



Miniature Silky Fainting Goat Association

22105 Countryside Lane, Lignum, VA 22726-2025
540-423-9193 fax: 540-423-9196

www.msfgaregistry.org or registrarrenee@yahoo.com



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Hello Mini Silky Breeders,

The year 2021 is quickly coming to an end and as we prepare for 2022 here are a few MSFGA facts, awards, rules and regulations that you will want to know about in the coming year. We are consistently adding new farms and the numbers of registrations are growing steadily. The participation in our show program has been amazing with new as well as established exhibitors enthusiastically showing their Mini Silkies in record numbers.

Year-End Statistics: Since last year's report, we added 1260 animals to the data base: 1236 registered animals, 19 foundation approved animals and 5 listed animals. (Listed animals are goats that appear in the pedigrees of foundation approved animals. Listed animals are not registered and you cannot register offspring out of listed animals unless they are upgraded to foundation status.) Eighty-one new farms registered their herd names since the last report. There are currently 10,562 animals in the data base along with 715 registered herd names. We had 64 sanctioned shows in 2021: 6 shows in MI, 6 in Maryland, 6 in Arizona, 6 in Idaho, 4 in Iowa, 8 in Oklahoma, 8 in Kansas, 6 in Pennsylvania and 14 in Texas; with many shows being scheduled now for 2022. We now have 407 Master Champions with 60 new Master Champions added to the records for 2021. Congratulations to all of the new Master Champions, they can be viewed on the MSFGA website on the Master Champion pages.

Website Information: As always, you can print off applications and information for all your registration needs in either pdf form or word form. Please be sure you are using the most current version of the registration and other application forms so that the fees listed are correct.

You will also find all sorts of information on the breed, **an up-to-date report on all the Champion Legs which can be downloaded and printed at your convenience.** The website address is msfgaregistry.org. When the home page comes up, you will see a menu on the right-hand side of the page. Click on **MSFGA Printable Information** that will take you to a page that lists printable information, one of those is the **Champion Leg Report**. Click on **Champion Leg Report** and a PDF document will come up with **all Mini Silkies who have ever earned a Champion Leg** listed in alphabetical order. You can easily print off the page that lists your goat and keep it for your records or you can always refer to the list whenever you want. **It is updated after each show report comes in.** You can also find the **Services and Fees** on the printable information page.

Fee Changes: Fees will go up this year, starting January 1, 2022. Registration fees for Does, Bucks and Wethers will go from \$10 to \$12 each. Foundation fees for Does and Wethers will go from \$40 to \$50 and foundation fees for Bucks will go from \$50 to \$60. Priority mail will go from \$8 to \$10. As in years past, there are no annual membership dues; however, if you wish to remain on the breeders list, you must register a goat with the MSFGA every 18 months. The MSFGA wants to promote those farms that support and promote the registry and the breed. **Giving buyers an application for registration does not qualify as registering an animal, so it will not keep you on the breeders list... you must register a goat yourself to remain on the breeders' webpage.**

Applications for Registration: If you buy an animal from a breeder and you are given an application for registration **you must pay \$12 to register the goat and then an additional \$5 to have that goat transferred into your name in the data base, for a total of \$17 per animal.** Transfer of ownership fee is \$5 whether the animal is registered or not. Applications for registration without the proper fees included or that does not include a picture of the goat to be registered **will be** returned to sender.

If you want to email photos for registration: **Please send one goat's picture per email with the goat's registration name in the subject line of the email. This will help simplify what picture goes with each application.** Plus, if you are sending multiple applications in to be processed having the name in the subject line of the email helps me easily find the picture for that application. **Your photos should be emailed to me the day that you put your applications in the mail so that the photos are in the office when your applications arrive.** This will help expedite everyone's paperwork. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter

The tattoo letter for 2022 is "P". All Mini Silky kids born on or after January 1, 2022 should have a left ear tattoo that begins with "P" followed by a number. **If you are using a microchip or scrapie tag for identification instead of tattooing, PLEASE assign tattoo information too in case your animal is sold to someone who prefers to use tattoos.** If you are using microchips, it's your responsibility, not the state vets, to have a reader to identify your goats. On the MSFGA website at the bottom of the home webpage I have the **current tattoo letters for the present year and for 3 years prior**, so if you need that information this is the place to look for it. If you have other questions, please feel free to contact me either by email or phone, I 'm here to help in any way that I can.

Information about payment to MSFGA for Canada Breeders. The Post Offices in Canada no longer issue money orders to the US. But I understand that the Post Office will do a MoneyGram for you to the US. You can send money to Renee Orr in VA either by MoneyGram or Western Union. You can send money online or you can do a search and find out which retail stores offer these services and send money from there. I will be able to pick the money up from local retail stores here in VA. Let me know if you have any questions. US breeders can also use these payment methods if you would like to.

