

History of the Dairy Goat Breeds in America

by Mrs. Mason L. Merrill

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Though milk goats were domesticated in prehistoric times and mentioned in the earliest preserved writings, we can only guess what breeds supplied the milk, cheese and roast kids of Ancient Greece and Rome or the spotted goats Jacob received as wages in the Hebrew scriptures. The breeds we know originated as types peculiar to certain regions where their distinguishing features resulted from topography, climate and lack of communications. Thus, the pendulous-eared types of the Near East and India remained "pure" and a color pattern developed in one Alpine valley remained unmixed with the color characteristics of another region. But purebreds, whether cattle, dogs or goats, cannot exist until there are records of ancestry and registry associations to keep the records. Swiss breeders have claimed that the Toggenburg is "the oldest and purest breed in Switzerland," but no records prove it since the Swiss breeder's associations were first organized in the 1890's. The Toggenburg was the first separate breed officially recognized in England, but by that time the American Milch Goat Record Association had been founded in 1904 to register the "Americans" of Mrs. Edward Roby of Chicago so that she could exhibit them at the St. Louis World's Fair. They were given Nos. 20 to 30 in the registry, and Nos. 1 to 19 were Toggenburgs and Saanens brought to the United States in 1893 and 1904, the first purebreds registered here.

Long before this, however, milk goats were brought to America - to New England and Virginia by British colonists and to Mexico and the Caribbean by the Spanish. Columbus brought goats with other livestock for colonists on his second voyage in 1493. Many ships carried goats to supply milk during the voyage; probably most of the Nubian types to reach England in the early days came this way. A well-traveled goat was one Captain Cook took along on his voyage to Tahiti in 1768 and which had already circumnavigated the globe the previous year with Samuel Wallis. The milk goats that came to the American colonies, whatever their unrecorded breeds, degenerated

into scrubs, the "poor man's cow" of Irish immigrants in the North or poor Mexicans in the Southwest.

The Swiss Purebreds Arrive in America

The recorded history of the dairy goat breeds in the United States begins with the importations by W. A. Shafor of Ohio in 1893 of 4 Toggenburgs from England, and by F. S. Peer of 16 Toggenburgs and 10 Saanens from Switzerland in 1904. In 1905 Peer brought in, mostly for R. N. Riddle of New Jersey, 128 Toggenburgs and 20 Saanens. The following year Fred Stucker of Ohio imported 19 Saanens and 13 Toggenburgs, along with some Schwartzberg-Guggisbergers, and two outstanding Saanens (Alta Franz and Alta Jaure) were imported in 1913. After an interim during which livestock from the European continent was banned because of hoof-and-mouth disease, there were more importations, but this time of more Saanens than Toggenburgs. In the 1920's J. D. Darst of Ohio brought in 31 Saanens; Mrs. A. L. Bowman of Vermont a large group (397); A. B. De Haan of Iowa, an unspecified number; August Bonjean, California, 3; and L. S. De Wayne, Ohio, 12. A Saanen buck was with the French Alpines imported by Dr. Charles De Langle in 1922. Mr. Darst imported 27 Toggenburgs, Mrs. Bowman 22, August Bonjean 5, and Mr. De Haan numbers unknown. The last importations from Switzerland were in the 1930's and included two Toggenburg bucks, the most famous Imp. Fink, AR 23, sire of the long-time breed leader, and 4 Saanen does and a Saanen buck.

After this, the Saanens and Toggenburgs had to come via England and considerably more of these were Saanens than Toggenburgs. Of the latter, the most important was **B Spean Bumpus in 1954, an AR sire for the Capital Dairy Goat Co-op, best known for his son GCH *B Laurelwood Acres Sailor AR 250. Saanen importations from England (many made by Allan Rogers in the 1950's) included these AR bucks: *B Thundersley Petrol (Chevonshire herd and Laurelwood, California); **B Etherley Mynas (Vitamilk Dairy, Mass. and Caprice, Md.); ** Mostyn Messenger (Charles P. Horton, N.Y.), and **B Jonquil of Delamere (Mrs. Lucy Tyler and Mrs. Jane Henderson, N.J.)

Schwartzberg-Guggisbergers

The Schwartzberg-Guggisbergers came from the Simmen Valley in Switzerland and were large, "built like Saanens," and fawn-colored or brownish-white (U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers Bulletin 920). The breed has disappeared in this country and perhaps in Switzerland, since it was not mentioned among the eight Swiss breeds by Dr. J. Muggli in his talk to the 1964 International Dairy Goat Conference.

Saanens

Originating in the Saanen Valley, prick-eared like all the Alpine breeds, Swiss or French, the Saanen is distinguished by its spotless white color. A light cream is permitted but pure white is preferred, as is short hair that is soft and fine. The original importations were larger animals than the Toggenburgs, but there is little if any difference now in the size of the two breeds in this country. In Switzerland, Saanens remain the most numerous, as well as the largest producing breed.

Toggenburgs

The Toggenburg, from the valley of that name in the Swiss Canton of St. Gall, is also uniform in color and markings: a brown that can range from light fawn to dark chocolate, with symmetrical white trim on head, legs and rear end. The hair is longer than that of the other standard breeds in this country, and in Switzerland and Great Britain short-haired animals are not considered purebreds, though often found here and preferred. Originally the smallest breed, it has grown so much larger in America that the weights in the breed standards have been increased.

