

# Last N' News

A publication of the  
Iowa Dairy Goat Association

*Guinevere McIntyre, Newsletter Editor*

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## 2016 Winter

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## Letter from the President

Greetings to all in the Iowa Dairy Goat world and beyond.

Hopefully as I write this you all have those special does bred to the Bucks of your dreams and are waiting for the next champions, superb milkers or genetically superior bucks to hit the ground. Or just some nice healthy kids depending on what your "goat goals" happen to be. I realize that each breeder has a slightly different reason for owning goats but regardless of your reasons this is an exciting time to be in the goat business.

The long and glorious fall has given us extra time to get water heaters placed, button up drafty areas, put up extra winter feed and hay and generally prepare our goats and facilities for the long Iowa winter. Don't forget worming, foot care, dry time and pregnancy nutrition.

A couple things to remember: please get your memberships updated. If you plan on appraising your herd in 2017 the deadline is in January. There is a production sale at Washington, IA on January 10 for those who are interested. We have a committee working on a shirt design which is exciting and will be available for purchase this spring commemorating IDGA's 50th anniversary. Your board is working for you and is always available for comments and suggestions. We welcome your participation and involvement.

A little trivia: Did you know there was a goat kept at the White House by Benjamin Harrison's children? His name was "Old Whiskers." I think times have changed!

Best regards, John



# Van Wyks Celebrate 40 Years at the Fair

By Pam Banta

Reprinted with permission of the Hawarden Independent/Examiner



Rod and Jan Van Wyk at the Iowa State Fair  
photo courtesy of Steve Pope Photography/Iowa State Fair

Rod and Jan Van Wyk got into raising dairy goats by chance. Jan was allergic to cows milk, so the couple decided to try goat's milk and started raising goats. What started for health reasons turned into a 40-year family tradition and business.

"As a farm kid I had always wanted goats," Rod noted. "My folks said, 'No, we don't need more stuff like this.'"

The Van Wyks started showing the goats at the State Fair shortly after buying the first two. All four of their children have shown goats at the fair as youngsters before joining 4-H and after.

"Goats are a smaller breed of animal and worked really good with the kids to show," Jan said. "Robin [their daughter] started showing when she was two years old. One time a goat ran away with her but she hung on and wouldn't let go."

All Van Wyk Acre goats have descended from the two original goats purchased 40 years ago, one Alpine and one Nubian doe kid. The goats are all registered stock. "We have two breeds and recorded grades and those that you are breeding up to, in this case Alpine status," Rod said. "Some of them were cross-bred way back in the generations. This year we had Alpines and recorded grades at the fair."

Showing the goats for competition at the State Fair takes patience, time and caring. Robin is in charge of the grooming process for competition.

"They are totally body clipped," Rod said. "The feet are trimmed; at the show a touch-up is done. Mostly the udders are shaved again so all the hair is removed from the udder. They are washed the evening before the show."

"You want them to look as nice as possible," Jan noted.

The Van Wyks had 20 goats at the state fair. There were nearly 500 head of goats in the State Fair competition this year. The Iowa State Fair Dairy Goat Show is sanctioned by the American Dairy

Goat Association (ADGA) and their rules govern the competition. "Showing at the fair that long, sometimes it is the only time you see some of the people," Rod said. "We bring our own food and our own bedding and eat and sleep in the barn the time we are down there."

In the barns this year, the family got washed out by rain storms and had to seek higher ground to dry everything out. The couple's children, grandchildren and other family members make this a family destination every year to see the goats compete and win.

"The water was just pouring into our pens," Jan noted. "Everything was getting wet so we had to move all our animals and all or most of our stuff."

The Van Wyk Acres goats were awarded a number of first, second, third and fourth place ribbons at this year's fair, including the Reserve Grand Champion Senior Doe. Along with ribbons and bragging rights some places receive premium money.

"The state fair is always competitive," Rod noted. "The quality of animal in the time that we have shown has gotten better, with improvement in the dairy goats. Stuff that we used to show, we don't even keep any more."

Judges' expectations have changed over the past 40 years.

