

AGS DHI Rules and Procedures

DHIR is production testing through the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association (NDHIA) and the animal registry. It is the responsibility of all AGS members on DHI/DHIR test to know and abide by AGS DHIR Rules and Procedures, their state or association rules, the NDHIA Uniform Operating Procedures (UOP), except as noted by AGS, and the NDHIA Code of Ethics. AGS is not bound by ADGA rules or the rules of any other registry.

1. The herd owner will make his own arrangements for DHIR testing with his state or DHI Association and the laboratory they will use, and will complete an application to test with AGS.
2. The herd owner will send the application, along with the required annual doe list and the appropriate fee, to the AGS DHI coordinator. The DHI coordinator will issue a permit to test and the herd is thereby enrolled in the AGS DHIR program. Herds may begin testing any month of the year as soon as fees are paid and permission to test is received. Renewal fees are due by January 31 regardless of the month testing began the prior year.
3. All does of a breed that are regularly milked members of the herd and have ever freshened or will freshen during the year must be enrolled.
4. AGS recognizes a number of test recording programs for DHIR. Herd owners may use NDHIA dairy herd definitions A, B, C, D, E, or F.
 - A. Code 20-Standard or DHI-Conventional. DHI technician weighs and samples the milk from 2 consecutive milkings.
 - B. Code 02-AM/PM-Component Sampling-(APCS)-DHI technician weighs and samples one milking alternating AM and PM each test. Owner weighs and records prior milking. 1st test: AM-owner weighs and records (no samples). PM-technician weighs, records and samples. 2nd test: PM-owner weighs and records. AM-technician weighs, records and samples. Repeat 1st and 2nd test procedures throughout lactation.
 - C. Code 31-AM/PM without time monitor (AP). Technician weighs and samples AM or PM, alternating each test period.
 - D. Code 01-AM/PM Component sampling with timer (APT). This test is the same as AP except a time monitor is required.
 - E. Code 00-Every-other-month (EOM). DHI technician weighs, records and samples 2 consecutive milkings every other month. Owner weighs and records for the intervening months and sends barn sheets to their lab.
 - F. Code 40-Owner Sampler (OS). Owner weighs milk and sends in samples monthly. This program is limited to star awards (not AR) and does are not eligible for Lincoln Awards.
5. AGS recognizes reciprocal testing (two licensed milk test supervisors testing one another on a regular basis in the DHIR program) as long as a verification test is done between 50 and 160 days into each doe's lactation. The verification test is to be performed by a licensed milk test supervisor who has not tested the herd within the last twelve months.
6. If more than one verification test is necessary to comply with the 50 to 160 day rule during the current test year, the same person may do the tests for the duration of the test year. The milk records will be treated in the same way as any testing program, such as being eligible for AR titles and Top Ten placings.
7. AGS recognizes group testing-Three or more owners test each other's herd. Any of the above recording programs may be used (except, of course, owner sampler). Each group member must use the same program and be trained as a DHI technician.
8. AGS recognizes one-day milk tests-Does participate in an official one-day AGS test at a show or on the farm. AGS also recognizes one-day milk tests authorized by other registries.
9. In addition, AGS will recognize as official any test or test program the member's DHI Association accepts as official.
10. This rule refers to procedure 10, NDHIA UOP. AGS endorses the NDHIA Procedures that apply to dairy goats only. This pertains to handling records of does aborting or kidding early.
11. Testing Interval (days between tests) The suggested number of days between tests is 30. Check your DHI Assoc. limits. Herd owners should be sure their testing intervals fit into the definition of a DHIR year. The test year is 10 or more consecutive tests in a 12-month period. USDA negatively weights records of does that go over 75 days after freshening.

