

An Influence Reaching Far and Wide ~ *Waiilatpu Dairy Goats*

By: Kevin W. Kinney

There are many herds from the west coast to the east coast and in between that can confirm the impact of Waiilatpu (pronounced Y-E-LA-POO) on the Alpine breed. Waiilatpu lines can be found in many top-placing animals at local as well as national shows and are helping to build a genetic nucleus for some of today's promising new herds.

Over the years Waiilatpu has enjoyed successes at club shows, state fairs, national shows, Spotlight sales and have bred 46 Champion Alpines. They will tell you they have seen their breeding program evolve through "excellent management skills, A-I techniques, superior brood does and carefully selected bucks." But their influence on dairy goats reaches back farther than just Kathy and Susan's commitment to high standards. Kathy's family has been committed to dairy goats for generations; one could say it was Kathy's destiny to have a strong impact on the breed, since she is descended from dairy goat breeders as far back as the 1920's. The current Alpine breeding program dating back to 1980 is built on 4 doe kids sired by +*B Raymar's Reliable. These genetics can still be found in descendents of Reliable that Kathy and Susan are currently working with.

Throughout the years, they have continually worked to strengthen their breeding program by using the best genetics at hand from herds like; Raymar's, Sodium Oaks, Shahena'ko, Sweet Dreams, Goodwoods, Hoach's, and Willow Run. A practice of selecting animals with traits to improve the herd enables Waiilatpu to be recognized amongst the top herds in the country. A fact that both humbles' and excites them. They are modest and pleased to see the impact that their genetics are having on the next generation of outstanding herds – their proof that the Waiilatpu influence is reaching far and wide.

To learn more about Waiilatpu please visit: <http://www.waiilatpu.com>
The following is a conversation with Kathy and Susan in their own words.

When and how did you start in dairy goats?

Kathy has had dairy goats since she was a pre-schooler in western Oregon in the 1950's. Her mother and grandmother had dairy goats since the 1920's in Nebraska. My grandmother had goats because she liked the taste of the milk and they were easier for her to handle than cows. My folks purchased dairy goats when my sister was born. My sister needed the milk as my mother came in with no breast milk. My mother had been raised with goats as a child. This made goats the perfect solution for my folks.

Have you always worked with the Alpine lines?

Kathy remembers her first alpine goat in western Oregon at around age 5 years old. She was named "daisy" and she had triplet does on Valentines Day. That was very special. The family had other breeds but Kathy liked the alpines best due to the many colors they come in and their wonderful personality and high quantity and quality milk. When Kathy and David got a small farm in 1974, she was in her 20's; she got alpines, and some grade breeds but quickly settled on Alpines.

In 1980 Kathy met a wonderful lady who had lovely dairy goats, Dar Glasgow Addington. Dar introduced her to the showing aspect of “goating”. Kathy and her husband and children, Tom and Lora, enjoyed going to shows and exhibiting at open shows, 4-H shows and open class fairs for several years, until Tom and Lora left home for College.

Susan had always liked goats. She often visited them when she was showing at the fair in 4-H. Her father refused to let her have goats as a child. She started out in goats when she needed the milk to raise bummer lambs. Susan’s children were in 4-H and they decided they wanted to show goats. Both of the girls had goat projects in 4-H. She went looking for quality Alpine dairy goats and that is how Susan and Kathy met for the first time. Susan purchased goats from Kathy for her daughters. Both of her daughters did very well at the fairs. They both won showmanship classes several times and were named overall Dairy Goat showman.

What lines were people working with when you started?

The first lines Kathy started with in Alpines were 4 does from the Alpine buck +*B Raymar's Reliable. They were kids in 1980 and when they freshened Kathy noted the lovely udders and type they exhibited. In 1981 the yearling milkers from this buck were first place get of sire at every fair. Three of the four does became GCH and the 4th had one milking leg!

During this period, the lines most people in our area were working with included; Raymar’s, Redwood Hills, Sodium Oaks, Nixon's, Hill N Holler, MissDee's, Serendipity's, Chateau De Ville and Tempo, to name a few. Sweet Dreams and Hoach's Alpines were coming into their own during this time as well.

