

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY

A GUIDE TO RECOGNISED MILKING COMPETITIONS

Please pass these instructions and accompanying analyst sheets and milk sheets (if included) to the Goat Section Steward, with details of entries, prior to the show.

A copy of "A Guide to Recognised Milking Competitions" should be prominently displayed at all times during a milking competition, as well as a clock giving "Official Show Time". BGS regulations covering shows and milking competitions should also be available for reference.

After the show the milking competition results should be either entered on Pedeweb or the milk sheets completed. The analyst sheets, milk sheets (where used) and marked up catalogue to be sent for checking to the BGS Secretary, PO Box 137, Swanley, Kent BR8 9BW within 14 days of the show. After checking the results will be returned to enable prize money to be paid.

The following conditions apply:

1. A milking competition shall be based on two milkings taking place within 24 hours of stripping-out, with the interval between milkings being not less than 10 hours. Please see separate guidance notes for back-to-back shows. The management and supervision of the competition shall be by a competent steward or stewards who shall ensure that the regulations governing the competition are complied with, and, in particular that:
 - i. All exhibits are milked outside their pens as directed, with no water buckets nearby. Whilst being milked goats must neither wear goat-coats nor stand near pens protected by 'screens'. Exhibitors needing to use udder cream during milking should notify the stewards.
 - ii. The general public is excluded from the area where and when the exhibits are being milked.
 - iii. The pail containing the milk of each exhibit must carry a label bearing the name; identification mark and show number of the exhibit also the pail must rest level on the ground and be capable of being carried, single-handed, by a secure handle.
 - iv. The pail containing the milk of an exhibit is delivered to the weigh station as soon as the milking of that exhibit is concluded and before the person milking commences to milk a second exhibit and so on. Nothing may be added to the contents of the pail after it has been delivered.
 - v. The pails containing the milk of all exhibits remain at the weigh station until the weighing and sampling of all milk produced at that milking is concluded. The Chief Steward/Milk Steward should give permission for pails to be removed as soon as the sample boxes are sealed. Exhibitors to remove pails once this announcement is made. No uncovered milk to be left in the marquee or mart at any time. Milk to be disposed of responsibly.
 - vi. Exhibitors with high-yielding goats, or fidgety animals, requiring a second container for milking, must notify the Chief Steward/Milk Steward, and have both receptacles fully labelled and present with other exhibitor's empty pails. They must also be individually monitored during milking. If the scales only weigh to 5kg, a second weigh-bucket must be provided by the show to enable split weighing of yields in excess of 5kg.
 - vii. Should a goat be milked into a pail displaying another goat's label, that goat may be disqualified once the milk has been received at the weigh station. In cases of dispute (doubtful identification marks etc) milk must still be weighed and sampled in case the complaint is not upheld after referral to the BGS. If the mistake is discovered whilst milking into the first pail, the goat's identity can be established by its identification mark and the pail then correctly labelled.
 - viii. Random checks of identification marks must be carried out under the direction of the Chief Steward/Milk Steward during the milking competition. This to be done after the selected goat has been milked, but before its milk has been taken to the weigh station.
 - ix. If there are sufficient stewards, weighing should begin as soon as pails are returned to the weigh station as milk should be kept waiting as short a time as possible before sampling. Yields should be called out clearly during weighing and later displayed on the information board
 - x. **The first milking must commence when instructed by the steward in charge.** The evening or second milking deadline is 24 hours after completion of stripping the previous day. Additional information regarding milking times is given in the document entitled 'Back-to-Back Shows'.
 - xi. At shows where the milking competition takes place the day before judging the Judge should be invited to attend, if possible, the evening milking. The following morning, not more than 14 hours after the completion of the milking competition, stewards should check all inspection exhibits have empty udders so they are equally 'empty' when judged later.
2. No goat shall be eligible to compete that has kidded less than 30 days prior to the date of the competition.
3. No milker may be permitted to leave the penning area without the permission, and under the supervision, of a steward.

