

## One Day Milk Test – Where Do I Start?

Completing a one day milk test is an excellent way to get a snapshot of your goats' milking potential and udder health. Results can be invaluable when breeding and selling goats, and can help improve your herd immensely in just a few generations.

To begin the process, simply contact the DHI association's (DHIA) local or regional manager to make arrangements for testing. The DHIA is the organization that coordinates the testing, training, lab, records and billing for DHI. A list of contact persons and addresses is available online at <http://www.quality-certification.com/certifiedfield.asp>

Contact the person nearest you on the list, and they will be happy to help guide you through the process. Below are a few things to consider when signing up for a one day milk test:

1. Planning a test for the time of year when your does' production peaks will give you a good idea of each doe's maximum potential. Most goats peak in production around 6-10 weeks after freshening, so choosing a time within this window is a good idea. To see how well they maintain production, a second one day test can be done 6-12 months later.
2. Make sure that you are encouraging your does to maintain a high level of production by milking 2-3 times a day prior to testing.
3. Feeding high quality hay and grain makes a difference in your results! Be sure that your goats are in good health and good weight for the test.
4. Be ready when the day arrives! Testers do not want to spend all day helping you catch goats, so be considerate and have all goats collared and tied if they are difficult to catch.

Good luck, and thank you for considering participating!