

My dairy goats are a huge part of my life. I started my interest by seeing goats and all the bigger kids showing them at the county fair. I fell in love with them, and dad couldn't say no to his little daughter. This is when I received my first Nigerian dwarf, Brittney. I fell in love with my goat. I remember showing her my first year as a cloverbud with my pink cowboy boots. I loved the whole process of showing and always looked up to the seniors in my county. The judge was beyond nice and I had my first positive experience showing goats. Little did I know I would be affecting 4hers as much as the judge did for me...

Brittney went on every trip with us, she even rode in the front seat of my dad's truck! She was so monumental, she was just in my senior photos! It was a learning experience for both me and Brittney with the kidding season. After spending 7 years with the Nigerian dwarfs, I decided I wanted more of a challenge. I started researching different breeds, and fell in love with the american nubain. The ears, the personality, the size, was perfect. In 2020, I purchased my first nubian. I went just for one, but the sister was also there and I couldn't leave without her. This is when I got my first ADGA registered goat, bought a membership, and learned how to register them under my name.

After years of showing, in 2021 I finally achieved my goal- Master Showman for Goats. At this point I had been in the senior division and started to realize all the youth looking up to me. I was able to give showmanship clinics on how to show both meat and dairy goats. I felt honored to be a part of the positive journey for the youth that my first judge allowed me to have.

This year at the fair, I was fortunate to have my own home grown kids with a hand milked mother. We had 6 kids total, 4 bucks and 2 does. Every 12 hours, they were still being bottle fed and I took this opportunity as a learning class. I was able to go to each of the barns, and have 6 4hers bottle feed the kids! I loved seeing their eyes light up when they were feeding

the baby goats. I especially remember Ethan and Emma Jo, they were always there at 8 am and 8 pm to help me feed. I felt honored to have these kids being so excited to feed my goats and teach them responsibility at the same time. I even taught the basics of how to milk the mother!

Additionally there is a girl that lives right up the road from me. I convinced both her and her family to join 4H. She always loved stopping by and seeing the goats, and I gave her the opportunity to show a couple of my nubains at the fair this year. You would've thought she just won the lottery, she was so excited! At the fair, we ended up meeting another girl her age showing goats. She introduced herself and said, 'Carly, I saw your show last year, you inspired me to get my own goats.' I can not express the gratitude I felt at that moment. I felt all my hard work had paid off, to have the youth follow in my footsteps. I remember show day, all of them looking up to me showing my goat. I couldn't believe it. A couple years ago, I was in their position watching the seniors and now, they were all looking up to me! At the end of the goat show, the cloverbuds and the teen 4hers all gave me a hug and thanked me for my help.

Through this experience, I learned the importance of helping the younger generation. They are the future, and they are the kids continuing the hobby of showing and raising goats. Looking back, I realized they were in the same position I was, interested in showing their goats with little confidence. I will forever be gracious for these youth that helped me become the leader I am today. The kids taught me patience, communication and confidence can go a long way.