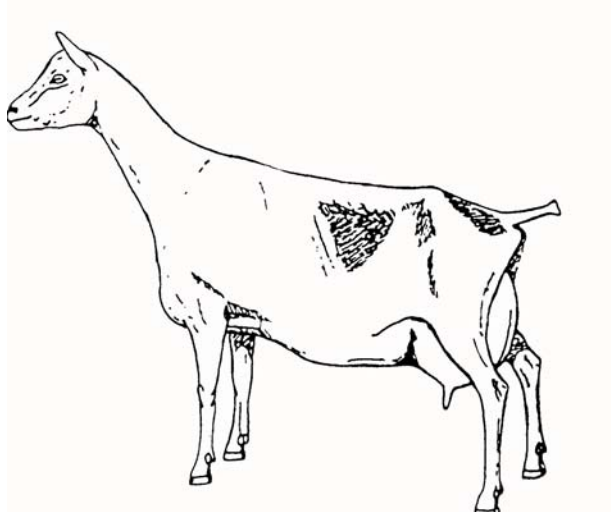
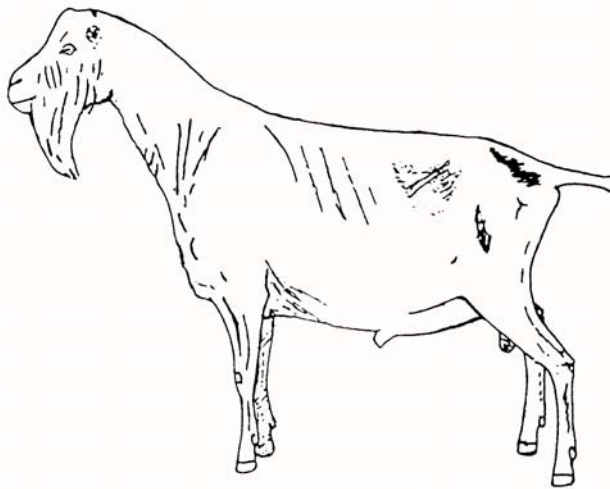
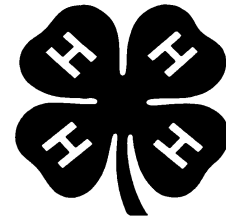


DAIRY GOAT JUDGING TOOLS



4-H and Youth Development Program



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DAIRY GOAT JUDGING TOOLS

INTRODUCTION

Judging is a basic skill that is essential to be a successful herd manager. This skill is used in the selection of foundation animals, when making buying and selling decisions, culling, selecting sires and other areas of herd management.

The techniques of judging are based on careful observation, thoughtful evaluation and intelligent decision making. These skills are learned by becoming familiar with the characteristics of an animal that lead to a long, healthy and productive life. The judge also must have a clear mental picture of the ideal animal in order to make accurate comparisons of the animals in the ring.

Judging itself is the act of ranking the animals in the ring that day in order of preference. It is not classification, where the animals are compared with the ideal. Judging must always emphasize the differences between two animals in traits that are of practical importance. Once an animal is selected that most closely matches the ideal, judging consists of the process of ranking the remaining animals based on the following steps:

1. **Observe** and analyze the goats
2. **Evaluate** the amount of difference between animals
3. **Decide** the placing, based on practical importance
4. **Describe** in clear, concise reasons why the placing is made

JUDGING TOOLS

To do a good job of judging, one must start with a firm mental picture of the ideal dairy goat. Along with this, one must be familiar with the parts of the dairy goat, and be knowledgeable of the traits and differences between the breeds. Besides experience in working with dairy goats, the judge has some tools available to help in evaluating and placing the group of goats before them.

