# Judge Along





DAIRY GOAT

## What a Judge might look for in Dairy Goats:

- \* Strong dairy characteristics, which are characteristics desired in dairy goats such as a specific bone structure, mammary system, and body composition.
- \* A strongly attached udder that is elastic and well balanced with adequate capacity to allow for heavy milk production over a long period of time.
- \* A relatively large body in proportion to the animal's size, age, and stage of milk production. Prominent hips, thin thighs, and a long neck.
- \* An angular (not round) and open body with a strong, yet refined, bone structure.

### What a Judge might look for in the show ring:

- \* Showmanship includes general appearance, especially cleanliness of the animal and the exhibitor's ability to lead and pose the animal in the ring.
- \* The goats are led around the ring and are kept between the exhibitor and judge at all times.
- \* When the animal is standing still, its legs are positioned squarely under its body to show off the best advantages.
- \* Traditionally, showmen wear all white clothing. In the past, this was to keep the judges focused on the animals, not on the showmen.
- \* A good showman is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animals and to the judge.



### Did you know...

- \* The eight major dairy goat breeds in the USA are the <u>Saanen</u>, <u>Sable</u>, <u>Nubian</u>, <u>Toggenburg</u>, <u>LaMancha</u>, <u>Oberhasli</u>, <u>Nigerian Dwarf</u>, and <u>Alpine</u>.
- \* Goats' pupils are rectangular. This gives them vision for 320 to 340 degrees around them without having to move and they are thought to have excellent night vision.
- \* Goats are herd animals and will become depressed if kept without any goat companions.
- \* Dairy goats must be milked twice a day, 12 hours apart.
- \* Goat milk is also lower in lactose, or milk sugars, than cow milk.

#### Test Your Knowledge

- 1. Pygmy goats cannot be milked. True or False
- 2. When in the show ring, it is unacceptable to ask the judge to repeat a question or maneuver request. **True or False**
- 3. When showing dairy goats, walking backwards is unacceptable. True or False
- 4. If the topline tends to dip, bringing the does hind legs closer to the front legs will help raise it. **True or False**
- 5. When the judge asks the exhibitor to make a maneuver with your goat and you either don't hear or understand, the exhibitor should follow what everyone else is doing. **True or False**
- 6. An exhibitor should wear blue jeans and a blue shirt when showing dairy goats. True or False
- 7. Chevre is a cheese made from goat's milk. True or False
- 8. The withers are located between the hipbones and the pin bones. True or False
- 9. Feet and legs are a part of the general appearance of the goat judging scorecard. True or False
- 10. If your goat is acting up in the ring it is OK to pet it. True or False

1-E, 2-E, 3-T, 4-T, 5-E, 6-E, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T, 10-F



#### Dairy Goat Line Up

1. Nubian 2. Saanen 3. Oberhasli 4. Nigerian Dwarf 5. Toggenburg 6. LaMancha 7. Alpine 8. Sable