



# GOLD NOTES

Newsletter Date

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Contact Us

[www.guernseygoats.org](http://www.guernseygoats.org)

## From the President

Happy New Year to all! This is the time of new beginnings and with the breeding season almost over, anticipation is high for the arrival of the new crop of kids. This is also the time when winter sets in at its worst, so keeping warm is also priority. Even here in Georgia the temperatures are a good bit lower than we usually experience, so this winter has new challenges.

I would encourage every member to see how they can contribute to the advancement of the Guernseys. Everyone has special talents and thoughts that would be helpful to others, so don't be shy or hide your candle! Share with us so we can learn together.

We have a lot to look forward to. The Virtual Guernsey Show, the ADGA shows for those with other breeds, and the opportunity to take the Guernseys with us so others can meet them. Thanks to Mike Naumes and Kathryn Cook, we now have color brochures that are free for the asking! Just let me know if you need some. Also think about having some T shirts on hand to wear to the show! Also, it is never too soon to start planning for the next ADGA convention or starting on items to donate for the coming silent auction.

We are creating a new column, Meet the Breeders, and we will be highlighting a Guernsey breeder every newsletter. One of the priorities that every officer had posted prior to the elections last year was to know each other in order to

help and support as needed. This is a way that you can write your story so we all can get to know you a bit better. Mike Naumes is the first contributor and we look forward to getting your story.

I pray that previous articles have been helpful and we are still looking for folks that are willing to contribute and help with putting the Gold Notes together.

For this year, may it be the best ever and may we make more progress for preparedness for when our ADGA herd book becomes reality. God bless you!

Gloria B Andrews, DVM  
President GGBOA



## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Although the last thing anyone wants to think about is a disaster, be assured that all of us will face that possibility. The best thing we can do is be prepared. There are websites that list steps and because many of the disasters that can happen are area specific, it is a great idea to check your states website and see what they have that will help you prepare.

First, for any plan, you need to list what specific disasters may be in your area. In Georgia, a big one is tornados. For us, in our location, we have a major freight railroad right across the street, so that should be on my list (hazardous materials if a train derails). Think of any possibility for you and write them down.

The idea of preparedness is to have what is necessary to evacuate you, your family and animals from where you are to a safe place or to leave some in a safe place, provided for until you can return. This would

include food, water, and any other necessities for taking care of all for a short period of time, so the list can be quite exhausting and long.

Disasters happen quickly and response must be rapid.. When you need to go, everything must be done very quickly and orderly to ensure safety for your family and animals. Getting needed items together and keeping them together will make it easier to load up. For some things – like a medical kit, you may already have for showing or traveling. Make lists to see what can be kept close together and easily moved in a hurry.

This also applies to the animals. How is each animal identified? If part of the plan is to leave some in a designated place, how would you be able to reclaim them? Then, are you able to call them up and get them into an easy area to load? Do you have adequate trailer space to move everyone and include small animals/pets as well? Lots to think about.

Having a plan in order will save lives, so take this seriously and start planning!

Websites: [www.ready.gov/animals](http://www.ready.gov/animals) <http://ready.ga.gov/> A Google search will help you find other websites that will help you plan.

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### So You Want to Buy a Goat?

The greatest challenge in buying a goat is “Where do I start?”. This is a checklist that will give information that is important for getting a healthy goat(s) to start with.

1. What breed is the best for my purposes?  
Look at all the available breeds and see which one has the characteristics that mesh with what you want.
2. Where do I find a goat?  
Check in local papers or online to see what breeders are in your area or within a specific target area for you. If you are friends with goat owners, ask them. In addition to giving you contacts, they may advise who not to contact.
3. What questions should I ask?  
The first questions you need to ask are regarding very important health issues.

Have the sellers had their goats tested for CAE (Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis),  
Johne's Disease (a GI wasting disease), CL (Caseous Lymphadenitis), Brucellosis  
and TB. Scrapie is also one to ask about and there are several USDA programs  
that the herd can be involved with.

Has there been any history of contagious disease on their property?

Any problems with intestinal parasites and what is their deworming program (if  
the answer is they deworm everything on the place with ivermectin, please

REQUIRE a fecal test from the goat in question). Ask about coccidian (a  
protozoan parasite that causes diarrhea) and check the goats for "pasty" bottoms,  
signs that they have diarrhea.

