For Immediate Release

The Neuenschwander’s make goat showing a family affair

by Lauren Johnson

LOUISVILLE, KY – November 10, 2014 – The Neuenschwander family have been running a top-quality dairy goat operation based out of Berne, Indiana, since 1989. They competed in the Toggenburg and Nubian dairy goat shows held at the North American International Livestock Exposition over this past weekend. Although Dairy goat shows ended yesterday, the big expo runs until November 21st.

When it is said that the Neuenschwander’s make showing a family affair, it is not an exaggeration. Grandparents, Roger & Jenny, who started the outfit in 1989, have three children; Amy, Eric, and Renee. Amy is the oldest, and married to Nate Hirschy. They met during their 4-H years, in the county goat club. They have three kids, Corbin, Aaron, and Ben. Eric, the middle child, is married to Jen, and they have three children as well, named Callie, Mackenzie, and Caiden. The youngest, Renee, is married to Albert Andrews, and they have two children named Isaac and Addilyne. Like her older sister, Renee met her spouse in their county 4-H club. Albert grew up producing Nubian dairy goats, and that is how they got introduced into the family herd.

All sixteen family members were present this past weekend at the expo.

It could easily be said that the Neuenschwander family is a prime example of the all-American family. None of them are full-time farmers. All of the adults have jobs in town. Renee Neuenschwander is a nurse, while Amy Hirschy is a stay-at-home mother, teaching piano lessons at her family’s home. While showing goats may only be a part-time hobby for the family, coming to the North American International and other national level shows has been a long-standing tradition. This year, they brought 26 goats, and there still were not enough animals to accommodate every member of the family. Although many of the grandchildren show other species including beef cattle, swine, rabbits, and Boer goats, Dairy goats are the only animals they show on such a large scale.

Roger and Jenny Neuenschwander were originally producers of registered Holstein dairy cattle. As their kids were growing up, they could not keep them out of the goat barns at the fair. Soon after, they took the plunge into the goat world by purchasing two Toggenburg does. An interesting fact is that almost their entire herd today are descendants of those two foundation animals.

They eventually realized that Dairy goats are much like Dairy cattle. Essentially, they are just smaller versions of their larger counterparts. They had both dairy species for a few years, but eventually got jobs in town and sold out of the cattle.

(more)
Even after almost 25 years, the Neuenschwander’s are still running a full goat herd. They keep their own bucks to breed to their does, and also produce breeding stock and wethers to sell. “We breed for type and production”, says Jenny. They say the introduction of Artificial Insemination (AI) has revolutionized their breeding program. It is evident that their efforts are paying off, because they have won Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor at the North American International Dairy Goat Show four to five times over the past several years.

_image available: FullSizeRender (2)_

Caption: The Neuenschwander’s get every member of the family involved in Dairy goat activities.