



## Goat Dairy and Production Systems

Presented by Sami Ray, Painted Feather Farms & the Nigerian Dwarf Goat Club of Florida

# What Do You Want to Produce With Your Goat Dairy

- \* Kids to Sell
- \* Goat Milk
- \* Goat Milk Food Products
  - \* Cheese, Yogurt, Kefir, Buttermilk, Frozen Ice Cream, Frozen Yogurt
- \* Goat Milk Non-Food Products
  - \* Soap, Lotion, Lip Balm, Candles, etc.



Sweet Nibbles Farm, Bushnell, FL

# Market for Kids

- \* The buyers for goat kids are:
  - \* 4H & FFA youth for their agricultural program in school and for showing (kids must be ADGA registered)
  - \* Homesteaders for milk
  - \* Pets for families
  - \* Folks looking for meat goats



# Goat Milk

- \* You need to know the laws in your state as far as selling milk.
- \* Raw milk, not pasturized, pet consumption only
  - \* Will need a Master Feed License from the State of Florida.
    - \* <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Feed-Distributor-Licensing>
- \* Milk pasturized
  - \* Will need dairy to be USDA approved as well as a state license .

# Your Property

- \* **The guide for the state of Florida is one acre for 6 to 8 goats.**
- \* **Find out your what the zoning for your property is from your county.**
- \* **Also check any deed restrictions from your neighborhood. Even if your property is zoned Agricultural, your neighborhood may have additional restrictions.**
- \* **Check your property for poisonous plants before putting your goats on it.**



# Housing and Fencing for Goats

- \* Goats need shelter from rain and cold temperatures.
- \* Fencing must be at least 4 feet tall (some goats will jump).
- \* For small breeds and small kids, your fencing should have small spacing between wire so the goats cannot get out through the spaces. If you use panels, horse panels are better than goat panels. They are a little taller and have the smaller spaces. Horse no-climb is also very popular.

# Protection from Predators

- \* Consider a LGD - Livestock Guardian Dog to live with your goats 24/7.
- \* Coyotes and dogs are goats' biggest predators.
- \* There are about 40 breeds of LGD's. Some of the common ones here in Florida are: Akbash, Anatolian Shepherd, Great Pyrenees, Karakachan, Maremmano Sheepdog.



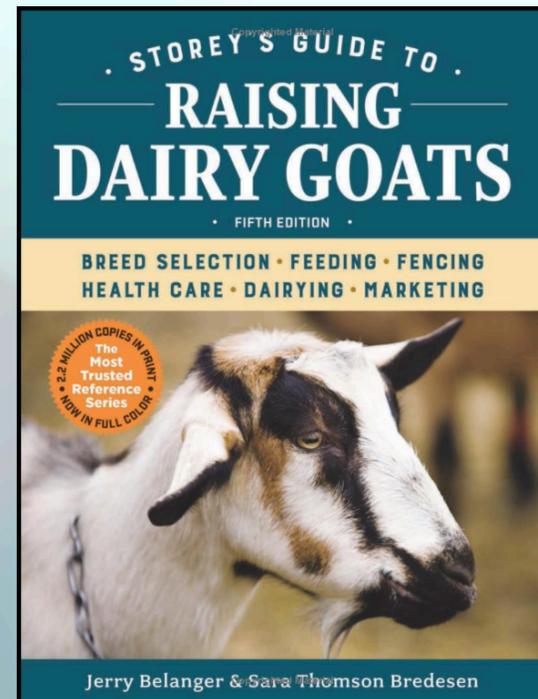
Anatolian Shepherd

# Find Dairy Goat Resources

- \* **Having some dairy goat resources will be a great help.**
- \* **Other local dairy goat breeders.**
- \* **Dairy goat clubs and organizations.**
- \* **Social media to find dairy goat breeders and clubs - but beware of advice from Social Media unless you really know the source.**

# Dairy Goat Management

- \* Before you get started -
  - \* Read books and articles on Dairy Goat Management from reputable sources.
  - \* Learn about goat parasites - one of the biggest problems for goats in Florida.
  - \* Talk to the resources you have found.
  - \* Take classes.



