

Help Shape the Future of Dairy Goat Farming

SUSTAINABLE DAIRY GOAT
AGRISYSTEMS

We invite you to take part in a national research project focused on making dairy goat farming more sustainable, profitable, & resilient. With dairy goats becoming more popular for their adaptability & efficiency, it's time to better understand how our farms impact the environment — & how we can improve.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

This project uses **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)** to study how goat farming affects the environment—greenhouse gases, water use, energy, and more. We're gathering real data from farms like yours across the U.S. to build accurate models of goat production.

We're also looking at the economic benefits: We will evaluate cost of production and what farms are earning as revenues and assess how to optimize profits. The goal is to give back practical insights to farmers and policy makers to support both the environment and economic sustainability.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

We've developed a survey to document key inputs and outputs by understanding the day-to-day operations of your farm. Your privacy will be protected. Data will be kept confidential and used only for research to inform tools and policies that benefit dairy goat producers. The survey covers:

1. Housing, breeding, & rearing
2. Milk & meat production
3. Feed systems & sources
4. Healthcare & veterinary services
5. Water, fuel, & electricity use
6. Labor, machinery, & processing
7. Waste handling & operational costs

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS)
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Questions can be sent to **sdga@uark.edu**




HOW TO PREPARE

You can answer most questions from memory, but having a few records on hand can help:

1. Feed types & quantities
2. Milk/meat sales (prices & channels)
3. Veterinary & health cost
4. Utility bills (water, fuel, & electricity)
5. Labor (paid & unpaid)
6. Equipment & barn info
7. Any processing or packaging activities

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Let's work together to strengthen the future of U.S. dairy goat farming.

By sharing your experience, you help build better tools to:

- Benchmark your farm's performance
- Improve profitability & reduce costs
- Protect the environment for future generations

The main outcomes of this study are:

1 BENCHMARKING

Ranges and percentiles for key metrics (e.g., milk per doe, cost of production, water & energy intensity, GHG per lb of milk) by herd size and production system.

2 COST & PROFITABILITY RANGES

Typical cost curves and margin ranges, highlighting which cost lines usually drive profitability in farms like theirs.

3 "WHAT IF?" SCENARIOS

Scenario tables using typical values (e.g., switching feed source, adjusting lactation management) to show expected average impacts on costs and emissions.

SIGN UP NOW

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Affiliated Universities:

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY · UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS · UCDAVIS · UTIA INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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515-918-1766 · SDGA@IASTATE.EDU · DAIRYGOATAGRISYTEMS.ORG