United States Department of Agriculture

Progress Report

Title:	Systems-based integrated approach to demonstrating, promoting and enhancing the sustainability of dairy goat production in the United States

Sponsoring Agency	NIFA	**Project Status**	ACTIVE
Funding Source	Non Formula	**Reporting Frequency**	Annual
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Reporting Period Start Date	04/01/2025	**Reporting Period End Date**	03/31/2026
Submitted By	Karen Barker	**Date Submitted to NIFA**	07/28/2026

Program Code: A9201 **Program Name:** Sustainable Agricultural Systems

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Recipient Organization

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NATL INSTITUTE OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE RES AND ED - VPR

Non-Technical Summary

Dairy goats are the fastest growing commercial livestock sector in the US. Current data demonstrate the unique nature of dairy goat production, where agricultural intensification may be balanced with diversification and sustainability. The impressive ability of goats to remain productive in arid regions of the world highlights their adaptability and resilience. These attributes provide an opportunity to strengthen rural community agricultural systems through value-added circular economies. The goal of our research, education, and extension efforts in this project is to improve and assure the sustainability of dairy goat production systems in the US. Reaching this goal would allow for environmentally-sustainable intensification of dairy goat production while assuring continued access to value-added markets that support a diverse population of farmers and small rural farming communities. The system under study for this project takes a strategically broad view of US commercial dairy goat production. Anticipated outcomes of this project include (1) a computerized anaylsis tool that allows dairy goat producers to identify strategies to decrease their carbon footprint and water usage, (2) improved health tools for dairy goats, (3) stronger rural economy infrastructure with diversified goat producers, and (4) integrated education and extension efforts to support these outcomes and sustainable systems.

Accomplishments

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Major goals of the project

The goal of our research, education, and extension efforts is to improve and assure the sustainability of dairy goat production. In our view, reaching this goal would allow for environmentally-sustainable intensification of dairy goat production while assuring continued access to value-added markets (e.g. on farm cheese, soap or lotion processing and marketing) that support a diverse population of farmers and small rural farming communities. The system under study for this project takes a strategically broad view of US commercial dairy goat production including: (1) the milking herd, (2) offspring of the milking herd, (3) replacement does, (4) meat bucks derived from the milking herd, (5) farm assets, (6) land/environment, (7) any on-farm value-added efforts, (8) any on-farm marketing and, (9) the local social and environmental impacts of this system. Due to the significant differences in how meat and fiber goats are raised compared to dairy goats (ie. dairy goats more intensive and fed harvested feedstuffs versus meat goats being more pastured; similar to how dairy cattle production is unique and very different to beef cattle production) it is not appropriate to include them in this study and they are not part of the system of study. The five objectives of our project, detailed below, are based on extensive input from stakeholder advisory panels from other USDA-funded dairy goat focused grants, and the experience of the PD as a consultant for the industry for the past two decades.

Specific Objectives

1. **Develop a dynamic farm system mode and LCA for dairy goat production.**
2. **Address high-priority health challenges to dairy goat production while improving antimicrobial stewardship.**
3. **Support rural community development and broaden the farm workforce by evaluating the ability of dairy goat production's relatively low land requirement, low capital investment, and high potential for local value-added sales to promote new farm development and support rural community development and broaden workforce through formative social science research.**
4. **Develop novel educational programs for dairy goat producers and veterinarians that emphasize sustainability and antimicrobial stewardship principles (Obj. 2) while building effective science communication skills for veterinarians tasked with working with dairy goat producers.**
5. **Integrate extension outreach focused on dairy goat production and sustainability.**

What was accomplished under these goals?

Objective 1: Producers currently lack integrated tools to assess how management decisions affect both economic performance and sustainability in dairy goat systems. To address this need, a systems-based framework was developed to represent whole-farm interactions across feed production, animal performance, manure management, and resource use. During this reporting period, a modular life cycle assessment (LCA) and bioeconomic modeling approach was designed, and a user-friendly life cycle inventory (LCI) questionnaire and guidance manual were developed and are currently being distributed to producers for data collection. This work establishes the foundation for linking resource management and economic analyses in dairy goat systems. As data collection progresses, the resulting model will enable producers to evaluate trade-offs and make more informed decisions to improve profitability and long-term resilience of their operations.

