

Nigerian Dwarf Buck Judging Class

Placing and Reasons

BY MARSHA GUSTAFSON

In this issue, we have a class of Nigerian Dwarf buck for placement. While the name includes the term dwarf, these delightful animals are actually a miniature breed and not dwarves. Thus, the head should be proportional to the body and the cannon bone proportional in length to the forearm. This is the only ADGA registered breed with a maximum height limit. For bucks, that height limit is 23.5 inches at the top of the withers. As no measurement was provided, it is being assumed that all four bucks are within the height limit.

The pictures of buck A put him at a disadvantage. They are taken at a downward angle and do not show his feet or pasterns. He is level in the chine and loin with good length of body. His face is straight and wide in the muzzle. When viewed from the front, he is out at the point of shoulder. The side view shows him out at the point of elbow. These shoulder characteristics lead to his toe out stand in the front legs. This buck is deep in the heart.

Buck B is sharp in the withers with a wedge shaped shoulder area. However, his front legs are placed too far forward causing him to lead with his point of shoulder rather than his brisket. I do not think his left front leg bows inward, but that this is an illusion caused by his leaning to the

left. He does, however, toe out in both front legs and his cannon bone is short when compared to his forearm. Especially in the rear feet, he is shallow in the heels. He is wide in the chest floor, and his face is straight with good width of muzzle.

Buck C presents the best placement of the front legs under the withers of this class. He is also wide in the chest floor with good length of body. His muzzle is wide, but he appears to have a little too much fullness in the bridge of the nose in the side view picture. He has good depth of heel in all four feet.

The first thing I noticed in buck D was his Dairy Character. He is incurving in the thigh when viewed from the side and freer from excess tissue. The flank area is very deep while remaining refined. His proportional cannon bone length when compared to the forearm is better than both buck B and C. He also has the best set to the rear legs when viewed from the side of this class. Unfortunately, there is not a side view of his head, but it appears strong from the front view. This buck has width in the chest floor combined with depth of flank for excellent body capacity.

Rankings by Category:

General Appearance: D B C A

Dairy Character: D B A C

Body Capacity: D C B A

This fuzzy class of Nigerian Dwarf

buck shows a clear leader in all categories. The placing is: D B C A

D places over B for his advantage in General Appearance. He is longer in the cannon bone and rump from hip to pin. He has a more correct set to the rear leg when viewed from the side and toes more correctly forward in the front legs. In Dairy Character, he carries less excess tissue, is more incurving in the thigh, and cleaner in the flank. In Body Capacity, he has greater depth of flank.

B is placing over C for his advantage in Dairy Character. He is sharper in the withers, leaner in the neck, and has greater spring of rib. In General Appearance, he has an advantage in breed character being cleaner in the area of the bridge of the nose. He will yield to C some correctness in shoulder assembly.

C is placing over A for his advantages in General Appearance. He is tighter at the point of shoulder and elbow with the front legs more properly placed under his withers. He has the advantage in Body Capacity showing true width in the chest floor, length of body and depth throughout.

A is to be commended for his levelness in the chine and loin areas.

Suggested point cuts on the Hormel System: 6-4-3

Nubian Jr. Doe Judging Class

By TODD BIDDLE

These Nubian doelings were provided by Diana Holder, Lilac Corners, Slatington, Pennsylvania. I had the pleasure to see these Nubian kids in person and help plan their photo shoot and consequent judging class placement. This has been the case in many of the more recent classes (although not the last class) judged in the *Dairy Goat Journal* pages. When teaching judging and/or planning a class for evaluation, it is ideal to pick an easy first, easy bottom, and close middle. This makes the judging experience easier and often more successful for students. It gives them the confidence that they might have an eye for an animal. Also, if they do not place the class well, it is easier to explain and justify the placings in the "reteach" phase. Hopefully, this class will prove to be useful and helpful in those respects.

A is a real eye catcher with her length of bone and dairyness! From rear profile, I love the width of rump and width between the hocks. She is strong in topline with a smooth junction between the chine and loin. Her forelegs are set correctly under her shoulders and show good straightness from the front and side profiles. In terms of dairyness, she shows the strength of bone needed to compliment her openness. She shows barrel development, adequate width of chest, and depth of heart. If I wanted to get picky and change her, I would like to see a longer neck to balance with her length of back, more pronounced Roman nose, smoother knees (I think she is going to be one of the larger does in the class at maturity and will grow into them). She could be less prominent in the front shoulder, a little more open in the escutcheon (she peaks a little opposed

to being U-shaped) and a little less set to the rear leg in side profile. She has plenty of rear leg angulation.

