

AMERICAN DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION

Friendly Amendment

To POSTAL BALLOT 2122-4

COMMENT & VOTING PERIOD March 16-30, 2022

PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Voting Deadline is March 30, 2022

CHANGES TO LINEAR APPRAISAL PROGRAM AND SOP

SPONSORS: Elizabeth Henning, Mark Baden, Joan Dean Rowe, Richard Grossman, Marshall Losey, Trinity Malmanis.

CAST YOUR VOTE (YES/NO) FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

Part I: REPLACE COVID-19 SPECIFIC WORDING WITH GENERIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE GUIDELINES

PRO: Aligns LA program policy with that of other ADGA programs and current governmental guidelines

CON: Requires knowledge of existing CDC, state and local guidelines

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LINEAR APPRAISAL SOP, SECTION 9:

(Committee vote 13 yes, 2 not voting)

Proposed wording

9.0 HUMAN INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK PRECAUTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Upon application for Linear Appraisal, Herd Owners must agree to abide by the following guidelines:

9.2 Guidelines provided by the CDC and State and Local Health Departments will be consulted for current recommendations regarding transmission avoidance.

9.3 If an appraisal session needs to be cancelled and documentation is provided verifying that cancellation is due to human infectious disease, any prepaid stop charges and animal fees will be credited to the account(s) of the herd owner(s). However, the initial application fee will be retained by ADGA to offset some costs associated with the appraisal trip.

CAST YOUR VOTE (YES/NO)-Infectious disease guidelines

The following existing portions of Sec. 9 would be deleted:

9.3 The appraiser and the handler shall wear masks and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet, as much as possible.

A. For the tattoo check, stature and rump measurements, the appraiser or handler will not converse.

B. If RFID is needed, this will be read by the owner and verified by the appraiser so that prevention of touching common surfaces will be practiced.

9.4 Masks and physical distancing is required for all present. A distance of 20 feet is recommended for non-handlers.

Outdoor sessions are strongly recommended. Only one herd is to be present in the appraisal area at a time.

9.5 Only owners of animals are to be present. Groups and small children are not recommended.

9.6 A hand washing station should be set up nearby. Food and drinks should not be provided at the sessions.

9.7 If at any time, an appraiser deems a session to be unsafe, they may terminate the session immediately.

9.8 If an owner or family member housed with them has any of the following, they must immediately contact the

ADGA office to reschedule or cancel their appraisal:

A. Has symptoms of Covid-19 within the two days prior to or on their appraisal date. Symptoms include:

1. Fever or chills
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
4. Fatigue
5. Muscle or body aches
6. Headache
7. New loss of taste or smell
8. Sore throat
9. Congestion or runny nose
10. Nausea or vomiting
11. Diarrhea

B. Is currently in isolation following a positive COVID test (Isolation is required for a minimum of 10 days from onset of illness and both criteria of 24 hours fever-free AND resolution of symptoms must be met)

C. Is in current quarantine for exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

9.9 If an appraisal session needs to be cancelled due to the appearance of any of the conditions noted above in

9.7, A-C, the herd owner must contact the ADGA office. If documentation is provided that verifies that cancellation is due to Covid-19 or other infectious disease, any prepaid stop charges and animal fees will be credited to the account(s) of the herd owner(s). However, the initial application fee will be retained by ADGA to offset some costs associated with the appraisal trip.

PART II: CHANGES TO LINEAR APPRAISAL PROGRAM

RATONALE:

The following were developed by the Linear Appraisal Summit held on February 5, 2022, and were approved for implementation in 2022 by the Linear Appraisal Committee and Appraisers during the refresher held on February 19-20, 2022.

~~A. **STATURE:** Actual measurement of all animals will be discontinued. Animals will be screened for conformance to breed standard using an ADGA-approved measuring device; similar to show ring procedure for ND.~~

~~—— Over-height animals will be assigned MC82 (applies only to Nigerian Dwarfs)~~

~~—— Standard breed animals not meeting minimum height by age 4-0 will be assigned~~

~~—— Miscellaneous Code 83. Those younger than 4-0 will be assigned informational code (MC83 circled on sheet, 983 on report.) As standard breed animals under height at age 4-0 or older~~

~~—— have a moderate defect, animals coded 83 may be scored Excellent in General Appearancee (Committee vote: 14 yes, 2 no)~~

Amendment: unanimous vote by Ballot sponsors

A. **STATURE:** Exact measurement of all animals will be discontinued. Animals will be screened for conformance to breed standard using an ADGA-approved measuring device; similar to show ring procedure for the Nigerian Dwarf breed. All animals with final score 93 or greater and any animal with miscellaneous code (MC) of 82 (over-height) will have an exact measurement recorded in inches.

