

HERD RECORDING

Herd recording is a very accurate method of determining your goats milk production over their lactation. We are now fortunate enough that **Geoff Potts of DAIRY EXPRESS** also has a keen interest in dairy goat production and has a scheme which is accessible and easy to use.

The type of information which you will receive every time you sample your milk includes:

Test day information on amt of milk, protein%, BF% and cell count

Days in milk (DIM)

Location to date, for example: after 290 DIM the doe produced 947kg of milk, 25kg of protein and 42kg of BF. In this time her average protein % was 2.64% and average BF% was 4.44%.

A performance summary which gives you an average production of your herd that is being recorded..

Comparison of test day performance which shows your average production level at each recording

So, now you are keen and want to start this year.....

Contact **DAIRY EXPRESS 1800633165** and ask for the forms to begin herd recording. They will mail this out to you. Don't be overwhelmed at the booklets you receive as Dairy Express are very helpful in assisting you. Noelene Dean, James Parlevliet and I can also guide you through this initial stage. Noelene is an expert!!

Write to the State Milk Awards Officer, James Parlevliet, to register your stud in the NSW Herd Recording Scheme (each stud costs \$2.00)

Read the information in the Year Book about 24 hr milk production tests,, NSW lactation scheme, rules for milk awards and how to do a one day production test on your does.

Read the Herd Book for information on one day tests, herd recording independently or by farmer own sampling or by a combination method (pge 155-164 in the 2009 edition)

Understand how to fill out the DGSA herd recording sheet (in Year Book). This has to be filled out for each recording.

Dairy Express give you sampling vials with a preservative in it, sample day recording sheet and a courier voucher to send samples to their testing lab in Sydney. Once you have completed your milk test put the labelled vials securely into a box with an ice brick and ring the courier (phone number on voucher). The courier will pick up and deliver your samples.

Remember not to record in the first 7 days after birth. About 6 weeks after kidding the doe will peak in her lactation and this is the best time to achieve a milk award (*, Q* etc). You must begin recording within the first 90 days after kidding and then within 70 days thereafter.

Within a week you get your results back in the mail with an invoice payment. It's not expensive... I pay \$8.80 each time to get 5 does tested.

Then the courier returns the box, with the ice pack and new sampling vials for your next recording.

Liz Ruis

BENEFITS OF HERD RECORDING WITH DAIRY EXPRESS

Improved buck selection due to known milk records of dams

Detection of possible mastitis problems

Improvements can be made in feeding/drenching/breeding programs

Gaining Milk Awards for your does

BF and protein content known for cheesemaking

Big producer, shorter lactation vs average producer, long lactation. Which one is better?

Competing in 24 hr test and herd recording classes at shows

Tips: **Goats with high cell counts (SCC) can be drenched daily with 10ml apple cider vinegar or 20-30ml per month. It's best to be diluted with water.

**You don't have to have a milk award to enter TP 24 hr tests classes..just points.