For dairy goats, milk production is what you are looking for, so make certain that  
you know what a good and bad udder look like. To produce well for a long time, a  
doe needs to have a good/great udder. If you are looking for a buck/buckling, ask  
to see what the dam's udder looks like. If the does are not in milk, the owner  
should have pictures of the udder when she was in milk.

How are the goats housed? Bucks and does together/separate? How is breeding  
monitored? How are the kids raised? Are the goats tame or wild and hard to  
handle?

4. Do the research and ask goat folks and see if the answers you are getting show that  
it is a good idea to put an investment in this goat.
5. If the goat is registered, you should get a signed copy of the papers transferred to  
your name. A bill of sale is always a great idea. If the goat(s) are tattooed, be sure to

make sure the tattoos in the ears match with what is on the paperwork. If you are purchasing a kid, both ADGA and BGS require the breeder to tattoo the kid before it is sold. BGS requires that the kid is registered prior to sale. BGS also requires the seller to transfer the ownership of the goat sold.

6. Once the decision has been made to acquire a goat, be sure to ask what the goat is used to being fed. You do not want any abrupt changes with the feeding.
7. It is always a good idea, especially if you are a newcomer, to have someone familiar with goats (or even a small ruminant veterinarian) go with you to look at the goat.
8. If your goat(s) are being transported from one state to another, you will also need to have an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. You will have to contact a USDA accredited veterinarian to exam the animal(s) and make sure all the requirements are being met for that animal(s) to be brought into the state. Generally the buyer will have to pay for this, but it is well worth it, both legally and healthwise to know that the goat(s) have been thoroughly checked and are healthy.

Putting in the effort before the purchase will reward you with a healthy animal that will be a pleasure to care for. This is the only way to avoid the heartbreak of health problems that can be draining both emotionally and financially. Do not be afraid to ask whatever questions you need to. A great breeder will be more than pleased to accommodate you and will respect your questioning. Joan Stump (Stumphollow Guernseys) who is one of our premier breeders states, "Breeders live by their reputation... and that reputation will precede you in everything you do....".

## Breeder Profile

### Piru Creek Ranch - Michael Naumes and Kathryn Cook

Kathy and I have been married for twenty-five years. I grew up in Chicago and Kathy on a cattle ranch south of Kansas City, Kansas. Kathy has 4 children, 3 sons and a daughter and I have two sons. Kathy's older three were gone from home when we met, but her youngest son and my two boys lived with us. The boys helped with clean up, raised pigs for 4-H and were involved in sports and music. We are both retired now. Kathy worked in Tobacco Education and Prevention for 20 years and I trimmed trees, worked on the North Slope of Alaska and sold mobile homes. Our children now live in Florida, Washington, Idaho and California. We now have 16 grandchildren and a great grandchild. Although none of our children have caught the "goat bug" we have involved our grandchildren in helping us as much as possible. Hopefully one of them will become as involved with goats as we are.

We started raising goats in the early nineties. Kathy wanted a goat to pull a cart because she has pictures of her mother and also her grandmother in a goat cart. That fated us to get a goat. It started with a Nubian Alpine cross doeling. We were amazed the next morning, when she stood on our window sill looking in at us after scaling a five foot wall! That is when we learned goats are herd animals. Next came a Nubian companion for our N/A cross. I made a fatal mistake when I suggested that we get pure bred animals. Then we went to the middle of where Jesus left his sandals in California to purchase two does and a buck all purebred and registered. **It has been all downhill ever since.** (*Kathy: Our first goat cost \$25, the second \$65, our next 3, \$650 and after that it got expensive!*). Seriously, goats have made our life together better, closer and happier. Without my enabling Kathy would still have a herd of three or four goats. Not to mention that she would not go to shows (*Kathy: OK, so I can't back up the trailer!*) or keep up with goat and pasture maintenance. (*Kathy: True, but I do come up with lots of ideas that you consider Rube Goldberg!*). Now that we are retired our Nubian herd has grown to twenty-five does and three bucks.

Six years ago we went to the ADGA convention in Tucson, AZ. There we met Tom and Nina Schaefer. At that time I began thinking that I wanted a breed of my own. I thought that we should get a smaller breed because we are getting older (*Kathy: Your thought, not*

*mine!*) and this exotic new to America breed was very attractive. Tom and Nina lived about five hours away so we decided to purchase four does from them. Since then Nina has generously offered bucks for us to use. Now we have twelve Guernsey does and five bucks including bucks from Nina Schaefer, Jolene Jantzi and Joan Stump. All our goats are disbudded or polled. On my bucket list is to keep a wether with horns just because of the picture I saw of Golden Guernsey Pilgrim. *(Kathy: And it would match those pictures of my mother and grandmother! Let's do it!)* We also have an Alpine and an Oberhasli to use in a breeding up program.

