

Alpine Feature

continued from page 19

that you like the look of. It's great to have goats that win in the show ring but you are going to be in the barn with them every day, they should have the look that you want.

How have you seen the breed evolve since your start in dairy goats?

HA: As a breed, Alpines tend to be bigger, both in stature and body capacity. Also, there seems to be more of a push for animals that excel outside the showing.

WF: We have noticed the breed continues to gain size. The mammary systems have also improved. I think we are also seeing a rise in the overall quality of goats we see at shows. There is no longer a dramatic difference between the quality at the front and end of the line-up.

From the time you started breeding dairy goats what bucks or lines do you feel have made the most impact on the breed? The most impact on your herd?

HA: The big herd name when we started in Alpines was Willow Run and more specifically the Rishona line. However we only had one animal from that line and did not retain any offspring from her. We have seen quite a bit of impact from Redwood Hills in both their does and bucks. This definitely holds true in our herd as well. Freelance obviously made a huge impact the last couple of years in the Alpine breed all over the country.

WF: Some of the lines we observed making an impact on the breed when we were starting out would be Redwood Hills, Hoach's, Sunshine, Willow Run, Maple Glen, Nodaway and Sanstorm. Some of the notable bucks in the breed would be Tempo Aquila Freelance, Qu'Appelle V Ember and Etienne, Pleasant Grove Super Standout and his brother Saga, and Willow Run Armand Abraham. The bucks that have most impacted our herd would be Willow Run Abraham Wonder and Iron Rod ET Sheriff.

Today, what do you see as the overall strength and weakness of the Alpine?

HA: Today, Alpines tend to be strong in both the general appearance and mammary system, while lacking some structural correctness and smoothness of blending in the front end.

WF: I think today's Alpine is a stronger, larger breed than in the past. I think improvements have been made in dairy character and in mammary system. We still need to work on our feet and leg issues and

straightening out the front end. It seems to us that we are losing some breed character in the head as well. We miss seeing the pretty, feminine heads of the past.

What do you feel is the number one structural issue facing the breed and how can it be corrected?

HA: We feel that front end structure is the biggest structural issue facing the Alpine breed. To correct this issue we would need to employ the same selection and breeding decisions and objectives as any industry does when trying to correct a weakness.

WF: Feet and legs seem to be something most of us need to continue to improve. Obviously by using bucks that are strong in this area would make an impact. We've noticed that by breeding for extremes, like stature, we tend to slip a little in correctness. Perhaps a moderation of some of these extremes would help as well.

Regionally and nationally speaking in order to enhance the breed what characteristics should breeders be working towards by correcting, adding to the breed or eliminating from the breed?

HA: No opinion.

WF: It almost seems that milk production is a secondary concern of breeders. We are rarely asked about a doe's milk production by potential buyers. That is one reason we went off milk test. We think this should become a higher priority when adding new genetics to a herd and not just basing the decision solely on show records. We have been guilty of this ourselves in the past.

What is your observation regarding French vs. American Alpine genetics?

HA: French versus American is simply a point of contention between Alpine breeders that will probably outlast any of the breeders today. We have had a few French Alpines, however we put more emphasis on the individual animal instead of the extra "A" on the registration papers. There have been good French and bad French Alpines, good American Alpine and bad American Alpines. A hindrance of the French vs. purebred genetics occurs when a breeder wants to keep their doe line French but there are generally less local breeding options. Another hindrance we have noticed is the confusion among new breeders about if American Alpines are still "Alpines".

WF: We primarily breed purebred Alpines. We have a couple of American does that go back to our very first breeding season on the farm. We do feel it is important to preserve the French bloodlines. It's also a sound business decision as breeders of both American and French use purebred bucks.