Kathy and son Tom at the 1982 national show and the 1983 convention in Reno, NV became acquainted with breeders Kristi Bozzo owner of Sweet Dreams and Randy Hoach, breeder of Hoach’s Alpines. It was this meeting that lead to greater insights into the workings of the alpine breed. At the 1983 ADGA Convention, Tom was given a trophy at for high point youth. Tom and Lora both placed high in youth events at the national showmanship and convention levels.

How have you seen the breed evolve over the years?

The breed has improved most in udder type, feet and legs and general appearance. The udders have become snugger in the fore, higher and wider in the rear with properly placed teats. A lot of does when Kathy started had pocketed fore udders and bulging rear udders that were sometimes too low. They also had teats that pointed out to the side. Improvements in the udder department can be attributed to the hard work and commitment of many dedicated alpine breeders. The same can be said for the vast improvements in general appearance. The improvements in levelness of top line and breed character have been dramatic. Feet and legs have really improved also.

What were/are your strongest dam lines?

We have 2 lines that are strong dam lines. One from the Raymar Reliable does and the other one was a Sasin daughter, GCH J-M Swan Acres Broken Promises 8*M. Today we have many descendants from those two dam lines. Two of these outstanding descendants would be GCH Waiilatpu HG Kassandra 10*M. She was 1st/1st udder 4 year old at the 1999 nationals and was Top Alpine Production doe at the 2003 nationals. Another one would be GCH Waiilatpu Newbold Safina 4*M who has placed high at national shows was best in show at the BioGenics/WildRose AI futurity in 2001. Many other names of fame in our herd that trace back to those doe lines are GCH Waiilatpu Newbold Meadowlark 10*M (2nd/1st udder 1995 Nationals), GCH HG Meadowsong 11*M, GCH Waiilatpu HR Naomi, GCH Waiilatpu Cowboy Spanky (dam of Safina), GCH Waiilatpu Newbolds No Angel, GCH Waiilatpu Jim Casey 9*M (5th/2nd udder 1995 Nationals, 1998 and 1999 1st place Produce of Dam at the Nationals), GCH Waiilatpu Opals Jade *M and many others.

What have your animals done on the National Show level, DHIR, and Linear Appraisal or other awards?

Our Alpines have done well at national shows. We have had several first place and 1st udder awards since 1995 when we were named Premier Alpine breeder and exhibitor. We also had a doe SG Waiilatpu Cowboy's Amethyst 2*M named Best Alpine Udder at the 1999 Nationals.

Our milk records show high production, milk production has never been a problem for us. Sometimes too much milk! We have had several top ten does in the past including Waiilatpu Classic's Blk Beauty and Waiilatpu Goliath's Caitlin who tied for 9 and 10 Top Ten milk production in 2000. We also have had a buck Waiilatpu CE Sampson sired the #6 Milk, #7 Fat, #9 Protein Top Ten in Volume 50 and the #1 Milk, #5 Fat, #1 and #10 in Protein for Top Ten Volume 51 of the American Dairy Goat Association records. As well as SG Waiilatpu Tanner's Hattie 1*M being named #7 Milk in Volume 51 and #10 Milk in Volume 52. One of our highlights was Kassandra going top Alpine producing doe at the 2003 nationals.

Our LA records have been really consistent and interesting. We have usually appraised every other year. This year our Alpines LAed with 7 does receiving EX 90 -92 out of 15 does, which included 1st fresheners. Since then we have sold two of those does so at the moment we have 13 milking Alpines, which is our lowest numbers for years!

What do you feel has been the most significant accomplishment of your breeding program?

Without a doubt it was the 1995 National Premier Alpine Breeder and Exhibitor and the 1999 Alpine Best Udder with 2 first places in the 3 and 4-year-old classes.

What would you do differently – What would you do the same?

Way back when, if we had been more monetarily blessed we would have gotten some more Sodium Oaks bloodlines when they were "hot" in the 1980's. Otherwise we don't

think we would do anything different. We feel we have been blessed with the bucks we have had to work with and the doe lines we already had!