4. Prior to the commencement of milking all milk pails must be brought to a central point and checked by the stewards to ensure that the correct number of pails are present and that they are empty by having them inverted. The time at which any given show wishes the empty pails to be brought to the milking station/check-in, should be printed in both its schedule and catalogue or exhibitors informed by the stewards at the show. It is recommended that this time should be at least 15 minutes prior to the am first inspection and the pm milking. The stewards should also ensure that nothing is added to the pails before, during or after milking. When checking empty milk pails prior to commencement of milking the Chief Steward/Milk Steward has the right to refuse to allow the use of any unsuitable container (see iii. above). Empty pails - duly labelled - for goats present, but not in the competition (and for goatlings having to be milked) should also be brought to the weigh station, but placed away from those of competing animals. These animals must be milked during the competition (or weighing) and their milk placed apart. Stewards must be notified of such animals on arrival.

5. Sufficient stewards should be available to oversee the exhibits being milked. Numbers required are very much dependent on the number of milkers present and the layout of the marquee/mart but no exhibit should be milked out of view of a steward.

6. The weigh-station – there must be a steward present to receive the milk, another to weigh the milk (with another steward confirming weights) and a steward to do the sampling. There must also be two stewards to record the milk weights – one steward to record the weights on the analyst sheets and the other to complete the BGS milk sheets (if used). For those shows who use Pedeweb for their milking competition results a photocopy of the analyst sheets is sufficient for the second steward to record the weights on. Once the weighing and sampling has been completed the two stewards recording the weights to check that their sheets tally.

7. One of the stewards must check the reading of the scales throughout, but, if present, the Judge should be invited to confirm before weighing begins that the scales (with the empty weighing bucket) read 0. The scales should be hung so as to be at eye-level for the weighing steward. (No adjustment to be made to scales setting once weighing has commenced.)

8. The weigh-pail must be inverted between each weighing, and the milk mixed well before sampling. Sample bottles should be filled using a standard disposable bulk tank dipper (obtainable free from the MMB with the sample boxes) and should be 3/4 full.

CAUTION The preservative contains POISON. It is advisable to check that all sample bottles contain sufficient preservative.

9. Milk sample boxes must be sealed and signed as directed and forwarded, together with all copies of the analyst's sheets completed as far as possible, to the laboratory. Each box must contain, on a sheet of paper, the name of the show and whether "am" or "pm" samples. Analyst's sheets and BGS sheets (where used) must list animals in the same order. Sample bottles must correspond with the analyst's sheets and follow the same numerical order. The 'pm' box must contain the analyst's sheets, which should be enclosed in a plastic bag to protect against milk leakage. Goats must remain in their pens until such time as the milking competition is concluded, i.e. sample boxes are sealed. On day 2 of a back-to-back show (where only one sample has been taken at the am milking) the analyst sheets should be included in the am samples box with a note advising the technician that there is only an am sample to test.

10. The 14 hour interval between milking is a BGS maximum; this does not imply that exhibitors are entitled to wait 14 hours before milking (see x. above).

STRIPPING CERTIFICATES

11. Exhibitors wishing to take milking goats from one show to another must advise the two shows involved at the time of entry, with the second show also being told of the anticipated time of arrival. On arrival at the first show the exhibitor must present the Section Steward with a paper (Certificate) bearing the name of the show, the names and identification marks of the relevant goats, and provision for the addition of the date and time of stripping, and name and signature of the responsible steward. After the evening milking an experienced steward must check the goats' identification marks, strip them and add stripping time date and signature to the above Certificate before the animals can leave the showground. Stripping must not take place before the official stripping time of the second show or the Certificate will be invalid. The Certificate is handed over on arrival at the second show and forwarded to the BGS with the completed milk sheets. The steward at the second show must confirm the identification marks of the goats on arrival.

Any show must accept Stripping Certificates unless there is a clause in their schedule to the contrary.

The BGS reserves the right not to recognise the results of any exhibitor whom they have reason to believe to have abused the Stripping Certificate facility in any way.