ENTERING YOUR HERD IN THE ADGA DHIR PROGRAM

TEN BASIC STEPS:

1) Contact ADGA for new herd application packet.
2) Research test options and DHIA information for your area and make your selection.
3) Contact DHIA regarding joining, lab, test day supervisors or tester training options, records (DRPC), and arrange to go on test. Once finalized, obtain a Herdcode assignment.
4) Contact ADGA for application, complete and return with requested information and payment.
5) Arrange for your first test day with your group or standard supervisor.
6) Enroll your herd and does with your record center according to the record center instructions. This is usually done with your tester for the first test day.
7) Check your information once your first test day results are returned to you.
8) Arrange for a verification test, if necessary.
9) Check your ADGA currently owned lists to ensure your records have been processed.
10) Renew for the next year!

THE DETAILS:

ADGA’s DHIR PROGRAM, PLANS, & TEST TYPES

ADGA DHIR (Dairy Herd Improvement Registry) is a registry involvement with the Dairy Herd Improvement program. The DHI program is a system of statistically measuring a 305 day lactation by obtaining monthly milk weights and sampling the milk for components. The reporting is provided to the registry for DHIR recognition at many levels, the *M program, performance information such as yearly and lifetime production, genetic evaluation, Superior Genetics (if combined with Linear Appraisal) and Breed Leader (Top Ten) recognition.

There are many options in the DHI program as to how this measuring can be done. The registry accepts specific plans for DHIR and ADGA has several DHIR options with regard to test type plans. They are available for herds wishing to be on Standard Test (1 herd/1 supervisor) or Group Test (minimum of at least 3 herds testing with the owners providing the test day supervision in ‘round-robin’ fashion) as well as an Owner Sampler Option. See the ADGA guidebook for a complete description.

Within these plans there are accepted test type options to select from. The test type is the level of supervision and owner participation on test day. The test types accepted for DHIR are 1) the supervisor providing all weight information twice on test day and taking a sample at each milking, 2) the supervisor providing the weights once and taking the full sample once on test day with the owner providing the other weight and alternating between AM and PM milking each month on test day (APCS), 3) the owner providing the weight information and taking a sample twice on test day, and 4) an option where the supervisor comes every other month and provides all test day information. Except for #1, the other plans are considered ADGA’s ITP plans (Innovative Test Plans).

You must decide which plan you will use and members of groups may choose different options as long as all in the group agree to the choices. There are a few additional choices for commercial herds with independent bulk tank verifications. Each of these test types has a coding number which is detailed in the guidebook. Training of supervisors or group members must be in accordance with the field service provider. Only persons approved by the DHI regional manager will be permitted to do testing. Training for those involved with goats or groups varies within the U.S., so it is advisable to check first.
WHEN TO PUT THE HERD ON TEST

A herd may enroll in DHIR testing at any time during the year. Does should begin being tested early in lactation. This is important in order to capture information at peak performance and to use the record for genetic evaluations purposes. Does that are not tested within 75 days of freshening cannot have a genetic evaluation; however they can have their records be processed for ADGA purposes. ADGA DHIR agreements are renewed at the first of each year, not the month the herd was originally enrolled in order to allow automatic processing of records to remain uninterrupted. The renewal forms will be mailed to herd owners in early December, and the herd and doe fees will become due in January. Renewal fees must be paid at the first of the year.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO GO ON TEST

Contact the DHIA association’s (DHIA) local or regional manager to make arrangements for testing. The DHIA is the organization that coordinates the testing, training, lab, records and billing for DHIA. A list of contact persons and addresses is available. Be sure to obtain approval of your test type options in order to use it in your area. Not all plans are available in every association. If your manager cannot approve the plan you have chosen, you may have the option to test through another association in another area or state.

DRPC’S AND DHI LABS

Some associations have arrangements with specific record centers (DRPC’s); others may allow you to choose. Again, discuss this with your DHIA manager. The DRPC processes the data collected on test day and returns reports to you as well as forwards them to USDA which in turn, forwards completed lactation information to ADGA. They will also let you know what laboratory will be processing your milk samples and who to contact for submission instructions and sample bottles. In some cases, your DHIA will also be your lab, in others the laboratories are separate facilities. After you have made arrangements with the association and lab, be sure to notify ADGA as to which DHIA, lab and DRPC you are testing with.

Only records from DHIA’s, labs and records centers that are approved through the quality assurance program will be accepted for use in ADGA DHIR as well as for ADGA one-day milking competitions.

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION TO TEST DHIR

Fill in all the information requested on the application and mail it back to the ADGA office. INCLUDE THE APPROPRIATE HERD AND DOE FEES. For the first year on test, there is an enrollment fee in addition to the yearly herd and doe fees. ADGA will accept your application and issue a “Permit to Test DHIR”.

HERD CHANGE SHEETS AND BLUE FORMS

In the ADGA information packet you will receive herd change sheets for adding or deleting does during the test year. When you add or delete any animals from your herd, it is important to report this to the ADGA office. You will also receive a small Blue form asking you to report your Herd Code Number to the ADGA office. This number will be issued to you by your association and will appear on your monthly report sheet. It is very important that you send ADGA the eight-digit Herd Code number in order to insure that all lactation records will be accepted. Your records cannot be processed by ADGA if your Herd Code Number is not on file.

Herds with one or more distinct breeds may be enrolled as a composite herd or as separate herds. Or, farms with two or more distinct breeds may enroll one breed and not the other(s). Please be advised that for herds with small numbers, this may not be a good idea. For herds with the majority of animals being of one breed and containing a few other breeds, this may be more appropriate.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A DHI SUPERVISOR/TESTER

If you are not testing with a group, you need to make arrangements to have a DHI supervisor test your herd. Your regional manager can help you with this. Each DHIA has its own rules regarding who can be a DHI supervisor. Some will train persons specifically to be dairy goat testers, others will add on your herd to a supervisor that may also be testing dairy cows. Each DHIA will also have rules as to the frequency and type of training that is necessary to test dairy goat herds.
CHECK YOUR MONTHLY REPORT

When your monthly report comes back from the record center (DRPC), be sure that your doe’s breed code, registration number, sire and dam information as well as birth and freshening dates have been entered correctly. Freshening dates must match any kid birth dates registered for the same year. The item “Type of Test” on the monthly report will usually state “DHIR”. However if you are using one of the plans with supervisor and owner providing information, or Owner Sampler, do not be concerned if it states “DHI”. The test type code will also be included. Make sure it matches one of the test types listed in the ADGA guidebook. If you find errors, your testing supervisor can make corrections for you.

NEED FOR VERIFICATION TEST

To obtain recognition for Top Ten Awards and for ITP or Owner Sampler plans, a verification test must be performed during the lactation. ITP and Owner Sampler options must have the entire milking herd verified. For Top Ten, it is acceptable to have specific does verified. Be sure to follow all the verification rules and guidelines detailed in the National DHIA Uniform Operating Procedures and the Dairy Goat Operating Procedures. Failure to follow them or have the necessary herd verification tests could result in your records being unusable at ADGA. Anyone approved by the local or regional association to perform verification tests may do so and there is a fact sheet available from ADGA to assist the tester. The ADGA VT form or an approved local form specifically for verification MUST be used, even if the verification is being performed at an ADGA one-day milking competition.

By checking the Breed Leader chart made available each year, you can determine if you have a doe that may be eligible as an ADGA Breed Leader and needs a verification. You will not be notified by the ADGA office to have a verification test done. It is your responsibility to see that this test is done. ADGA only received records once the doe has completed her lactation year. In addition to a verification test, Top Ten recognition will only be given to records with a minimum Data Collection Rating (DCR). Information on this is in the ADGA guidebook. Generally, at least 8-9 regularly spaced tests are required to earn a DCR that will qualify a record for this type of recognition. But this can be dependent on the test type you have chosen and other factors. Monitoring this is important if your doe has the potential to be recognized in this manner. USDA provides DCR information and can be viewed under each doe record at www.aipl.arsusdagov.

KEEPING YOUR HERD ON CONTINUOUS DHIR TEST

Dairy goats are seasonal breeders, so there may be a period during the year when all the does in your herd are dry. The herd is to be on test the year round, whether does are milking or dry. Barn sheets or data must be sent on a routine basis throughout the dry period in order to keep your herd on continuous DHIR test.