What are your future goals for your herd?

We are carefully adding stature and length of body to our does and not taking away the lovely mammary systems we have grown accustomed to having in our herd.

We want to continue to breed excellent does that can show for years, milk a long level lactation and have the temperament to with stand the rigors of kidding, showing and traveling. We try and breed for temperament, as it's really important to have a strong calm personality.

A number of national level breeders as well as hobbyist breeders have used your lines. What kind of influence are these lines making or have made across the nation? (I am so impressed that there are so many animals from your lines spread out from the West to East, that really has a lot to say about your herd and lines.)

We are humbled to have other breeders across the country doing well with our lines and saying nice things about our breeding program. We feel very strongly that if we sell quality stock to other breeders that it will not only help the breed as a whole, but us as well. We have taken to only selling offspring out of our show string. We have very strict quality standards. The offspring of animals that do not meet this quality are shipped to dairies. We feel our reputation goes out with every animal we sell, and we pray they do well for their new owners! In 2006 the Reserve National Champion, Alpine-Valleys Honey Oats dam line top and bottom come from Waiilatpu buck's that we sent to Michigan owners.

From the time you started breeding dairy goats what bucks or lines do you feel have made the most impact on the breed?

There have been so many! Sodium Oaks Sasin, Serendipity's Jubilation, Nixon's Joi Huckster, Nixon's Ranchman, Redwood Hills Acclaim Mystic, Hoachs Golden Genes Willow Run LA Armand and many others!

The bucks with the most impact on your herd?

The Alpine bucks, we feel made a big impact on our herd have been: Waiilatpu Caleb, Waiilatpu Yreka Newbold, Waiilatpu Ruben's Jubilee, Goodwood's James, Hoach's SRS Goliath, Hoach's Revolution, Willow Run Armand Lothario, Willow Run Abraham Tsavo, and Willow Run Caesar Redemption.

What lines are you currently working with or would like to use in your breeding program?

At the present time we are working with Willow Run, and Hoach's bloodlines, they have proven to cross with what we are trying to accomplish.

We are looking to increase stature, improve the sharpness in the front ends and keep our lovely mammary systems. The Willow Run and Hoach's bucks are helping us to make these improvements.

11. How do/did you select bucks to use in your breeding program?

Susan Calahan, who became partner in 1991, and Kathy like to select bucks who are excellent in pedigree and general appearance that are from prominent dams. Susan comes from the horse world where superior genetics is a must! We look for superior, solid pedigrees top and bottom. We want to see GCH does and bucks out of GCH dams. We want to see high linear appraisal scores top and bottom on not only to sire and dam but the grandsires and granddames. We also look for sires and dams that have proven they can repeat themselves. The next step for us is to talk with the breeder. We prefer to tell them what we want to improve in our herd and have them make suggestions. The herd owner knows their animals best. These characteristics coupled with the lines we are using help us to make the all important decision of what buck to purchase.

Of the bucks you are currently using can you explain why you chose two of them and the genetic trait you are hoping to improve through their use?

*B Willow Run Abraham Tsavo was purchased at the 2002 Spotlight Sale. We purchase this buck to improve stature, smooth the front end in the area of the crops and not take away from the milk production or mammary systems we currently have in our lines. This is exactly what this buck is doing for us. His daughter, Waiilatpu WRAT Cherish was 2nd/3rd udder yearling at the 2005 Nationals. His Senior Get of Sire were 1st place at the District 7 Alpine Specialty in 2006.

*B Willow Run Caesar Redemption was purchased because we love his dam SGCH Willow Run Armand Rishona, the 4 time National Champion. Redemption is the full brother to Raisa the 2001 Reserve National Champion and his littermate Revenge who was 1st/1st udder at the 2004 Nationals out of 82 head and the 2006 Reserve Best Udder. This shows the consistency of pedigree and type that we prefer in our bucks. Redemption was purchased to help improve the area of the crops and keep those lovely GCH Maple Glen PM Carrie 6*M udders.

