



# What's in a Name?

## NAMING CMGA-REGISTERED GOATS

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**W**hat's in a name? Well, in the case of registered purebred Boer and percentage Boer goats, quite a bit. Naming your animals can be a lot of fun – but there are some steps to take and rules to follow before you can break out the baby name book!

### **First Step: Herd Name & Tattoo Letters**

Before you can register the offspring of your goats, you need to first select and register a herd name and tattoo letters for your farm. This is a one-time process, whereby you submit three choices each for herd name (prefix) and tattoo letters, the CMGA office verifies that these are unique, and then assigns them to you. Please note that a herd name is different from your farm name – though in many cases they can be the same.

For example, your farm may be called Appledown Boer Goats. This would be the name you market your products or animals under, and you might even have it registered or trademarked for business purposes.

A herd name is used in naming registered animals of your breeding – a prefix. In most cases, the entire farm name is too long to be used as part of the animal name. Further,

the CMGA prohibits the use of words such as: goat, Boer, acres, farm, etc as part of a herd name – they result in names that are too similar and too long. So, a good choice of herd name for our hypothetical farm would be “Appledown”. If this were approved by the CMGA, then every animal you register from your own breeding would be called “Appledown Whatever”.

### **To name or number?**

Some producers enjoy the process of selecting names for their animals; others don't. Fortunately you have the choice of whether to name or not. If you'd rather not, then you may simply assign numbers (most often corresponding to the animal's tattoo) as the given name, e.g., Appledown 124P.

### **Offspring of purchased bred does**

The rules for naming seem simple enough for animals of your own stock, born on your own farm. However, producers are often confused about naming kids when a doe is bought already pregnant, and the kids are born at a farm other than where they were conceived. So here is some clarification.

The Breeder of an animal is the person(s) who made the choice to mate a given doe to a given buck. This person is typically the person who owned the doe at the time of service, unless the doe was leased to someone else. In the later case, the



person who leased the doe is the breeder (assuming she was not bred before she was leased). The responsibility for the mating, then, lies with the breeder who made the selection, and it is for this reason that the resulting kids will carry the name of the breeder's herd before their individual call name or number. In addition, the breeder's CMGA ID number will appear in the Breeder field on the registration certificate.

What happens, then, if the doe in question was sold after being bred, but before kidding? Well, the bylaw still applies – regardless of who owns the dam when the kids are born. An example: Say Appledown Boer Goats bred the doe Appledown Eve to the buck Appledown Adam, and then sold a pregnant Eve to Bananacroft Farms. The kids were born at Bananacroft, and so will be tattooed with Bananacroft's tattoo letters (e.g., BAN). However, Appledown is still the original breeder, and so the kids must be named Appledown Whatever.

Purchasers wanting their contribution to

the safe arrival of the kids to be acknowledged often add their own herd name or herd letters to the kids' names, but it must be after the original breeder's name: Appledown Bananacroft Whatever, or Appledown BAN Whatever. Keep in mind, however, that there is a limit to the length of any animal's name – which may cause a problem for those of you with long herd names.

Vendors concerned about their herd names being associated with kids they intend to cull, or who result from accidental matings, for example, may protect their reputations by stipulating that the resulting kids not be registered at all.

The only exception to this article in the by-law was the registration of Foundation stock resulting from imported embryos prior to December 31, 1995. In these cases, the owners of the recipient does were allowed to use their own herd names.

If you are ever in doubt about a naming (or other) issue, please do not hesitate to contact the CMGA Office.



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