Current wording:

SOP Sec 5.1: Physical Measurements - Stature and rump width will be measured by the appraiser using ADGA Linear Appraisal Committee approved devices (See Appendix E), which belong to the appraiser. The appraiser must be consistent in measuring method. In the case of failure of the approved devices, other devices may be used in an emergency

Proposed wording:

SOP Sec 5.1 Physical Measurements - Stature will be evaluated and rump width will be measured by the appraiser using ADGA Linear Appraisal Committee approved devices (See Appendix E), which belong to the appraiser. All animals with final score 93 or greater and any animal with miscellaneous code (MC) of 82 (over-height) will have an exact measurement recorded in inches. The appraiser must be consistent in measuring method. In the case of failure of the approved devices, other devices may be used in an emergency.

CAST YOUR VOTE SOP 5.1 (YES/NO)

Current wording: SOP 11.3(E): If over-height for a miniature breed, the general appearance score should reflect that score and the appropriate miscellaneous code used.

Proposed wording: SOP 11.3 (E): If over-height for a miniature breed, the General Appearance category and Final Score should reflect that and Miscellaneous Code 82 assigned. Reference SOP 10.5E and SOP 10.6B

CAST YOUR VOTE SOP 11.3(E) (YES/NO)

Current wording: SOP 11.3 (F): Mature (4 years of age and older) animals of any breed under minimum breed standard for height, and miniature breed does that are over maximum height for breed standards, that are otherwise exceptional in type could be Excellent overall but cannot be Excellent in the General Appearance category. Reference Codes 82 and 83 in these instances.

Proposed wording: SOP 11.3 (F): Mature (4 years of age and older) animals of any breed under minimum breed standard for height, that are otherwise exceptional in type could be Excellent overall and in the General Appearance category. Reference Code MC83.

CAST YOUR VOTE SOP 11.3(F) (YES/NO)

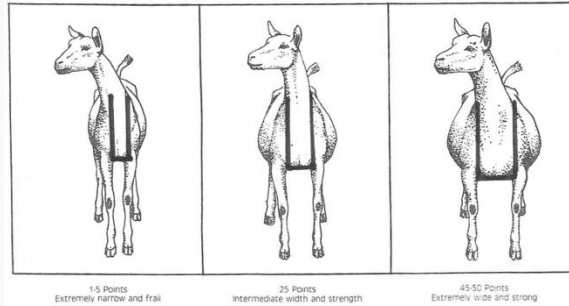
PRO: Measuring stature is time-consuming, is an employee safety risk; has resulted in many complaints of inconsistency by herd owners, and is not completely reflective of sire influence but may be highly impacted by management. Stature was removed from the General Appearance section of the Scorecard (BOD vote 30-0) to de-emphasize the significance of height. High-scoring animals and any animal with Miscellaneous Code (MC) 82 will have an exact measurement recorded in inches.

CON: Some members want precise measurements and utilize that information in breeding programs

B: STRENGTH: Remove references to muzzle & substance of bone in the goat's front end from Strength (SR) linear scoring

(Committee vote: 15 Yes, 1 No)

FORM — STRENGTH



Current wording (Blue Book): The width and depth of the chest, the width of the muzzle, and the substance of bone in the goat's front end are used to determine the strength of the goat....

Proposed wording: The width and depth of the chest are used to determine the strength of the goat.

CAST YOUR VOTE: STRENGTH (YES/NO)

PRO: Places focus on one area of the animal rather than attempting to look at head, legs and chest simultaneously. Brings trait in line with single observation requirement of LA. Removes tendency to "average" when muzzle width is not reflected in chest width. Strength of head and legs are evaluated in other scorecard areas

CON: Appraisers must be able to separate exaggerated front end width due to over-conditioning. Care must be taken to evaluate actual structure.

C: REAR UDDER SIDE VIEW: Move this trait from a linear to structural trait with scoring range of 0-4.