*B Brandt's CFS Set the Style goes into the lines we are using. We are looking for stature, style and mammary systems. His paternal sisters swept the California shows in 2006. His dam has numerous BIS wins in highly competitive classes.

13. What bucks do you feel are currently making an impact on the alpine lines? Why?

We know there are many Great bucks out there but these come to mind as they have had an impact on our own herd.

1. Willow Run LA Armand. We so admire the daughters he has produced such as GCH Willow Run Armand Rishona 4 time National Champion, GCH Willow Run Armand Armani, and GCH Willow Run Armand Laine. He was Premier Sire at the 2000 Nationals as well as siring the Junior Champion, Reserve Junior Champion and the Senior Champion. His son Willow Run Armand Abraham is making a name for himself with many correct, beautiful daughters, who are placing high in their classes at the Nationals. Son's who are starting to make a mark in the breed are Willow Run Abraham Wonder and our own Willow Run Abraham Tsavo. Our own GCH Willow Run Armand Lothario is another son of Armand who sired several correct does for us. They all seem to be impacting the

- breed in stature, length of bone, strength of feet and legs, and long level top lines. The udders we have seen are really high and wide in the rear, correct teat size and placement, and nice fore udders as well.
2. Sand-Dance HLS Rico Suave' was used heavily in Randy Hoach's herd and produced such beauties as CH Hoach's SRS Lyric, and many others. He also produced many quality Alpine's for Willow Run and Hulls. "Rico" was the sire to our own Hoach's SRS Goliath who produced one of our all times favorites Cassandra. Goliath had 2nd place Get of Sire at the 1999 nationals and has 21 LA's at an average FS of 85.
 3. [CH Iron-Rod the Bold Tartan](#) 90(EEE) He is worth mentioning due to the impact he has had on Leslie Sidwell's herd. These lines go back to good old northwest herds that we know and like well. He has 14 LA's for an average of FS 88.6 He sired quality, to check his progeny out just go to her website. ironrodalpines.com

Today, what do you see as the over all strength and weakness of the Alpine?

Strengths as we see them are good feet and legs; dairy character with good milk production, mammary improvements, and general appearance is excellent. Weakness at times we see front legs toeing out, rear legs not angular enough, heads too plain, too narrow in the front and rear. Although these are not nearly as prevalent as we used to see them.

What advice would you give new breeders?

Find the best you can afford and stick with what works for you. Don't get discouraged, and stick with the type that you enjoy, which may or may not be the "most popular of the day". Set your goals and work towards them. Study, study, study the genetic lines and find reputable breeders to discuss your potential purchases. Look for animals with repeatability. To many times new breeders just buy whatever is out there. They are new at it and get taken advantage of by breeders. Set your goals and then go forward carefully and slowly.

Your involvement in the dairy industry:

Tells us about your "goat experience" outside of the show ring.

We became involved in making our own goat milk soaps. Kathy encouraged Susan to start making cold processed goat milk products including soaps, lotions, and creams. Susan was extremely interested in the science of trying different things with goat milk. Susan now has a business and Kathy feels it's the best goat milk soap she's ever tried and so do her customers. We use it for bathing and shampooing. The goat milk lotions and soaps are extremely good for your skin and will help prevent dry skin in the winter. We have a website at www.earthscentssoaps.com or if you live on the Eastern shores you can find our products in our women owned cooperative in Salisbury, Maryland or on the web at www.coasttocoastsoapworks.com

Your ADGA Involvement:

What other programs have you been involved in with ADGA?

Kathy was a dairy goat judge for two years but found it took too much time away from home during the busiest time of year. We have also served on various committees in ADGA as well as being President and Secretary of the Alpine International club.

What issues do you see facing the dairy goat industry and ADGA? Where do you see ADGA and the Dairy Goat industry heading?

If all goat people would learn to work together towards an improved ADGA, it would only improve the industry. With common interests in the dairy goat and working together, it can only get better and better. We need to keep working towards a better awareness of dairy goats and dairy goat products. We need to dispel the myths and educate the public every time we take our goats out to shows or fairs. We feel that presentation is everything with persuading the public that dairy goats are a wonderful animal and a viable agriculture.