Objective 2: Dairy goat producers face multiple herd health challenges that are difficult to address due to a lack of available research data to support evidence-based decision making specifically related to respiratory disease, failure of passive transfer and mastitis. During this reporting period, for Obj 2.1, we initiated data collection for respiratory disease at the 2025 American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) National Show held in Grand Island, NE, July 13-18, to gather a representative sample from dairy goats across the US. Samples from a total of 105 animals from 32 farms were used to identify the most common bacterial and viral pathogens present that could cause respiratory disease in goats to begin to identify prevention and treatment options to address this threat on farms. Sampling supplies were also shared with several dairy goat veterinarians for ongoing submission of samples as cases were encountered in practice. Additional banked samples were used to further investigate the role of Mannheimia haemolytica and Mycoplasma bacteria in pneumonia in goats. The data generated thus far was then used to identify target pathogens that will be used to develop an experimental model (Obj 2.3) during summer/fall 2026 for goat respiratory disease that will allow us to test various interventions to determine what may be most useful on farm to improve prevention, treatment and control.

To begin to address the mastitis challenge (Obj 2.6), planning was initiated for several animal studies to be completed during summer 2026 to generate data related to appropriate use of the antimicrobial ampicillin in dairy goats, including investigation of intramammary, intramuscular, and intravenous use which will allow determination of best practices for drug dosage protocols and withdrawal times.

Objective 3: Limited data and stakeholder engagement capacity can restrict efforts to understand and support dairy goat production system development at farm and community levels. During this reporting period, project capacity was strengthened through the hiring of a research scientist to support data collection, analysis, and stakeholder engagement. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval was obtained to enable human subjects research. Two farm visits were conducted to document

perceived constraints, success factors, and development opportunities within dairy goat operations. To further engage stakeholders, the project team facilitated three sessions at the October 2025 ADGA National Convention, each attended by approximately 25 participants, covering breeding, international perspectives, and interactive discussions on successful production systems. Insights from these activities informed expansion of engagement, resulting in five virtual focus groups with producers across the United States. The project team also supported delivery of a 1-credit undergraduate course on dairy goat production (more details below), integrating social, economic, and environmental perspectives. These efforts substantially expanded stakeholder engagement and established a stronger foundation for qualitative data collection. The resulting insights will inform research, education, and outreach strategies aimed at improving producer success, strengthening dairy goat operations, and supporting efficient growth of the industry.

Objective 4: Limited opportunities exist to provide structured education and workforce development for young people entering the dairy goat industry. To address this need, a 4-hour youth workshop was held on July 14, 2025, at the ADGA National Show in Grand Island, NE (Obj. 4.1). The workshop, facilitated by the SDGA team, engaged 9 participants ranging from 9th grade through second-year college students and covered herd health, milk quality, nutrition, and career pathways in the industry. Post-workshop evaluations indicated increased participant knowledge and motivation to adopt improved biosecurity, testing, and management practices within their family operations. Building on this effort, curriculum for the summer 2026 youth workshop to be held at the ADGA National Show was developed and finalized, with a focus on business and financial management. Two veterinary students participated in the Iowa State University (ISU) College of Veterinary Medicine Summer Scholars Program, assisted with youth programming and worked on respiratory disease projects under the mentorship of co-PIs (Obj. 4.2). In addition, ANS 1030X: Introduction to Dairy Goat Production, a 1-credit undergraduate course at ISU, was developed and approved, with its first offering in Spring 2026 (Obj. 4.4). The course reached 23 students from multiple disciplines within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and was led by two co-PIs. These efforts enhance workforce development and educational capacity within the dairy goat industry by equipping youth and students with practical knowledge and skills. This project supports the development of future producers and professionals, strengthening the long-term longevity and competitiveness of the industry.

Objective 5: Limited access to region-specific financial benchmarks and outreach resources can hinder decision making and profitability in dairy goat operations. To address this need, during this reporting period financial benchmarking data collection and Extension outreach activities were expanded across multiple regions. From April-June 2025, farm visits supported financial benchmarking (Obj. 5.1), with data from 17 Iowa farms (16 usable datasets) used to produce the Profitability of the Iowa Dairy Goat Industry 2024 report. These resources were shared through the SDGA newsletter and website. Outreach (Obj. 5.2 & 5.3) included 4 producer sessions and 6 veterinary continuing education (CE) sessions at the 2025 ADGA National Convention, along with additional programming throughout the year reaching 41 participants in North Carolina, 32 Amish producers and beginners from Iowa and Indiana, 19 ISU veterinary students, and 107 educational contacts at a workshop in Kalona, IA all led by SDGA co-PIs. A quarterly newsletter series was launched in Fall 2025 and distributed digitally and in print to share project events, results, and relevant information. The Dairy Goat Webinar Series delivered 9 webinars with approximately 220 registrations and 273 live attendees representing producers and professionals working with nearly 250,000 goats. Recordings shared via the ISU Extension Dairy YouTube channel reached audiences in 39 states and 25 countries. These efforts expanded access to financial benchmarking information and strengthened national outreach, supporting improved decision-making, increased adoption of best management practices, and enhanced producer profitability.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

