

Dear District IV Members,

I thank you for your nomination to represent you on the ADGA Board of Directors. There are good candidates on this ballot for your selection.

Please let me introduce myself: My name is Tom Considine. I have been involved with goats and ADGA since birth, growing up on the family goat farm, Diamond Dairy. Along with my wife and our 10 children, I now own and operate Diamond Dairy where we milk 130 of 7 different breeds. While our older children have grown and moved off the farm, having started families of their own (and have given us 6 grandchildren, praise be!), they have been an integral part of our farm and deserve to be included. Currently, 6 children are living at home and working with the dairy and the farm.

I have been an ADGA licensed judge for the last 35 years, and have served on many committees, even chairing some of them. I have represented you on the ADGA Board of Directors for 15 years and been elected to the Executive Committee 3 different times, including this year. I have been blessed to meet many of you at goat shows and talk with you at times when ADGA concerns have hit close to home - sometimes being able to help, other times just being a sounding board.

There is no doubt that 2020 and 2021 have been difficult years for ADGA members, myself included. Whether it was pandemic induced, leadership decisions induced, other contributing factors induced, or all three combined, I have great confidence that ADGA will be the better for it in the future. In hindsight, our decision to switch over to ROSS-NG was poorly timed. Yet even with that hindsight, I am not sure if there ever would be a "good time". We figured there would be problems no matter when we did it, but as we listened to the advice of our programmers and IM Committee members, this seemed to be the "best" time. We knew we did not want to try to continue with ROSS another year as it was operating on "duct tape and baling wire". As problems with NG were encountered (admittedly more numerous than we anticipated), the directors attempted to make things as easy as possible for you to continue to use the programs within ADGA, whether showing, appraising, milk testing, etc. It was frustrating for all people within ADGA from our newest members to our most senior members, from our newest employees to our most experienced employees.

Lance Gerlach (Executive Director) has worked closely with the Executive Committee, Shirley McKenzie (Association Manager retiring June 30th), Sherry Moore (new Office Manager), Jim VanDerlinde (new PPM) as well as many others in the office to start to work through the backlog of issues and getting things flowing once again. I firmly believe we are headed in the right direction since he joined us in May and look forward to his leadership in the near and distant future.

I am grateful for those of you who have supported me in the past and ask for your support once again. For those who remain undecided, I would appreciate your vote as well. As always, my "door is always open and unlocked" and encourage you to contact me with your questions or concerns.

goatfarmerkids@gmail.com

(608) 617-1595

Sincerely,

Tom