



American Dairy Goat Association

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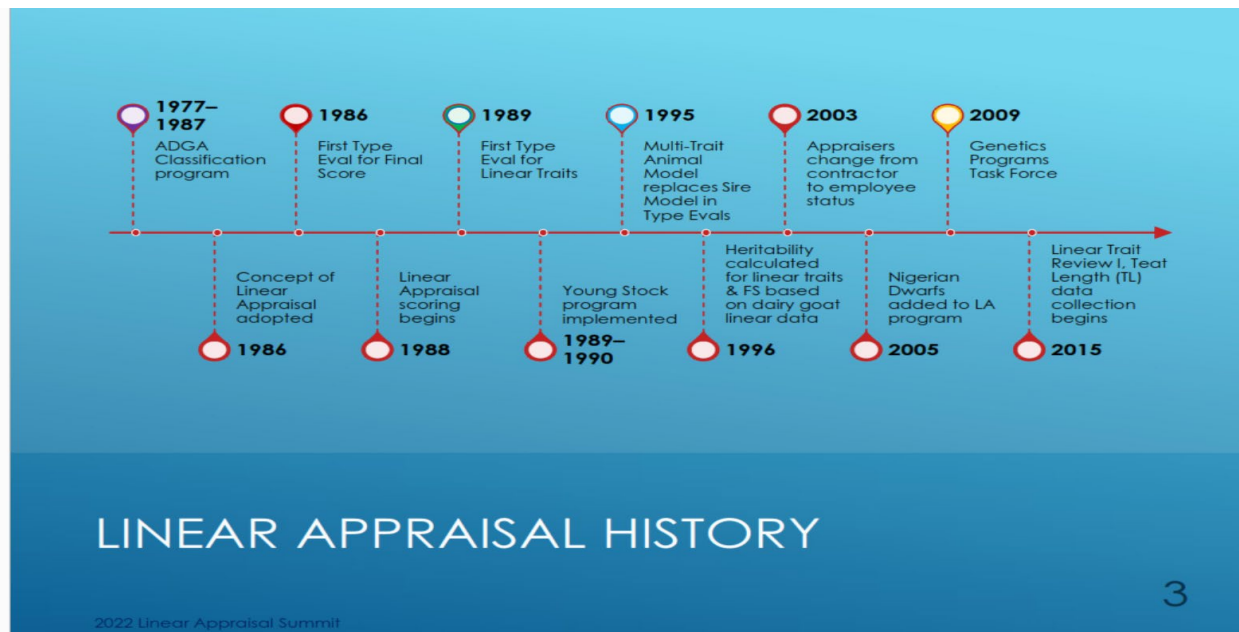
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4/1/2022

Linear Appraisal Program Updates for 2022

As appraisal season starts to kick off here are the major changes that have been researched, vetted, practiced, discussed, and ultimately approved to be implemented for 2022. The linear appraisal program has been operating since 1987 and some of these exciting changes have been years in the making!



The Linear Appraisal Summit was held on February 5th, 2022 to help drive LA forward for the coming year and lay the groundwork for the incremental steps the program can take in the leading up to the next genetic base change in 2025. While we understand that every member has different breeding goals and philosophies. It is important as an industry to recognize the need for accurate, repeatable data that can be used by all members regardless of breed style or preference. The goal of the first linear appraisal summit was to evaluate the range of linear traits and ensure that all linear traits were catching the entire spectrum of animals. As a user of the program, we cannot identify those truly elite animals or those sires that contribute undesirable traits if the entire linear range is not being used.

When you cannot see animals separate from the pack in any particular trait that area becomes an opportunity to improve the entire program.

The research from the Linear Summit was distilled into recommendations that were introduced February 18-20, 2022 for the entire LA committee and all appraisers for continued discussion and practice at refresher. These recommendations were fine tuned at refresher and then sent to the ADGA Board of Directors for their vote on postal ballot 2122.4 [PB-2122-4.pdf \(adga.org\)](https://adga.org/PB-2122-4.pdf).

All sections have passed!

Here are the highlights-

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.

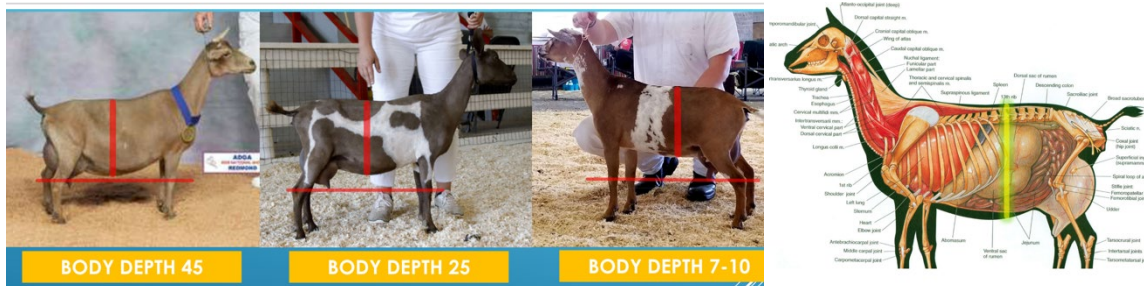
Strength- Linear trait scoring at the core is observing the animal in one single area on a scale of 1-50. Strength has been an area that has multiple factors contributing to it. To help promote consistency between appraisers, this trait will be evaluated using chest width and depth.

Rear Udder Side View- Rear udder side view moves from a linear to a structural trait. This will be evaluated on a scale from 0-4. A 0 would indicate that no mammary capacity is visible behind the leg when viewed from the side. +4 would indicate the rear udder is protruding out near the vulva when viewed from the side.

Udder Texture- Udder texture will no longer be an owner option. Not all herd owners participate in this trait which means we are not capturing all available data. Udder texture is mandatory of animals scoring 93 and any animal that the appraiser deems necessary.

Body Depth- Body Depth joins the program as a new research trait! This trait will be evaluated from the top of the spine to the bottom of the barrel at the point of the last rib. This reference provides the desired single point of observation to become a linear trait and provides another trait to validate our body capacity scores.

Body depth examples: The vertical red and yellow lines in the pictures below represent where the appraiser will evaluate the new body depth research trait. The red horizontal line is a point of reference through the hock.



Change in terminology- The current linear program uses the terms Good Plus for 80-84 and Very Good for 85-89 but we deem animals as only Acceptable in the 70-79 point range. The term Acceptable is

being removed and replaced by the term Good. The Good category will now be 70-79 points for structural traits and final categories.

Change in owner option- The LA program is the only program that uses 8 years of age. Our National show considers 7 years of age to be an aged doe. To be more consistent across all ADGA programs, owner option for linear appraisal will be moved to age 7.

On behalf of the Appraisers, LA Committee, LA Summit, and LA Refresher participants- a lot of work went into bringing these changes forth for the benefit of the entire program and the entire world that uses our linear appraisal program data.

We're looking forward to LA 2022!

Jim VanDerlinde

ADGA Performance Programs Manager