Four graduate students are working on aspects of this project under the mentorship of a co-PI. Two post-doctoral scholars were engaged in the planning phase of various animal health projects, and a third veterinary post-doc responsible for conducting animal health studies was hired and this individual will start work on the project after their graduation in May 2026. An undergraduate student assisted with developing our Year 2 youth workshop curriculum through ISU's Science with Practice program. Two veterinary students were involved in the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine Summer Scholars Program and assisted with youth programming and worked on respiratory disease projects under the mentorship of co-PIs; three more students are planned for Year 3 to assist with respiratory and mastitis related projects. Three co-PIs delivered 7 veterinary CE sessions at the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP) conference during the ADGA National Convention in October 2025. Members of our Extension team conducted multiple outreach events and webinars throughout the reporting period, all described in more detail under the Other Products sections of the report.

How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

In 2025, the Dairy Goat Webinar Series continued to share information with current or prospective dairy goat producers, industry representatives, nutritionists, veterinarians, educators, and students interested in dairy goats. The program was evaluated with a pre-post retrospective tool at the conclusion of each webinar. Total webinar registrations were approximately 220, with a total of 273 attending the live webinars. These webinars not only reach Iowa participants, but also 38 other states, and internationally with 25 different countries. Those that responded stated they were herd owners, educators, veterinarians, nutritionists, or industry representatives that in total manage or consult with over 244,742 goats in their work (2024=182,000

and 2023 = 114,000). Depending on the topic being presented, most participants were dairy goat producers, veterinarians, or hobbyists, with the remaining mix of educators, students, industry, or just interested in learning more about goats.
A website has been developed and launched for this project that also includes information for a previously funded USDA NIFA project supporting dairy goat production. The reason we incorporated materials from the previous website are twofold: 1) to keep as much dairy goat production resources in one place as possible for ease of discovery and 2) three of the co-PIs were also part of the previous project. We also launched the SDGA Facebook page where we post about project progress, accomplishments, and upcoming events.
To drive more broad engagement with goat producers, at the 2025 ADGA National Convention, project members had an info table set up to distribute information about the project to attendees from all over the United States.
During the reporting period, we also launched our quarterly newsletter and have distributed three issues so far via mail and email. The newsletters cover current project work, upcoming events, and best dairy goat management practices.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