# Find a Veterinarian(s)

- \* **Make sure there is a veterinarian that takes care of goats. Many large animal veterinarians do care for goats, but not all of them. Also, they may be mobile and come to you.**
- \* **Most small animal veterinarians do not care for goats unless it is a mixed practice.**
- \* **Know where you can go for an emergency - example University of Florida Large Animal Hospital.**

# Locate Local Feed and Hay Resources

- \* Know where the best places to get grain, hay and minerals are.
- \* Determining which brand of grain you use may depend on what your local feed store carries.
- \* Most feed stores sell hay as well, or you may find another hay source that is less expensive.
- \* A good rule to follow is use a good feed made for goats - do not use an all stock feed or a feed made for sheep and goats - they have different nutritional needs.

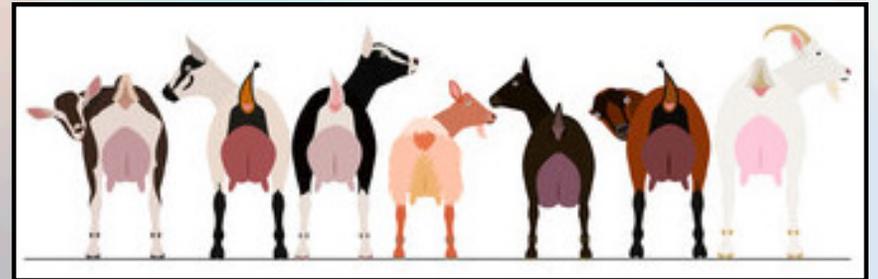


# Equipment & Supplies Needed

- \* Different times of the year will require different equipment.
- \* A milk stand is useful all year. Not just for milking, but for hoof trimming, grooming or giving meds.
- \* Hoof trimmers, collars, leads
- \* Heat lamps for cold weather and new born kids.
- \* Medicine cabinet with things you may need at any given time: de-wormers wound care, iodine, antibiotics, probiotics, bloat medicine, blood stop powder, syringes and needles, B1 2, Coccidiosis preventative and treatment, etc.

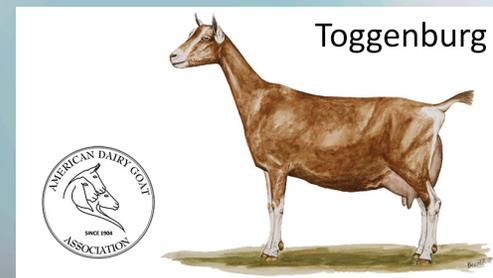
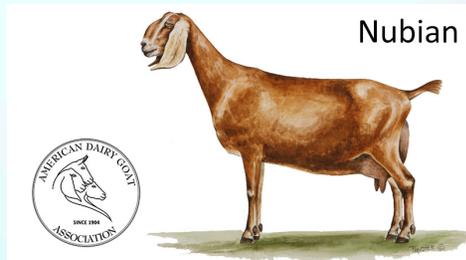
# What Breed(s) of Goats do You Want to Raise?

- \* **Large Breeds (100 lbs to 170 lbs)**
  - \* **Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Sable, Toggenburg, Recorded Grade (any large breeds crossed together)**
- \* **Miniature Dairy Goats (75 lbs to 170 lbs)**
  - \* **Any large breed crossed with a Nigerian Dwarf**
- \* **Small Breed (40 lbs to 75 lbs)**
  - \* **Nigerian Dwarf**



Pictures provided from  
[www.adga.org](http://www.adga.org)

# Breeds Of Dairy Goats



# Registered or Non-Registered Goats?

- \* Whether you have registered or non-registered, the milk products will be the same.
- \* Registered kids usually sell for more money.
- \* Better records through the registry association with registered animals.
- \* Dairy goat associations offer programs for dairy goats - keeping milk records and offering awards, as well as Dairy Goat shows for competition.