"The mammary systems are much improved, the feet and legs are better," Rod said. "This comes with breeding; you don't just mate any two animals. You analyze what the female has and try to find a sire to mate her to that will improve the offspring over what she was."

"Going to shows is really good too, because you can see what other people have and if they stand ahead of you, what do they have that maybe you should have," Jan remarked.

The learning doesn't end at the fair gate. Rob studies the lineage of winning goats to see what progeny is ahead of his own goats. The networking with other goat breeders is an invaluable asset at the fair.

"All four of our kids had their own line of goats for 4-H projects," Rod said. "Our oldest daughter used flower names, and the goats descended from her line we give a flower name to." The original doe in one line was named Silver Slipper and the descendents are named in that manner.

When their son, Rory, was young he came before a very stern judge who told him to go to the side and she would get to him later. He did as he was told, but was so frightened by the judge he would not go out and continue to show the goats. Jan showed his next goats and ended going Grand Champion.

*Continued on page 3*



"She was an elderly judge from Texas and there was a very large class of goats and I think she just lost track of him," Rod stated. "She placed the rest of the class and forgot about him. She looked up and asked him, 'What are you doing here?' He was so shook up, he went crying out the ring."

"Growing up on a farm, they are livestock, but most are quite personable; you do become more attached," Rod said. "They respond a little bit more to human interaction than some species."



*Van Wyk Dairy Goats at home*

"They are kind of like humans, too; some are really friendly and others standoffish, 'Just leave me alone, I don't want to have anything to do with you,'" Jan remarked.

Before moving to Hawarden from the Mason City area, the couple ran a commercial dairy and milked 120 goats. Now that they have moved to Northwest Iowa and live on a much smaller acreage, they have anywhere from 15 to 20 that they milk.

"Now we freshen about 20 to 30 and sell off what we think won't make a show string," Rob stated. "With the increased interest in goat milk, we sell off what we don't want to go to a commercial dairy in Illinois."

The main competition for the Van Wyk Acre dairy goats is the Iowa State Fair, but they did travel to Huron, SD in June for the South Dakota Goat Show and to Sioux Center in July for the Quad State Classic Dairy Goat Show.

"There was a show at the Sioux County Fair grounds and there were 324 goats," Jan said. "This is just the second year for that show." The Van Wyks have taken goats to the national competition when it was within driving distance.

"It is not only showing the goats, but the people," Jan remarked. "We have gotten some friends that are lifelong friends."

The couple lives on an acreage south of Hawarden on K-18. They also raise a few beef cattle, poultry and pigs. They hope to continue to show at the fair and other competitions.

## Welcoming our newest & youngest 2016 IDGA members!



**William Charles Korver**  
 Born May 26, 2016  
 Justin and Brittany Korver  
 of Alton, IA  
 Ranschau Acres and  
 Meadow Valley herds



**Lindy Rae Goemaat**  
 Born October 29, 2016  
 Dan and Sara Goemaat of  
 Belmond, IA  
 Sunny D herd

# ALPHA S1 CASEIN: SO YOU WANT TO MAKE MOZZARELLA

By Naomi Counides,  
written for Dairy Goat Journal

Many years ago I was speaking to a California commercial dairy and cheese person, 1000 head of goats, who bemoaned the fact that he could not make a 100% goat milk Mozzarella that would stretch every time. "If only I could make a consistently stretching mozz, I could sell as much as I could produce." I told him I could do that and provided him with the method I was using.... I guess it did not work for him.

In a recent conversation Dr. Chris Duemler of Riven Oaks Nubians <http://rivenoaknubians.com/> told me why. His wife is a University of Wisconsin trained cheese maker. Over the past 15 years they have been making consistently stretching mozzarella and testing their goats for the presence of the high variants of Alpha S1 Casein.

Italy is the home of mozzarella where it is typically made from the milk of Water Buffalo. The American Water Buffalo Association describes this milk as typically 8% butterfat, 4.5% protein. The high variants of the Alpha S1 Casein protein are universal in Water Buffalo.

The high variants of Alpha S1 Casein, so beneficial to cheese makers, are found in goats but not by any means universally. Nubians and Nigerians have the highest percentage of high variant individuals, followed by Lamanchas. It is relatively uncommon in US European breeds. However it is possible for any goat breeder to seek it out, test for it and breed for it.

