



Dairy Goat Judging

SUPPLEMENT



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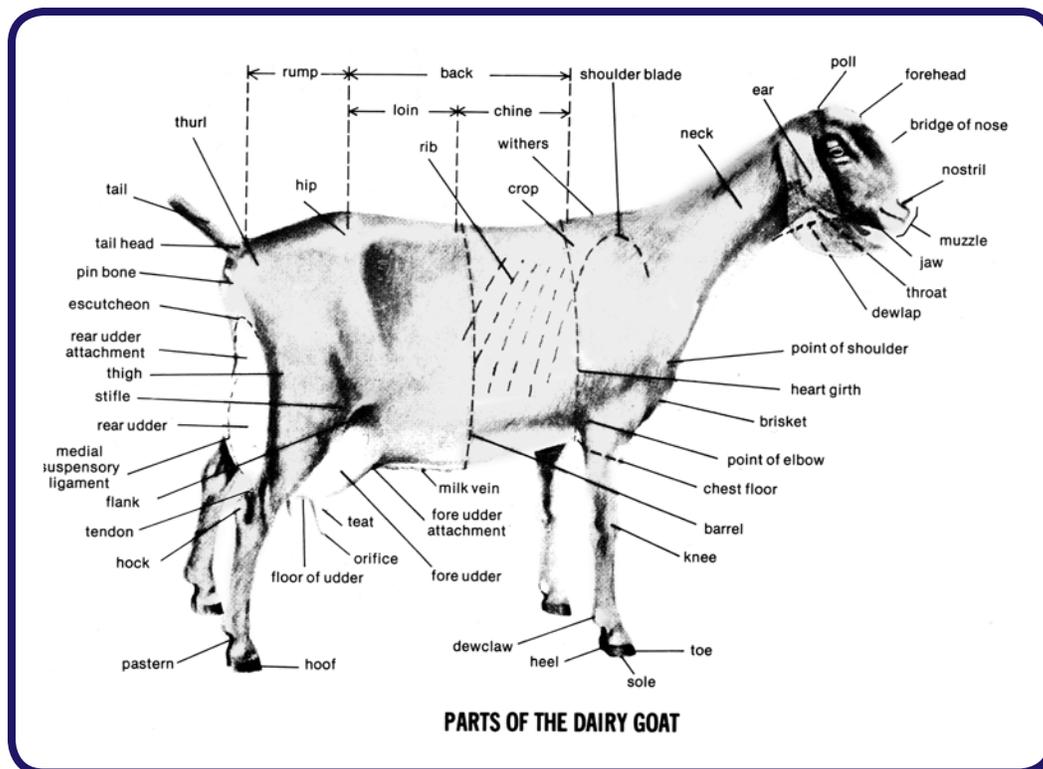
"Developing Dairy Leaders for Tomorrow"

Judging Dairy Goats

Breeds

The American Dairy Goat Association recognizes six breeds of dairy goats: the Alpine, Oberhasli, Saanen and Toggenburg (known as the Swiss breeds); the Nubian (developed in England by crossing Indian or Egyptian goats with native British goats); and the LaMancha (developed in the U.S. by crossing the "earless" dairy goats from Spain and Mexico with breeds in the United States).

Correct conformation of dairy goats is essential for a productive and successful herd. Functional type is significant for productivity, longevity, and resistance to disease. It is important to evaluate the differences of goats as they relate to each other as well as how they relate to the breed ideal.



**AMERICAN DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR DOE SCORECARD**

General Appearance		55%
Stature	2	
Head & Breed Characteristics	10	
Front End Assembly	8	
Back	12	
Legs, Pasterns & Feet	23	
Dairy Character		30%
Neck, Withers, Ribs, Flanks, Thighs & Skin		
Body Capacity		15%
Chest	7	
Barrel	8	

**AMERICAN DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION
SENIOR DOE SCORECARD**

General Appearance		35%
Stature	2	
Head & Breed Characteristics	5	
Front End Assembly	5	
Back	8	
Legs, Pasterns & Feet	15	
Dairy Character		20%
Neck, Withers, Ribs, Flanks, Thighs & Skin		
Body Capacity		10%
Chest	4	
Barrel	6	
Mammary System		35%
Udder Support	13	
Fore Udder	5	
Rear Udder	7	
Balanced, Symmetry & Quality	6	
Teats	4	