## The Most Popular Registry Associations in Florida



# Dairy Goat Registry Associations

- \* **ADGA - American Dairy Goat Association - all purebred dairy goats and recorded grade.**
  - \* **[www.adga.org](http://www.adga.org)**
  - \* **Most popular - almost all goat shows in Florida are sanctioned by ADGA and the goats shown must be registered with ADGA.**
- \* **AGS - American Goat Society - all purebred dairy goats**
  - \* **[www.americangoatsociety.com](http://www.americangoatsociety.com)**
- \* **MDGA - Miniature Dairy Goat Association - Registered dairy goats crossed with registered Nigerian Dwarf dairy goats.**
  - \* **[www.miniaturedairygoats.net](http://www.miniaturedairygoats.net)**
- \* **Be sure to join the association(s) you plan to purchase dairy goat registered with.**

# Florida Dairy Goat Clubs

- \* We have two dairy goat clubs in Florida.
- \* To be a member, it does not matter if your goats are registered or not.
- \* **FDGA - Florida Dairy Goat Association**
  - \* [www.fdga.net](http://www.fdga.net)
- \* **NDGCF - The Nigerian Dwarf Goat Club of Florida**
  - \* [www.ndgcf.net](http://www.ndgcf.net)



# Getting Your First Dairy Goats

- \* **What goats do you want to start with:**
  - \* **New kids, possible on the bottle to raise up for future breeding and milking?**
  - \* **Older does that are ready to breed or possible currently in milk?**
  - \* **Or a combination of both!**



# Purchasing Your Goats

- \* **Make sure the individual, breeder or farm you are purchasing goats from does test their herd for:**
  - \* **CAE - Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis**
  - \* **Johne's Disease**
  - \* **CL - Caseous Lymphadenitis**
- \* **Look for clean water and the condition of the goats**
- \* **Ask questions!**



# Get Started and Enjoy These Wonderful and Productive Animals!

For questions: Contact Sami Ray, [samiray1321@gmail.com](mailto:samiray1321@gmail.com)  
[www.paintedfeathergoats.com](http://www.paintedfeathergoats.com) & [www.ndgcf.net](http://www.ndgcf.net)

## **Favorite Links of Painted Feather Goats**

### **Dairy Goat Associations**

[ADGA](#) - American Dairy Goat Association

[AGS](#) - American Goat Society

[NDGA](#) - Nigerian Dwarf Goat Association

[ANDDA](#) - American Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goat Association

[NDGCF](#) - Nigerian Dwarf Goat Club of Florida

[FDGA](#) - Florida Dairy Goat Association

[GDGBA](#) - Georgia Dairy Goat Breeders Association

[MDGA](#) - Miniature Dairy Goat Association

[TMGR](#) - The Miniature Goat Registry

### **Goat Testing & Veterinarians**

[Blue Skies Equine](#)

[New Tampa Animal Hospital](#)

[Dade City Animal Clinic](#)

[Biotracking](#)

[WADDL](#) - Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab

[BADDL](#) - Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

[Sage Ag Labs](#)

### **Goat Suppliers and Equipment**

[www.hoeggerfarmyard.com](#)

[www.jefferslivestock.com](#)

[www.valleyvet.com](#)

[www.hambydairysupply.com](#)

[www.caprinesupply.com](#)

[www.premier1supplies.com](#)

[www.sheepshear.com](#)

[www.danshafarms.com](#)

My favorite hand milker!