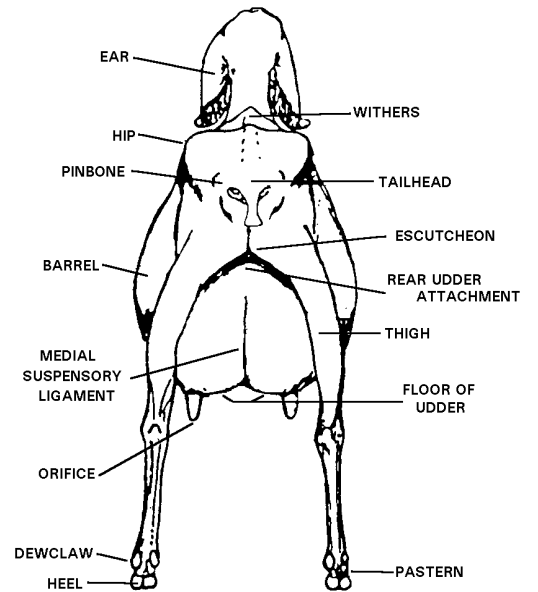
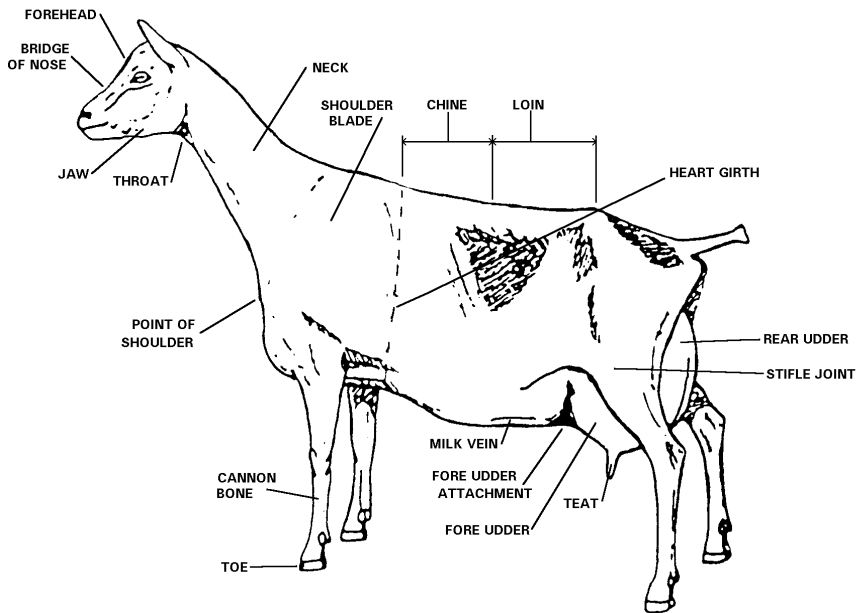
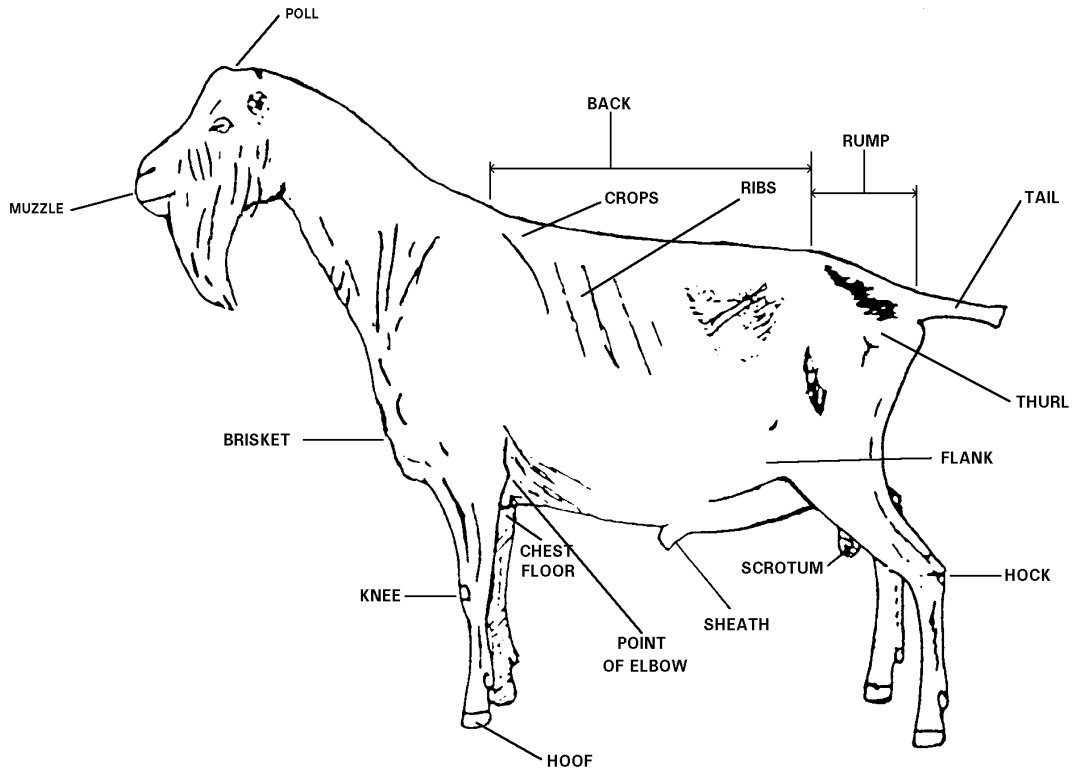
The Unified Dairy Goat Scorecard

