

# Something to Smile About at Sir Echo Farm

## *Imported semen proves its value at 2002 National Show*

Jennifer Stultz

With just four years of raising dairy goats under her belt, Sandy Van Echo, Sir Echo Farm, Tucson, AZ, has accomplished what many breeders dream about—winning a production award and placing in the top ten at the National Dairy Goat Show. At the 2002 National Dairy Goat Show, sponsored by the American Dairy Goat Association and hosted at the Pueblo, Colorado State Fairgrounds, Van Echo was all smiles as she milked her Oberhasli does and looked back on a week of showing, meeting people, and viewing over 1,800 top quality dairy goats.

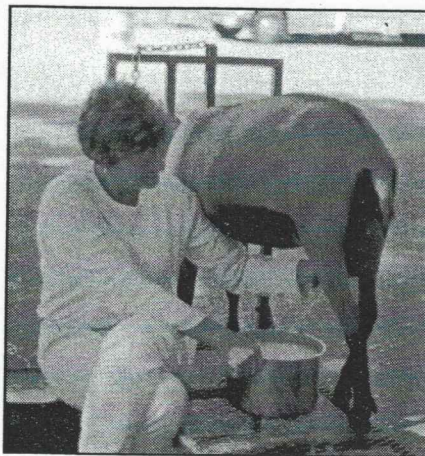
"This was the first National we ever showed in," Van Echo said. "The pens were a bit smaller than I anticipated, the milk out was a bit hairy, but overall the show was so well organized, the host club (Colorado) members were so helpful, and the show arena was wonderful!"

Highlights of the July 13-20 show for Van Echo were easy to pinpoint.

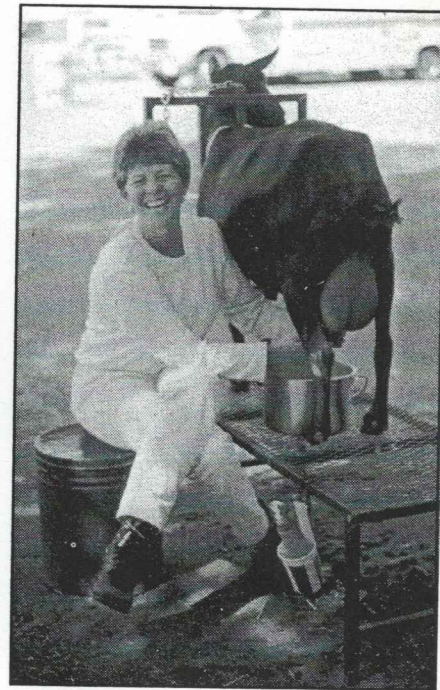
"Winning the top Oberhasli milk production award for DHIR records completed last year was a great surprise and I was just elated when Dan

Laney (ADGA Secretary) came over and congratulated me on our ninth place yearling milker out of Swiss breeding, Sir Echo Bray."

Van Echo's aged Oberhasli doe, Mornim's Jasper Jasmine, produced approximately 3,200 lbs. of milk in a 305 day period last year, topping 2002 show does of that same breed for the milk production award, given during a special awards ceremony the final evening of the National Show. The award is based on official DHIR milk records provided by doe owners at the begin-



**Sandy Van Echo milks out Sir Echo Bray, an Oberhasli of pure Swiss breeding, descendant of the Swiss buck Balz.**



**Sandy is all smiles as she milks out Sir Echo Bray, a descendant of imported semen from the Swiss Oberhasli buck, Balz.**

ning of the National Show.

Van Echo became a goat owner in 1998 when she and her youngest daughter (of four children) Cassidi became intrigued with Sandy's friend and co-worker, Chris Anderson's stories about her involvement with her son, Dan's, 4-H dairy goat project.

"We visited them during kidding season... and then began something slightly resembling a love affair with goats," she said.

Later that same year, the Van Echo's visited their local county fair and met Leta Joan Davis, longtime Oberhasli breeder with the herd name, Mornim's, Vail, AZ.

"I was drawn to the color of the Oberhasli and I called her (Davis) with an interest to buy," Van Echo said. "She only had one doe for sale and she was black. Being a nurse and a mother, my nature is to get all the information I can when making a decision. My research told me that this black was acceptable for does of this breed but that red was preferred. Again, my nature being what it is, I love nothing more than to work slightly outside the box."

Van Echo soon purchased that first doe, Mornim's Jasper Jasmine and fell in love with the beautiful black color of her doe. Her daughter became inter-