Now a little about our "ranch". We live on 10 acres in the Santa Clara River Valley in Ventura County which is the county just north of Los Angeles County. We live on a hill above a village of two thousand. We have a 5800 acre ranch behind us that allows our goats to graze the hill to help with fire control. The valley is bounded to the north and south by mountains. We live eight miles east of the nearest town of 15,000, twenty miles west to a city of 150,000 and thirty five miles from the coast. We have lived here for twenty years and we are still considered new comers. Many of our neighbors have been here for at least three generations and I swear over half are related. It is a quiet town with few shopping options. Kathy likes to say, "From our house I can walk to the health clinic, sheriff substation, the post office, Catholic church and the liquor store, what more could I want." Of course, on the return trip Kathy would have to call me to pick her up at the bottom of the hill!

We have been on DHI test for twenty years. This year our Guernsey's averaged 4.2 % butterfat, 3.1 % protein and 2000 pounds production in 305 days. We consider conformation and milk production when we breed and cull. If you are interested in participating in DHI we would be glad to answer any questions you might have and share our experiences.

We also use Linear Appraisal for evaluating our Nubian breeding program. Linear appraisal focuses on structure which is the foundation of a long productive life. We are looking forward to appraising the Guernseys and using the results to improve them. We host linear appraisal every year for any herds that are too small for the minimum stop cost or who just want to have a fun day. We encourage others or who have small herds to come and participate or just observe and learn. Many of them tell us after listening and watching that they will never look at a dairy goat the same way again.

As the vice-president of our breed association I want to encourage you to contact me privately at (805-340-9698 or at [pirucreekranch@hotmail.com](mailto:pirucreekranch@hotmail.com)) with questions or concerns. You can also reach out on Facebook (Guernsey Goat Breeders of America) the Members page to any Board member with your thoughts, concerns or problems. The primary mission of the GGBOA is the promotion the Guernsey breed. To be an effective organization we need your help.

Thank you so much Mike and Kathy for all your support and input for the GGBOA!



## ADGA Convention 2018

You think it might be early to be thinking about this, but October will be here before we know it! We would like to have a great turnout of GGBOA members and Guernsey breeders. So, if you are thinking about it, let us know. If you have never been to the ADGA Convention, it should be on your “bucket list”. Here is the information for you-

**ADGA Annual Meeting & Convention. 2018 ADGA Annual Meeting and Convention** dates are October 16-21 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Address: DoubleTree By Hilton Bloomington Minneapolis South 7800 Normandale Blvd Minneapolis, MN 55439



# 4-H Dairy Goat Crossword Puzzle

## Across

1. Breed from Africa/England
7. 5 months or 150 days
15. Abbreviation for registered
16. You may need one to start
17. Soft, fluffy hair
19. This brings up the rear
21. Cartoon goats did this a lot
24. Preposition
25. Oats come in it
26. It holds the stanchion lever
27. Goats chew on this kind of tree
28. Need this to tattoo
30. This animal also gives milk
31. Either... \_\_\_\_\_
32. On the hoof
33. No goat should be this
34. It's \_\_\_\_\_ nice!
35. Papa goat
38. Measurement of thickness
39. Preposition
40. You don't say
41. Goats' favorite preposition
42. Milking period
44. Need this to milk
46. The real cream
47. These are important for nutrition

## Down

1. Science of feeding
3. Near the chest
5. Abbreviation for Advanced Registry
6. This gets stuck out a lot
8. Top of foreleg
9. Most goats have it
10. Permanent mark for registry
11. Pesky insect
12. Preposition
13. Are goat people this??
18. Man's name
20. Musical note
22. Alphabet letter
23. Girl goats
26. One kind of 4-H'er
29. Negative
30. Young horse
33. Nervous ailment
34. Hi-walker
36. Girl's name
37. Very skinny, long fish
38. Often used in feeds
39. Where it's \_\_\_\_\_
40. Cozy and warm
43. Dog talk
45. First name of "007" author