From the OLD ADGA.org website:

"The alpha s1-casein is a protein polymorphism of goat milk first described in Europe, in the French Alpine and Saanen breeds, in the early nineteen eighties, and is one found in all dairy goat breeds.

These polymorphisms have been found to affect cheese making due to differences in protein content, renneting properties (faster coagulation and firmer curd) and a possible connection in relation to cheese flavor. In one study, the results of researches conducted on homozygous individuals for the various alleles confirmed the effects of genotype on the casein content in milk by showing the cheese making yield observed in milk produced by those animals with strong alleles was 7% higher in comparison with those with medium alleles and 15% higher than those with weak alleles."

The Europeans have had a strong commercial interest in goat cheeses for far longer than the US so it is no wonder that they first described Alpha S1 Casein and have made use of this genetic trait in their dairy herds. (i.e. They have been breeding for it.)

In the US, interest has been more limited. However, testing and using the results of those tests for breeding decisions has great potential for cheesemakers, both commercial and homestead.

The variants in Alpha S1 Casein are A and B (high), E, F and N (low). UC Davis can test for this. <https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/alphas1.php> (ADGA has a discounted rate for members. Pulled hairs provide the necessary testing material.)

High variants (A and B) correlate with good curd formation and yield. They also correlate with higher butterfat and protein. (Closer to the profile of Water buffalo milk)

On the other hand, low and null variants may be less likely to trigger some forms of milk sensitivity. These are proteins, not to be confused with lactose, which is a sugar.

The Riven Oak Herd has a herd average of 4.5% protein and came at it using Alpha S1 Casein testing.

The Pennyroyal Nubian herd, which has been recognized (ADGA Top 10) for production with high components, came in the opposite direction. Their animals had already demonstrated milk quality when they were tested for Alpha S1 Casein. Predictably, the genetics showed the presence of the high alleles.

As a goat keeper interested in cheese, I also have pursued genetics which I hoped would bring high components into my herd. However it was only recently that I chose to have 14 of my goats tested. I was most pleased to find that all had at least one high variant, and in the younger group, all had a double dose of the high variants. (The Cheese Whizzes) This included my polled buck, Dave. Knowing that Dave always throws one high variant into every kid he makes, strongly influenced my breeding decisions this past fall. Alpha S1 Casein status will be an important consideration in allowing a buck to gain employment in my herd in the future. Animals with a double dose of the A and B variants will have a strong claim on my 'keeper' list. I will definitely test and breed for more Cheese Whizz individuals.

Now back to the gentleman from the California Dairy...His herd of 1000 was mostly populated by European breed goats. He did not Alpha S1 Casein test, and high variants in the European breeds are relatively rare. In my opinion, it is highly improbable that he had enough high variant milk to make the mozzarella he dreamed of.

**Genetic testing is a wonderful tool for goat breeders.**

If you dream of lovely stretchy mozzarella, Alpha S1 Casein testing may help you to your goal. And if you are interested in other cheeses, the curd formation and yield will be of interest. And then there is the correlation of richer milk with higher solids... once again, the high variants of Alpha S1 casein are there for you.

Genetic testing is a wonderful tool for goat breeders. Alpha S1 Casein testing can be a useful tool for those who want to breed for richer, and more cheese friendly milk. (And stretchy mozz.)

# Our Own Iowa Superior Genetics

By Doris Gronewold

I think all of us, myself included, have read articles that were so intense and politically correct when it came to superior genetics, especially the Alpha "S1" Casein genetic, that our eyes just plain glazed over.

I might advise, please go to the ADGA website and absorb as much as you can. That, in itself, will be an enormous help to get started.

We started into dairy goats in 1970. I first started with a few local grade Toggenburgs when we lived in Brainerd, MN. They were very poor milkers. Then I got some nice grade Saanen milkers from Harvey Considine. Then later on, I bought several Purebred Toggenburgs from Tesdahls in Iowa.