**AMERICAN DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION
BUCK SCORECARD**

General Appearance		55%
Stature	2	
Head & Breed Characteristics	8	
Front End Assembly	10	
Back	10	
Legs, Pasterns & Feet	25	
Dairy Character		30%
Neck, Withers, Ribs, Flanks, Thighs & Skin		
Body Capacity		15%
Chest	7	
Barrel	8	

American Dairy Goat Association Standard Scorecard

The American Dairy Goat Association provides a scorecard for the evaluation of dairy goats. 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. Separate scorecards have been developed for Junior Does (females under 24 months that have never freshened), Senior Does (females that have freshened at least once) and Bucks (male goats). To the left is a summary of the breakdowns and scorecard. For a more detailed scorecard, as well as breed specific standards, see the American Dairy Goat Association Guidebook and other information at www.adga.org.

General Appearance

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

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 state of lactation (or breeding season for bucks).

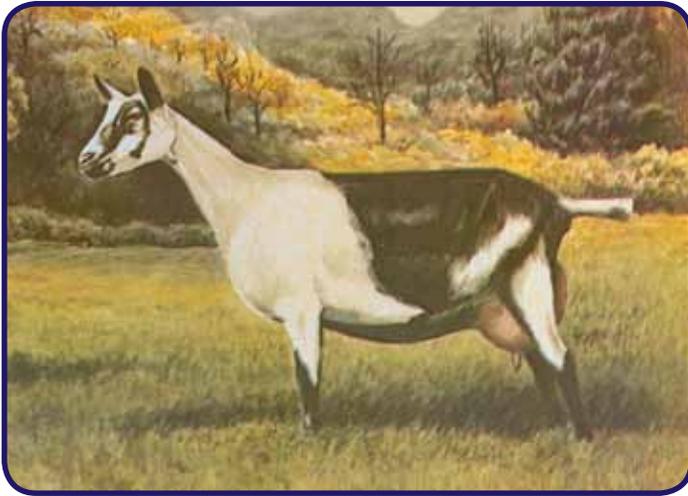
Body Capacity

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

Mammary System (Senior Does only)

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

MAJOR DAIRY GOAT BREEDS



Alpine

The LaMancha was developed in the U.S. It has excellent dairy temperament and is an all-round sturdy animal that can withstand a great deal of hardship and still produce. Through official testing this breed has established itself in milk production with high butterfat.

The LaMancha face is straight with the ears being the distinctive breed characteristic. There are two types of LaMancha ears. In does, one type of ear has no advantage over the other.

1. The “gopher ear” is described as follows: an approximate maximum length of one inch, but preferably non-existent, and with very little or no cartilage. The end of the ear must be turned up or down. This is the only type of ear which will make bucks eligible for registration.
2. The “elf ear” is described as follows: an approximate maximum length of two inches is allowed, the end of the ear must be turned up or turned down. Cartilage shaping the small ear is allowed.

WEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

- Mature does should be at least 28 inches tall and weigh 130 pounds
- Mature bucks should be at least 30 inches tall and weigh 160 pounds

DEFECTS & DISCRIMINATIONS

- Roman nose (moderate to serious)

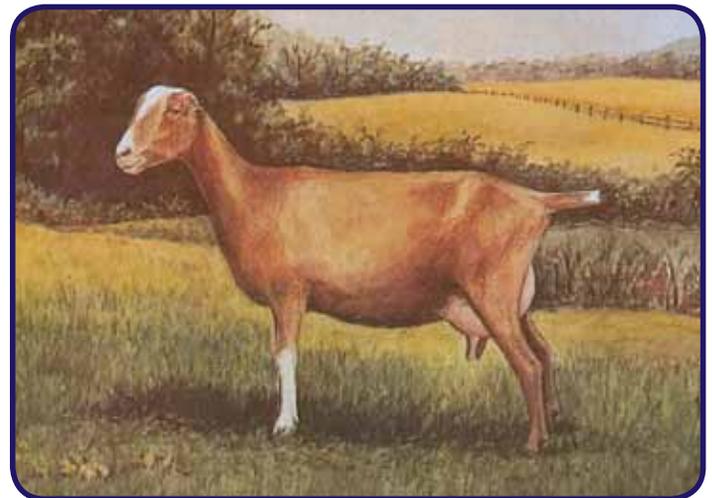
The Alpine dairy goat is a medium to large size animal, alertly graceful, and the only breed with upright ears that offers all colors and combinations of colors, giving them distinction and individuality. They are hardy, adaptable and thrive in any climate while maintaining good health and excellent production. The hair is medium to short. The face is straight. A Roman nose, Toggenburg color and markings, or all-white is discriminated against. This breed is composed of several varieties, including the British, Rock, and Swiss Alpine, but the French Alpine is by far the most numerous.

WEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

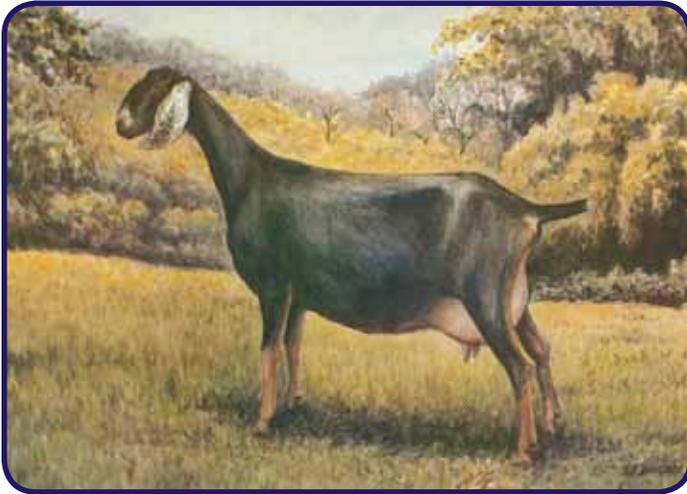
- Mature does should be at least 30 inches tall and weigh 135 pounds
- Mature bucks should be at least 32 inches tall and weigh 170 pounds

DEFECTS & DISCRIMINATIONS

- Does with Toggenburg color and markings (moderate)
- All white does (moderate)
- Roman nose (moderate to serious)
- Bucks with Toggenburg color and markings (serious)
- All white bucks (serious)



LaMancha



Nubian

The Oberhasli is a Swiss dairy goat. This breed is of medium size, vigorous and alert in appearance. Its color is chamoisee. Does may be black but chamoisee is preferred. Chamoisee is described as: Bay ranging from light to a deep red bay with the latter most desirable. A few white hairs through the coat and about the ears are permitted. Markings are to be: two black stripes down the face from above each eye to a black muzzle; forehead nearly all black, black stripes from the base of each ear coming to a point just back of the poll and continuing along the neck and back as a dorsal stripe to the tail; a black belly and light gray to black udder; black legs below the knees and hocks; ears black inside and bay outside. Bucks often have more black on the head than does, black whiskers, and black hair along the shoulder and lower chest with a mantle of black along the back. Bucks frequently have more white hairs through the coat than does. The face is straight or dished. A Roman nose is discriminated against.

WEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

- Mature does should be at least 28 inches tall and weigh 120 pounds
- Mature bucks should be at least 30 inches tall and weigh 150 pounds

DEFECTS & DISCRIMINATIONS

- Roman nose (moderate to serious)
- Small white spots in hair of does (serious)
- Small white spots in hair of bucks (very serious)

The Nubian is a relatively large, proud, and graceful dairy goat of Oriental origin, known for high quality, high butterfat, and milk.

The head is the distinctive breed characteristic, with the facial profile between the eyes and the muzzle being strongly convex. The ears are long, (extending at least one inch beyond the muzzle when held flat along the face), wide and pendulous. They lie close to the head at the temple and flare slightly out and well forward at the rounded tip, forming a "bell" shape. The ears are not thick, with the cartilage well defined. The hair is short, fine, and glossy. Any color or colors, solid or patterned, is acceptable.

WEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

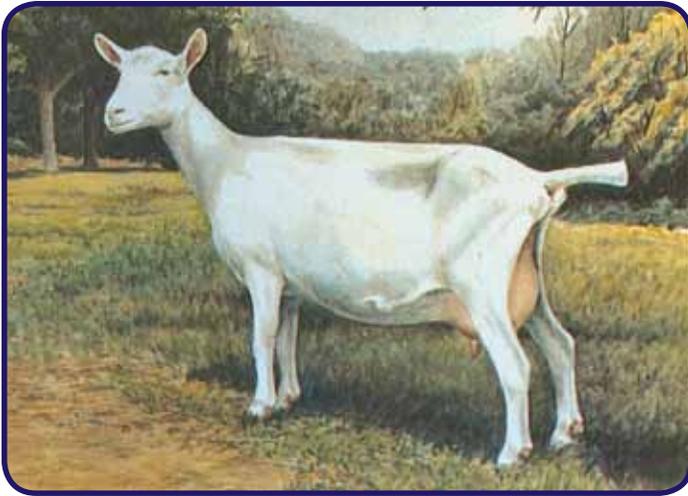
- Mature does should be at least 30 inches tall and weigh 135 pounds
- Mature bucks should be at least 32 inches tall and weigh 170 pounds

DEFECTS & DISCRIMINATIONS

- Straight face (moderate)
- Dished face (very serious)
- Barely drooping ears (very serious)



Oberhasli



Saanen

The Saanen dairy goat originated in Switzerland. It is medium to large in size with rugged bone and plenty of vigor. Does should be feminine, however, and not coarse. Saanens are white or light cream in color, with white preferred. Spots on the skin are not discriminated against. Small spots of color on the hair are allowable, but not desirable. The hair should be short and fine, although a fringe over the spine and thighs is often present. Ears should be erect and alertly carried, preferably pointing forward. The face should be straight or dished. A tendency toward a Roman nose is discriminated against.

WEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

- Mature does should be at least 30 inches tall and weigh 135 pounds
- Mature bucks should be at least 32 inches tall and weigh 170 pounds

DEFECTS & DISCRIMINATIONS

- Roman nose (moderate to serious)
- Dark cream color (serious)
- Several small dark spots in hair (serious)

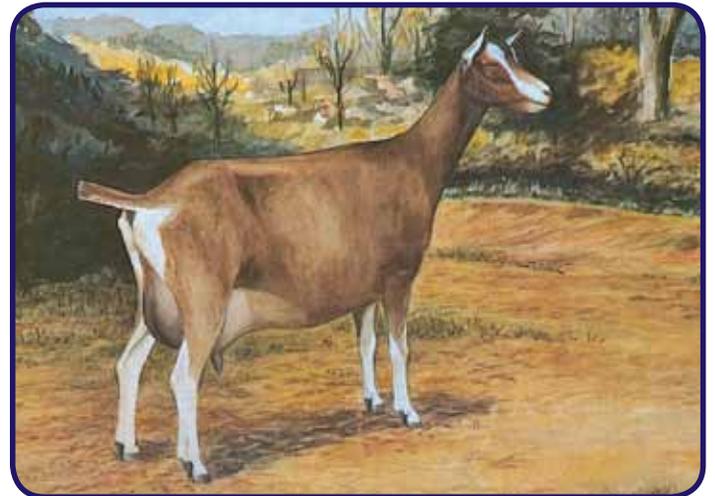
The Toggenburg is a Swiss dairy goat from the Toggenburg Valley of Switzerland. This breed is of medium size, sturdy, vigorous, and alert in appearance. The hair is short to long in length, soft and fine. Its color is solid varying from light fawn to dark chocolate, with no preference for any shade. Distinct white markings are as follows: white ears with dark spot in middle; two white stripes down the face from above each eye to the muzzle; hind legs white from hocks to hooves; forelegs white from knees downward with dark vertical stripes below knee acceptable; a white triangle on each side of the tail; white spot may be present at root of wattles or in that area if no wattles are present. Varying degrees of cream markings instead of pure white acceptable, but not desirable. The ears are erect and carried forward. Facial lines may be dished or straight, never Roman.

WEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

- Mature does should be at least 26 inches tall and weigh 120 pounds
- Mature bucks should be at least 28 inches tall and weigh 150 pounds

DEFECTS & DISCRIMINATIONS

- Few small white spots of hair in does (moderate)
- Roman nose (moderate to serious)
- Black color in does (serious)
- White stomach on does (serious)
- Large white spot on does (serious)
- Few small white spots in hair of bucks (serious)



Toggenburg

Terminology

Following is some suggested terminology to use when giving reasons on dairy goats.

General Appearance & Walk

- more attractive framework, being more feminine/upstanding
- walks more smoothly
- walks more easily
- walks with more impressive carriage

Head & Breed Characteristics

- cleaner cut
- more balanced in length, width and depth
- broader in the muzzle
- fuller nostrils
- more cleanly sculpted head with more alert eyes
- more breed character about the head
- stronger jaw
- neater in poll area

Front End Assembly

- blends more smoothly from the neck into the withers
- withers more prominently arched to the point of the shoulder
- smoother blending of shoulder blades against the chest wall
- point of elbow more tightly/smoothly set against the chest wall
- deeper/wider in the chest floor

Back

- more well defined in the vertebrae
- fuller in the crops
- stronger and straighter in the back
- wider/stronger/straighter in the loin
- hips are wider
- more nearly level from hips to pins
- wider in the rump
- the tailhead is more smoothly set between the pinbones

Legs, Pasterns & Feet

- flatter and stronger in the leg bone
- smoother/freer in motion in the forelegs
- straighter in the forelegs
- shows more fullness at point of elbow
- stronger in the pasterns
- feet are more directly pointed forward
- shorter and strong toe
- more desirable rear leg set
- more width between the hind legs
- more cleanly molded hocks

Stature

- taller at the withers than at the hip
- longer in bone pattern throughout

Dairy Character

- great angularity throughout
- more general openness
- stronger yet more refined bone structure
- freer of coarseness
- showing more evident milking ability with regard to stage of lactation
- longer/leaner in the neck
- more wedge-shaped withers
- flatter/more open/longer rib
- deeper in the flank
- cleaner in the thigh
- thinner/more pliable skin

Body

- more appropriate size/capacity in relation to age/stage of lactation
- stronger and more vigorous
- deeper chest
- wider in the chest floor
- more strongly supported barrel, yet deeper/longer/wider
- deeper/more widely sprung in the rib

Mammary System

- more appropriately capacious in proportion to frame
- stronger medial suspensory ligament
- more clearly defined udder halves
- holds udder higher above the hocks
- stronger/smoother fore/rear/lateral attachments
- more desirable shape to fore udder
- wider/fuller to the side of the fore udder
- more capacious/higher/wider rear udder
- less excess tissue in the udder
- teats more uniform in size
- teats more nearly of medium length
- teats more cylindrical in shape
- teats more nearly plumb when viewed from the rear



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Holstein Foundation

PO Box 816

Brattleboro, VT 05302-0816

With questions, contact Jodi Hoynoski at 800.952.5200, ext. 4261 or jhoynoski@holstein.com.

Evaluation of Defects

The evaluation of defects is important when judging dairy goats. The following is a list of defects and their discrimination level:

- **Broken or wry tail** due to potential kidding (birthing) problems, slight discrimination.
- **Undershot or overshot jaw** does not permit proper feed intake and chewing of food; slight to serious discrimination, depending upon degree of seriousness.
- **Close-set hocks** prevent proper space for udder carriage and puts a greater strain on pasterns; slight to serious discrimination.
- **Poor udder attachments** are a slight to serious discrimination. Scar tissue, poor quality texture and separation between halves of udder can also be defects if it affects the longevity of the dairy goat.
- **Turned out or crooked feet** are a moderate fault, along with enlarged knees and slight crampiness or lameness.
- **Lacking size** is a moderate discrimination. The larger the doe, the more milk she should give. Thus, a mature doe lacking size would be given moderate discrimination. See "Major Dairy Goat Breeds" for more information regarding defects/faults of dairy goats.
- **Presence of horns** is a discrimination due to safety concerns. However, neatly dehorned animals are acceptable.

Holstein Foundation's Dairy Goat Judging Supplement References

American Dairy Goat Association 2009 Guidebook. 2009.
Own a Dairy Goat. American Dairy Goat Association, 1981.



For more information, contact:

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