

## Dairy Goat Breeding Program: a Brazilian Experience

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### Abstract / Resumo:

In 2005, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), started the Dairy Goat Breeding Program. The program aimed to structure the dairy goat national databank and conduct the progeny tests for the main dairy breeds raised in the country. Data information comes from two progeny test and Official Dairy Control Tests. The objective of the progeny test is to evaluate young bucks of Saanen, Anglo-Nubian and French Alpine breeds. After a series of initial difficulties, like financial limitations, lack of organization and operational difficulties, the program was reformulated and is now beginning the 2nd group of the progeny test and expanding the number of participating herds. With the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA 703412/2009), Goat and Sheep Breeders Association of the state of Minas Gerais (Caprileite / ACCOMIG) and EMBRAPA Goats and Sheep, the Official Dairy Control Test has been carried out. The databank file was structured and is being filled with monthly data from official milk record from 18 herds located in Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo and São Paulo states, Brazil. Recently, more four herds from Bahia state joined to the program. The information collected refers to animal identification, reproduction and milk production. Standardized zootechnical recording sheets are been used to collect these data. The field data is stored in the databank through the Herd Management System of the Dairy Goat Breeding Program. This system consists of software that was developed in PHP/HTML/Javascript with access to a PostgreSQL database. The system has restricted access through internet (<http://srvgen.cnp.embrapa.br/leite/index.php>) and each breeder has their own login and password to access zootechnical reports. Altogether, the databank has, at this moment, 6,372 daily milk control records. It represents an increase of 86% of the databank in a year of work, showing that the program is growing. The databank contains records of production of 860 Saanen and Alpine goats in 1,129 lactations. Of these, 654 lactations have been completed with averages of total milk yield in a complete lactation, milk yield in 305 days of lactation, lactation length and average daily yield of 757.61 kilograms, 669.09 kilograms, 275 days and 2.74 kilograms/day, respectively. These results are compatible with the more commons production systems in the southeast region, where the goats are raised under good conditions of health and nutritional management. Conducting a program like this involves an ongoing effort to aggregate the breeders, seek financial resources, minimize costs and improve the processes.