



Will Keech

Candidate for District 5 Director

ADGA Members,

I am honored to be writing to you today as a nominee to serve as ADGA District 5 Director. Regardless of whom you choose to support in this general election, thank you for actively participating in the process. Voting in our ADGA elections is one of the easiest ways to make your voice heard within the association, and your voice is needed now more than ever.

Like many of our members, my background in the dairy goat industry dates back to early 2002 with the purchase of our first Alpine doe as a 4-H project. Since that time, both our herd and my involvement within the industry has steadily grown over time. Our farm currently consists of American Alpines, along with a small but competitive Lamancha breeding program we recently acquired from a friend. Our herd exhibits at a handful of midwestern state fairs each year, the national show on a regular basis, and partakes in Linear Appraisal whenever it is offered in our remote area.

Outside of my own breeding program, I have had the privilege of being actively involved in ADGA committee work over the past five years, having served on numerous committees in that time including: National Show, Annual Meeting, Annual Meeting Long Range, Colorama, and Membership. Outside of my service to ADGA, I currently sit on the board of the Nebraska Dairy Goat Association, the Alpines International Breed Club, and serve as chair for two shows within our state. I am also a licensed judge with the association and am privileged to travel the country each summer evaluating shows and interacting with our membership.

A community banker by profession, I have spent most of my career in agricultural lending or banking leadership roles in rural markets throughout Nebraska. We currently reside south of McCook, NE where I am employed by a regional institution managing a portfolio of production ag and agribusiness credits throughout the high plains, with primary concentration in Southwest Nebraska and Western Kansas. I have also spent time professionally working in governmental relations, working statewide to promote livestock friendly policies and regulations at all levels of government within Nebraska. My professional background provides me the experience and skills to relate with producers and stakeholders at all levels, from the farm gate to the state capital.

To put it simply, our association is at a pivotal crossroads, the likes of which we haven't seen for decades. More and more, crucial decisions impacting the industry seem to be made by a select few individuals and those who will simply do their bidding. It is crucial to the future of our association that we bring forth leaders with common sense, grounded values, and those who will put the interests of the membership and association as a whole ahead of their own aspirations or personal ideologies.

From large commercial herds to small hobby breeders, ADGA members count on the reliability, functionality and integrity of our registry, databases, and programs. I will work tirelessly to ensure that integrity and functionality is restored and maintained into the future. While I won't make promises I can't keep, I do promise to communicate with our membership; not only the good... but the bad, and the ugly of what is taking place within our association. My phone is always on, and my door is always open. No matter how big, or how small I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you about your issues, concerns, ideas, or aspirations regarding the industry and do my best to advocate on your behalf.

Since 1904, ADGA has been the leading dairy goat registry in the world. By coming together, working together, all while prioritizing common sense values, fiscal responsibility, and communication I know we can continue to build our foundation stronger for the next 117 years. As the adage goes, "it takes a village," no one person can move the needle single handedly. The issues currently facing the registry are serious and frustrating at best. That said, to move the industry ahead, and tackle future issues and opportunities it's going to take all of us coming together and stepping up to the plate. I look forward to representing you and working alongside you to do just that.

Warm Regards,
Will Keech
Cell: 402-326-8232, Email: Keech.Will@gmail.com