

Dear District 1 members,

Hello, I am Ruth Phillips-Grant. I have been a dairy goat breeder since 1976, and an ADGA member since 1978, and I am a lifetime member. My herd, Beorningswick, was started by my parents Tom and Elaine Phillips with a native on appearance Alpine doe named Aries. My daughters, Kathryn and Christine, have both continued to breed under this herd name. In addition, Christine is an ADGA judge. I am proud to be part of a multi-generational ADGA herd, that has been recognized as a Herd of Distinction in 2021. I participate in DHIA production testing, linear appraisal, and DNA typing, and understand the importance of the integrity of the pedigrees in the goats we breed. I taught the Dairy Goat 101 at the college level for UConn, while the College of Agriculture reorganized their staff. I am a certified 4H volunteer, a member of the CT Goat Day Committee, DHIA Goat tester, the Treasurer for the Connecticut Dairy Goat Association, and moderator for CT Goat Owners on social media.

Between the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting the show season of 2020, and now the difficult, untimely launch of the Next Generation software in 2021, the past 18 months has been a challenging for ADGA and its membership. While a computer upgrade was desperately needed, the timing was during the heavy spring kidding, registration and kid shipping season, was inappropriate. My farm business experience, which relies heavily on project management, strategic planning and crisis management could have helped alleviate these pitfalls. I wish to utilize these assets to help ADGA keep growing and changing, moving forward in a positive, upbeat fashion with the least disruption to the membership's businesses.

I believe ADGA has an extremely important role educating the public on the joys and benefits of dairy goat ownership. The association needs to improve its educational and promotional materials to be utilized by dairy goat clubs, schools, FFA, 4H, and collegiate programs. These projects can be developed through our own committees, or in conjunction with public and private entities. After all, our future is our youth!

I would continue to bring ADGA news and events to members and non-members alike through social media. ADGA is a leader in the dairy goat world, and as the Association moves forward, so goes the rest of the goat world. I also would encourage others to continue the trend of transparency of the board meetings and actions to the districts they represent. All board and executive actions should be available to our membership.

Finally, I would ask you to exercise your right to vote in this election. There are around 700 members in District 1, but only 71 persons voted in the nomination process. I would like to see the majority of our district voting in this crucial election. To assist with this goal, I am in full support of online voting in all stages of ADGA's election process.

You are ADGA- your voice matters!

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.
I look forward to serving as your District 1 Director.

Sincerely,
Ruth Phillips- Grant
ADGA ID# 1282144