In later years, when we lived in Puposky, Minnesota, on advice from a pen pal and friend, Mrs. Carl Sandburg, I kept my Toggenburgs. For economical reasons, I sold the Saanens. She was convinced I had something working for me where the Toggenburgs were concerned. I started making cheese with a recipe she had sent

me. She appreciated the higher butterfat and protein levels, not to mention the tremendous production she had in her own herd.

I began to notice that with the higher butterfat and protein levels, I got more cheese volume from the same amount of milk from my special test group. I set out to improve those lines.

In 2005, we bought a mini farm in Waterville, Iowa. This was in the heart of dairy country and was called the little Switzerland of Iowa.

In 2008, I sent in DNA to Cal-Davis in California through a very effective program offered by the ADGA.

We sent in DNA earlier on Carbon Copy (91 EEE) and got back DNA on his son I'm a Copy II. He was A/F. So we set out using him a lot, also. Copy II had frozen both of his ears as a kid when our heat lamps burned out and he ended up only appraised at 84 VVV. We used him and he gave us many beautiful daughters and handsome, correct sons. One of his daughters,

Arabella, is still producing offspring with the A/F.

We put many offspring into dairies around the mid-West. Many, to our regret, never keep the paperwork up.

My advice to you is to cull your herd carefully to the best, keeping out the undesirable traits and install the variant using only the best bucks and does you can find.

We like to keep as a rule of thumb, milkers 3,000# of milk with butterfat levels no less than 3.6% with 3% protein as a guide line. Our linear appraisal whole herd average is now 90. Our last linear appraisal was in June of this year. We are fully installed with the Alpha S1 Casein F/F to A/F.

I think this genetic will be a terrific boon to the industry!

Happy Goat-Keeping ~ Doris

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Want your genetic test results publicly available through ADGA? Use this link:  
[https://form.jotform.com/](https://form.jotform.com/63105591261147)

63105591261147

In the near future, there should be an option to check on the ADGA form when you order the tests, and they will appear on registration certificates. Thanks Gene Dershewitz and Laura Shepard!

We want to hear from you. If you have questions or comments about anything in this newsletter, have topics you would like to see covered, or have something to submit, please contact Guinevere McIntyre at [jasperfarm@live.com](mailto:jasperfarm@live.com) or call 641-236-5120.



# Upcoming USDA Sheep & Goat Survey: Numbers in Iowa

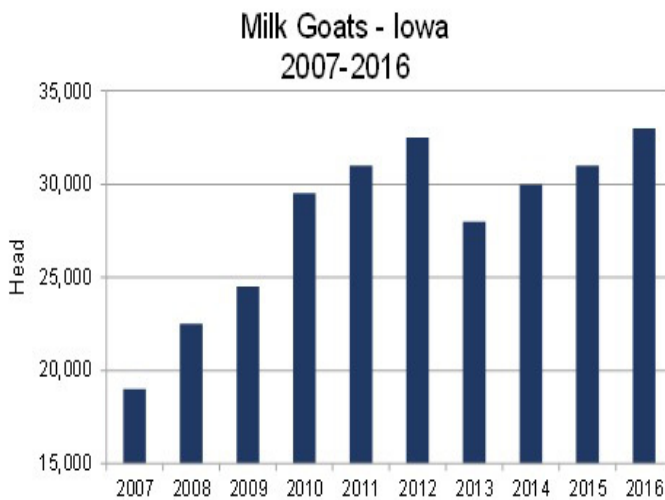
**Doug Hartwig**  
Deputy Director, USDA NASS Upper Midwest

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is contacting producers for the January Sheep and Goats Survey. The nationwide survey collects data on sheep and goat inventories, lambs and kids born the previous year, and wool and mohair production. NASS will mail the questionnaires to those producers selected for the survey in late December. NASS interviewers will begin telephone and personal interviews on December 31 to ensure producers have an opportunity to respond.

"Interest in sheep and goat data continues to grow with increased diversification in agriculture and consumer demands," said Greg Thessen, Director of the NASS Upper Midwest Regional Field Office in Des Moines, IA. "The Sheep and Goat Survey gives producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions and trends in the industry." In Iowa, NASS will contact about 900 operations to request their responses to the survey.

