

## SUGGESTED TERMINOLOGY FOR REASONS WHEN PLACING DAIRY GOATS

Good oral reasons for the placing of dairy goat classes are built upon comparative statements about pairs of animals. Most often, reference should be made to two major scorecard categories, i.e., General Appearance, Dairy Character, Body Capacity and/or Mammary System, with supporting statements giving the specific advantage in each major category.

When advantage can be found in more than two major categories, reference should be made to the two highest point major categories for the strongest set of reasons. Use of three major category references is permissible with significant supporting statement for each, particularly if differences in the given major category are minor. At times, significant advantage can be found in only one major category. The pair comparison can then be restricted to one major category with adequate supporting statement.

The use of grants, or yielding advantage to the lower placing individual in a pair, should be done sparingly as it automatically weakens the claim of comparative advantage to the higher placing individual. It is appropriate when the lower placing individual has a significant advantage that a judge would like spectators to know has been noticed.

Words used to make comparative statements should be common usage standard terminology. **Descriptive statements should always be avoided.** Excessive flowery phrases of rhetorical posture should be minimized. Regional dialects, colloquial expressions, gut level humor, and veterinary diagnoses do not contribute to professional ambiance. Clear, concise statements of comparative advantage are the function of oral reasons.

Although reasons are most usually given with the placement line at rest and set up, reference to structural function on the move should be a priority in comparative statements. Summary introductory statement about the entire class at the beginning of a set of reasons is a good practice. As well, positive comment about the last animal should be included.

In selecting terms and phrases for use in giving good reasons, try to use word combinations from the scorecard or the suggested terminology as often as possible. Following are some possible combinations of wording to make supporting statements claiming advantage for the given major category. The general categories for the suggested terminology are:

- General Appearance and Walk
- Stature
- Head and Breed Characteristics
- Front End Assembly
- Back
- Legs, Feet, and Pasterns
- Dairy Character
- Body
- Mammary System

SHE IS OR HAS:

SHE IS MORE DESIRABLE IN:

**1. General Appearance and Walk**

- a. more attractive in framework being:
  - 1) more feminine
  - 2) more upstanding
- b. walks more smoothly
- c. walks more easily
- d. walks with a more impressive carriage

**2. Stature**

- a. taller at the withers than at the hips
- b. longer in bone pattern throughout

**3. Head and Breed Characteristics**

- a. cleaner cut
- b. more balanced in length, width and depth
- c. broader in the muzzle
- d. fuller nostrils
- e. more cleanly sculpted head with more alert eyes
- f. more breed character about the head, especially in:
  - 1) straightness (or curvature) of the nose
  - 2) length of ears
  - 3) set to the ears
  - 4) markings on the face
- g. stronger jaw
- h. neater in poll area
- i. more angular junction to the throat
- j. shows more desirable breed characteristics due to coloration

**4. Front End Assembly**

- a. blends more smoothly from the neck into the withers
- b. withers more prominently arched to the point of the shoulder
- c. point of shoulder more smoothly set against the body
- d. a tighter junction of shoulder blades with the withers
- e. smoother blending of shoulder blades against the chest wall
- f. point of elbow more tightly/smoothly set against the chest wall:
  - 1) at rest
  - 2) in motion
- g. deeper into the chest floor
- h. wider into the chest floor
- i. more moderate strength in the brisket

## 5. Back

- a. more well defined in the vertebrae
- b. more uphill to the withers from the hips
- c. fuller in the crops
- d. stronger and straighter in the back, especially in the:
  - e. chine
  - f. loin
  - g. wider/stronger/straighter in the loin
  - h. the hips are wider
  - i. the pin bones are:
    - 1) more well defined
    - 2) wider apart
    - 3) more properly set slightly lower than the hips
  - j. the rump is:
    - 1) more nearly level (from hips to pins)
    - 2) wider
    - 3) more nearly level from thurl to thurl
    - 4) more nearly level with the tailhead, blending more smoothly
  - k. thurls are more correctly set two-thirds of the distance from the hips to the pinbones
  - l. the tailhead is more smoothly set between the pinbones
  - m. the vulva is:
    - 1) more normal in size
    - 2) more normal in shape