(Committee vote 14 yes, 2 No)

Current wording (Blue Book): Extremely flat rear udders, with little capacity, are assigned 5 or less points; rear udders with intermediate fullness are assigned 25 points; and rear udders that are extremely bulgy or protruding are assigned 45 or more points.

Proposed wording (Blue Book): When no mammary capacity is visible behind the leg, a score of 0 will be assigned; a slightly rounded udder = 1; intermediate in fullness=2; well-rounded = 3; extremely rounded, bulging or protruding = 4.

CAST YOUR VOTE REVISED WORDING (YES/NO)

Current wording: SOP 14.12: Rear Udder Side View will have a reference point of 19 when the udder cannot be viewed behind the leg.

Proposed wording: SOP 14.12: Rear Udder Side View: Scoring ranges from 0 (when the udder cannot be viewed behind the leg) to +4 (extremely rounded, bulging or protruding beyond the vulva)

CAST YOUR VOTE SOP 14.12 (YES/NO)

PRO: Eliminates scoring confusion when shape differs (round at top, but flat approaching the teat); ease of member understanding (no conversion); ease in training (demonstrated at refresher); information available for scoring of complete mammary; no trait PTAs or D/AV have ever been evaluated for this trait (like existing structural traits); no impact on type evaluations

CON: Fewer numerical scoring options

D: UDDER TEXTURE: Scoring of udder texture is eliminated (except when deemed necessary by appraiser) for all does scoring less than 93. For high scoring does, udder texture must be recorded on the high score verification form. Udder texture evaluation will not be an owner option.
(Committee vote: 16 yes 0 No (FS requirement vote; 13 = 93+; 3=92+)

Current wording: SOP 14.2: A dry milker cannot receive an Excellent for udder texture. For a fresh doe to receive an E in udder texture, the doe must be milked out.

Proposed wording: SOP 14.2: A dry milker cannot receive an Excellent rating for udder texture. Unless deemed necessary for overall Mammary scoring by the appraiser, only does considered for FS93 and above will be evaluated for udder texture and **MUST** be re-presented milked out

CAST YOUR VOTE SOP 14.2 (YES/NO)

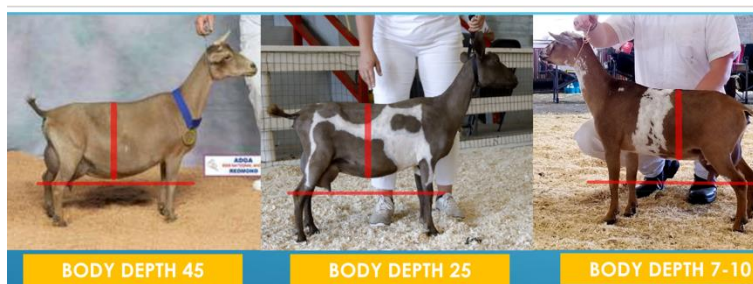
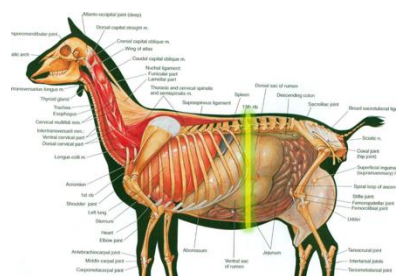
PRO: Inconsistently evaluated; disruptive to the scoring session; not all herdowners re-present for texture evaluation; not always genetic as management can have high impact.

CON: Some owners rely on professional evaluation of udder texture; useful management information

E: BODY DEPTH New Linear research trait evaluated as the distance between the top of the spine and bottom of the barrel at the end of the last rib - at the deepest point of the body. A very deep body is assigned 45 points or more while a very shallow one scores 5 points or less.

(Committee vote 15 yes, 1 No)

CAST YOUR VOTE LINEAR TRAIT BODY DEPTH (YES/NO)



PRO: Indicates capacity to allow for optimal production and mammary function; visual measurement does not require handling of animal; heritability requirement of 20% in dairy cattle meets initial requirement for linear traits; provides additional information for scoring of dairy strength and body capacity; appraisers scored with consistency at refresher.

CON: New trait will require extra explanation to herd owners; learning curve for appraisers

F: CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY FROM "ACCEPTABLE" TO "GOOD" Applies to Structural Category ratings, as well as Final Category ratings changing "A" to "G" reflecting animals scoring in the 70-79 point range.