The use of a unified scorecard is based on the idea that all good dairy goats have certain common characteristics that are more basic than shape, size or breed character. By following the descriptions found in the scorecard judges promote uniformity of dairy goats across the country by allowing all breeders to emphasize the same general points in body conformation, capacity, dairyness and udder structure. The goal of the ADGA Unified Scorecard is to aid in the selection of a dairy goat that can function efficiently over a long and productive life. The scorecard describes, in detail, what should be looked for in the goat. It then assigns points to suggest the importance of that trait compared with the whole animal.

Evaluation of Defects

It is sometimes difficult to decide how important a defect is, or how important it is compared with another defect. To help the judge, there is a standardized evaluation of defects that lists most of the common defects and helps to assign a priority to them. These traits are based on structural, mammary and breed character defects and range from slight problems to those so serious that the animal must be disqualified.

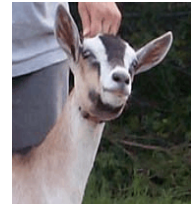
PARTS of the DAIRY GOAT



THE DAIRY GOAT BREEDS

- 1. French Alpine** - The Alpine originated in the French Alps and is a medium to large sized animal, alertly graceful, and the only upright-eared breed that comes in many colors and patterns. The commonly occurring patterns include:

Cou Blanc - White forequarters, black hindquarters
 Cou Clair - Tan, silver or red forequarters, black hindquarters
 Chamoisee - light tan to deep bay, with black legs, belly, dorsal stripe and face. The correct spelling for the male with this color is chamoise
 Sundgau - Black with white legs, belly, ears and face stripes
 Pied - spotted or mottled
 Two-Tone Chamoisee - light or white forequarters with brown or gray hindquarters
 The above patterns splashed with white spots or belts are referred to as broken.



French Alpines hair is usually medium to short, and their faces dished or straight. Roman noses, all-white or Toggenburg markings are discriminated against.

- 2. LaMancha** - LaManchas are a fairly new breed of dairy goat developed in America. They come in all colors and patterns and have a straight face. The hair is usually fine and short. The ears are the distinguishing trait of the LaMancha. LaMancha ears come in two styles. These are:

The "Gopher" ear - Maximum length of 1", but preferably nonexistent. There should be little or no cartilage shaping the ear. This is the only acceptable ear for a buck.

The "Elf" ear - A maximum length of 2" is allowed. The end of the ear must turn up or down. Cartilage shaping of the ear is allowed.



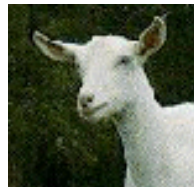
- 3. Nigerian Dwarf** - The Nigerian Dwarf is a miniature breed of dairy goat. The balanced proportions of the breed give it the appearance of the larger breeds, with a maximum height of the withers of 22.5 inches for does and 23.5 inches for bucks. The hair is usually short and fine, with anticolor pattern acceptable. The ears are erect, and the face is straight or dished.



