

Dairy Goat Wellbeing Survey

Farm ID _____

Farm Owner

- 1 Why do you own a dairy goat farm?
- Continuing operation started by family member(s)
 I enjoy working with dairy goats
 Goats are smaller and easier to handle than cows
 My farm is small (i.e. space limitations)
 Good market for goat milk
 Other

Other - specify: _____

- 2 How do you feel about the following statement: The wellbeing of my goats is a key priority for how I run my farm.

Strongly disagree Neither agree nor disagree Strongly agree
 =====
 (Place a mark on the scale above)

3. How important to you are each of the following wellbeing principles? Use a tick or cross to mark your answer.

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Important	Fairly important	Very important
Good feeding	<input type="radio"/>				
Good housing	<input type="radio"/>				
Good health	<input type="radio"/>				
Appropriate animal behavior	<input type="radio"/>				

- 4 How many years have you farmed dairy goats? _____

- 5 Do you have experience on a dairy cow farm? Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 6. If no, proceed to Question 7.)

- 6 How many years of experience? _____

- 7 Is your farm certified organic? Yes No

- 8 How often do you spend time with your goats (not including milking or routine procedures)?
- I do not spend time with my goats except for routine procedures, milking etc.
 Daily
 Weekly
 Monthly
 Other

Other - specify:

9 Approximately how much time do you spend regularly watching your goats?

10 Do you name your goats?

- Yes
 No

11 What data on your animals do you collect?

- I do not collect data
 Body weight
 Milk production
 Kid birth records (e.g., DOB)
 Death/mortality rates
 Sire/dam records
 Health
 Disease
 Genetic traits (e.g., without horn buds or polled)
 Other

Other - specify:

12 Where do you go for information about operating a dairy goat farm?

- I do not seek information
 Veterinarian
 Other farmers
 Neighbors
 County extension service
 Dairy cooperative
 Family and friends
 Websites
 Social media
 State or national associations
 Online videos
 Magazines/newsletters
 Conventions/meetings
 Other

Other - specify:

Staff (including paid or unpaid workers, family members)

13 How many staff (0-100) work on your farm (excluding you)?

14 Are all of your staff responsible for handling the goats?

- Yes No
 (If yes, proceed to Question 16. If no, proceed to Question 15.)

15 How many of your staff handle the goats on a daily basis?

-
- 16 Is there a Code of Conduct for your farm? Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 17. If no, proceed to Question 18.)
-
- 17 Are your staff required to sign a contract confirming their compliance with the Code of Conduct? Yes No
-
- 18 How important to you is staff training?
- Not at all important Important Very important
- 
- (Place a mark on the scale above)
-
- 19 What type of training does your staff receive?
- My staff do not receive training
 - Animal handling
 - Goat behavior
 - Kid rearing practices
 - Identifying sick/injured animals
 - Feeding/nutrition
 - Routine husbandry procedures (e.g., ear tagging, tattooing, disbudding, castration)
 - Machinery/equipment operation
 - Milking routines
 - Housing
 - Transportation of goats
 - Record keeping
 - Other
-
- Other - specify:
- _____
-
- 20 What factors affect your decision not to provide training for your staff?
- Training takes too much time
 - Staff do not attend or engage
 - It makes no difference for the staff or the animals
 - I do not know what training is required
 - I do not know where to go for training advice
 - Other
-
- Other - specify:
- _____
-
- 21 Are documents signed by the employee(s) to confirm that training has been completed? Yes No
-
- 22 What type of training would benefit your staff?
- My staff would not benefit from training
 - Animal handling
 - Goat behavior
 - Kid rearing practices
 - Identifying sick/injured animals
 - Feeding/nutrition
 - Routine husbandry procedures (e.g., ear tagging, tattooing, disbudding, castration)
 - Machinery/equipment operation
 - Milking routines
 - Housing
 - Transportation of goats
 - Record keeping
 - Other

Other - specify:

-
- 23 How would you prefer to receive training materials?
- Hard copy handout
 - PDF on a device
 - Via email
 - Internet/website
 - Magazine/newsletter
 - Newspaper
 - In-person training course
 - Online training course
 - At a group meeting/convention
 - Other

Other - specify:

Goats and Housing

- 24 How many does (adult females) are there in total on your farm?
-

- 25 What breeds are being milked on your farm? If cross-bred goats, list the dominant breed(s).
- Saanen
 - Toggenburg
 - LaMancha
 - Alpine
 - Nubian
 - Nigerian Dwarf
 - Oberhasli
 - Other

Other - specify:

- 26 How many does are lactating?
-

- 27 How many does are non-lactating (dry)?
-

- 28 How many does will be (or have been) retired this year?
-

- 29 How many doe kids will you keep (or have been kept) this year to replace your retired does?
-

- 30 Do you have any goats used for purposes other than for milking (e.g., bucks, show goats)?
- Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 31. If no, proceed to Question 32.)

-
- 31 For what other purposes are your goats used?
- Bucks for breeding
 - Show
 - Meat
 - Weed control
 - Pets
 - Other

Other - specify:

-
- 32 Since January 1 2019, how many adult goats have died of natural causes?
-

-
- 33 Since January 1 2019, how many adult goats have been euthanized?
-

-
- 34 How do you group the goats into pens?
- Randomly grouped
 - Age
 - Weight/size
 - Stage of lactation
 - Stage of pregnancy
 - Other

Other - specify:

-
- 35 How often are the goats regrouped with goats from other pens?
- They are not regrouped (they stay in the same group)
 - They are regrouped after each milking
 - They may mix accidentally
 - Other

Other - specify:

-
- 36 How often is fresh bedding added to the pens?
-

-
- 37 How often is the bedding in the pens cleaned out and replaced?
-

Goat Behavior

38 How often do you think about the behavior of your goats?

Never Sometimes Always



(Place a mark on the scale above)

39 Please list all of the goat behaviors that you observe on a regular basis on your farm?

- I do not know
- Lying/standing in contact with other goats
- Feeding at the same time as other goats
- Drinking at the same time as other goats
- Running
- Walking
- Trying to escape the pens
- Kneeling for long periods
- Minimal vocalizing
- Vocalizing
- Rubbing their heads along the walls of the pen
- Standing facing pen walls for long periods
- Star gazing (looking skyward) for long periods
- Hair pulling of other goats
- Biting other goats
- Head butting
- Fighting
- Sneezing
- Other

Other - specify:

40 What allowances have you made on your farm for goats to perform natural behaviors?

- Hay racks
- Feed bunks
- Elevated food sources
- Shelter
- Places to hide
- Constant groups (i.e. no regrouping)
- Access to outdoor spaces
- Access to pasture/paddocks
- Enrichment (e.g., raised platforms, brushes)
- Adequate space per goat
- Other

Other - specify:

41 What do you think your goats are motivated to do (e.g., play, sleep, eat, move to parlor)?

Outdoor Access

42 Do your goats have outdoor access (not including pasture access)? Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 43. If no, proceed to Question 45.)

43 What type of surface(s) is available in the outdoor space?

Earthen
 Concrete
 Gravel
 Wire mesh/metal
 Wooden slats
 Rubber matting
 Other

Other - specify:

44 Approximately how much time are they allowed in the outdoor space?

Feeding and Nutrition

45 Do your goats have access to pasture? Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 46. If no, proceed to Question 49.)

46 Approximately how much time do your goats spend on pasture?

47 Do your goats receive additional feed? Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 48. If no, proceed to Question 53.)

48 Where are the goats fed? Indoors Outdoors

49 What are the goats fed?

Fresh cut grass
 Total mixed ration (both hay and silage)
 Silage
 Hay
 Grain/concentrate
 Other

Other - specify:

50 Do the goats have a constant supply of feed (i.e. ad libitum feeding)? Yes No

51 How often do you feed your goats?

Once daily
 Twice daily
 Three times daily
 Other

Other - specify:

52 What time(s) of the day is feed distributed?

Milking

53 How are the does milked? By hand
 By machine
 (If by machine, proceed to Question 54. If by hand, proceed to Question 57.)