Objective 1: During the next reporting period, the project will build on established modeling frameworks by advancing farm-level data collection and integration using the LCI questionnaire. This will support model development, calibration, and validation, followed by scenario analysis across representative farm systems (small, medium, large, and Amish). The team will also complete development of a manure management and biomethane production framework and begin translating results into a decision-support tool.
Objective 2: For the Animal Health team, planned activities during the next reporting period include continued advancement of several research objectives. During the summer 2026, several animal studies will be completed to generate data related to appropriate use of the antimicrobial ampicillin in dairy goats, including investigation of intramammary, intramuscular, and intravenous use which will allow determination of best practices for drug dosage protocols and withdrawal times (Obj. 2.6). Due to the unexpected withdrawal of the VIMCO mastitis vaccine from the US market in February 2026, the research team will also investigate the potential to import the vaccine under a USDA research license to complete the research trial as planned in the grant proposal (Obj. 2.6). Conversations with industry have indicated that there is strong interest in regaining the ability to use this vaccine in the US dairy goat industry.
During late summer 2026, a preliminary animal trial will be completed to test an experimental model for goat respiratory disease induction using Mannheimia haemolytica and Mycoplasma co-infection. Completion of this preliminary trial will then position us to complete a full-scale experimental study during the following reporting period that will allow us to test various interventions for respiratory disease to determine what may be most useful on farm to improve prevention, treatment and control (Obj 2.3). Respiratory disease sampling from affected farms across the country will also continue to be ongoing throughout the next reporting period; from the bacterial isolates already collected, several will be selected for whole genome sequencing (Obj. 2.1). In addition, work will be initiated to develop a caprine-specific cell culture line capable of sustaining growth of caprine respiratory viruses which has proven challenging with existing bovine and ovine cell lines (Obj. 2.1).
Objective 3: For the Community Capitals team, planned activities include continued producer engagement as part of the Community Capitals Assessment to reach the targeted number of producers. Upon completion of data collection, the project will transition to qualitative data analysis and report preparation, with the goal of synthesizing findings to support subsequent dissemination and application of results. A literature review that is currently in the works is expected to be completed as well.
Objective 4: Our second youth workshop (Obj. 4.1) at the ADGA National Show is scheduled to take place in June 2026. Over the next reporting period, we will also work on developing the curriculum for the next youth workshop. We have three ISU veterinary summer scholars (Obj. 4.2) planned to assist with respiratory and mastitis work in summer 2026, and plan to hire more for the following summer 2027. We are currently in an active search to hire a new Learning Development Specialist (LDS) and plan to have this individual continue where our previous LDS left off with developing the producer (Obj. 5.4) and veterinary (Obj. 4.3) training modules. We also plan to continue with our undergraduate dairy goat course (Obj. 4.4), refining and updating materials as research develops.
Objective 5: For the next round of financial benchmarking studies (Obj. 5.1), the team plans to collect data in person on Iowa farms and hopes to collect data for California farms over Zoom, if time allows. For North Carolina and Tennessee farms, a spreadsheet is being developed to include on-farm processing and use the Dairy Gauge Program (https://utdairy.tennessee.edu/dairy-gauge-program/) to analyze dairy profits. Data from these studies will be integrated into the life cycle assessment (Obj. 1). Numerous presentations and outreach events (Objs. 5.2 and 5.3) are planned including: networking with producers, Dairy Goat Field Days, two workshops in December, assistance with ISU dairy veterinary classes, and we plan to send project members as speakers to the 2026 ADGA National Convention and AASRP meeting to deliver presentations to producers and veterinarians. We are also exploring the possibility of developing and holding a dairy goat artificial insemination training workshop aimed at helping producers improve their genetics, and ultimately resiliency and profitability. The Dairy Goat Webinar series is also going to continue - with two webinars already presented for Year 3 and more planned for later in the year. The Extension team will also continue to assist with collecting responses for the LCA. We have hired a photographer/videographer and plan to begin developing and producing Producer Stories (Obj. 5.5) in the upcoming reporting period.

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Finally, we have formed our advisory council, a well-rounded group consisting of 5 members from different parts of the dairy goat industry (veterinarians, extension professionals, producers, and industry professionals). Our first meeting with them is planned for May 2026. The advisory council will help provide insight and keep our project moving forward and relevant to different stakeholders across the industry.

Participants

Actual FTE's for this Reporting Period

Role	Non-Students or faculty	Students with Staffing Roles			Computed Total by Role
		Undergraduate	Graduate	Post-Doctorate	
Scientist	0.6	0	1.7	0.2	2.5
Professional	1.6	0.2	0.4	0	2.2
Technical	2.3	0	0	0	2.3
Administrative	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Computed Total	4.5	0.2	2.1	0.2	7.0

Student Count by Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code

Undergraduate	Graduate	Post-Doctorate	CIP Code
	2	2	51.24 Veterinary Medicine.
1	4		01.03 Agricultural Production Operations.

Target Audience

Dairy goat producers, veterinarians, college students (undergraduate and graduate), youth, and their communities including prospective dairy goat producers were directly engaged in our programming and research during Year 2 of this project. These groups were targeted for several reasons, including: 1) to provide knowledge to producers and veterinarians to improve current on-farm practices and 2) to engage in workforce development for future dairy goat producers.
This year, we continued to make our webinar series directly accessible via Zoom (live) and asynchronously via on demand recordings posted on YouTube. We have launched a project website that allows us to provide a list of on demand materials as well as upcoming events. To help advertise our events, we have also created a Facebook page, with plans to expand social media to other platforms, as well as communicating through our project collaborators, such as the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA).

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Products

DR 1020-006 Certification Statement

Yes, this project/program did not produce any scholarly publications during the reporting period and all data assets produced are exempt from DR 1020-006.