## 6. Legs, Pasterns and Feet

- a. flatter and stronger in the leg bone
- b. smoother/freer in motion in the forelegs
- c. straighter in forelegs
- d. wider apart in the forelegs
- e. more squarely placed forelegs
- f. neater or cleaner in forelegs in the area of the knees
- g. shows more fullness at point of elbow
- h. stronger in the pasterns
- i. more desirable length of pastern
- j. feet are more directly pointed forward
- k. shorter and stronger toe
- l. more uniform in the depth of the sole from toe to heel
- m. more desirable rear leg set:
  - 1) when viewed from side being more perpendicular from hock to pastern
  - 2) being more angulated in side profile through the stifle
  - 3) being straighter when viewed from the rear
- n. more width between the hind legs
- o. travels with wider space between hocks
- p. more width in escutcheon area
- q. more desirable angle in the hocks
- r. more cleanly molded hocks

## 7. Dairy Character

- a. great angularity throughout
- b. more general openness
- c. stronger yet more refined bone structure
- d. freer from coarseness
- e. showing more evident milking ability with due regard for stage of lactation
- f. neck:
  - 1) longer/leaner
  - 2) cleaner-cut throat
  - 3) cleaner-cut brisket
- g. withers:
  - 1) more wedge-shaped
  - 2) with dorsal processes more correctly prominent above the shoulder blades
- h. rib:
  - 1) flatter in the rib, more open in the rib
  - 2) shows great space between the ribs
  - 3) a longer rib
  - 4) more correctly angled toward the flank
- i. flank:
  - 1) deeper in the flank
  - 2) more highly arched
  - 3) more refined
  - 4) freer of excess tissue
- j. thigh:
  - 1) cleaner in the thigh
  - 2) from the rear, more wide apart
  - 3) more highly arched and out-curving into the escutcheon
  - 4) from the side, more correctly incurving from pinbone to stifle
- k. skin and hair:
  - 1) thinner skin
  - 2) more pliable skin
  - 3) softer more lustrous hair

## 8. Body

- a. more appropriate in size/capacity in relation to:
  - 1) age
  - 2) stage of lactation
  - 3) breeding season
- b. stronger and more vigorous
- c. chest
  - 1) deeper
  - 2) wider in the floor
  - 3) more widely sprung in the ribs
  - 4) fuller at the point of elbow
  - 5) fuller in the crops
- d. barrel:
  - 1) more strongly supported yet:
    - i. deeper
    - ii. longer
    - iii. wider

- 2) deeper in the rib
- 3) more widely sprung in the rib
- 4) more increase in depth of rib going back to a more refined flank

## 9. Mammary System

- a. more appropriately capacious in proportion to frame
- b. indicating greater milk production over a long period of usefulness
- c. udder support:
  - 1) stronger medial suspensory ligament that:
    - i. more clearly defines the udder halves
    - ii. contributes to a more desirable shape or capacity
    - iii. holds the udder higher above the hocks
    - iv. secures the udder more strongly to the body
  - 2) stronger fore/rear/lateral attachments
  - 3) smoother fore/rear/lateral attachments
- d. fore udder:
  - 1) more desirable in shape
  - 2) wider/fuller to the side
  - 3) extending more correctly forward without excess, non-lactating tissue
- e. rear udder:
  - 1) more capacious
  - 2) higher
  - 3) wider
  - 4) more arched into the escutcheon
  - 5) more uniformly deep and wide to the udder floor
  - 6) more correctly curved in side profile
  - 7) less protruding in relation to the vulva
- f. balance, symmetry and quality:
  - 1) from the side, more balanced both forward and back of the rear leg
  - 2) more rounded in shape
  - 3) softer texture
  - 4) more pliable
  - 5) more elastic
  - 6) more collapsed after milking
  - 7) freer from scar tissue
  - 8) from the rear, the halves are more evenly balanced
  - 9) more symmetrical in shape
  - 10) less excess tissue in the udder
- g. teats:
  - 1) more uniform in size
  - 2) more correct in size in proportion to the size of the udder
  - 3) more nearly of medium length
  - 4) more cylindrical in shape
  - 5) more clearly delineated from the udder
  - 6) more nearly plumb when viewed from the rear
  - 7) more properly placed when viewed from the rear/side
  - 8) indicated greater ease in milking
  - 9) show less tendency to leak