- 4. Nubian** - Nubians are a large, proud and graceful goat of African Asian and European origin. The Nubian comes in a variety of colors and patterns. The breed is distinguished by the head, which should have long, wide, pendulous ears and roman (convex) noses. The hair is usually short, fine and glossy, with any combination of colors, solids and patterns acceptable.



- 5. Oberhasli** - Oberhaslis are a medium sized, very alert and vigorous breed. The correct markings are chamoisee, with pure black acceptable in does. They have a straight or dished face and upright ears. They have specific markings that follow: Bay, ranging from light to deep red. Black stripes on the face from poll to a black muzzle. Forehead black. Black stripes from the base of each ear, joining behind the poll and running along the neck and back to the tail. Black bellies, legs below knees and hocks, black to gray udder. Ears black inside and bay on the outside.



- 6. Saanen** - The Saanen is medium to large sized, with rugged bone and plenty of vigor. Does should be feminine and not coarse. Saanens are white or light cream in color, with white preferred. Saanens have straight or dished faces and upright ears.

- 7. Sable Saanen** - The Sable Saanen is the same as a Saanen, except that they are any color or pattern other than solid white or light cream.

- 8. Toggenburg**

The Toggenburg is a medium sized goat, sturdy and vigorous in appearance. The color is light fawn to dark chocolate with distinctive white marks. These are: White ears with dark spots in the middle, white stripes down each side of the face to the muzzle. Legs white from knees and hocks down. White triangle on either side of the tail.



ADGA DAIRY GOAT SCORECARDS

	DOE	JR DOE	BUCK
A. GENERAL APPEARANCE	35	55	55
An attractive framework with femininity (masculinity in bucks), strength, upstandingness, length and smoothness of blending throughout that create an impressive style and graceful walk			
Stature - slightly taller at withers than hips with long bone pattern throughout.	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Head & Breed Characteristics - clean cut and balanced in length, width and depth; broad muzzle with full nostrils; well-sculpted, alert eyes; strong jaw with angular lean junction to throat; appropriate size, color, ears and nose to meet breed standard.	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
Front End Assembly - prominent withers arched to point of shoulder with shoulder blade, point of shoulder and point of elbow set tightly and smoothly against the chest wall both while at rest and in motion; deep and wide into chest floor with moderate strength of brisket.	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
Back - Strong and straight with well defined vertebrae throughout slightly uphill to withers; level chine with full crops into a straight, wide loin; wide hips smoothly set and level with back; strong rump which is uniformly wide and nearly level from hips to pinbones and thurl to thurl; thurls set two-thirds of the distance from hips to pinbones; well defined and wide pinbones set slightly lower than the hips; tailhead slightly above and smoothly set between the pinbones; tail symmetrical to body and free from coarseness; vulva normal size and shape in females; normal sheath in males.	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>
Legs, Pasterns & Feet - bone flat and strong throughout leading to smooth, free motion; front legs with clean knees, straight, wide apart and squarely placed; rear legs wide apart and straight from the rear and well angulated in side profile through the stifle to cleanly molded hocks, nearly perpendicular from hock to strong, yet flexible pastern of medium length; strong feet with tight toes, pointed directly forward; deep heels with sole nearly uniform in depth from toe to heel.	<u>15</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>25</u>
B. DAIRY CHARACTER	20	30	30
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 stage of lactation (of breeding season in bucks).			
Neck - long, lean and blending smoothly into the shoulders; clean cut throat and brisket.			
Withers - prominent and wedge shaped with the dorsal process rising slightly above the shoulder blades.			
Ribs - flat, flinty, wide apart and long; lower rear ribs should angle to flank.			
Flank - deep, yet arched and free of excess tissue			
Thighs - in side profile, moderately incurving from pinbone to stifle; from the rear, clean and wide apart, highly arched and out-curving into the escutcheon to provide ample room for the udder and its attachment.			
Skin - thin, loose and pliable with soft, lustrous hair			
C. BODY CAPACITY	10	15	15
Relatively large in proportion to size, age and period of lactation in does (of breeding season for bucks), providing ample capacity, strength and vigor			
Chest - deep and wide, yet clean-cut, with well sprung foreribs, full in crops and at point of elbow.	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Barrel - strongly supported, long, deep and wide; depth and spring of rib tending to increase into a deep yet refined flank.	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
D. MAMMARY SYSTEM	(Sr. doe only) - 35		
Strongly attached, elastic, well balanced with adequate capacity, quality, ease of milking and indicating heavy milk production over a long period of usefulness.			
Udder Support - strong medial suspensory ligament that clearly defines the udder halves, contributes to desirable shape and capacity, and holds the entire udder snugly to the body and well above the hocks. Fore, rear and lateral attachments must be strong and smooth.	<u>13</u>		
Fore Udder - wide and full to the side and extending moderately forward without excess non-lactating tissue and indicating capacity, desirable shape and productivity.	<u>5</u>		
Rear Udder - capacious, high, wide and arched into the escutcheon. uniformly wide and deep to the floor; moderately curved in side profile without protruding beyond the vulva.	<u>7</u>		
Balance, Symmetry & Quality - in side profile, one-third of the capacity visible in front of the leg, one-third under the leg and one-third behind the leg; well rounded with soft, pliable elastic texture that is well collapsed after milking, free of scar tissue, with the halves evenly balanced.	<u>6</u>		
Teats - uniform in size and diameter in proportion to capacity of udder, cylindrical in shape, pointed nearly straight down or slightly forward, and situated two-thirds of the distance from the medial suspensory ligament on the floor of each udder half to the side, indicating ease of milking.	<u>4</u>		
TOTAL:	100	100	100