Miniature Silky Fainting Goats

The Ideal Height Verses the Allowable Height

I would like to address the height issues of our Mini Silky Fainters. Large animals pushing the “allowable” height limit continue to be presented for competition at the shows as well as being used in breeding programs. Because of this, I feel like now would be a good time to address the height issues before the show season for 2022.

As implied by the name of our breed, “Miniature Silky Fainting Goats”, we are promoting a small breed of goat. Our gene pool was small when we began the development of this breed, more than 16 years ago. That’s when we established an “ideal” goal for height and an “allowable” height limit. The “allowable” height was intended to be temporary until the gene pool was large enough and diverse enough to drop the allowable heights. We started out with 50 goats in the registry, now we have almost 11,000 goats. We are approaching that goal of a large and diverse gene pool rather quickly. However, the height of our goats is still an issue. We, as involved and concerned breeders, need to really concentrate on resolving the height issue and begin to present ideal goats for competition at the shows, so that folks will see the best of the best from our Mini Silky Farms.

Reducing the size of our herds will not be easy. It will take talented, thoughtful and dedicated breeders to tackle and eliminate this problem. Now would be a good time to practice selective breeding and stop using “allowable” sized goats in our breeding programs. As long as we breed large goats, we will continue to produce large goats. Which sadly reduces our breeding programs to producers of “allowable” goats and not “ideal” goats. We can’t keep thinking that continually using large goats makes for a good and forward moving breeding program.

Every serious breeder/exhibitor who is showing their stock should have a measuring device on the farm and should be measuring each of their goats to determine if they are show worthy or even breed worthy. We should be thinking long and hard as to what we want to produce and how it represents the “ideal” breed standard and our farms.

The following changes will be made to the measuring committee and practice. The show superintendent will provide a list of the goats entered in the show for the measuring committee so that they know who to measure. This will require getting the owner to identify the goats to be measured from their farm. The committee will check off the goats on the list as they are measured. Then once all of the goats are measured that list will be handed back to the Superintendent.

Goats that come the day of the show and have not been measured, must be measured before they are allowed into the show ring and checked off of the measuring committee's list. No goat can be allowed to compete in a show unless it has been measured and checked off as being within the height limit.

Those of you who are kind enough to volunteer or accept a place on the measuring committee, make sure that you have measured all the goats on the list. If there are any height issues, they should be dealt with immediately by the measuring committee, the owners and the show superintendent before the shows begin, hopefully avoiding any disputes during the days of the shows.

If you do not have a measuring device, you can purchase one for about \$40 from Amazon.com or most livestock stores. Do a search for a Miniature Horse measuring stick. A nice, very easy to use device will pop up.

These "allowable" height limits will eventually be eliminated, maybe as early as January 2026. Do not be caught with a herd of over "ideal" size goats. Everyone who starts working on this now will be way ahead of those who procrastinate and do nothing to improve the height standards in their herd. So, get started now with a new and fresh way of looking at your herd and make an intentional effort to bring down the size of your Mini Silkies.

Best of luck to all of you at the shows and in your breeding endeavors in 2022.

Renee R Orr
Registrar

The MSFGA would like to congratulate the 2021 Top Winning Mini Silky of the year. This award was calculated by awarding points to the Best in Show winner, equal to the number of animals defeated in the regular classes in the show, excluding Wether entries. This is a calendar year award and was awarded to the animal with highest number of points from all shows during the year. The MSFGA Hall of Fame will list these award winners for each calendar year.

The Top Winning Mini Silky of 2021
MCH Hootnanny Acres Chuckwagon



Photo courtesy of Suzy Foster

Seventeen Best in Shows for a Total of 1682 points
Bred and owned by Hootnanny Acres

The MSFGA would also like to congratulate the 2021 Top Winning Mini Silky Wether of the year. This award was calculated by awarding points to the Best Wether in Show, equal to the number of Wethers defeated in the show. This is a calendar year award and will be awarded to the animal with highest number of points from all shows during the year. The MSFGA Hall of Fame will list these award winners for each calendar year.

**The Top Winning Mini Silky Wether of 2021
King Creek's Crazy Train**



Photo courtesy of Suzy Foster

**Fifteen Best Wether in Shows for a total of 35 points
Bred and owned by King Creek Hobby Farm.**

The awards above are just icing on the cake and only one of the many rewards obtained from showing and promoting Mini Silkies. I would like to thank everyone for their support and participation in making this year one of outstanding growth. I look forward to serving you in 2020 and having another great year. Happy Holidays to all.

Sincerely,

Renee R Orr

Renee R Orr
Registrar