B is a long-boned kid. The best way to describe her is gangly. She certainly has a good rump angle with good width to the rump and straight fore legs in front profile. However, I would like to change her in other areas of general appearance. She could be straighter in her lines. For instance, I would like to see a smoother junction between the chine and loin. I would like to see her straighter behind the knee. Her pasterns, while erect, are a little long. I would like to see her smoother in the crops and a tighter junction between wither and shoulder blade to give her a smoother front end. While she has a functional head, it is not quite the preferred style in terms of "true" breed character. She is certainly an open dairy kid with proper body conditioning, but I would like to see more development in her rear rib to compliment the length that she is showing.

C is a really correct kid. She appears to be a little higher in the rump than the wither in this picture and perhaps not quite the smoothness from chine into loin as some of the other kids, but other than that, I would have a hard time faulting her. She shows the most development in her body capacity, with the most width to balance her size and the more increasing depth from point of elbow to rear rib than any other kid in the class. In general appearance, she is the most correct in her front shoulder assembly with the most smoothness.

D is promising and shows the epitome of dairyness. I love her flat bone structure. She has a long lean neck, sharp withers, and an incurving thigh that better supports her strength

in this area of the ADGA scorecard. I also admire the strong breed character to this kid's head. She has a strong Roman nose and no control to her ears where kids A and B could have less control. If I were to change her I would like to see a little less prominence at the point of shoulder and a straighter fore leg behind the knee. Also, D does not have the maturity in her body capacity at this stage of growth. Some of the other kids show more width and depth.

Structural category placings:

General appearance CADB

Dairy character DACB

Body capacity CABD

Final placing CADB

I place this class of quality Nubian doe kids CADB.

In general appearance, C stands on a more correct set to rear leg, where A is slightly over angulated. C is also more harmoniously blended in the front shoulder than A. C also places over A for her advantage in body capacity. She shows more depth of heart for her size and is deeper in her rear rib.

In a closer placing, A places over D for her advantage in body capacity. This kid shows a little more width throughout and greater strength of bone. In general appearance, she is longer in her topline and wider in her rump. A is notably straighter in her fore leg behind the knee as well.

D logically places over B in general appearance. She is stronger and smoother over her topline, shorter in her rear pasterns, and shows a head more true to Nubian breed type having a prettier shape to the ear and more prominent Roman nose. As for dairy character, D appears to be more open ribbed, more prominent in her vertebrae over the back, and flatter in her bone throughout.

I will commend B for her length of body.

Class cuts are 4-2-8.

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Judging contest:

Oberhasli Championship Lineup

BY TODD BIDDLE

This issue we have a class of Oberhasli does from the Magic Creek herd, Kinney family in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. Instead of the usual class of four similarly aged does, here we have an Oberhasli doe representing each of four senior division classes—milking yearling, two-year-old, four-year-old, and five-year-old. The goal is to review each doe and then pick a champion and reserve of the lot. We will assume that each doe comes from a single entry class. When picking a reserve, the second place animal from the respective age class the champion was selected from, comes into consideration. He/she is compared to the remaining class winners in the line-up. As we pick a champion, we need to remember that preference is given to full maturity if both does are equal in structural correctness. A doe is considered to meet maturity at the age of five. Longevity is valued in the selection of dairy goats. Although as I coach and conference with dairies, I sometimes get a different opinion here. Some dairies would prefer does with high production over a few lactations, to does who have acceptable production for many lactations. From my perspective, it depends on how you run your business, your milk market, and crunch the numbers when you do your farm accounting. Remember that in many cases a dairy goat is not productive until she is two. The cost of her first two years of life needs to be accounted for in the following lactations of her life.

As a breeder and a judge who rep-

resents ADGA, I prefer the doe that shows longevity. Anyone who knows me and reads my articles carefully, also has probably recognized I prefer a slow maturing young doe to a fast maturing young doe, as long as the young doe is productive and has the bone to sustain productivity.