Evaluation of Defects - General Defects

Slight to Serious (depending on degree)

1. Large scurs or stubs
2. Undershot or overshot jaw
3. Enlarged knees; non-disabling lameness
4. Bowed over front knees; buck knees
5. Small boned for body size
6. Loose, winged or heavy shoulders
7. Narrow chest or pinched heart girth
8. Short, shallow or narrow body
9. Low-backed or steep rumped
10. Broken or wry tail
11. Close in hocks
12. Swollen hocks
13. Swollen stifle joint
14. Postiness
15. Hind legs close together
16. Sprung pasterns
17. Turned out or crooked feet
18. Udder of beefy texture or with a pocket
19. Front, rear or side udder attachment lacking
20. Separation between udder halves; presence of scar tissue
21. Teats that are:
 - a. Set close together
 - b. Bulbous
 - c. Extremely large or small
 - d. Pointed sideways
 - e. Uneven in size
 - f. Having small streams or hard to milk
 - g. Not clearly separated from the udder

- h. Leaking orifice
 - i. Misplaced orifice
2. Crooked face on does
3. Very crooked or malformed feet

Disqualifications

1. Total Blindness
2. Serious Emaciation
3. Permanent lameness or difficulty walking
4. Blind or non-functioning half of udder
5. Blind teat
6. Double teat(s)
7. Extra teat(s) that interfere with milking
8. Active mastitis or other cause of abnormal milk
9. Evidence of hermaphroditism or other inability to reproduce
10. Permanent physical defects, such as a navel hernia
11. Crooked face on bucks
12. Extra teat(s) or teat(s) that have been cut off in bucks
13. Double orifice in teat of bucks
14. Buck with one testicle or abnormal testicles

Very Serious Defects

1. Udder that is:
 - a. Pendulous
 - b. Too distended to determine texture
 - c. Hard or swollen (except in does just fresh)
 - d. So uneven that one half is less than half the size of the other half
 - e. Udder lacking in size in relation to the doe
 - f. Double orifice in teat of doe
 - g. Extra teat(s) or teat(s) that has been cut off in does

Evaluation of Defects - Breed Specific Faults

Moderate Faults

Alpine

Mature does less than 30" tall or 135 lbs.
Mature bucks less than 32" tall or 170 lbs.
Does that are all white or with
Toggenburg color and markings

LaMancha

Mature does less than 28" tall or 130 lbs.
Mature bucks less than 30" tall or 160 lbs.

