

## **Nomination of Eric Jermain for the Mary L. Farley Award**

**Date:** August 26, 2025

**Nominated by:** Lynn Benedict and Jennifer Mellett

**Herd Name:** Gatewood/One\*Oak\*Hill

**Active:** Yes

**Member of ADGA:** Since 1975; 2025 marks 50 years of continuous membership

### **Overview**

Eric was raised in Riverside, California, where his parents were avocado and citrus farmers. But Eric loved animals. He started with Harlequin rabbits but then convinced his parents to buy him a goat when he was 10 years old. Although his first goat was a Toggenburg, he eventually acquired some LaManchas and was mentored by Nancy Lake. Some of his other early mentors were Audrey Evans and Diane Young. His strong work ethic and talents as a skilled showman made him sought after. In the 1980s he worked for Sheila Nixon (Nixon's in California) and Philip Ferret's Anacho Alpine herd in Kentucky, honing his skills managing and handling dairy goats. He later returned to Nixon's. Sheila was a full-time teacher and Eric managed the herd. In the 1990s he joined forces with John White of One\*Oak\*Hill milking commercially in Wisconsin and breeding productive, competitive dairy goats across three different breeds: Alpines, LaManchas, and Toggenburgs

### **ADGA Licensed Judge for 10 years**

Eric became a licensed ADGA judge in 1990. During his judging career he was highly sought after, judging in every district and Alaska. In 2000 he was selected to judge the National Show in Raleigh, North Carolina. As a judge he worked with local and state clubs to be an effective communicator to both youth and adults on the application of the ADGA scorecard. In late 2000 with his schedule becoming very full with appraising, Eric retired his judging license.

### **ADGA Linear Appraiser for 33 years**

Eric became a Linear Appraiser in 1991. One of his trainers was Ray Horton. He scored animals until he retired in 2023 except for a year off in 2002 or 2003 and for Covid in 2020.

### **ADGA Linear Appraiser Trainer**

Within a couple years of becoming an appraiser, Eric was tasked with training new and potential appraiser candidates. These included Sam Whiteside, Betty Henning, John White, Karen Senn, Bob Bartholomew, Karen Smith, Mark Baden, Trinity Smith Malmanis, Ben Rupchis, Jennifer Tereba, