

Georgia Goat News

Newsletter of the Georgia Dairy Goat Breeders Association

Promoting Dairy Goats since 1976

March/April 2017

NOTICE: The Monroe Show will be on April 22, 2017 – mark your calendar!

Since the Monroe show is on April 22nd - the earliest we have had it over the last few years – it’s quickly approaching. As usual, **we will need lots of helpers at the show.** Volunteers help make our show the best in the South! We will need ring stewards, secretaries and especially people to help exhibitors get their animals into their pens. Entry registration can be found online on the web site at www.gdgba.org - thanks to Natalie! Even if you are not showing animals, come and help us celebrate 41 years of showing goats in Georgia.

We need sponsors for the breeds as well as corporate sponsors to help offset sanctioning fees and facility cost. If you aren’t into showing goats, this is a great opportunity for you to help. We always need ring stewards and people to help with the chili supper on Friday night. We would also like to have an announcer & people to help with the greeting of exhibitors and unloading of animals.

The GDGBA’s annual milk tester training was a big hit! This year, due to the effort of Mary Rigdon, who got Ms Jessica to attend the meeting, we were able to have our scales certified at no cost!! Our next meeting will be at the Keenas, in GA. Melody and her family will be set up with fitting demonstrations so this will be a great time for everyone to come see and practice or lend us your expertise before the show.

Many of you may remember Nubian breeder Shuford Jones - Shuford and his wife Ann hosted many GDGBA meetings over the years but, during the last few years he

has been having health problems and has just had surgery. So, we ask everyone to keep him in your prayers. Also, to Megan [our Vice Pres.], we are glad you are on the mend after your car was totaled — the pictures on FaceBook of your car were frightening!

I hope everyone’s kidding season is moving along smoothly. Last year this time, my herd was almost finished with kidding & I had 2 does left to kid. I wrote about my doe *China* who had a stuck kid that was stuck sideways. After reading what I wrote last year, I thought I would relay the story again since it I still get many questions about does in labor this time of year: *After we got the kid out and his face cleaned off, the vet turned towards the doe to check to see if there were any more kids. Just as she reached the doe, the next kid’s head popped out. When she caught him, his sister promptly followed.* Many times over the last 27 years, people have asked me how long to let a doe labor. As you can see, if she is taking too long - really more than 30 min, it’s time to check



on her. Thus, a good kidding mantra for the goat farmer is “when in doubt, check her out”.

Interestingly, *China* is busy giving me fits again this year. This time she showed up last week with a hernia [I thought it was an abscess, at first] that got about the size of a softball around her belly button. I called the vet school out again and we got her all wrapped up. Never a dull moment - thanks *China*!

Good Luck Kidding! *Mandy*

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Scheduled meetings -----	3	Mar. 12 th – Club Meeting – 2 p.m. - At the Keena’s farm – see back page..
Health Problems at Goat Shows -----	4	April 22 nd – Club’s Spring Show in Monroe, GA - Judges: Anne Clagett & Tim Flickinger. Online Registration Available!
Rules ... Difficult Kiddings -----	5	May 21 st – Club Meeting – Location TBA.
Breeding for ... Milk Production -----	7	June 10-17 th – Dairy Goat Awareness Week
Why is Milk White? -----	9	July 16 th – Club Meeting – Location TBA
You Need to Sell Down -----	10	Sept. 17 th – Club Meeting – Location TBA
Fitting and Showing -----	11	Oct.24-29 th – ADGA Convention, Atlanta, GA
Linear Appraisal – Part 1 -----	15	
** See www.gdgba.org for more show info & entry forms		

Next Meeting at the Keena’s – Sunday, March 12th, 2:00 p.m.