Nigerian Dwarf

Mature does less than 17" tall
Mature bucks less than 17" tall

Nubian

Mature does less than 30" tall or 135 lbs.
Mature bucks less than 32" tall or 170 lbs.
Straight face

Oberhasli

Mature does less than 28" tall or 120 lbs.
Mature bucks less than 30" tall or 150 lbs.

Saanen

Mature does less than 30" tall or 135 lbs.
Mature bucks less than 32" tall or 170 lbs.

Sable Saanen

Mature does less than 30" tall or 135 lbs.
Mature bucks less than 32" tall or 170 lbs.

Toggenburg

Mature does less than 26" tall or 120 lbs.
Mature bucks less than 28" tall or 150 lbs.
Few small white spots in hair of does

Moderate to Serious Faults

**Alpine, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf,
Oberhasli, Saanen, Toggenburg**
Roman nose

Serious Faults

Alpine

Bucks that are all white or with Toggenburg
color and markings

Oberhasli

Small white spots in hair of does

Saanen

Dark cream color
Several small dark spots in hair

Toggenburg

Black color in does
White stomach on does
Large white spot (More than 1 ½ " in
any direction) on does
Few small white spots in hair of
bucks

Very Serious Faults

Nubian

Dished face
Barely drooping ears

Oberhasli

Small white spots in hair of bucks

Breed Specific Disqualifications

Alpine

Pendulous or LaMancha type ears

LaMancha

Any other ear type but gopher and elf in
does

Any other ear type but gopher in bucks

Nigerian Dwarf

Pendulous or LaMancha type ears

Mature doe over 22.5" tall
mature buck over 23.5" tall

Oberhasli

Pendulous or LaMancha type ears

Black bucks

Any colors other than chamoise (or
black in does)

Large white spot (More than 1 ½ " in
any direction)

Saanen

Pendulous or LaMancha type ears

Large dark spot (More than 1 ½ " in
any direction)

Sable Saanen

Pendulous or LaMancha type ears

Solid white color

Solid light cream color

Toggenburg

Pendulous or LaMancha type ears

Tricolor or piebald

Black bucks

White stomach on bucks

Large white spot (More than 1 ½ " in
any direction) in bucks

Recorded Grades - A doe that is recorded as a
specific breed type should only be faulted if
the breed character defect would be a
disqualification. Then the fault should be
considered as if it were a very serious
defect.

JUDGING PROCEDURE

Developing a system when judging is important. This will allow you to concentrate on evaluating the animals without worrying about overlooking something. Start by standing back and getting an overall impression of the class as it walks. Look for outstanding traits or faults that rapidly divide the group into top, middle and bottom pairs of animals. When you have a general idea of your placings, move in for close inspection. At this time you should only be making comparisons to justify any close placings and strengthen your first impression. Move out again for another overall look, then mark your card and turn it in. Remember that your first impression is most likely to be right.

While the goats are moving, watch for:

- Pleasing carriage and smoothness of walk
- Width between hocks, strength of pasterns and width in chest floor
- Strength of topline, angle of rump and blending of shoulder blades into the withers and point of shoulder

Stand the goats in a head to tail line and look for:

- Overall angularity and dairy character
- Length and refinement of neck
- Set to front and rear legs
- Udder shape and apparent capacity
- Extension of fore udder and smoothness of rear udder
- Head profile and breed character (be sure to see both sides of the goat)
- Depth of heart and barrel
- Strength across the topline

In a Side by Side Line from the front look for:

- Width and depth of chest
- Set of front legs and cleanliness of knees
- Blending of point of shoulder

In a Side by Side Line from the rear look for:

- Sharpness of withers
- Fullness in the crop and spring of rib
- Width and flatness of rump from thurl to thurl
- Set of hind legs
- Height and width of rear udder
- Teat size, shape and placement
- Openness and width of the escutcheon

In Close Inspection

- Head and jaw abnormalities
- Rib spacing
- Coat texture and skin pliability
- Total area of udder attachment
- Udder texture
- Abnormalities in the teats

ORAL REASONS

No aspect of judging has more influence on a judge's reputation than their ability to give a clear, correct set of reasons for their placings. While this is often the most disliked part of a judging contest, it is one of the most important.