54 Are the teat cups disinfected after milking? Yes No
 (If yes, proceed to Question 55. If no, proceed to Question 57.)

55 How often are the teat cups disinfected?

56 How are the teat cups disinfected?

57. What is the milking frequency per day? Use a tick or cross to mark your answer.

	Once daily	Twice daily	Three times daily	Four or more times daily
Early lactation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mid lactation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Late lactation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

58 What time(s) of the day are the goats milked?

59 Approximately how old is the milking parlor (or area where does are milked)?

60 What routine practices are carried out prior to milking?

None
 Fore-milk checked
 Teats cleaned of debris/dirt
 Teats disinfected/sanitized
 Gloves are worn by staff
 Other

Other - specify:

- 61 What routine practices are carried out after milking?
- None
 Teat dip/spray
 Teat conditioner
 Other

Other - specify:

- 62 Do you check for mastitis?
- Yes No
 (If yes, proceed to Question 63. If no, proceed to Question 64.)

- 63 What signs of mastitis do you look for?
- Swelling
 Color
 Heat
 Firmness to the touch
 Milk quality
 Other

Other - specify:

- 64 What is the average lactation length on your farm (in days)?
- _____

- 65 What is the average milk production per doe per day?
- _____

Kid Rearing

- 66 How are the kids reared?
- Dam-reared
 Hand-reared
 Other
 (If dam-reared, proceed to Question 67. If hand-reared, proceed to Question 68.)

Other - specify:

- 67 How long are the kids dam-reared?
- 12 hours or less
 13-24 hours
 25-48 hours
 49 hours or more

- 68 When are the kids removed from the dam?
- Immediately
 Within 4 hours after birth
 Between 5-12 hours after birth
 Between 25-48 hours after birth
 49 hours or more after birth

- 69 Approximately how much colostrum (in ounces) is fed within the first 24 hours of life?
- _____

-
- 70 What type of colostrum do the kids receive?
- Heat-treated cow colostrum
 - Raw cow colostrum
 - Heat-treated goat colostrum
 - Raw goat colostrum
 - Powdered cow colostrum
 - Powdered goat colostrum
 - Other

Other - specify:

-
- 71 Is the navel/umbilical cord disinfected shortly after birth?
- Yes No

-
- 72 How is the kid barn (or area where the kids are reared) kept warm?
- There is no heating
 - Heating
 - Insulated walls
 - Heat lamps
 - High pen walls to prevent drafts
 - Walls on all 4 sides of the room
 - Clean bedding
 - Dry bedding
 - Other

Other - specify:

-
- 73 Since January 1 2019, how many goat kids have died of natural causes?
-

-
- 74 Since January 1 2019, how many goat kids have been euthanized?
-

-
- 75 What factors affect when the kids are weaned?
- Age
 - Weight/size
 - Milk availability/cost
 - Solid feed availability/cost
 - Other

Other - specify:

-
- 76 Approximately how old are your kids at weaning?
-

-
- 77 What is the average kid weight (in pounds) at weaning?
-

- 78 What process is used to wean the kids?
- Reducing the quantity of milk over time
 - Diluting the milk
 - Replacing milk with solid feed
 - Other

Other - specify:

Disbudding

- 79 Are your kids disbudded?
- Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 80. If no, proceed to Question 94.)

- 80 Who generally performs the disbudding?
- Myself
 - Staff
 - Friends/family
 - Paid contractor(s)
 - Veterinarian
 - Other

Other - specify:

- 81 From whom did you learn how to disbud goat kids?
- No-one, I taught myself
 - Staff
 - Friends/family
 - Paid contractor(s)
 - Veterinarian
 - Other

Other - specify:

- 82 Approximately how old are the kids when they are disbudded?
-

- 83 What disbudding method(s) is used?
- Cautery iron - Proceed to Question 84
 - Caustic paste - Proceed to Question 87
 - Liquid nitrogen
 - Other

Other - specify:

- 84 How is the iron powered?
- Electric
 - Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)
 - Gas canister (butane)
 - Other

Other - specify:

- 85 Approximately how long is the iron held on each horn bud (total)?
- 1-4 seconds
 5-7 seconds
 8-12 seconds
 13 or more seconds
-
- 86 Is the horn bud removed?
- Yes No
-
- 87 What is done to prevent the spread of the paste?
- Nothing
 The kids are isolated from each other
 The kids are kept indoors
 Vaseline is spread around the outside of the paste
 Other
-
- Other - specify:
- _____
-
- 88 Is antiseptic applied to the disbudding wounds?
- Yes No
-
- 89 How do the kids usually behave during disbudding?
- _____
-
- 90 How do the kids usually behave following disbudding?
- _____
-
- 91 How confident are you in your own practice to disbud kids effectively without complication?
- Not at all confident Confident Very confident
- =====
- (Place a mark on the scale above)
-
- 92 How confident are you in the operator's practice to disbud kids effectively without complication?
- Not at all confident Confident Very confident
- =====
- (Place a mark on the scale above)
-
- 93 How likely are you to change your practice if there was a better method available?
- Not at all likely Likely Very likely
- =====
- (Place a mark on the scale above)
-
- 94 How much pain do you think disbudding causes?
- None Some pain Extreme pain
- =====
- (Place a mark on the scale above)

Castration

- 95 Are your buck kids generally castrated?
- Yes No
 (If yes, proceed to Question 96. If no, proceed to Question 106.)
-
- 96 Why are your buck kids castrated?
- Used for showing
 Used for meat
 Kept as pets
 Other

105 How likely are you to change your castration practice if there was a better method available?

Not at all likely Likely Very likely

(Place a mark on the scale above)

106 How much pain do you think castration causes?

None Some pain Extreme pain

(Place a mark on the scale above)

Hoof Trimming

107 Are the goat's hooves trimmed?

Yes No

(If yes, proceed to Question 108. If no, proceed to Question 117.)

108 Who generally performs the hoof trimming?

- Myself
 Staff
 Friends/family
 Paid contractor(s)
 Veterinarian
 Other

Other - specify:

109 From whom did you learn how to hoof trim goats?

- No-one, I taught myself
 Staff
 Friends/family
 Paid contractor(s)
 Veterinarian
 Other

Other - specify:

110 What method is used to trim the goat's hooves?

- Grinder
 Hand-powered trimmer/shears
 Pneumatic hoof trimmer
 Blade
 Other

Other - specify:

111 What factors affect when the goat's hooves are trimmed?

- Length of hooves
 Age
 Routinely
 Once identified as lame
 Other

Other - specify:

136 For what services do you usually request a veterinarian?

- Care for sick/injured animals
- Emergencies
- Herd health
- Hoof trimming
- Disbudding
- Castration
- Euthanasia
- Reproduction
- Record keeping
- Nutrition advice
- Other

Other - specify:

137 What factors affect the use of veterinarians?

- Expense
- Time
- Administration of pain relief
- Good experience with a veterinarian
- Bad experience with a veterinarian
- Local veterinary practice
- Distant veterinary practice
- The level of goat experience/knowledge
- Other

Other - specify:

138 How often are your goats treated for internal parasites (i.e. dewormed)?

139 How often are your goats treated for external parasites (e.g., flies, ticks, lice etc.)?

140 Has Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) been diagnosed on your farm?

- Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 141. If no, proceed to Question 143.)

141 Approximately how many cases?

142 What do you do for goats testing positive?

143 Has Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) been diagnosed on your farm?

- Yes No
(If yes, proceed to Question 144. If no, proceed to Question 146.)

144 Approximately how many cases?

145 What do you do for goats testing positive?

146 Has Johne's Disease been diagnosed on your farm?

Yes No

(If yes, proceed to Question 147. If no, proceed to Question 149.)

147 Approximately how many cases?

148 What do you do for goats testing positive?

149 Do you observe lameness on your farm?

Yes No

(If yes, proceed to Question 150. If no, proceed to Question 152.)

150 Do you regularly treat animals identified as being lame?

Yes No

151 How are lame goats treated?

152 Is body condition assessed on your farm?

Yes No

(If yes, proceed to Question 153. If no, proceed to Question 156.)

153 How is body condition assessed?

154 How often is body condition assessed?

- Daily
 Weekly
 Monthly
 Yearly
 Other
-

Other - specify:

General

156 Is each animal permanently identified?

Yes No

(If yes, proceed to Question 157. If no, proceed to Question 158.)

157 What method(s) are used?

- Ear tag
 Collar
 Tattoo
 Other

Demographics

To which gender identity do you most identify?

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

How old are you?
