

SUPERVISOR'S GUIDE to the ADGA VERIFICATION TEST

The National DHIA Code of Ethics and Uniform Data Collection Procedures along with the ADGA Production Testing Guidelines govern verification tests for ADGA DHIR.

A verification test (VT) acceptable to ADGA consists of validating **3** milkings (for a 2x herd) for **any** test type plan over a 24-hour period by a person other than the regular supervisor or owner. This includes AM/PM herds and those having gone to once a day milking. There is a pre-milking, a weight only test to "set the clock", plus two tested milkings (even if one is zero) for weight & component samples according to the test type plan of the herd. The 1st test is ~12 hours after the pre-milking, and the 2nd test 24 hours after the pre-milking. ***It is strongly suggested that the VT occur when the herd is in full function, being milked twice a day.***

The usual method is that if the verification supervisor is going to be present for just one of the three milkings that it is for the pre-milking, also verifying tattoos, paperwork and visible ID. However, any of the methods described in the Uniform Data Collection Procedures are acceptable, provided it is also acceptable to the local association.

Setting up the test is the responsibility of the herd owner. Verification testers can be group testers, or standard testers, as long as the DHIA manager approves them to perform such testing. ADGA one-day milking competitions can also be used for verification, but all rules governing ADGA DHIR programs must be followed (scale certification, tester qualifications, milking routine, a VT form, whole herd participation if required, etc.).

PREPARATION:

Arrange date and time for Verification Test with both the herdowner and the different or second tester.

Prepare sample vials and packaging.

Check testing supplies; **make sure scale has had a calibration within the last year.**

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE HERD FOR TESTING:

CHECK ALL PAPERWORK

- Get barnsheets, owner option sheets and registration papers from herd owner.
- Compare all registration information with those on the barnsheet.
- Make corrections, additions, write in pertinent dates and other information as appropriate on barn sheets.

ONCE YOU ARE IN THE BARN

- Move slowly and carefully, some animals "react" to strangers.
- Quickly survey the barn and other facilities, feed system and animals; note any oddities.
- Move into the milking area and set up meters or scales, calibrating to bucket used for weighing.
- Inform the herd owner when you are ready to start.
- Decide, with the herd owner, whether you will check tattoos as the does enter or leave on the pre-milking.

WHEN YOU BEGIN TESTING

- Write in the start time for the entire milking procedure.
- Observe does as they enter and also note 'unusual' feeding practices.
- Observe does for visible identification, pull appropriate sample vial, prepare to sample for the tested milkings. Miniature breeds must also be measured with an approved device supplied by the owner.
- Check tattoos (pre-milking) against the registration certificates either before or after they are milked. Note any that do not match.
- When the herd owner begins milking, record the **order** in which they are milked.
 - Weigh the pre-milking, Weigh and sample the test milkings according to the test type plan (if in place of the regular test) and routine milking schedule (3 samplings only if a herd is coded as a 3x herd), observe proper mixing technique, repeat for each doe, recap all vials tightly.
- Record stop time when all does have been milked.
- Verify any dry doe's tattoos and dry status.
- Gather up all testing equipment and paperwork (including samples) and take them with you if you leave the herd until the next milking. If you stay on the farm, make sure the owner does not have unsupervised access to the test materials or samples. If you are only the pre-milking tester, transfer materials and samples to the regular tester.
- Repeat testing procedure (minus tattoo checks if does are visibly identified) for additional milkings.

FINISHING THE TEST

- Record the stop time.
- Make sure the VT form is complete and signed by all testers along with printing the name.
- Include tester ID and telephone number or email.
- The tester should keep a copy of the VT form.
- Send samples, barn sheets, payment, VT form and any additional comments to the lab.