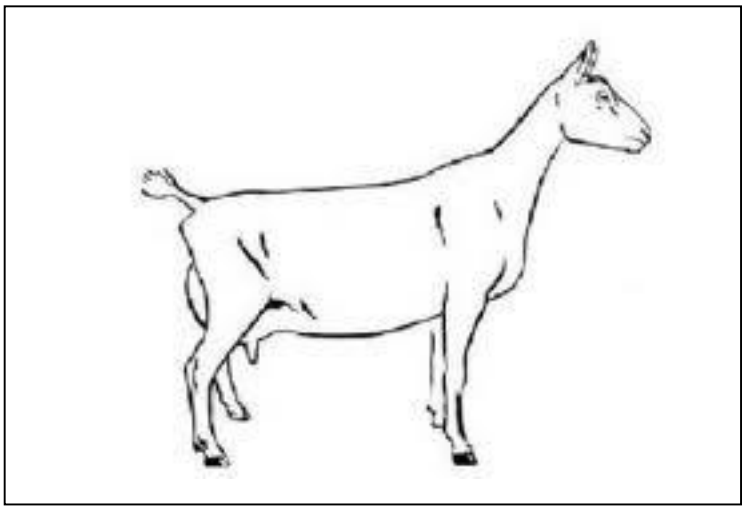
NZ Dairy Goat Farming

Editors: Janine Tasker / Kim Carter (janineandkim@gmail.com) Autumn/Winter 2015
www.dairygoats.co.nz

From the Editors



Hi All,

Another show year draws to a close and we hope you had a great season and have accumulated lots of ribbons and awards. We got our first Grand Champion this year with Zodian Lulu so are really pleased to have reached this milestone in our breeding programme!

Many of you will already be in the swing of mating. For smaller breeders like us the first months of autumn are filled with watching does for wagging tails so we can get them off to the buck at the right time. It seems like we march through these months in 21 day cycles!

We have had some good regular rainfall over recent weeks and the paddocks are starting to green up really well. Hopefully the grass growth continues so that we go into winter with a few paddocks to rotate through.

As we go into winter and your list of jobs gets smaller, please spend some time writing or sending through articles for the newsletter.

Cheers

Kim and Janine

Recipe of the Season

Autumn Salad with Kumara, Pumpkin and Goat Cheese

Serves 2

Ingredients:
2 small kumara
1/2 medium sized butternut squash
400 gr baby spinach
1/4 apple
1/2 pomegranate, seeds
150 gr soft goat cheese
3 tbs olive oil
2 tbs honey
1 tbs white wine vinegar
sea salt and freshly ground pepper

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 180C.
Cut your kumara and pumpkin (keep the skin on) in thin slices. Place them on a baking tray with parchment paper and drizzle them with 2 tbs olive oil. Add some salt and pepper and toss them around.
Roast them for 15 minutes until golden brown and crispy.
In the meantime, cut the apple in thin slices and take the pomegranate seeds out.
Combine 1 tbs olive oil, honey and vinegar. Add salt and pepper to your taste.
Start with the spinach, place the kumara and pumpkin on top. Add the apple, crumble over the goat cheese and add the pomegranate seeds.
Drizzle the vinaigrette on top and finish with some freshly ground pepper.
Enjoy!

Word Find

G N I G D U J L T B T G E G N A R O
P O G Q F B H S E T T E S O R L M M
B T B U C K L S E E R T Y B K L B D
E R S C X K H R B I F P E R E D R F
S A S F Y L D C M A T I N G R D E D
E V N I G N I M O O R G X M B K E Q
V E O D R A D N A T S D E E R B D W
A L B R F O C V D C U S D I K Q I E
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A V M M I L K I N G E L G C A C B O
F U M J F S T W K S Y N M Q O C L H
R K C I N O I T A M R O F N O C B S

breeding
breed standard
buck
cleaning
clipping
conformation
doe
falling leaves
grooming
judging
kids
mating
milking
orange
red
ribbons
rosettes
showing
travelling
trees
washing
yellow

Goat Gear – Product Review

By Janine Tasker

In looking through the internet one day I came across an image that I really liked and wondered if I could get this made into a sign for our milking shed. I contacted companies in NZ that make metal signs and got a great response from Mainly Nostalgic, www.mainlynostalgic.co.nz based in Hamilton. I emailed the image through to them and within 2 weeks the signs had been made and arrived. You can specify colour and they will photoshop and work with you to create exactly any sign you like! I can recommend them as they are great to deal with and really helpful. This sign is approx 30cm x 40cm. Two signs including freight was $105.

AgResearch News

New dairy goat research gets underway at Ruakura. Tuesday 31/3/15.

The industry aim or increasing the supply of dairy goat milk produced in New Zealand has taken another step forward with the opening of AgResearch's new dedicated dairy goat research facility at Ruakura.

"The dairy goat industry is a great example of where science has made a difference right across the value chain, from on-farm to off-farm and work which has supported Dairy Goat Cooperative (DGC) in establishing and growing their business," says AgResearch Partnership & Portfolios Director Dr Greg Murison.

"DGC has an excellent track record of developing and marketing high-quality exports based on a strong R&D component," he said.

AgResearch currently has three programmes of dairy goat research underway, two funded by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and the third by the Ministry for Primary Industries through the Sustainable Farming Fund, with significant cash and in kind co-funding from DGC.