12. All persons recording test day data must be certified as official DHI technicians yearly by an NDHIA Assoc. or affiliate. This includes group members and herd owners of APCS, APT, AP and EOM testing programs. In addition, DHI technicians will not test any herd/animal of an immediate relative, employer, employee or one the technician has any pecuniary interest in.
13. Equipment - Scales and or timers must be DHI certified annually when used by owners to collect official data.
14. Verification test:
 - A. is required at about mid-lactation for all herds on APCS, EOM, AP and APT test plans. Owner sampler and reciprocal tested herds must have a verification test performed between 50 and 160 days into the lactation. This rule may result in having to hold more than one verification test during the year if any does do not fit into this time frame.
 - B. is required for standard size breeds when a doe in milk at least 90 days has an actual basis of 3000 lbs. of milk and 105 lbs. of butterfat or a mature equivalent of 3500 lbs. of milk and 125 lbs. of butterfat; and when on a 180 day basis the mature equivalent is 4000 lbs. of milk and 140 lbs. of butterfat
 - C. is required for the miniature breeds when a doe in milk at least 90 days has an actual basis of 1000 lbs. of milk and 50 lbs. of butterfat or a mature equivalent of 1167 lbs. of milk and 58 lbs. of butterfat; and when on a 180 day basis has a mature equivalent of 1333 lbs. of milk and 67 lbs. of butterfat
 - D. will follow NDHIA UOP
 - E. is required for Lincoln Awards
 - F. AGS does not require whole herd verification tests except for innovative test plans
15. Herd owners enrolled in the AGS DHIR program grant permission to AGS the right to publish all records.
16. All doe pages (individual cow pages) must be sent to the DHI Coordinator upon completion of the lactation. A completed lactation is one where the doe is dry or has left the herd for any reason. The monthly report listing the 305 day record for does milking beyond 305 days, but not yet completed by December 31, may be sent in to be eligible for the current Top Ten and other awards. When the lactation *is* completed, the doe sheet, listing the completed record must be sent to the DHI Coordinator.
17. Penalty for not submitting doe pages-It is mandatory that the herd owner send all doe pages to the DHI Coordinator by the March 1 deadline for does that completed lactations during the test year. If the herd owner does not comply, a \$5.00 penalty will be charged for the awarding of each subsequent doe's AR. The herd owner may appeal the penalty to the DHI Committee within 30 days of the notice of non-compliance. If the Committee finds there is justification for non-compliance, the fee will be waived.
18. Records for miniature breeds will not be considered complete unless the height measurement form has been received.
19. Doe pages for lactations completed by December 31 and received after March 1 will not be eligible for Top Ten or Lincoln Awards but will receive *D or AR awards if earned.
20. All miniature breed does must be measured during each lactation and their height recorded on the appropriate form, including those on one-day test. They must be measured at the highest point of the withers, in 'show stance', with head up and all four legs squarely beneath them, using the official AGS measuring device. All miniature breed does that qualify for stars or AR's and measure over-height for the breed standard will receive a star or AR followed by an (OH) designation. A DHI technician, vet, county extension agent or an AGS judge with no financial interest in the animal must do the measuring. Miniature breeds that are measured over height during the current lactation will have "OH" and the year added after the AR number on her registration papers, and will not be eligible for Top Ten or Lincoln awards.
21. AGS will accept as official the DHIR records from other goat registries that have DHIR program standards equal to or exceeding those of AGS. Doe pages and a copy of the DHI rules should be submitted with the request for recognition of milk records. AGS reserves the right to accept or reject these records as official for the AGS DHIR program.
22. AGS will provide DHI associations, NDHIA and members enrolled in the AGS DHIR with the AGS DHIR Rules and Procedures, if requested.
23. The DHI Affiliate or local association for NDHIA will supervise all records in accordance with NDHIA and AGS rules and procedures and notify AGS of failure to comply with rules/procedures of the official testing program. The DHI affiliate or local association will notify owners when a verification test is needed as well, but it is the herd owner's responsibility to have one.

24. Should the DHI affiliate or local association for NDHIA, notify AGS of a discrepancy in records or violation of rules/procedures, the matter will be referred to the AGS Board of Directors and DHI Committee for consideration and decision as to possible action.
25. AGS reserves the right to rule on any other matters related to the AGS DHIR testing program not covered in these rules.

Production Titles

The American Goat Society offers two types of production titles. All titles are awarded automatically, with no action required by the owner of the animal other than sending in the required test results. Owners are notified of the title status of does participating in milk test and of does and bucks qualifying for titles through their progeny by the issuance of a notification/application for certificate form. Owners of DHIR herds and one-day test participants are advised within two weeks of receipt of all test reports.

Advanced Registry Program

DOES

Advanced Registry (AR) awards are given to qualifying does participating in the Dairy Herd Improvement Registry (DHIR). Both the AR title and the star title are awarded. For instance, a qualifying doe will be called an AR star doe.

A doe qualifies for an AR and a *D title if she meets the minimum requirement for either milk or butterfat during any lactation of 305 days *or less*.

A doe may have multiple stars. If her dam is a *D, she is a 2*D. If her daughter earns a star, the daughter is a 3*D.

There is no limit to the amount of stars a doe can have.

BUCKS

Qualifying sires earn a plus sire (+S) title. For instance, a qualifying sire will be called +S (AR Herd Sire).

A buck earns the title of +S (AR Herd Sire) through his progeny under one of the following circumstances:

Three AR daughters (must be out of three different dams)

or two sons who are AR herd sires (not necessarily out of different dams)

or two AR daughters and one AR herd sire son (not necessarily out of different dams)

He can earn the title of ++S by qualifying with three AR daughters and two AR herd sires.

Bucks are limited to two pluses.

A buck can also qualify for a *S title by birth through one of the following circumstances:

- his dam is a *D and his sire is either a *S or a +S *or*
- both his dam and his sire's dam are *D's
and both of these does qualified for both milk and butterfat

A buck is limited to one *S.