Reasons should be accurate, concise statements that clearly illustrate the differences between a pair of animals. The terminology used should be comparative rather than descriptive. Reasons should tell the specific areas of difference between animals, and not just give general impressions of the animals or class.

The background for all reasons is a sure knowledge of the appearance of a nearly ideal dairy goat. This is followed closely by familiarity with the scorecards, the evaluation of defects, the location of parts on the goat's body, and knowledge of the proper terminology. Plenty of practice will bring these pieces together into an accurate, compelling set of reasons.

Just as we look for certain traits when we judge an animal, we listen for certain characteristics when we hear a set of reasons at a judging contest or at a show. Characteristics that we look for include:

Accurate Observation

Evaluate all animals before you start talking. Select the animal that most nearly meets the ideal, then follow in type until logical reasons require you to change. Make sure that the reasons given are true and fit the animals in the class.

Proper Terminology

Use specific terms relating to the areas of the animals being compared. Be sure to compare the two animals rather than describing their traits. Use positive reasons. Point out the strong points of the higher animal, but be sure to recognize a superior trait in the lower animal, if she has one.

Organization

Start with a brief statement of what the class is. Organize your thoughts and start with the most important reason for the placing. Continue with less important reasons, make a grant if needed, then move onto the next pair. It makes your reasons much more clear if you identify an area of the scorecard then give the specific difference between the pair of animals.

Use of Forceful Reasons

Attract and hold people's attention. Speak clearly and at a moderate pace. The use of well organized, specific reasons, delivered with confidence, will make others confident in your ability to evaluate their animals, even if they disagree with your placing.

Poise

Be sincere and confident, but not smartalecky. If you are relaxed and confident in yourself, your reasons will flow more smoothly and be more believable. This only comes with practice.

The standard organization for goat judging contest reasons is to introduce the class, place each pair with 2 reasons selected from each of 2 different areas of the scorecard, then proceed to the next pair. On the last place goat, make a complimentary comment, then close the class. Be careful to neither talk too much nor too little when giving oral reasons, as both can reduce your score. Avoid making grants unless they are very obvious. Grants tend to take away the forcefulness of your reasons and can make you appear indecisive if used too often.

SOME SUGGESTED TERMINOLOGY FOR REASONS

SHE (HE) HAS or IS:

GENERAL APPEARANCE

HEAD

- Broader in the muzzle
- More desirable breed character about the ears, nose or markings
- More proper matching of the lower and upper jaw

NECK

- Blends more smoothly from the neck into the withers
- Blends more smoothly from the neck into the withers

SHOULDER BLADES

- Smoother blending of the shoulder blade into the chest wall
- A more refined, flatter shoulder blade

TOPLINE

- Sharper in the withers
- Wider in the loin
- The rump is more correct in slope from hips to pins
- Stronger and straighter in the topline, especially in the (chine or loin)
- Blends more smoothly from the loin into the rump

LEGS & FEET

- Straighter in the forelegs
- Has a more properly angulated hock when viewed from the side
- Stronger in the pasterns
- Shows more fullness at the point of elbow
- Has more width in the escutcheon area
- Flatter bone in the rear leg
- More desirable shape to the foot
- More width between the rear legs
- Cleaner in the knees

WALK

- Walks more smoothly
- Walks with a more impressive carriage

DAIRY CHARACTER

- Sharper in the withers
- More refined in the flank
- Longer and leaner in the neck
- Shows a greater space between the ribs
- Finer skin
- Leaner in the thigh
- More finely textured hair
- More desirable degree of fleshing
- A flatter, more incurving thigh
- A flatter, more refined bone

BODY CAPACITY

- Greater spring of rib
- Wider in the chest floor
- More open in the area of the elbow
- Deeper in the heart
- Deeper in the barrel
- Longer in the body from withers to hips