Iowa's milk goat inventories have been on the rise, increasing 74 percent since 2007 when 19,000 head of milk goats were reported. Iowa's inventory of 33,000 head ranked 3rd in the U.S. for milk goats as of January 1, 2016, behind Wisconsin and California which ranked 1st and 2nd respectively.

## Iowa's Milk Goat Industry



The information survey participants provide will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. Individual participants in a NASS survey can rest assured that summary data will not be published in a way that would identify them or data for their operation.

Results of the Sheep and Goats Survey will be published January 31, 2017. NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information, call the NASS Iowa Field Office at (800)772-0825.

# Goat Yoga – What???

**Lori Wells**  
Trend-tracing IDGA reporter

Trending now is yoga in the goat pasture, bring your mat, no class size limit. Goats are pretty peaceful creatures for the most part and I do feel pretty relaxed around my goats – yoga is supposed to be relaxing, so I guess it is a natural pairing.

Goat yoga began almost by accident on a farm in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Lainey Morse occasionally hosted events at her No Regrets Farm. At one event, a woman who was a yoga instructor suggested the farm as a potential site for yoga classes. The first classes were a huge



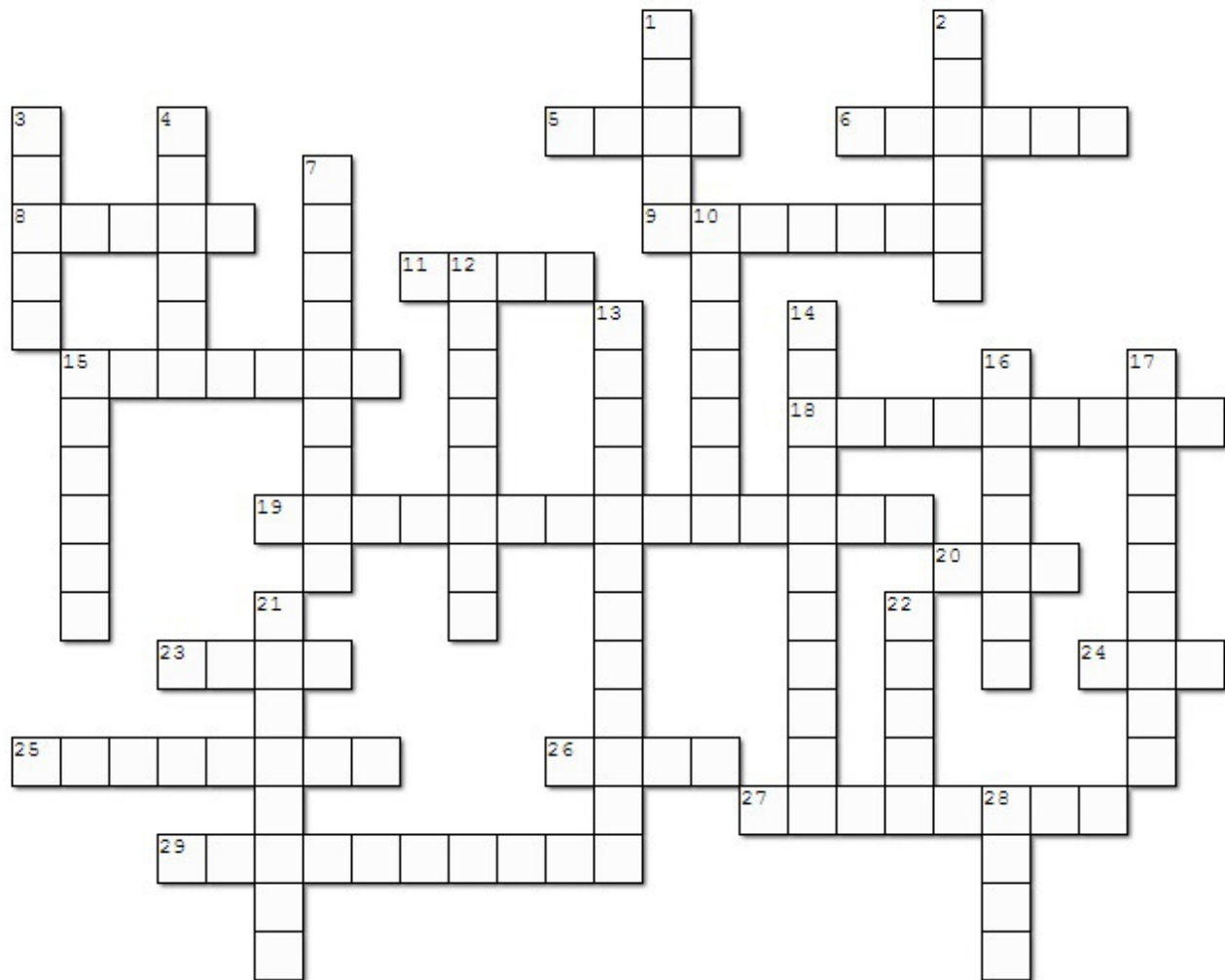
success. Goat yoga is popping up on farms throughout the country.

Goats tend to be pretty affectionate and constantly want attention, demanding it with their nibbling. I can't actually picture being able to stand in Warrior Pose or Down Dog with a goat pulling on my clothes. Still, I am friends with a yoga instructor ...



## Goats and Milk

Complete the crossword below



Created with [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) [Crossword Puzzle Generator](#)

### Across

5. Acronym for ADGA program measuring a lactation
6. A way to keep track of milk production
8. Between a doe's back legs
9. Something goat milk is lower in, aiding in digestion
11. Baby goats love this too
15. When the doe starts producing milk
18. The secretion of milk from the mammary glands
19. Heating milk to destroy unwanted visitors
20. To do with the teat after milking to control mastitis and milk quality
23. The part of the goat where the milk comes out
24. Not producing milk
25. Component of a milking machine
26. Oldest way of milking a goat
27. The very first step in producing milk
29. If you aren't dam-raising, you might do this

### Down

1. Reduce the temperature of the milk
2. A milk container
3. Measurement unit for reporting milk production
4. A yummy substance to make milk last longer
7. Natural part of goat milk that adds creaminess
10. A good food for goats to make milk
12. A favorite treat made of goat milk
13. Necessary for milking your goat
14. One way ADGA recognizes milk production
15. One step in keeping milk clean
16. Keeping the udder clean before milking
17. Special antibody rich milk
21. Infection in the udder
22. Brand of milking machine
28. Quite possibly the finest state in the US

# The Share-A-Kid Program

The Iowa Dairy Goat Association is always on the look-out for ways to help nurture a life-long appreciation of dairy goats and dairy goat products in youth throughout the state. The Share-A-Kid program provides an opportunity for youth in the state of Iowa, ages 10 to 17, to win a registered dairy goat of their own, by way of a competitive essay application process. Applications for 2017 are now being accepted until March 15! Doelings are donated by IDGA members. More information about the Share-A-Kid program and applications for 2017 can be obtained by visiting [www.iowadairygoat.org](http://www.iowadairygoat.org) or contacting Guinevere McIntyre at [jasperfarm@live.com](mailto:jasperfarm@live.com) or 641-236-5120.

This issue we hear from 2 of the 2016 winners. Jamy Randol received a Nubian doeling from James & Jamie McDaniel of J&J Livestock, and Alyssa Christensen received a Nubian doeling from Justin & Brittany Korver of Ranschau Acres.

Hello, I'm Alyssa Christensen and I'm a 2016 share-a-kid Program winner. I would like to thank Justin and Brittany Korver for donating a Nubian goat to the program. So far my whole time with my goat was pretty great.

During my experience with my goat the hardest part was shaving and trimming her. My goat is named Izzy and she had a rough time at the beginning of October, with deciding it was a good idea to jump a fence. It didn't go well and she broke her leg and had to wear a cast for 6 weeks. She just got it off this week.

I was able to show Izzy at the Adair County Fair in July. The Fair was always crazy, helping friends show their animals, giving beginners tips and examples of how to show or helping out with my Youth Council during Fair.