Type

Other

Status

Published

Year Published

2026

NIFA Support Acknowledged

YES

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

Author ORCID(s)

Citation

Tranel, L. Profitability of Iowa Dairy Goat Production in 2024. Iowa State University Extension Publication DA 3128. January 2026. https://shop.iastate.edu/extension/farm-environment/animals-and-livestock/goats/da3128.html

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type
Other

Status
Published

Year Published
2026

NIFA Support Acknowledged
YES

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
10.31274/usp-20260608-0

Author ORCID(s)

Citation
Bentley J, Busch R, Tranel L. The Profitability of the California Dairy Goat Industry Study 2024. SDGA quarterly newsletter, spring 2026.

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Other Products

Type
Other

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description
Sustainable Dairy Goat Agrisystems website to promote activities completed under the project: https://www.dairygoatagrisystems.org/

Sustainable Dairy Goat Agrisystems Facebook page to promote upcoming activities and educational materials developed from project: https://www.facebook.com/dairygoatagrisystems/about/

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

SDGA quarterly newsletter, digital and print versions:
-Distributed Fall 2025, Winter 2026, Spring 2026 to dairy goat producers, industry members, and SDGA team members

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

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Description

2025 Youth Workshop at ADGA National Show (4 hrs, held July 14, 2025)
--Topics: hands-on learning modules developed for herd health, milk quality nutrition, and careers in the dairy goat industry
--9 youth participants ranging from grade 9 to second year of college

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

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Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

Development of ANS 1030X: Introduction to Dairy Goat Production, a 1-credit course at Iowa State University
--Led by co-PIs Dr. Sarah Al-Mazroa Smith and Dr. Maria Wurzinger
--First course offering held spring semester 2026, 23 undergraduate students enrolled
--Lectures and activities for 16-50 min class sessions were developed for this course.

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

American Dairy Goat Assocuiation (ADGA) National Convention Producer Talks (held in-person 10/20/2025, 1 hr each topic)
--Improving Milk Quality in Dairy Goats: Lessons learned from a USDA multi-state study - Dr. Pat Gorden
--Strategies to legally utilize veterinary drugs in dairy goats – Dr. Pat Gorden
--What Lessons Can We Learn from Dairy Goat Production Systems in Other Countries? – Dr. Maria Wurzinger
--Sharing Producer Perspectives: What Does It Take to Be a Successful Dairy Goat Operation? (interactive session) – Dr. Maria Wurzinger and Dr. Emmanuel Kanchewa

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

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Associated Publication DOI(s)

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Description

American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP) Veterinary Continuing Education Talks (held 10/19/25 at at ADGA Convention; 1 hr vet CE for each topic)
--Update on Subclinical Mastitis in US Dairy Goats – Dr. Pat Gorden
--Approaches to Treating Subclinical Mastitis in US Dairy Goats: Considerations of Efficacy and Influence on Antimicrobial Resistance – Dr. Pat Gorden
--Legal Approaches to Using Pharmaceutical Products in Dairy Goats in the US – Dr. Pat Gorden
--Empowering Farmers in Goat Breeding through Participatory Research – Dr. Maria Wurzinger
--On-Farm Assessment of Animal Welfare and Improving Animal Welfare for Small Ruminant Producer – Dr. Paul Plummer
--Approach to Lameness in Small Ruminants – Dr. Paul Plummer
--Emerging Infectious Disease Discussion – Dr. Paul Plummer and Dr. Fauna Smith

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

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Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--Apr. 16, 2025 – “Buck Management”, Carolyn Ihde, small ruminant specialist at University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJyFZhuCIdo&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=10

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Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--May 15, 2025 – “Antimicrobial Stewardship in Dairy Goats”, Pat Gorden (project co-PI), DVM and professor of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6e1wecQdME&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=9

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Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--Sept. 17, 2025 – “Understanding Udder Health and Managing Mastitis”, Dr. Elizabeth Eckelkamp (project co-PI), dairy extension specialist, assistant professor, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8k7opzQAxQ&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=8

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--Oct. 14, 2025 – “Animal Welfare for Dairy Goat Producers”, Michelle Buckley, DVM and assistant professor of practice, School of Veterinary Medicine at Texas Tech University
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yamoLd6_MZA&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=5

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DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--Nov. 18, 2025 – “Managing Reproduction to Maximize Production”, Rosie Busch (project co-PI), DVM and assistant specialist for sheep and goat herd health, School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California Davis and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJWpkuLwQlo&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=7