MAMMARY SYSTEM

- A more capacious udder
- A more smoothly blended fore udder attachment
- Teats that are more properly placed
- A higher and wider rear udder attachment
- More pliable udder texture
- A more desirable shape to the udder
- A greater overall area of udder attachment
- A more distinct medial suspensory ligament
- Teats that are more clearly delineated from the udder
- Less excess tissue in the udder
- An advantage in balance between the halves of the udder
- Greater extension of the lateral attachments
- A more smoothly blended rear udder
- Teats of a more proper length and diameter
- The floor of the udder carried higher above the hocks

REASONS PRACTICE SHEET

I have placed this class of

(age) (breed) (class)

1 places over 2 for her advantage in:

(main scorecard area)
She (has or is) (give supporting reasons)

and

She also has an advantage in

(secondary scorecard area)

Being _____

and

Continue this format for 2 over 3 and 3 over 4.

On the final goat in the class, use this format:

While she stands last today, 4
should be commended for her:

For these reasons, I have placed this class of

(age) (breed) (class)

Sample Reasons from a previous judging contest

Notice the capitalized terminology that compares the two animals, and the organization of the reasons within the framework of the scorecard.

I have placed this class of NUBIAN 4 YEAR OLD MILKERS C-D-A-B

1 places over 2 for her advantage in the MAMMARY SYSTEM. She has a HIGHER REAR UDDER ATTACHMENT and MORE PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN THE HALVES of the udder. 1 also has an advantage in GENERAL APPEARANCE, being STRONGER IN THE CHINE and WALKING WITH MORE WIDTH BETWEEN THE HOCKS, also having a MORE PROPER SET TO THE HOCK WHEN VIEWED FROM THE REAR.

2 places over 3 again on the MAMMARY SYSTEM. She has a LONGER, MORE SMOOTHLY BLENDED FORE UDDER ATTACHMENT and a MORE CAPACIOUS MAMMARY SYSTEM. 2 has an advantage in BODY CAPACITY, being DEEPER IN THE HEART, WIDER IN THE CHEST FLOOR, and having a greater SPRING OF RIB. She does grant to 3 in the area of DAIRY CHARACTER, with 3 being SHARPER IN THE WITHERS.

For her advantage in DAIRY CHARACTER 3 places over 4. She is SHARPER IN THE WITHERS and has a LONGER, MORE REFINED NECK. She also has an advantage in GENERAL APPEARANCE, standing on a STRONGER, SHORTER SET OF REAR PASTERNS and a MORE PROPERLY SHAPED FOOT.

While standing last today, 4 should be commended for her SMOOTHNESS OF BLENDING IN THE FRONT END.

For these reasons, I have placed this class of NUBIAN 4 YEAR OLD MILKERS C-D-A-B

REFERENCES

1. American Dairy Goat Association Guidebook, yearly updates of rules
2. The Illustrated Standard of the Dairy Goat, Nancy Lee Owen
3. Dairy Goat Judging Techniques, Harvey Considine and George Trimberger
4. Dairy Cattle Judging Techniques, George Trimberger
5. Dairy Goat Journal, monthly judging contests
6. County Extension Offices have access to other prepared materials, as well as slide and videotape sets on judging for dairy and other livestock species.

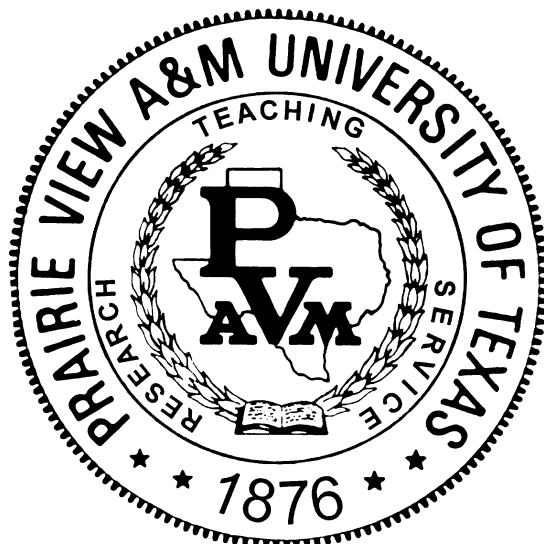
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