



SDGA BREAKTHROUGHS

➔ Main Article

Top Five Moments of 2025

5) ADGA Student Workshop

Last July, the **SDGA** team hosted a 4-hour interactive youth workshop, which centered on hands-on learning in the area of animal husbandry, at the 2025 National Dairy Goat Show in Grand Island, Nebraska. The workshop was led by **Dr. Paul Plummer** (University of Tennessee–Knoxville), **Dr. Amanda Kreuder** (Iowa State University), and **Dr. Sarah Al-Mazroa Smith** (Iowa State University). The youth participants who attended the session, ranging from 9th grade to age 21, represented various regions across the United States.

4) ADGA National Convention

At the 2025 American Dairy Goat Association Convention (ADGA) in Danvers, MA, **SDGA** member **Dr. Pat**



The SDGA Team working the booth at the ADGA National Convention. From left to right: Dr. Maria Wurzinger, Dr. Kajal Madeka, and Dr. Emmanuel Kanchewa

Gordon delivered five presentations over two days, engaging both veterinary professionals and dairy goat producers. Meanwhile, **Dr. Maria Wurzinger** and **Dr. Emmanuel Kanchewa** led three sessions designed to empower producers and share global insights. **SDGA** also had a convention booth where team members connected with producers, sparking conversations about the realities of small-scale dairy goat farming.

3) Dairy Goat Webinars

SDGA would like to thank all those who participated in the 2025 Dairy Goat Webinar Series, hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. We appreciate your engagement and hope the sessions provided valuable insights and strategies to support your dairy goat enterprise.

2) Dairy Goat Management Seminar

The 2025 Dairy Goat Management Seminar in Kalona, Iowa, equipped 71 producers and industry representatives with practical strategies to improve herd health, profitability, and recordkeeping. Five expert-led sessions covered profit analysis, production records, parasite control, udder health, and small ruminant emergencies. Post-event surveys showed significant knowledge gains and strong intentions to adopt best practices, with nearly half of respondents estimating annual economic benefits of \$6–\$25 per goat—some exceeding \$50. This translates to an estimated impact of \$30,000 for participating farms. Supported by USDA grant funds and sponsors, the seminar strengthens Iowa's dairy goat industry through education and hands-on learning.

1) Dairy Goat Lifecycle Assessment

The Dairy Goat Lifecycle Assessment (LCA) model aims to predict the long-term performance & economics of the production system by developing a dynamic farm system computational simulation model that considers the entire production system. This tool can improve sustainability by providing strategies to increase productivity, profitability, & climate adaptability, as well as decrease the environmental impact of your production system. If interested, please reach out to sdga@uark.edu



➤ Seeking Dairy Goat Professionals

Help Shape the Future of Dairy Goat Farming

Researchers from Iowa State University are working on a project aimed at enhancing the sustainability, profitability, and resilience of dairy goat farming. As dairy goats gain popularity for their adaptability and efficiency, understanding the resources and

strategies that drive success is essential. Therefore, to ensure successful dairy milk production, we would like to incorporate the needs of all stakeholders. One of the crucial steps in incorporating these needs is identifying critical factors for sustainable operations and suggestions for supporting new farmers entering the industry. Therefore, your insights will help shape practical solutions and guide future development.

Members of the dairy goat community will participate in focus groups, where they will share their experiences, challenges, and perspectives. These meetings will be held virtually and in-person, and it is estimated that the discussions will last approximately 90 minutes. If interested in attending, please reach out to Emmanuel Kanchewa at kanchewa@iastate.edu or by phone at 614-551-9005.



Upcoming Events & Engagement Opportunities



SOUTHEAST DAIRY
BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVE
TN, KY, NC, WV, VA, SC, GA, AL, MS, LA, AR, FL

ARE YOU A SHEEP OR
DAIRY GOAT FARMER?

Small Ruminant Dairy Farm Survey

To participate, contact the Institutional
Review Board at The University of
Tennessee, Knoxville
Phone: 865-974-7697



Dairy Goat Extension & Education

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