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Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--Dec. 17, 2025 – “Dairy Goat Milk Quality with a special focus on the Southeastern United States”, Rileigh Powers, graduate research assistant, Department of Animal Science, University of Tennessee
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZEqdwF7Zcg&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=6

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type

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DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--January 21, 2026 - "Dairy Goat Records", Gail Carpenter, State Dairy Extension Specialist, Iowa State University
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejHlwsMi84c&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=4

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--February 18, 2026 - "Improving Dairy Goat Milk Quality: Lessons Learned from Parlor Audits in Vermont", Whitney Hull, dairy specialist, UVM Extension, and Kelsie Braam, dairy and grazing specialist UVM
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zw30Nne6wWA&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=3

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

2025-2026 Dairy Goat Webinar Series
--March 18, 2026 - "Dairy Goat Profit Analysis", Larry Tranel (project co-PI), dairy field specialist at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d64Fad-eXNU&list=PLRSU6MK8yWUMekQxXcSt-AiTlKXdyN_BM&index=2

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type

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DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

May 2025 – Dr. Larry Tranel presented dairy goat financial data to 41 participants at an in person North Carlina dairy goat extension workshop.

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

December 2025 – Kalona, IA – ISU Extension and Outreach dairy team hosted a dairy goat workshop with 107 related in-person educational contacts during the session. A second location in NW was scheduled, but cancelled due to weather.

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Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

February 2026, Dairy Goat Facility Tour – Kalona, IA – Dr. Larry Tranel led a facility tour and presented the Economics and Best Management practices for Dairy Production to 32 Amish dairy goat producers or beginners from Iowa and Indiana.

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

March 2026 – Dr. Larry Tranel presented Dairy Goat Economics data to 19 Vet students at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Accession No. 1031698 **Project No. IOWV00300236**

Type

Physical Collections

DOI or Other Persistent Identifier

Associated Publication DOI(s)

Author ORCID(s)

Description

Collection of bacterial isolates of Mannheimia haemolytica and Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae stored at -80C and isolated from goats sampled at the 2025 American Dairy Goat Association National Show

Changes/Problems

Producer participation has been a key challenge for several objectives, most notably Objectives 1 and 3. Although outreach efforts included dissemination through the project newsletter and social media platforms as well as numerous in-person events, participation rates have been lower than anticipated. For our Community Capitals and LCA work, addressing this limitation will be critical to achieving the target sample size and ensuring adequate representation across production scales and geographic regions. During the next reporting period, we plan to do more outreach in person at dairy goat events and have also set up a project specific phone number to give Amish producers an easy way to contact project personnel. Additionally, we partnered with the dairy company Saputo to help deliver LCI questionnaires and related materials to producers in the Midwest.

For Animal Health (Objective 2), several challenges have also been encountered. For the mastitis associated projects, previous work on cephapirin IMM dry-cow therapy in goats failed to detect tissue residues, therefore, the team is considering other options for Obj 2.5 which was scheduled to be assessment of the cephapirin sodium lactating cow therapy of the same product. This includes potentially completing a pharmacokinetic study instead of a tissue residue study. Due to the unexpected withdrawal of the VIMCO mastitis vaccine from the US market in February 2026, the research team is unsure if they will be able to complete Obj. 2.6 as designed, however, we are investigating the potential to import the vaccine under a USDA research license to complete the research trial as planned in the grant proposal. We would only proceed with this work if there was a possibility of importing the vaccine for producers to be able to use under permit from the USDA

and producers would have access to the vaccine. There is precedent for other vaccines that have been previously approved in the US but the manufacturer has decided not to market them anymore (Footvax vaccine for foot rot in sheep is a good example), and feedback we have received from producers is that they still want to be able to use this vaccine. For the respiratory disease associated projects, despite distribution of testing supplies to multiple dairy goat veterinarians across the country, receipt of samples has been lower than expected. During the next reporting period, additional veterinary and producer outreach will be performed to increase sample submissions. In addition, from the samples that have been obtained, challenges have been encountered with viral pathogen isolation from goat diagnostic samples using commonly available bovine or ovine cell culture lines, therefore, we plan to develop caprine-specific cell lines to address this challenge in the next reporting year.
Finally, our Learning Development Specialist hired in 2025 decided to pursue other opportunities, so work on the producer and veterinary modules has been put on a brief hold. We are currently in the interview phase of hiring a new Learning Development Specialist who will resume this work.