[www.simplepulse.com](#)

### **Goat Miscellaneous Information:**

[Nigerian Dwarf Goat: Patterns & Colors](#)

[Tennessee Meat Goats \(Great Goat Articles\)](#)

Great for health and medical information

[Fiasco Farm](#)

[Goat Link](#)

# Keeping Goats

## Purchasing

- Make sure the breeder or farm you are dealing with does or has tested their herd for CAE (Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis) and Johne's Disease in Florida. If a goat looks bad - thin, nasty hair coat, tail down or lethargic, it may be sick. CAE and Johne's can be carried and not show symptoms. Having worms, coccidiosis, respiratory issues or CL (Caseous Lymphadenitis) may show signs. There is also a test for CL, but it is not as conclusive with a blood test as it is with an actual sample of the abscess.
- Look for clean water and at the adult goats, if buying babies. Ask questions!
- Goats definitely like to be with other goats. Your dog or other animals just will not be the same. You should definitely get at least two goats together.
- Find a veterinarian who treats goats in your area

## Housing

- First check your property for poisonous plants. You can all the information for Florida at the UF/IFAS website.
- House or stall with four walls and door for the goats to get into for protection from rain and cold
- Depending on the flooring of the space, you may want to use shavings. Sawdust is not recommended because it can cause coughs or respiratory issues. So the size of the shavings is your choice.
- Big enough area they can run around in during the day
- Hay rack - to keep as much hay off the ground as possible
- Feed bowls
- Water - bucket or automatic
- Things they can climb on and lay off the ground on
- Heat lamp, if needed in really cold weather, if possible

## Feed

- Grain formulated for goats
- Hay (Peanut, Timothy & Alfalfa, Orchard & Alfalfa, Alfalfa)
- Clean water
- Goat formula loose minerals or molasses bucket
- Baking Soda - can be left out free choice to help prevent bloat
- Goat treats
- A lower protein diet is suggested for bucks and wethers (castrated males)

# Keeping Goats

## Protection

- Goats are targets for **coyotes** and **dogs**. Both can find a way into your goat pen or pasture by digging under or climbing/jumping over fencing. Many goats have been attacked by stray or neighbors dogs or owners dogs. Baby goats are in danger from smaller animals and large birds. Things that can help:
  - Taller fences
  - Locking the goats up in a barn or safe house at night
  - Hot wire, top and bottom of fencing
  - **Most protective are Livestock Guardian dog(s)** that live in with the goats 24/7. The LGD's are certain breeds. NOT all dog breeds can be guardian dogs. LGD breeds include: Anatolian Shepherds, Great Pyrenees, Maremma, Akbash, Kuvasz, Karakachan, and more. For Florida, a dog with a shorter hair coat or lots of grooming is best. Livestock herding dogs are not protection, they like to chase the goats.
  - If you have dogs, which most farms do, please be careful introducing your new goats to your dogs. Goats do not like to be chased and get scared and very stressed. Goats and dogs do not play the same.

## Goat Supplies

- Wormer
- Coccidiosis Medicine (Albon, Di-Methox, Toltrazuril)
- Power Punch or Nutri Drench
- Goat probiotic
- B12 (injectable best)
- Bose (selenium) (injectable best)
- Copper Bolus
- Bloat Treatment
- SpectoGard (for scours, loose poop)
- Wound medicine (spray or antibiotic cream)
- Blood stop powder (Wonder Dust)
- Vet wrap (for wounds if needed)
- Dosing syringe (3 cc for babies, up to 20 cc for adults)
- CD&T vaccine
- Syringes (1cc, 3cc, 6cc, 10cc)
- 20 ga 1" needles or smaller, 22 ga
- Some type of antibiotic, NuFlor one of the best, need Rx or get from Veterinarian
- Thermometer

# Keeping Goats

- Heating pad
- Hoof trimmers

## New Kids

- Bottles, (for Nigerian Dwarf 8 to 12 ounce, Plastic Pepsi, Coke, etc. 12 oz work, some beverage glass bottles work). Big breeds usually end up using 20 oz bottles.
- Prichard nipples for Nigerian Dwarf, big breeds can use some of the larger nipples
- Real goats milk, if available or Kids Milk Replacer Powder, when older just whole milk

## Kidding

- Towels
- Iodine
- Calcium drench
- Scissors
- Forceps
- Scale
- Lubricant
- Thermometer
- Gloves
- Long Gloves
- Heating pad
- Stethoscope