The Nubians Come

The first four Nubian types came to the United States in 1896 from England, and four more were brought from France via Mexico by W. W. Carr of Virginia in 1909, but none of them are in the pedigrees of the registered Nubians today. The Anglo-Nubian was made in Britain in the late 19th and early 20th century by crossing English goats with goats from Arabia and Egypt (known as Zaraibi and Nubian) and from India (Jumna Pari and Chital). Goats of this type were brought to France in the 19th century, and Nubian imports to England from Paris in 1883 were from stock said to have come there from Nubia. Though recognized as a breed in 1896, the Anglo-Nubian section of the British Goat Society's Herdbook was not opened until 1910 and only 4 imported goats, all bucks, were recognized in it: a Jumna Pari imported in 1896, and among the others, imported in 1904, a Zaraibi and a Chital. The purebred Nubians in this country descended from five Anglo-Nubians brought from England by Dr. R. I. Gregg of California, 3 in 1909 and 2 in 1913. There were later important importations: 5 in 1917 via Canada by D. Mowat, who brought in more in 1921; these, with a buck, Lunesdale Spurius Lartius, imported in 1923, produced the Shirley Rona line.

Between 1936 and 1951 more than 20 Nubians were imported, of which the best known were the bucks Malpas Ambassador (H.V. Bale, Ill.); **B Budletts Brutus (A. R. Bonner, Mo.); *B Milkey-whey Garry (Donovan A. Beal, Calif.) and Berkham Evans (Frederic B. Knoop, O.; also with descendants in the Chikaming herd). Malpas Ambassador lived less than a year but had three famous AR sons: **B Chikaming Ambassador Pierrot (Mrs. Carl Sandburg, Mich.), Oakwood's Pride (Mrs. V.E. Thompson, Calif.) and Ambassador's Briton (Vernon A. Hill, Calif.).

The Nubian appearance is the most distinctive of all. It is the only breed in America with long, drooping ears and a convex or Roman nose. It is large, with legs longer than those of the Swiss breeds and very straight and elegant. The hair is short, glossy, and may be any color - black, white, red, grey or brown - plain or spotted.

The French Alpines Arrive

The first French Alpines in this country came from the herd of M. Joseph Crepin in France for Oscar Dufresne in Montreal and a few of them went to High Vail in California. They do not figure in the pedigrees of French Alpines registered here though three eventually were bought by Mrs. Mary Rock, of California, who developed the Rock Alpines. Only in 1922, when Dr. Charles DeLangle brought to California, via Cuba and New Orleans, 3 bucks and 18 does, were purebred French Alpines established here. The DeLangle imports were chosen in part by M. Crepin before DeLangle arrived in France and in part on a trip to the Alps of French Savoie made by Dr. DeLangle and M. Crepin. All purebred French Alpines descend from these since there have been no subsequent importations.

Prick-eared like the Swiss breeds, the French Alpines are longer-legged and rangier, and tend to have shorter, close-lying hair. In color they vary as much as the Nubians and there are no required patterns, though certain combinations have descriptive names: Cou clair (light - cream-colored or tan - neck); Cou blanc (white neck), both combined with black markings on head, back, and hindquarters; Sundgau, black with white facial markings and some white on the body; Chamoise, brown or red with black facial markings, dorsal stripe, and legs; and Pied, spotted.

Swiss Alpines

Some Swiss Alpines (Oberhasli-Brienzer in their native land) came with the 1906 importations of Fred Stucker and the 1920 importations of August Bonjean, but their descendants were not kept pure. The purebreds here derived from the Pence importations in 1936 and are vanishing. Only one

was registered by ADGA in 1965. The Swiss Alpines are chamoises: red bay or brown with the black markings of the French Alpine chamoise and black belly and udder.

Rock Alpines

The first distinct, made-in-America breed was the Rock Alpine developed by Mrs. Mary Rock who bred imported French Alpines with some Saanens and Toggenburgs, though after DeLangle's 1922 importations she used only purebred French Alpine bucks. The Rock Alpine was first recognized as a breed in 1935 by the International Dairy Goat Record Association (founded in 1927 and merged with the American Goat Society in 1939). The AGS recognized Rock Alpines from the time it split off from the AMGRA in 1935, and the AMGRA did so in 1940 and closed the Rock Alpine herdbook to French Alpines. Purebred Rock Alpines appear to be dying out as none were registered by the ADGA in 1965. In type and appearance, they conformed to the same standards as the French Alpines, and the lack of a distinguishing feature may be one explanation for their disappearance.

American La Manchas

The latest made-in-America breed is the American La Mancha developed by Mrs. Eula Fay Frey in Oregon from short-eared goats of Spanish origin, a type given the La Mancha name in France in 1903 but known as Monas, or Monkeys in Spain. Found throughout Spain and not only in the province of La Mancha, some came to this country in the 1890's from Malaga. Mrs. Frey mated animals of this type with French Alpines, Nubians, Saanens and Toggenburgs, but the short ears proved to be a dominant characteristic. The American La Mancha was recognized by the AMGRA in 1958.

The distinctive feature of this breed, the ear, is classified into three types: Gopher, La Mancha and Cookie, varying slightly in length, fold or bend, but all short. The original La Mancha was reddish brown or blond but any color is now permissible.

The British

Some British Alpines, British Saanens and British Toggenburgs (made in Britain by mating native goats with Swiss or French stock) were imported by Allan Rogers in the 1950's. These are large animals, conforming in color and type to the specifications of the French Alpine, Saanen or Toggenburg respectively, except that British Alpines uniformly have the Sundgau Alpine color pattern, black with white "Toggenburg" facial stripes. Animals impressive to all

who have seen them in England, those brought to this country were also heavy producers, but none were registered by the ADGA in 1965 though British Saanens and British Toggenburgs were still being registered.