Therefore, if a buck's dam is a *D and his sire is either a *S or a +S, and the buck himself has qualified for two pluses through his progeny, his title is ++*S.

Star Program (one-day tests)

DOES

Star (*D) titles are given to qualifying does participating in one-day milk tests. Standard does must earn at least 100 points, and miniature does must earn at least 35 points. The points are based upon the following:

- 5.55 points per pound of milk given
- 1.11 points for butterfat (pounds of milk x butterfat percent)
- .0555 points for each day fresh (maximum of 19.98 points allowed for days fresh)

A doe can qualify for a star through her progeny under one of the following circumstances:

- three *D daughters (not necessarily out of three different sires) *or*
- two sons who are +S (not necessarily out of two different sires) *or*
- two *D daughters and one +S son (not necessarily out of two different sires)

A doe may have multiple stars. If her dam is a *D, she is a 2*D. If her daughter earns a star, the daughter is a 3*D.

There is no limit to the amount of stars a doe can have.

BUCKS

A buck qualifies for +S through his progeny under one of the following circumstances:

- three *D daughters (must be out of three different dams) *or*
- two sons who are +S (not necessarily out of different dams) *or*
- two *D daughters and one +S son (not necessarily out of different dams)

He can earn ++S by qualifying with three *D daughters and two +S sons, and is limited to two pluses.

A buck can also qualify for a *S title by birth through one of the following circumstances:

- his dam is a *D and his sire is either a *S or a +S *or*
- both his dam and his sire's dam are *D's
and both of these does qualified for both milk and butterfat

A buck is limited to one *S.

Therefore, if a buck's dam is a star doe and his sire is either a *S or a +S, and the buck himself has qualified for two pluses through his progeny, his title is ++*S.

Master Champions

If an AR *D is a master champion, her title is ARMCH *D (AR)

If a *D who is not an AR doe is a master champion, her title is MCH *D.

If an AR herd sire is a master champion, his title is ARMCH +S (he may have another plus and/or a star).

If a +S who is not an AR herd sire is a master champion, his title is MCH +S (he may have another plus and/or a star).

Annual Production Awards

Top Ten Awards

The Top Ten is an annual listing of the ten most productive does, listed by breed, for the year lactations of 305 days or less were completed. The awards are given for categories of pounds of milk, butterfat, and protein. There are also All-Time awards in all categories plus some others. The Top Ten booklet also lists all the records completed in the year, regardless of whether they qualified or not.

It also lists the Top Ten for does participating in one-day tests during the year. The awards are given for categories of pounds of milk given, butterfat percent, and days in milk. The booklet also lists all the records made on one-day tests in the year, regardless of whether they qualified or not.

Booklets are given without charge to herd owners participating in DHIR. They are available for \$5.00 per copy to everybody else.

Miniature does that are over-height are not eligible for Top Ten awards, even though they have earned a star/AR.

Lincoln Awards

These awards are presented annually at the Board of Directors meeting or summer event. 1st place is \$25.00, 2nd place is \$15.00 and 3rd place is \$10.00. The money comes from a fund created by the late Mrs. J.C. Lincoln. They are awarded to the three does in each breed that have given the highest amount of milk in 305 days or less during the year.

Rules

- Does must be AGS registered
- Does must be on DHIR test with AGS
- Does must have had a verification test during the qualifying lactation

Signs and Symbols

***D** (star doe)-The title appears after the doe's name.

A doe has met the minimum standards for milk production in either the DHIR or one-day test program

or

she has three *D daughters

or

she has two +S sons

or

she has two *D daughters and one +S son

2*D (two star doe)-The title appears after the doe's name.

A *D doe is the daughter of a *D. The number preceding the star indicates the number of generations in unbroken succession of qualifying does.

+S (plus sire)-The title appears after the buck's name.

A buck has at least three daughters out of three different does that qualified for a star

or

he has two +S sons

or

he has two *D daughters and one +S son

++S (two plus sire)-The title appears after the buck's name.

A buck has at least three daughters out of three different does that qualified for a star

and

he has at least two +S sons

***S** (star sire)-The title appears after the buck's name.

A buck has a *D dam

and

he has a +S sire

or

he has a sire who is not a +S, but whose dam is a *D

++*S (two plus star sire)-The title appears after the buck's name.

A buck has three *D daughters *and* two +S sons *and* a *D dam *and* either a +S sire or a sire whose dam is a *D.

AR Doe (Advanced Registry doe)-The title appears after the name and the title *D, along with the AR number.

A doe has qualified for her star under the DHIR program in a lactation of 305 days or less

AR Herd Sire-The title appears after the name and the +S title.

A +S buck's three *D daughters are also AR does.

ARMCh-The title appears before the name.

An AR *D or an AR herd sire is also a master champion. Only AR animals qualify for this title.

Updated December 14, 2006