At first glance of the yearling doe A, one sees a very promising young dairy doe! I admire her balance in strength in all areas of the scorecard. She is very long necked, sharp withered, open ribbed, prominent in her vertebrae, incurved in her thigh, and has very flat bone. In general appearance, her neck blends harmoniously into the shoulder blades. She is long and level in her topline with a long rump with correct slope to balance her back. She has a good set to the rear leg and appears to be adequate in the shape to her rear feet and depth of heel. As far as her body capacity is concerned, she shows a lot of width in the chest floor and enough spring of rib and depth in her rear rib for a yearling milker. As for her mammary system, she has capacity equally distributed to the fore and rear udder. Her udder has adequate capacity and width to both the fore and rear udder. She also shows good height to her rear udder. She could use a stronger medial and a more centrally placed teat. Some might like to see a slightly longer fore udder as well.

B is a respectable two-year-old Oberhasli. She is what I call a functionally sound doe, but she is not an overly eye-appealing doe. Functional to me, means she can sustain a productive life, sparing the influence of environmental factors, for several years. She has a strong level topline, shows some openness and sharpness in terms of dairy character, and has some capacity to her mammary system which indicates some will to milk. How would I change this doe? Her teats could hang more nearly plumb and slightly shorter. Her rear udder is tilted forward. I would like to see more capacity of rear udder

behind the rear leg in side profile. I would like to see a stronger medial, which would influence her teat placement. In general appearance, I would like to straighten her nose, as she is slightly Roman nosed. She also appears to be a little coarse in the front end and I would like to see her fuller in the crops and less prominent at the point of shoulder. She could be flatter in the rump, straighter in the rear leg when viewed from the rear, and she could be straighter in the fore leg as well. She has not developed the depth in her rear rib yet when evaluating her body capacity.

C, our four-year-old, is an open dairy doe. While I would like to see a slightly higher and smoother rear udder, her mammary is well supported (although she borders having too much definition to her medial suspensory ligament) and has good shape and capacity to both the fore and rear udder. She has a lovely Oberhasli head, beautiful bay Oberhasli color, and is strong enough in the general appearance traits of the rump and topline. She shows enough width of chest and spring of rib. I would like to change her in the front legs specifically straighter from the knee down in front profile, see her more shapely in her front feet, and like to see her less prominence in the point of shoulder. In addition, I would also like to see her front legs placed more squarely underneath the shoulder and a smoother junction at the point of elbow.

D is another open dairy doe. She appears to have some frame and really good strength to her bone. She is one of the deeper does in the class as well. A very long pronounced brisket is noted. She has a long topline and long wide rump. The strength of her fore rear leg is better than the strength to the rear leg. Her rear legs could be placed more correctly under her body to show a more proper alignment from her hock to her pin. Her shoulder blades could lay smoother to the body. Her mammary system is functional, but she has two much defini-

tion or cleft to her medial, lacks in side attachment to her rear udder, and needs a more central teat placement. She may lack fullness in her rear udder although I would have to see the doe in person to be 100% sure. Her set to the rear leg is influencing the perception of her udder shape. The stronger points of her mammary system would be the length and capacity of fore udder and the capacity and width of rear udder.

Category placings:

General appearance: A C B D

Dairy character: C A B D

Body capacity: C D A B

Mammary system: C A B D

In a close placing, our champion Oberhasli is C. While I need to recognize A is a stronger doe in the front shoulder assembly and front legs, C wins the championship over A for her advantages in mammary system. She has a stronger medial suspensory ligament with a more desirable teat placement and delination. She has a fuller wider and longer fore udder attachment as well. In body capacity, she has developed more depth. Finally, I do prefer the stronger head in terms of muzzle width, the chiseled nose, and the depth of jaw. She is darker in her color and points and is free of the small white spot we see on A. C defeats B, the two year old, in udder shape and teat placement, depth of heart and rear rib, and breed character to her head. C places over D, the five-year-old, for her mammary system advantages particularly udder shape.

Since there is not a second place three- to four-year-old, A is going to be selected as our reserve champion Oberhasli after being compared to the two year old and five year old. She excels both does in the correct placement of her mammary system on the body as well as udder shape. She also excels both does in the structure of her front shoulder assembly. She is particularly stronger than the five-year-old doe in the structure of her rear leg.

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