PRODUCTION RECORD NOTIFICATION

Records are automatically sent to ADGA from USDA. It goes smoothly when all information provided to USDA by the owner is correct. Twice per year, you will receive a listing from ADGA. In late spring, when lactations for the previous year have ended, you will receive a listing of your does and their recent production levels including *M recognition, if earned. At renewal time, you will receive another listing. If information is incorrect, or missing, it generally means there was an error in reported identification information, or a submission wasn’t received at USDA from the record center. In these instances, a copy of the DHI doe information sheet may be submitted.

In addition, members on test will receive preliminary notification of Breed Leader lists, based on records received into the ADGA database. If you find one of your does should qualify but is not listed, you may submit a copy of the doe sheet.

YOUTH HONOR ROLL

This program is for those members 21 or under with the doe registered in the youth’s name. Honor Roll mention will be published in the News & Events. Does must milk at least 3000 lbs. or produce 100 lbs. of butterfat or 90 lbs. of protein to be eligible. See Guidebook for additional details.
REGIONAL AFFILIATES:

AgSource Cooperative Services
P.O. Box 930230
Verona, WI 53593
Phone: 608-845-1900
Email: info@agsource.com

Alabama DHIA
109 Upchurch Hall
Auburn University.
Auburn, AL 36849
Phone: 334-844-1562
Manager: Boyd Brady
E-mail: bbrady@ag.auburn.edu

Arizona DHIA
2485 W. 12th Street, #1
Tempe, AZ 85281
Phone: 480-894-0156
Manager: Neil Hoffman
E-mail: azdhia@aol.com

California DHIA
150 Clovis Avenue, Suite 102
Clovis, CA 93612
Phone: 559-323-2600
Manager: Bill VerBoort
E-mail: cadhia@aol.com

Dairy Lab Services
5105 Wolff Road
Dubuque, IA 52001
Phone: 800-747-7421
Manager: Terry Hopper
E-mail: terry@dairylab.com

Dairy One
730 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850-1293
Phone: 607-257-1272
Manager: Jamie Zimmerman
E-mail: jamez@dairylea.com

DHI Cooperative
PO Box 28168 - Suite A
1224 Alton-Darby Creek Rd.
Columbus, OH 43228-8168
Phone: 614-545-0460
Manager: Brian Winters
E-mail: bwinters@dhihoio.com

Great Lakes DHIA
129 Lindsey Road
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Heart of America DHIA
Box 3700 628 Pottawatomie
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Phone: 785-539-1784
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Indiana State Dairy Assn.
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1026 Poultry Bldg. Rm. 208
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Phone: 765-494-8205
Manager: Bob Albrecht
E-mail: albrecht@purdue.edu

Langston University
PO Box 730
Langston, OK 73050
Phone: 405-466-6207
Manager: Eva Vasquez
E-mail: langston_dhi@yahoo.com

Louisiana DHIA
2288 Gourrier Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70820
Phone: 225-578-2214
Manager: Gary Hay
E-mail: ghay@agcenter.lsu.edu

Meadowlark Testing Association
697 Rd. 155
Carpenter, WY 82054
Phone: 307-649-2216
Contact: Karen Butler
E-mail: dsbutler@msn.com

Mid-South Dairy Records
1551 N. National Road
Springfield, MO 65803
Phone: 417-631-6931
Manager: Mark Witherspoon
E-mail: mwspoon@midouthdairy.com

Minnesota DHIA
307 Brighton Avenue South
Buffalo, MN 55313
Phone: 763-682-1091
Manager: Bruce Dokkebakken
E-mail: bruced@mndhia.org

Mississippi DHIA
Mississippi State University
Box 9815 – Animal & Dairy Science Dept.
Mississippi State, MS 37962
Phone: 662-325-2852
Manager: Webb Flowers
E-mail: wflowers@ads.msstate.edu

Northeast Dairy Goat Imp. Assoc., Inc.
105 Lake Road
Ballston Lake, NY 12019
Phone: 518-399-5670
Contact: Jean Thorildsen
E-mail: caprican@localnet.com

NorthStar Cooperative
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Rocky Mountain DHIA
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