The Americans

American Alpines, American Nubians, American Saanens and American Toggenburgs were of course made in this country but by a different process than La Manchas, being the result not of crossing breeds but of grading-up by mating a grade animal and her offspring to purebreds of one breed until the descendants are 7-8ths pure. The books of these breeds, unlike the purebred herdbook, are open, that is, not restricted to descendants of the original admissions to that herdbook. Any newly graded-up animals that meet the requirements are admitted to the American registries.

To be graded up, Grades must be recorded, which the AMGRA did from its start. Purebreds being scarce then, the only way to increase the supply of good dairy goats rapidly was to breed up the more plentiful nondescript stock, some of which came from imported purebreds but had not been registered. For recording, a doe (Grade bucks are not eligible for recording) must have a purebred sire or dam, or if both parents are unknown or of mixed breeding she can be recorded on the basis of an Advanced Registry production record as a "Native on Performance." After three (originally more) generations of breeding to purebreds of one breed, the offspring can be registered as American Alpine, American Nubian, etc. if true to the breed type. Because of this requirement, the American cannot be distinguished in appearance from the purebred, as is demonstrated by the number of Americans that win over purebreds in show competition. If both parents are purebred but of different breeds the crossbred progeny can be recorded as a Grade of either breed or as an X-breed (Experimental).

The AGS has made restriction of registration to purebreds a matter of principle. But all purebreds were originally man-made and the Anglo-Nubians, registered as purebreds even by the AGS, have open books in England. Without recording and breeding up Grades, some excellent stock would have been lost. Although relatively few Americans have been registered and put on official test, they have some outstanding AR records.

Early Registrations in the United States

The founding of the American Milch Goat Record Association in 1904, though improvised to

register "Americans" of unknown relationship to the pure breeds, coincided with the first substantial importations of Swiss purebreds. Hence their history is America, as well as of the breeds imported later, is closely bound to that of the Association, which did not change the "Milch" in its name to "Milk" until after its first Herdbook was published in 1914. In 1964 the name was changed to the American Dairy Goat Association.

The AMGRA'S start was slow. At the first meeting in St. Louis, W. A. Shafor was made secretary. At the next (1906) meeting, he and Mrs. Roby alone were present and she died shortly afterwards. Only 207 goats were registered by 1907 and the Association consisted chiefly of Mr. Shafor until J. C. Darst, after buying an imported Toggenburg from him, attended a meeting in December 1907 and became secretary. During the ten years he held office, the AMGRA got off the ground and he published Volume I of the Herdbook in 1914; it listed 89 members. The early status of the dairy goat breeds in this country is best seen in Volume I. During 9 years, 900 animals had been registered (or almost, since No. 321 was not used and Nos 315 and 324 were re-registered as Nos. 363 and 385). This compares with 1100 registered in the next four years and 3446 registered in 1965 alone, of which the overwhelming majority were purebreds. The "impurity" of Volume I has shocked some, but it did separate the purebreds and took pains to keep Grades and Unknowns from jumping the fence. The purebreds (imports and their progeny) listed in the "Pure Breed Index" of Volume I, totalled only 306, or roughly one-third. However, excluded from the Pure Breed Index were 99 Stucker Saanens and 76 Stucker Toggenburgs (from Stucker's 1906 importations) which were then in a sort of purgatory owing to a technicality. Stuckers were recognized as pure in 1918, and when those in Volume I are added to the purebreds there we have 481 animals, or more than half. This is a good showing, for purebred importations (not all of which were registered except for the Nubians) up to that time totalled altogether 5 Nubians, 49 Saanens and 161 Toggenburgs and were too recent to have had many descendants. Because of the greater number of Toggenburgs imported, they dominate the Pure Breed Index, 254 of them and 16 Saanens and 36 Nubians. Adding the Stuckers brings the Saanens to 115 and the Toggenburgs to 330. While Peer's importations were the most important for Toggenburgs, Saanens would have been badly hampered without the Stuckers; and Corl Leach, late editor of the Dairy Goat Journal, went so far as to say that probably every good Saanen or Toggenburg milker in the country has some Stucker blood unless descended exclusively from later imports.

The less than half of Volume I listings that were neither purebred nor Stuckers have various and interesting designations. The vanished Schwarzenberg-Guggisbergers, aside from 2 pure and 12 Stucker S-G's, include 6 Grade S-G's and a number of S-G and Toggenburg crosses. Other Grades are 104 Toggenburg and 7 Stucker-Toggenburg; 5 Saanen and 3 Stucker-Saanen; 9 Nubian; and 27 just Grades (no breed). A handful are in two ambiguous classes, Bingham Toggenburgs (imported and bred by J. W. Bingham, N. J.) and Cartwright Saanens (bred by R. M. Cartwright, Calif., whose first registered Saanen was a Stucker). Perhaps they, like the Stuckers, eventually got out of purgatory. There are slightly under 50 miscellaneous crossbreeds and 73 listed as "Unknown."

There is a scattering of breeds never recognized in this country, a number of them of the Nubian type owned by the Rev. D. Campbell Mayers of Virginia, some his own importations and at least one imported by W. W. Carr in 1909 from France, a "Zaraibi-Nubian" buck. Others are designated "Calcutta Llamas" (presumably from India), "Indians," Nubians," and various combinations of these. The other breeds that failed to get established are Mexican (1), Spanish Maltese(2) , and Austrian (2). There are no Alpines except a couple of Grades said to have "red Alpine" parents.

Few herd names are used in Volume I but some of these had lasting fame. The earliest are Mr. Darst's suffix "O", beginning with No. 208, and the El Chivar's prefix of the Winthrop Howlands in California, first used with No. 210, the son of Toggenburg imports, one of the latter, No. 123, being the first animal registered by Mr. Howland. He was an AMGRA Director when Volume I was published. His widow had Toggenburgs until her death in 1962. A doe of her breeding was a GCH and the production leader for 1956. Mrs. Howland's sister, Miss Jane Storey White, also registered Toggenburgs in Volume I, though her prefix, Fair Hope, is not used there. It too was durable; Fair Hope does were making AR records in 1963 and Miss White herself is still listed as an ADGA member.

The Saanen prefix, Highland, belonging to Will H. Miller, Pa., another Director, first appears with No. 455, and Sharwal (Toggenburgs and Saanens), the prefix of Serrill and Elizabeth Sharples, Pa., with No. 790, though the latter registered a Peer import as early as 148. Dr. Gregg used the prefix Banzai for the offspring of his first three imported Nubians (which had Nos. 463, 464, and 465), and Inkyo for the descendants of the two he brought in later.

Miss Irmagarde Richards, Calif., and Will L. TeWalt, Ind., were registering goats in Volume I but not yet using their herdnames of Las Cabritas and Mr. TeWalt was to succeed Mr. Darst as AMGRA secretary in 1918 and serve until 1941. One of Miss Richards' Las Cabritas Toggenburgs received the first AR certificate for an official milking test in 1919 and another the first for the 10-months test adopted in 1927. The first AR sire (with 14 AR daughters) was a Las Cabritas. Her book, *The Modern Milk Goat*, published in 1921, was long the goat owners' bible.

Showing

The showing of dairy goats in this country is, of course, as old as the AMGRA since it was founded for that purpose. Some of the original imports were shown at fairs in California and Mrs. I. E. Ettien exhibited a Toggenburg at a show in 1913. The early reputation of the Chikaming herd was augmented by prizes won at the Illinois and Ohio State Fairs. The AMGRA first offered show ribbons in 1927, but it was not until 1947 that the system of permanent Championships for three-time winners in official shows was established, the first CH being a Grade Toggenburg. The first directory of Champions (now a feature of the annual Handbook) was published in 1954.

While only production records prove what a milker can put in a pail, the shows are most valuable in promoting and developing the breeds. Well-groomed show animals are excellent propaganda, and the things judges look for in the way of build and conformation are those that breeders should and do aim for. There is no doubt that the emphasis in judging on good udders, well attached - necessary if milk production is to hold up - has led to considerable improvement in the udders of all the breeds.

Development of the Breeds

Toggenburgs - the Early Starters

The Toggenburg head used as the colophon on the title page of Volume I was obviously appropriate. Toggenburgs not only outnumbered the others registered then but continued to do so, for years. In the *Dairy Goat Journal*, November 1957, Mr. Corl Leach wrote, "It is quite probable that in the first two or three decades of the century as many as two-thirds of all dairy goats, purebred and grade, in the country were Toggenburgs," and elsewhere, "The whole modern industry was founded upon the Toggenburg."

In addition to the herds noted in connection with Volume I, other early Toggenburg herds were Canyon (Kirby. and Saunders), Rosemont (McLaughlin) and Fontana (Schmidt), all in California, Mile High (Sledge) in Colorado, and that of the New Mexico Agricultural College, which had the Toggenburg leader for both milk and BF in 1932 and three of the first AR sires.

In the Middle West, where Mr. Shafor and Mr. Darst had pioneered, Toggenburgs were also quickly in the forefront. Charles A. Stevens, of Chicago and Wisconsin, founded the Agawam herd with Las Cabritas stock and a Darst importation for which he paid \$1000. Mrs. Carl Sandburg, of Michigan, started the Chikaming herd with Agawam Toggenburgs and put it on official test in 1937; it has remained on test ever since and is still leading the field. The present all-breed leaders for both milk and BF are Toggenburgs of Chikaming parentage. Founded even earlier, and on test from 1940 to 1960, when it was dispersed, was the excellent Buckeye herd of Charles R. Tulloss of Ohio, who began with Toggenburgs in 1912. He used many Chikaming sires later, and Buckeye blood was important in the Chikaming line that produced the present all-breed leaders.

A pioneer and enduring breeder started on the Eastern Shore of Maryland - Mrs. I. E. Ettien, later of Arkansas, whose La Suisse herd had the distinction of being important in establishing three breeds - Toggenburg, Saanen and French Alpine - without ever having been on official test. The Ettiens began with Toggenburgs, joining the AMGRA in 1914, and Mrs. Ettien still had them and the other breeds when she died in 1955. La Suisse does had outstanding records in other herds and were always in demand. Later, but among early contributors to Toggenburgs, was the Yokelawn herd of Mearle Rhinesmith in New Jersey, whose Crystal "Helen was breed leader for milk production for seven years.

The Chevonshire dairy of Ira D. Peel in California, established in 1937 and the largest dairy prior to Laurelwood Acres, had notable Toggenburgs. After its sale in 1955, Chevonshire Toggenburgs went to Laurelwood, which had not previously had this breed but which now has many of the best (18% of its herd is Toggenburg, according to Allan Rogers in the 1965 ADGA Handbook).

The Naja herd of Donovan A. Beal, who died in 1962, was founded with Nubians in Colorado, moved to California in the 1940's and acquired Toggenburgs after that. The Beals won more permanent show Championships with all four leading breeds than has any other breeder except Laurelwood. Naja Toggenburgs are still making records in the Laurelwood herd.

Existing herds, more recent but long enough established to have contributed substantially, include Shagbark (Helen Hunt, Conn.), show winners since 1947 and on official test since 1948, Faunfrolic (E. S. Chamber, Ohio), and Robranna (Karl Lutz, Mich.), the last exclusively Chikaming in bloodlines. Robranna does tested since 1960 in the Chikaming herd have made some of the best Toggenburg records. The 1965 all-breed leaders were Toggenburgs from two newer herds in California, Ben-Fair (Mrs. Shirley Benfer) and Indian Rock (Pete & Mildred Bagdanoff).

The American Toggenburgs deserve mention because, though far less numerous than the purebreds, they have fine test and show records. Five American Toggenburgs have produced over 3000 lbs. milk in 305 days, and there are 7 American Toggenburg CH's, 6 of them GCH's. The outstanding American Toggenburg herds of the past were El Chivar, Fair Hope and Suric (Dorothy Martin and Anne Riker, N.J.) and currently Laurelwood, Rockspring (Mrs. Margaret Jacob, Pa.) and Robranna, whose American Toggenburgs are now making AR records at Michigan State University.

Saanens Overtake

Although they continue to be outnumbered by Toggenburgs, the Saanens forged rapidly ahead. The 1920's and 1930's have been called a Saanen heyday. When in 1931, a Saanen, Three Oak's Blossom's Charamaine, became the all-breed leader for both milk and BF and held that record for ten years, Saanens established a reputation as the heaviest milkers. Indicative of the new interest in the breed is the fact that after Mr. Darst made his importations, he sold his Toggenburgs and devoted himself to Saanens, which he kept until he was 87, in 1948. Most of the Saanen herdnames prominent in the early days - e.g., Highland, mentioned above, Echo (S. T. Sparks, Calif.), Ima (Mrs. Ima Moore, Calif.), Supreme (Mrs. Inez Glahn, Calif.), and Wasatch (Glen Daley, Utah), have disappeared, including those of the two first Saanen production record-holders, Fresno and Three Oaks, both belonging to O. T. Hess of California. But a few were longer-lived. The La Suisse prefix of Mrs. Ettien, already noted for her contribution to Toggenburgs, acquired special lustre among Saanens when La Suisse Ida Bee *M became all-breed leader for milk production in 1954, a record she held until 1960. She is still the Saanen milk leader.

Rio Linda, the prefix of N.S.& E.L. Goodridge of California, whose Saanen herd was founded in 1923, has appeared more often among Saanen production leaders than any other. Rio Linda's

are still making AR records in their own and other herds; four out of the ten Saanen leaders of 1965 were Rio Linda and two others were sired by Rio Linda bucks: and the all-time Saanen BF leader has Rio Linda parentage.

Also in California, the above mentioned Chevonshire herd of the late Ira Peel, was largely Saanen, and the Mel-O-Roy herd of Leroy and Melvina Nordfelt did much for the breed. More Saanen permanent Champions, shown by six different owners besides the Nordfelts, have Mel-O-Roy prefixes than any other and more than half of them are also GCH's. Another excellent and long established herd in California is Marvin A. Maxwell's Delta. Laurelwood Acres acquired both Chevonshire and Mel-O-Roy Saanens and now has the largest Saanen herd in the country (28% of a herd of around 600) and one with many show winners and AR herds sires as a result of continuous testing. The next largest Saanen herd, at least on test, is now Harvey Considine's in Wisconsin (Diamond), a dairy with all breeds.

The contribution to Saanens by Allan L. Rogers, formerly of Maryland and now of Oregon, is noteworthy both for his Caprice herd, which originated with his first Saanen when he was twelve, and which was on test from 1955 to 1963, and for his promotion of the breed in the 1950's by re-establishing the Saanen Club and importing from England the outstanding Saanens already mentioned.

By 1952 the Saanens had slipped into fourth place for registrations, where they were soon joined by the once numerous Toggenburgs. The difference in numbers between the two breeds in recent years has not been great.

American Saanens had only half as many registrations in 1965 as American Toggenburgs, half as many CH's and fewer AR's. Most of the recent AR records for American Saanens were made in the now dispersed Col-Ari-Cal herd of Mrs. Axel S. Nordfelt in California.

Nubians Take Over

The Nubian breed that had only 36 purebred registrations in 1914 was to become by far the most numerous. By 1948 it was in the first place for numbers and its registrations have increased proportionately ever since.

As with the other breeds, some famous early herds no longer exist: Shirley (Harold G. Morson, British Columbia), Wheelbarrow Hill (Miss Emma Fell, Pa.), Illini (H. V. Bale, Ill.), Alrakim (Vernon A. Hill, Calif.) and Bakri (Miss E. E. Bustin, Calif.). Several, however,

among the Nubian founders, remain in existence or were dispersed so recently that animals of their breeding are still making records. Among the latter are the Najas of Donovan Beal, already cited for Toggenburgs, whose Nubian buck Milkey-whey Garry, imported in 1950, had outstanding progeny in a number of California herds.

Four of the earliest to achieve distinction through official records in their own or other herds remain among the leading breeders today: Chikaming (Mrs. Carl Sandburg, now of N.C.), Evania (Mrs. Effie Evans, Calif.), Hurricane Acres (Mrs. Alice Tracy, Calif.) and Oakwood (Mrs. V. E. Thompson, now Mrs. Blizzard, Calif.). The Chikaming and Oakwood herds were founded almost simultaneously in the Middle West. Mrs. Thompson adopted the Oakwood prefix when she moved from Illinois to Missouri and became an active Nubian breeder in 1937. Her herd was first tested in Missouri although she had moved to California by the time AR Volume I appeared. Mrs. Sandburg bought her first Nubian in 1936 and started testing the following year. One of the earliest of Mrs. Thompson's Nubian families, the Creamy line which she obtained from C. L. Redfield in Illinois, contributed Creamy's First to the Chikamings and both herds had sons of Imp. Malpas Ambassador as herdsires. Chikaming and Oakwood dominated the Nubian AR herdsire section of Volume I; Volume II had more Chikamings but in subsequent Handbooks there are more Oakwoods. The only two Nubians to produce over 4000 lbs. milk in 305 days (1950 and 1962) had Oakwood sires.

The Evania herd was established in 1940 and has been on test from that time until 1964 and there are now 9 AR sires with the Evania suffix. The first AR Nubian with the Hurricane Acres prefix appeared in 1946 and was briefly the breed production leader. The present Nubian breed leader for milk, also a GCH, has the Hurricane Acres prefix as did three of the ten 1965 Nubian production leaders.

Albert R. Bommer's all-Nubian dairy in Missouri (Valley Park Hills) was on test during the 1940's and 1950's and contributed also by importing bucks from England. Laurelwood Acres, which must be mentioned in connection with all four leading breeds, was founded by the late Don Garman and his wife, now Mrs. Wesley Nordfelt, on Nubians and French Alpines. AR records for Laurelwood Nubians appear in Volume I and the Laurelwood herd is now 18% Nubian. The Fensterhol herd of Frederic Knoop in Ohio was started in 1939, but dispersed during World War II and re-established afterwards. It has test records as early as Volume I and as late as

1957. Though small now, it still has well-bred Nubians. Later, but currently producing fine Nubians, are Buenna (R. J. Caulk, Calif.), Clover Croft (Mrs. Jane Henderson, N.J.), Da Ruth (Rex L. Stevens, Calif.), Indian Rock (Bagdanoff, Calif.) and Lockhaven Ranch, Calif. American Nubians are not numerous, having almost the same 1965 registrations as the American Saanens. There are only two with AR records in the last decade, both from Lockhaven.

French Alpines Rise Rapidly

The latest starter among the four chief breeds, the French Alpine, came along fast. Thirty years after the De Langle importation of 1922, French Alpines had outstripped the two oldest breeds in numbers and were second to the Nubians, a place they retained. Most of the imports went to the Alpine Goat Dairy in Sacramento, but one of the three bucks was acquired by Mrs. Mary Rock who thereafter, in addition to developing her Rock Alpines, bred some purebreds with her prefix Little Hill, which was that of the first breed production leader. Another buck went to her brother and the third to the Goodridges on acquiring the Alpine Goat Dairy herd. This herd was sold in 1926 to Mrs. C. R. John (Blue Ribbon), of Creston, Calif., but reacquired by Goodridge in 1931. Although the Rio Linda prefix of N. S. and E. L. Goodridge has lately appeared chiefly among the Saanen production leaders, Rio Linda Alpines made some of the earliest AR records for that breed. Mrs. John also played an important part: in addition to her Blue Ribbon prefix, she acquired the de Navarre suffix from J. L. Solley and does with those two herdnames made early AR records in a number of different herds. The La Suisse herd of the Ettiens contributed early and with distinction to French Alpines as it had to the other breeds.

And finally, Mrs. F. N. Craver (Del-Norte) of Texas put French Alpines on test for the first time in 1937 and her herd remained continuously on test until its dispersal in 1958. The Alpine breed leaders for milk and BF are both Del-Nortes and have held their records since 1957 and 1948 respectively. The first AR sires for the breed, 6 in Volume I, were equally divided among Del-Nortes and de Navarres, with one de Navarre also having the Blue Ribbon prefix.

For French Alpines the number of Del-Norte AR sires has been exceeded only by Laurelwood's. Of its herd, the largest percentage are French Alpine (36%) and their test records and show wins have done much to publicize the breed during the last twenty years. While Laurelwood has CH's in all the breeds, the largest number are French Alpines.

Also in California, and currently producing both production leaders and show Champions, are Ben-Fair (J. Lowell Benfer), Indian Rock (Bagdanoff) and Raymar (Ray Horton). Mr. Benfer has done much for the breed by organizing Alpines International and publishing Alpine Meadows. The Empire herd of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Small in Oregon is also considered superior.

The best-known French Alpine herd in the East, with a long testing record, is Edwin Austin's (Edaco) in Maine. Other excellent ones, such as the Ralph Vales' Hideaway in R.I., are less well known because they have not been on test regularly. Merrill Morris's Ivy Lane Alpines, before moving from New Jersey to Arkansas, won often in Eastern shows and were on test. In the Midwest the Carl Leek's herd (Leekwood) in Illinois was preeminent in shows and on test from 1961-1964.

American Alpines are about as numerous as American Toggenburgs, 62 of the former and 66 of the latter being registered last year, but there are fewer American Alpine AR records. Most of these belong to Laurelwood or Sheila Nixon, also in California

Official Testing

For a dairy industry, official production records are as essential as a registry association. The first official tests - short-term witnessed tests of four consecutive weeks, known as Class B - were instituted by the AMGRA in 1919 and AR certificate No. 1 went to a Toggenburg for averaging 10.125 lbs. of milk per day during the test. The first Saanen AR certificate was No.7. The first Nubian was an American, No. 26, and the first purebred Nubian, No. 70. The first French Alpine, AR No. 217, was for a 10-month test in 1938.

Two does registered in Herdbook Volume I have lived long enough to make Class B records: A Toggenburg, El Chivar's Lenora, AR 23 at the age of 8, and a Saanen, Bonnie May, AR 20 at the age of 7, the latter averaging 17.6 lbs. of milk daily for the test.

Volume I of the Advanced Register, published in 1948, included all test records up to that date. The 10-month or 305-day test for both milk and BF, adopted in 1927, for the first time gave a true production record throughout a normal lactation, and the short-term Class B test was discontinued in 1944. Toggenburgs dominated this volume in numbers as they had Herdbook Volume I. Omitting tests longer than 10 months, there were 299 Toggenburg 10-month records (Classes A and C) as compared with 169 Saanen, 146 Nubian and 114 Alpine, although by the time the Volume was published, the Nubians had attained first place for registrations, with Toggenburgs

second, Saanens third and French Alpines fourth. By the time AR Volume II appeared in 1954, French Alpines were second: in 1952 there were 3461 new Nubian registrations, 2255 French Alpine, 2187 Toggenburg and 1896 Saanen. In Volume II there was little difference in the number of tests for the first three breeds, but the Saanens had only about half as many. Thereafter, beginning with 1957, AR records have been published annually in the AMGRA (now ADGA) Handbooks. During this period the Nubians increased until there were almost twice as many of them being registered as the second place French Alpines, but there is less discrepancy in the number of AR records.

The first certificate for a 10-month test was given a Toggenburg for 2012 lbs. milk and 66.531 lbs. BF. The early Toggenburg breed leaders changed rapidly and were the only breed leaders from 1928 to 1931 when the first Saanen made her AR. The first 10-month Nubian AR came in 1934 and the first French Alpine four years later.

The Rock Alpine production records began in 1943, and the top ones were in the herd of Mrs. Sarah Czapek in New Jersey, on test until 1956. The only other Rock Alpine records, all in Volume I, were in Carl Romer's Sunflower herd in Kansas. The Swiss Alpines made their first and last AR appearance in Volume II with four records for animals owned by Harlan A. Covey of Vermont.

The American La Manchas' first AR records were made in 1959 by does owned by Robert W. Soens, N.C. The top milk record for the breed is 3295 lbs. and the top BF record 118.5 lbs. Altogether there have been 62 records of 305-days made by American La Manchas through 1965, most of them in the herd of Harvey Considine.

Records of the British Alpines, Saanens and Toggenburgs, and those of the Americans of all breeds are included with those of the respective purebreds.

The all-breed leaders from the time testing became competitive among the breeds in 1931 until the present were:

Milk All-Breed Leaders

Breed	Year	Lbs.		
T	1930	2759	N.M.A.C. Zula Angelus **M	N.M. Agri College
S	1931	2782	Fresno Gerda 1st **M	O. T. Hess
S	1931	4162	Three Oak's Blossom's Charmaine	O. T. Hess
A	1941	4632	Little Hill Pierrette's Lady Penelope *M	Mrs. F. N. Carver
S	1954	4905	La Suisse Ida-Bee *M	C. H. & H. B. Woody
T	1960	5593	Puritan Jon's Janista 8*M	William M. Shaw
T	1960	5750	Puritan Jon's Jennifer II 9*M	Mrs. Carl Sandburg

BF All-Breed Leaders

T	1930	100.6	N.M.A.C. Zula Angelus **M	N.M.A.C.
S	1931	138.5	Three Oak's Blossom's Charmaine	Hess
S	1941	142.7	Lila of Ontario **M	Irvin Fritch
S	1946	153.7	Rio Linda Dona Marcelina *M	Glen Daley
A	1948	171.5	Yvon Del-Norte 4*M	Craver
N	1950	184.6	Katrein's Charmain **M	Alfred Jelinski
N	1958	191.6	Butterscotch of Honeylawn *M	Vaughan Henderson
N	1959	193.9	Araby Royal Holly *M	Dr. J.J. Du Mouchel
T	1960	202.5	Puritan Jon's Janista 8*M	Shaw

This table might indicate that in production the breeds were pretty much equal except that Nubians were more equal for BF and less so for milk. That they did not lead for BF until 1950 means not that their milk had less BF but that their production was too small for the lbs. of BF to reach the totals for the heavier producers of other breeds. However, breed leaders are exceptional animals and their records demonstrate what the breeds are capable of rather than what is usual. It should not be concluded that Toggenburgs are the biggest producers because they are the only dairy goats to have given over 5000 lbs. milk or 200 lbs. BF in 305 days, or because two other Toggenburgs were last year's all-breed leaders (4486 lbs. milk and 183.01

lbs. BF). Taking the records from 1927 through 1965, the numbers of animals for each breed that have given over 4000 lbs. milk or 150 lbs. BF in 10 months were as follows:

	<u>Milk</u>	<u>BF</u>		<u>Milk</u>	<u>BF</u>		<u>Milk</u>	<u>BF</u>
French Alpine	11	6	Saanen	5	7	Toggenburg	5	5
Nubian	2	16	British S.	1		Grade T.	1	
			Grade S.	1				

To prove much beyond the fact that French Alpines had the most, big producers for milk and the Nubians for BF we need more information, for instance how many AR records there were for each breed. Without an adding machine we can make only a rough estimate based on the amount of space taken by the published records. Of this Nubians and Toggenburgs have by far the most, with Alpines in next place and Saanens last. Clearly, with fewer AR records, a higher percentage of French Alpines and Saanens than of Nubians and Toggenburgs have top milk records. That Toggenburgs had the most, early AR records is to be expected, but recently many more Nubians and French Alpines have been registered than either Toggenburgs or Saanens. The 1965 ADGA registrations were:

								<u>Totals</u>
Nubian	1367	AmN	32	GrdN	58			1457
French Alpine	700	AmA	62	GrdA	60	Swiss A	1	823
Toggenburg	444	AmT	66	GrdT	26	BT	12	548
Saanen	400	AmS	33	GrdS	47	BS	27	507
American La Mancha	98			GrdL	13			111

But in the 1965 Handbook the Toggenburgs had 70 AR records, 19 of them Americans; French Alpines 43; Nubians 42; and Saanens 30, 20 of them Americans and 1 British. There were also 5 Grade Saanens, 4 Grade Toggenburgs and 2 American La Manchas. Why so many Toggenburgs? Without knowing, and there is no way to know, how many of each breed are put on test and fail to fulfill AR requirements, we cannot say whether this is because more Toggenburg owners test their animals or whether more are capable of meeting AR requirements. With Saanens and

Toggenburgs about equal in numbers, the more numerous Toggenburg records, though with fewer in the top brackets, might indicate that Toggenburgs are more uniform - good producers but not usually sensational. The belief that Saanens were less uniform was once current. In 1948, the Dairy Goat Journal stated and restated a decade later that "while the best of the Saanens were the best of any breed, a poor Saanen might be poorer than the poorest of other breeds." But lacking evidence, this remains an opinion.

Nubian breeders also say that their choice is based on the quality of milk - and others say the same for their breeds. It is true that if high butterfat is wanted, Nubians are the best, but it is not true, as some partisans claim, that the flavor of the milk of other breeds is inferior. The milk flavor competitions that the Dairy Goat Journal and the University of Missouri used to sponsor refuted that. Samples of all-Alpine, all-Saanen, or all-Toggenburg, as well as all-Nubian, milk have scored highest for flavor and some all-Nubian samples, like the others, scored low.

Ability of a milker to hold up in production for a sustained period is important for a regular milk supply, but little attention has been paid to long lactation records. The number of long-term official records of the chief breeds from AR Volume I through 1965 was as follows:

	<u>365 days</u>	More than 365	20 mos or more
Alpine	16	7	4
Nubian	35	28	10
Saanen	33	27	9
Toggenburg	58	28	6

During the 20-month tests, 2 French Alpines, 2 Saanens, 1 Nubian and 1 Toggenburg averaged over 10 lbs. of milk a day. While proving nothing as to the average performance, the tests indicate that all breeds have milkers capable of good production over an extended period.

The Best Breed

Which is the best breed? Breeders who concentrate on any one breed, of course believe it is theirs. If popularity is the guide, it is the Nubian. But popularity is not necessarily based on merit: personal preferences, fashion and availability enter in. What is the best

breed depends on what you want it for - family milk supply, a commercial dairy, breeding or showing - and what you like. All the recognized breeds are good.

The ready availability of Nubians doubtless contributes to their increase, while scarce breeds tend to become scarcer. To choose a breed because good specimens are easily obtained is sensible, and if a goatkeeper does not keep a buck, the breed with the best herds sires in the neighborhood is the one to pick. Often the choice of a breed is accidental. Some start with one because it is handy, and getting good stock, stay with it. Others try a number of breeds and then concentrate on the one they consider best.

But a surprisingly large number admit that appearance determined their choice. Some liked uniforms - the lamblike white of the Saanen or the white-trimmed brown of the "Swiss deer" Toggenburg. Others liked the variety of Nubian colors or Alpine patterns. One leading Nubian breeder believes the breed's popularity is due largely to the exotic Oriental head that does not look "goaty." The popularity of French Alpines also owes much to imposing size, sleek hair and attractive markings. Looks are against Saanens in that white when dirty is the worst color, and against Toggenburgs in that their long coats are unattractively shaggy unless clipped. Yet beauty alone is not enough. Though it has been called "the most beautiful of all the breeds," the British Alpine has not taken hold here. It is too soon to predict whether the La Mancha style of "ungoaty" ears will become fashionable; at first sight people think they have been cropped or frozen. With good producers in all the breeds, to pick one for its looks is not too foolish, though the purpose of dairy animals is not to decorate the pastures.

If quantity of milk was decisive, Nubians would be the least numerous. Quantity production and regular supply are most important in the commercial dairy. The goat dairy industry was founded on the dependable, steady Toggenburg, and the large-producing Saanen later became the pre-eminent dairy breed, but commercial dairies have been on the wane. This could account for some of the decrease in numbers of these two breeds. The majority of the registered dairy goats today are in small family or breeding herds where the sale of milk is a sideline and not a living.

Many beliefs about breed differences are based more on hearsay than demonstrable facts, and those advanced here are not to be regarded as proven. In respect to hardiness, the Alpine breeds, French or Swiss, are all rugged, and the Toggenburg especially has a reputation for a

long and trouble-free life. The Nubian is supposed to be better adapted to hot climates, while the Saanen is said to adapt better than other breeds in changes in feed, handling and environment. Disposition is another reason given by breeders for their choice. Gentleness and docility have been claimed for Alpines, Nubians and Saanens. Toggenburgs are considered more aggressive and headstrong, but people who like the alertness and liveliness of the Toggenburg sometimes find more amenable animals bland to the point of dullness. However, individuals within a breed can differ almost as much in disposition and personality as humans do.

The Toggenburg is noted for uniformly good build and the best udders, well attached, but the udders of other breeds are getting better. An Alpine breeder considers the greatest improvement in this breed over the years to be in the shape and attachment of the udders, and pendulous udders are less prevalent among the best Nubians than formerly. The tendency toward weak pasterns of the Saanens has also been fairly well bred out.

But with good stock, strong, well-built and good producers, in all the breeds, the selection of good individuals is more important than the breed. One can have the best with any breed.