*Alyssa and Izzy*

I am hoping to breed Izzy next year to help in expanding my herd and to be able to use the milk to make soap and feed our bucket calves in the future. I also

plan on donating back into the program in the next couple years in support of the share-a-kid program. I would like again to thank Justin and Brittany Korver for donating to the share-a-kid program.

My name is Jamy Randol, and I'm a lucky recipient of a 2016 Share-A-Kid. I received a beautiful Nubian goat doe kid from James and Jamie McDaniel. I already had a previous herd of goats and at the time I was looking to add new genetics. I got so much more than a lovely doe kid, I got a new support system, a new family. Some of you may not realize how important this program is to not only the youth, but everyone. The youth are the future of the dairy industry, and this program helps us get going in the right direction. The dairy industry isn't the easiest industry to be in. There are no days off, no sick days, you just can't skip going out a night because you're too busy. You can't go in alone, you need support systems. The Share-A-Kid program not only gives you quality kids, but also a support system. I have grown very close to my mentors, the knowledge I'm learning from them is amazing. They not only guide me with my goats, but they also guide me through this crazy thing called life. I don't consider them as just my mentors, but also as family.

Total Havoc, yes she came with that name, has to be one of the best kids I have ever had the pleasure of raising. You see she is one of the funniest kids I have ever been around. She hasn't quite figured out how to get around the gate. So instead of going around, she steps back, takes a running start, and tries to go head first through the gate. She's not afraid to let me know when she's mad either. One moment she'll be happily chewing her cud, then the next moment I'll have a face full of cud. It's all fun and games until she's in the show ring. Once she steps in the show ring she's business and knows how to get the job done. I showed her at my county fair, where she placed second under one of my other doe kids who later on won Grand Champion. I also showed her at the state fair where she placed eighth in a large class. I'm very satisfied with her!



*Jamy and Havoc, just before Havoc came home*



## TIPS ON APPLYING FOR THE SHARE-A-KID PROGRAM

This year will be the 3rd year that the IDGA has put on the Share-A-Kid Program, and it has grown considerably in popularity and competitiveness.

One of the requirements of the essay is to write at least 100 words. Write more than 100 words though! My essay that I submitted was 737 words. If you just write 100 words then there will not be a lot of depth in your essay.

Another thing you might want to do while writing your essay is to give it character. Let us get a feel for your personality, not only will that make your essay more interesting, but also it lets the committee know what you are like.

One last thing to do before you submit your essay is to check spelling and grammar. This'll help considerably. This is such a great program, that I hope a lot more youth, like me, can participate in. Thank you IDGA and James and Jamie McDaniel. This program has changed my life.

- IDGA Youth Ambassador Jamy Randol

**2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Iowa Dairy Goat Association!**



**Happy New Year!**

## Homemade Milking Stand

By Natalie Young  
2015 Share-A-Kid Winner



When I started this project, my goal was to create a cheaper, homemade alternative to an expensive product my family needed. Since we have goats, we need a milking stand after the does are bred, which can also be used as a grooming stand to assist in hoof trimming. These stands can be expensive,

so I decided to build my own, using some extra wood found in our barn. First, I researched many different patterns and instructions for building milking stands. I also read a lot about the best types of wood to use and the pros and cons of treated lumber. I found directions that were the best for my project, then emailed Molly Nolte of Fias Co Farm, the copyright holder, and got permission to use her instructions. Next, I made a list of the materials found at our house that I could use, and determined what I needed to buy. Below are photos of some of the steps of construction.



1) Assembling the base of the stand.



2) Adding support bars.



3) Putting on the platform.



4) Beginning of the head catch.



5) (left) After adding a crossbar to hold the feed bucket, a curve was cut into the head catch to fit the goats' heads. Next, it was secured to the base using corner braces and brackets. Finally, a hook was attached to one side of the head catch and two eyes for the hook were fastened to the hinging part for adjustable sizing for the goats.

### Prices

Storebought	\$200
Using All New Materials	\$51.14
My Cost	\$31.44

From this project, I learned that there are often cheaper homemade products that are very similar to store-bought items that are much more costly. Another important thing I learned from this experience is that it can be very easy to make something that will get a lot of use and save a lot of money.

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