

Questions to ask a Breeder before Buying your Project

1. First and MOST IMPORTANT: find out if the breeder tests their herd for the following diseases: CAE, CL and Johnes (pronounced "Yo nees"). You need to know what you're bringing home – *and to the fairgrounds!*

Good breeders will be able to provide the actual hard copy test results! Don't be shy: ASK!

- [CAE](#) is a retro-virus. It is transmitted through colostrum, milk, and body fluids.
 - [CL](#) is caused by bacteria that can, in theory, be transmitted to humans.
 - [Johnes](#) is the goat equivalent of chronic wasting disease in deer.
2. Ask the birth date of the goat, and breed info (pure, cross, etc.).
 3. Ask for pictures of the goat from all angles.
 4. Ask about all worming and feeding practices, general maintenance, CD&T shot schedule, etc.
 5. Ask for a copy of the goat's complete health record.
 6. Ask for a **list of all services** that the breeder will do for you *before* picking up your project.
 - **MAKE SURE THE GOAT WILL BE DISBUDDED / CASTRATED.**
 7. If you are buying a registered animal, make sure all paperwork will be included at the time of the sale. Have a copy emailed or texted to you before the sale to verify all is in order.
 8. Ask about professional goat associations -
 - Which do they belong to / are registered with as a breeder:
AGA- [American Goat Society](#)
ADGA- [American Dairy Goat Assoc](#)
ABGA- [American Boer Goat Assoc](#)
NPGA – [National Pygmy Goat Assoc](#)
ANDDA- [American Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Assoc](#)

Association membership can be an indicator of whether or not the breeder is interested in following best practices, are they staying current on the latest information, and are they working to breed to compliance?

BUYER BEWARE!!

1. Lack of proven CL, CAE and Johnes testing results likely means that no monitoring is being done. Pass!
2. Lack of proper identification/tagging on the animal (scrapie/ tattooing/ microchip). **NOT NEGOTIABLE!**
3. Lack of pictures (if all communication/selling is being done via Internet and no pics are provided, stop the process).
4. Breeder won't confirm the goat price, or which services are included with purchase (shots, disbudding, castration, deworming, etc). Get it in writing – or move on.
5. Lack of information about the goats' Dam and Sire (shows a lack of good breeding technique and business organization).
6. When you do a farm visit, check living conditions, feed (including the goats' access to minerals). If there are poor living conditions for the herd, or the goats look unhealthy, *leave*. This is not how good breeders care for their animals, and unhealthy animals often have higher costs down the road.
7. If purchasing a registered animal, a lack of registration paperwork for the animal being purchased is not acceptable.