ADGA Alpine Top Ten Production Records

Milk Production

1. Mamm-Key Glade's Jitterbug 4*M (AA), 2-00 305 5670, Tina Antes
2. Bethel Mur Ray Rochelle 5*M (AA), 3-10 305 5480, Mark & Gwen Hostetler
3. Bethel Mur Millie Milky 4*M (AA), 4-00 305 5170, Mark & Gwen Hostetler
4. SGCH Mamm-Key Gypsy's Whiskey 3*M (AA), 4-11 302 4810, Tina Antes
5. SG Mamm-Key Sugar Cookie 4*M (AA), 4-00 300 4790, Tina Antes
6. SGCH Chairein Van Brie 1*M (AA), 3-10 305 4780, Tony De Mello
7. Chairein Showman's Pearl 3*M (AA), 4-11 305 4680, Tony De Mello
8. SG Mamm-Key Piney's Needles 12*M (AA), 3-00 305 4510, Tina Antes
9. Bethel Mur Thelma Thankful 4*M (AA), 5-11 305 4420, M. & G. Hostetler
10. SG Chairein Van Shirley 1*M (AA), 3-11 283 4380, Tony De Mello

Butterfat Production

1. SG Mamm-Key Piney's Needles 12*M (AA), 3-00 305 193, Tina Antes
2. SG Mamm-Key Sugar Cookie 4*M (AA), 4-00 300 4790, Tina Antes
3. SG Ladies-Choice WR Amarillo Sky 11*M (AA), 4-01 305 177, Ladies Choice
4. SGCH Mamm-Key Gypsy's Whiskey 3*M (AA), 4-11 302 175, Tina Antes
5. Bethel Mur Ray Rochelle 5*M (AA), 3-10 305 173, Mark & Gwen Hostetler
6. SG Hurricane-PM TASB Zelda 2*M (AA), 4-00 283 162, Patricia Walker
7. Redwood Hills Sierra Angelina 12*M (AA), 4-03 305 161, Jennifer Bice
8. Bethel Mur Millie Milky 4*M (AA), 4-00 305 157, Mark & Gwen Hostetler
8. Bethel Per Jam Jamaica 4*M (AA), 3-11 289 157, Mark & Gwen Hostetler
10. SG Redwood Hills Sting Rosita 9*M (AA), 3-02 155, Jennifer Lynn Bice

Protein Production

1. Mamm-Key Glade's Jitterbug 4*M (AA), 2-00 305 152, Tina Antes
2. SG Mamm-Key Piney's Needles 12*M (AA), 3-00 305 147, Tina Antes
3. SG Mamm-Key Sugar Cookie 4*M (AA), 4-00 300 138, Tina Antes
4. Chairein Showman's Pearl 3*M (AA), 4-11 305 133, Tony De Mello
5. SGCH Mamm-Key Gypsy's Whiskey 3*M (AA), 4-11 302 130, Tina Antes
6. Bethel Mur Ray Rochelle 5*M (AA), 3-10 305 129, Mark & Gwen Hostetler
7. SG Chairein Van Shirley 1*M (AA), 3-11 283 127, Tony De Mello
8. SGCH Chairein Van Brie 1*M (AA), 3-10 304 126, Tony De Mello
8. Chairein Enduring Hana 3*M (AA), 5-00 290 126, Tony De Mello
10. Shining-Moon Zinger Dancer 1*M (AA), 1-11 279 124, Micki Colfax

CAE Prevention Guidelines

- Remove kids from dams immediately after birth. DO NOT allow the doe to clean the kid, or the kid to nurse the doe.

- Dip navels in iodine and feed kids heat-treated colostrum within half an hour of birth. Colostrum should be heat-treated in a double boiler or it will scorch and/or become custard-like in texture. An alternate method is to heat the colostrum to the desired temperature and put it in a preheated thermos for the required time. Be sure the thermos jug will hold the colostrum at the proper temperature for one hour. Home pasteurizing units can also be used.

- After feeding heat-treated colostrum, kids should be raised on pasteurized goat milk, cow milk or a quality milk replacer for goats (or any combination of the three).

Heating recommendations

COLOSTRUM: heat to 135 degrees F and hold at that temperature for one hour. Do not overheat or the colostrum will turn into a thick "pudding". Stir constantly over a double boiler or put it in a preheated thermos jug. Home pasteurizing units can make the process less time-consuming.

GOAT MILK: pasteurize by heating to 165 degrees F for 15 seconds. A home sized pasteurizer can be used for this purpose, or the milk can be heated in a double boiler. Some owners use cow milk (should also be pasteurized) or quality goat milk replacers.