(Committee vote: 15 Yes, 1 No)

CAST YOUR VOTE TO CHANGE "A" TO "G" (YES/NO)

PRO: Provides more positive language to describe animals that are acceptably functional. Consistent with language of scoring range definitions. Used and approved at refresher.

CON: Change in terminology will require extra explanation by appraisers. Good might be confused with

Good Plus.

PART III: MISCELLANEOUS CODE CHANGES

G: ADD MC06 AND 07 for body conditioning: Animals with MC06 are automatically excluded from sire evaluations. Should be used sparingly indicating outliers.

MC06 - extremely under-conditioned (Body Conditioning score <2)

MC07 - extremely over-conditioned (BC score 5)

(Committee Vote: 16 Yes, 0 No)

CAST YOUR VOTE NEW MC06 AND MC07 (YES/NO)

PRO: Upon appraiser option, MC06 allows scoring of animals without inclusion in sire evaluations; provides herd owner with helpful information short of complete body condition scoring.

CON: Appraisers must be careful not to make negative comments or management suggestions when using these codes. Information not as complete as full body condition scoring. Cusp animals (close to 2 or 5) may be challenging.

H: Misc. Code 99: animals automatically excluded from sire evaluations

To be used when owner wants partial information on an animal that cannot be fully scored: e.g., mastectomized, 3 legs; no final score, owner is charged

(Committee Vote; 14 yes, 2 No)

CAST YOUR VOTE NEW MC99 (YES/NO)

PRO: Herd owners frequently ask for information on animals that for one various reasons an appraiser is not able to score fully. This option will allow the animals to be partially scored and provide information in those areas. Herd owner will pay full appraisal fee.

CON: Owners may publicly provide partial scores (e.g. udder) without specifying that the animal was not scored in all areas. Owner will pay full fee for incomplete information.

I: Change MC04 - Change wording to include lactations initiated without a traditional freshening if function is affected. e.g., precocious milkers, aborted doe, manipulated lactation, C-section

(Committee Vote: 16 yes, 0 no)

Current wording: MC04 - Abnormal kidding

Proposed wording: MC04 - Atypical lactation

CAST YOUR VOTE WORDING CHANGE MC04 (YES/NO)

PRO: Provides a method for appraiser to indicate that a lactation is not normal

CON: May be difficult for appraiser to determine how much function has been affected.

CHANGES RELATED TO ANIMAL AGE:

J: AGE-ADJUSTMENT- Final scores are automatically age-adjusted in sire evaluations. Age adjustment during the appraisal process leads to unnecessary score inflation.

(Committee vote: 15 yes, 1 No)

PRO: Final scores are automatically age-adjusted in sire evaluations. Age adjustment during the appraisal process leads to unnecessary score inflation. Scoring range definitions provide guidelines for age-

appropriate evaluation of defects.

CON: Changing this procedure may result in score calculations and scores different from what herd owners have experienced in the past. Additional owner education may be required.

Current wording: SOP 10.5 (D): Linear and Structural categories will be evaluated without adjusting for age, stage of lactation or number of lactations. These adjustments will be accounted for in the final categories. An exception is made if the doe is 6 or fewer weeks fresh – the appraiser may evaluate the dorsal process with this information.

Proposed wording: SOP 10.5 (D): Linear and Structural categories will be evaluated without adjusting for stage of lactation or number of lactations. These adjustments will be accounted for in the final categories. An exception is made if the doe is 6 or fewer weeks fresh - the appraiser may evaluate the dorsal process when scoring rump structural category with this information. Age adjustment applies only to animals seven (7) years and older when scoring the major categories and determining final score.

CAST YOUR VOTE SOP 10.5 (YES/NO)

K: OWNER OPTION: Change age at which an owner may exclude an animal from scoring.
(Committee vote: 16 yes, 0 No)

Current wording: (2021 Guidebook, p. 82) Bylaws Sec X,B,4,e: Any doe eight (8) years or older is not required to be presented for appraisal.

Proposed wording: Bylaws Sec X,B,4,e: Any doe seven(7) years or older is not required to be presented for appraisal

CAST YOUR VOTE Bylaws Sec X,B,4,e (YES/NO)

PRO: Aligns aged doe designation with that of other programs, e.g. National Show.

CON: Change in policy

Email indicating your votes [Yes or NO] for **EACH SECTION SHOWN ABOVE** to President Robin Saum no later than March 30, 2022. Thank you. robinsaum@gmail.com