01	1,578	55.23	526	26.30
3.02	1,584	55.44	528	26.40
3.03	1,590	55.65	530	26.50
3.04	1,596	55.86	532	26.60
3.05	1,602	56.07	534	26.70
3.06	1,608	56.28	536	26.80
3.07	1,614	56.49	538	26.90
3.08	1,620	56.70	540	27.00
3.09	1,626	56.91	542	27.10
3.10	1,623	57.12	544	27.20
3.11	1,638	57.33	546	27.30
4.00	1,644	57.54	548	27.40
4.01	1,650	57.75	550	27.50
4.02	1,656	57.96	552	27.60
4.03	1,662	58.17	554	27.70
4.04	1,668	58.38	556	27.80
4.05	1,674	58.59	558	27.90
4.06	1,680	58.80	560	28.00
4.07	1,686	59.01	562	28.10
4.08	1,692	59.22	564	28.20
4.09	1,698	59.43	566	28.30
4.10	1,704	59.64	568	28.40
4.11	1,710	59.85	570	28.50
5.00 & over	1,719	60.17	572	28.60

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**ABC's of
Milk Testing**

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All you ever wanted to know about going on milk test with AGS

Official milk testing with a registry and through the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association is called "DHIR". At least 10 times during the year, about a month apart, a certified DHI technician comes to the farm and weighs and samples each doe's milk. The samples are sent to a lab to be tested for butterfat, protein and optional somatic cell count. Reports of the lab analysis with "to test date" pounds of milk, butterfat, and protein are sent to the herd owner after each test.

GETTING STARTED

To begin the testing process, first find out if there are any other goat herds on test in your area. Find out if there are any "circles". A circle is a group of three or more herd owners who test one another. It is the least expensive program. The circle doesn't have to be just AGS animals. You can join a circle whose members own ADGA registered does. A DHI supervisor must train all members in a circle group. Most members in a circle group "pay" the tester fee by testing each other.

If there are other DHI herds on your area, find out which DHI association, lab and Dairy Record Processing Center (DRPC) they use and if they are satisfied with the service. There are many DRPCs in the country, and you may choose the one you want to use. The AGS DHI Coordinator has a list of the DHI associations and DRPCs. They all charge different monthly fees, usually about \$2.50 per animal.

If you can't find a circle to join, try to find either a goat or cow tester. It's more expensive to have a supervised test, due to the tester's fee and mileage fees. Most cow testers charge a substantial fee, but may agree to test you for a reduced fee when testing a nearby cow herd. If you can't find a circle or a cow tester, ask a nearby friend (it can't be a relative or anybody with a financial interest in your goats) if he/she would be willing to be trained and licensed as a milk tester.

When you have found someone willing to test you, contact the AGS DHI Coordinator for an application. It will arrive with a list of rules. ***Make sure you read them and be prepared to follow them to the letter. Send your application, required fee, and herd list at least 30 days before your first test.*** You will receive permission to test (a copy will be sent to the DHI association you chose) and then you can set up your first test. You can start on DHIR any-time, but renewal applications, fees, and herd lists for subsequent years are due January 1.

RULES TO REMEMBER.

- When you send in your application, be sure to include on your herd list all does "of a breed" (the breed(s) you will have on test) that have ever freshened or are expected to freshen during the coming year. If you have does you do not milk, contact the DHI Coordinator for advice; you may be able to leave them off the herd list.
- All does of a breed living in your herd, *regardless of ownership*, must be entered on the doe list. Any new does entering the herd during the year must be added to the list and sent to the DHI coordinator with the appropriate fee to be on official DHIR test. Does not added to the herd list before the end of that herd's DHI year will not be eligible for stars, awards, etc.
- Make sure all miniature does are measured during their lactation by the tester, using an official AGS measuring stick. No records will be accepted on miniature does who have not been measured. The height will become part of the official record. If the doe is over height, "OH" will appear as part of the record.
- The **herd owner** is responsible for sending in all completed records. Since AGS has no way yet of obtaining milk records electronically from USDA or the processing centers, we must rely on the herd owners. Owners of does on DHIR testing are required by AGS regulations to send in *all completed milk records*. A completed milk record is *any* record, no matter how short or low. When you report that a doe is dry or has left the herd for any reason (death or sale), your data processing center (DRPC) will send you an "individual doe sheet", or "IDS" for short. Check the IDS to make sure it is 100% accurate. Make a copy of the IDS, making sure it indicates in the status box that it is a completed record. If it's a completed record, it will show the date and the new status; i.e.: dry, died, sold, etc. The DHI coordinator would greatly appreciate it if you could send in the copies of your IDS sheets as you receive them. This will prevent having to work with hundreds of records at the last minute.
- The DHI coordinator must receive completed records by March 1 for them to be considered for the previous year's Production Awards. For example, all milk records *completed in 2001* must be received by March 1, 2002. Records received after that date will be added to the database, and used in subsequent All-Time Production Awards, but will not appear in any year's Production Awards.
- If a doe is on an extended lactation after December 31, and she won't be dry by the deadline, send in the barn sheet listing the doe's 305-day lactation. The 305-day and lifetime records will be used for the year being compiled. When the doe finishes the lactation, send in her IDS to the DHI coordinator. The extended lactation record will be used for that year.

- Records of does completing a lactation in a particular year will be used for that year's Top Ten Production awards as long as the doe was on the herd list and per doe fees paid and the records are received by the DHI coordinator by March 1.
- +S, *D, and *S are awarded automatically as long as records have been sent in. No application or fee is necessary. The normal revision fee is required to add the designations to the registration certificate. Certificates for the award are available for \$3.
- VT (verification tests) are *REQUIRED* on all herds on an ITP (Innovative Test Plan) and when a doe milks a certain amount of milk or butterfat. Those amounts are in the AGS DHI rules. It is the responsibility of the herd owner to be aware that a VT is needed and to make arrangements to have one done. A VT can be done at a one-day test, in lieu of, or in addition to the regular test. If a VT is required, it must be done before that lactation ends. A VT test is required for does to be eligible for Lincoln awards.
- Owners on test will receive a Top Ten Awards brochure for their DHI year at no cost. Others may order it from the office.

DHIR is one of the most exciting programs available for goats. DHIR helps you decide if your feeding, breeding, and management programs are working, as well as advising you which animals can better contribute to your herd goals of milk production.

ONE-DAY TESTS

Another option for recognition of milk production is a one-day test, either group tests or one owner.

Group test fees, applied for at least 30 days in advance, are \$25 and can have an unlimited number of does/owners participating.

Single owner permits are for one owner only at a rate of \$5 (good for one test, anytime during a 6 month period) plus a fee of \$2 per doe tested.

These fees are payable to AGS and do not include the fees due to the DRPC and tester who processes your milk samples and sends the results to the AGS DHI coordinator for calculation.

This is an inexpensive, easy way to get an official record of your does milking ability but will not give you the 'whole picture' that at 305 day record will. A one-day test can earn your doe a *D, while 305 day test can earn her an AR (advanced registry) *D recognition and a full lactation record.