

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this most kiddings for the year will have taken place. For some you will have received exactly what you were hoping for, be that bucks or does. Others will not have been so lucky. Months, perhaps years of planning, all comes down to those precious moments when you find out whether you have boys or girls. Then there's the day-by-day assessment of both the kids and their mothers. What sort of udders do the first kidders have? How much milk are they giving? Ultimately, do they meet your expectations or not. Similarly with older does. How is the udder holding up? Is their production what you were aiming for all the way back to the time you first planned that mating? What does all this new information mean in terms of possible mating options for next year? Whatever the result new kids and new lactations are where the rubber meets the road. It provides answers to the inevitable winter questions about whether you got the matings right and begins the new questions about where to next.

As I write this, I am not aware of any restrictions on Spring shows. Shows aren't everything, but they do provide an opportunity to put our animals before the general public. Shows are where some people get to see dairy goats for the first time. Some of whom will go home wondering whether they could/should have a goat or two. Speaking as a Victorian, we have not had Spring shows since 2019 so the upcoming shows provide an opportunity to physically catch up with people that you have only talked to on the phone or communicated via Zoom or similar programs for the best part of three years.

For those of you who use and enjoy the ease of Pedigree Prowler in generating pedigrees the good news is that an updated version of the software is now available. **See Page 6 for details to purchase.**
Enjoy Spring.

Cheers, Ian

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE - NLIS CHANGES

Dear DGSA members

It is extremely important that everyone is familiar with recent changes to NLIS identification. The three attachments contain a lot of information, please take the time to read them thoroughly.

A couple of points -

1. Leg bands have been approved by NLIS as an alternative to an ear tag. *** Note if choosing to ear tag, the tag must be an electronic one to comply with DGSA regulations - suppliers will sell both electronic and non-electronic ear tags for goats. Please ensure you buy EID (Electronic Identification Device) tags. Leg bands are only available as EIDs.
2. Dairy goat exemption from tagging ends on 1st March 2023. After this date dairy goats must have either an ear tag or a leg band attached if they are leaving their property.

The DGSA will be working hard to ensure all members are aware of these changes, including detailed information appearing in this issue of the AGW magazine. **See PAGES 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26.**

P.S. Nothing has changed regarding tattooing; we will just be losing our tagging exemption on March 1st next year.

As of March 1st 2023 members will have to NLIS identify goats leaving their property. Members can still tattoo as the sole means of identification for DGSA registration, but to be NLIS compliant will also need to NLIS identify if the goat leaves the property (and notify me so DGSA records can be amended to include the device information). We currently have members who do not tattoo, and instead use NLIS identification for their DGSA registration; other members only tattoo and do not use NLIS identification at all. Both situations are fine - but goats leaving a property that are only tattooed will need an NLIS device from March 1st next year.

Kind regards, Anita

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