The latest project is focused on growing the supply of dairy goat milk through improved forage supply systems and superior animal welfare practices.

The first trial in the new facility looks at bedding preferences, with the aim of determining what the goats' favoured surfaces are. DGC Chairman Campbell Storey says the AgResearch work is crucial to the industry's growth.

"There has been an industry shift where now goats are mainly farmed indoors. There is a greater focus on animal welfare, milk quality and in producing milk fit for purpose with the correct profile to produce what we believe is the best dairy goat infant formula in the world.

"To be making such a claim we need to continually invest in research and development, and working with a world-renowned agricultural research organisation, with a dedicated dairy goat research facility, who will be committed to research goat farming-related issued is an exciting opportunity."

The facilities can cater for 48 goats and will be used for a range of trials, including bedding preferences for kids, forage preferences and environment enrichment work.

For more information please contact:
Sarah Fraser
National Manager Corporate Communications, AgResearch
Tel: 07 834 6620 /021 609 703

Judge's Report South Island SANTS's Annual Show January 2015

Congratulations to the organisers of the 2015 South Island Annual Five Breed's Show. What a great show!

It truly was my pleasure to be invited to judge your innovative show when my fellow Australian judge, Peter Ross was unable to do so. So a big thank you to Peter for putting my name forward and best wishes to him for a full recovery and hope he is able to judge the show in the near future.

The two day event held at beautiful Winchester, just outside Geraldine was well attended with an excellent showing of Toggenburgs' as well as Anglo Nubians and Sables on Saturday 17th January. This was followed with a lovely line-up of Saanens and a small showing of British Alpines on Sunday 18th.

The showgrounds are ideal for showing dairy goats with ample parking, spacious permanent covered penning which is easily accessed from the show ring, with exceptional shade from very mature trees relieving all from the unusual heat being experienced at this time.

The Toggenburgs were strong in number and consistent in conformation. The milking does were characterised by good toplines, legs and breed type almost without exception having well balanced cylindrical udders, well attached at the front and rear and with ideal teats. Judging both Toggenburg udder classes was a real delight with placings being very close and goats separated by the narrowest of margins.

The championship line-up showed uniformity in breed type from the Best in Show Buck and Champion Doe through to the Junior AR doe. Congratulations Toggenburg breeders and thank you for showing your animals in such numbers. The senior animals were quite outstanding.

This was my first time judging the Sable goats and I found them to exhibit excellent dairy type and many with strong constitutions, excellent blending and correlation of body parts with well-shaped and capacious udders. Again the championship line demonstrated the great work being done by exhibitors with the Sable goats. I was particularly taken with the Champion Doe who was also the Best of Breed, Best Udder and Best in Show Sable. She had a strong topline, beautifully defined triple wedge, soft shining coat and excellent udder. A dairy doe that anyone would be proud to own and exhibit.

Anglo Nubians, although small in number showed good growth and breed characteristics. I was particularly pleased with the winning doe kid who was Junior Champion Doe and the buck that took out Best of Breed and Best in Show Anglo Nubian. He was a very classy, well grown and eye catching buck. His daughter was the beautiful doe kid that showed his best characteristics. I wish their owner the very best in future breeding programs.

I was really looking forward to judging British Alpines as many of the great BAs breed in Australia have strong connections to New Zealand stock and I know them well. Unfortunately, the number of animals exhibited was low this year. The champion doe, an Associate Register animal showed very good type, colour, bone, body capacity and udder. I wish her owner / exhibitor well in breeding great British Alpines from this doe. She was a pleasure to judge.

One of the highlights of judging the SANTS show for me was judging the beautiful Saanens exhibited on the second day of the show. The line-up in all classes, although not so strong in numbers was wonderful in quality, particularly the winning entries. Both the Herd Register and Associate Recorded Saanens were excellent animals almost through all classes. I was particularly impressed with the parade of champions. Each of the animals presented were well

presented, had excellent bred characteristics, dairy quality and deserved to be in the final places for selection as Best in Show. Congratulations to each of the exhibitors represented.

Saanen does showed really good conformation and dairyness with excellent tan skin colouring and beautiful blending, strong toplines, body capacity and udders. The Champion doe and Best in Show Saanen had great body capacity and an exceptional udder, well attached all round and with a great medial suspensory ligament. She is an amazing Saanen doe in all respects and a joy to judge.

Bucks in all breeds were strong with all champions being excellent in type and conformation. It was pleasing to judge the progeny of these fine dairy sires and see the strength they are giving to each of their respective breeds.

Thank you very much organisers, stewards and exhibitors for turning on a wonderful two-day show, glorious Queensland weather and allowing me to pass opinion on your lovely dairy goats. I also enjoyed your friendship and support for each other and admired the way you all chip in to make dairy goat breeding and exhibiting rewarding and worthwhile. Thank you for the invitation to judge and for the great hospitality.

Best wishes to all.

Tom Byrne

Right – Helen Youngman with her Champion Sable Doe, Left – Barbara Kennedy with her Reserve Champion Sable Doe, Middle – Tom Byrne, Judge

More photos from the 2015 SANTS Show

Premier Dairy Goats New Zealand Inc.

President: Barbara Kennedy
Secretary: Heather Wilson
Treasurer: Margaret Prattley
PO Box 91
Geraldine
miprattley@yahoo.com

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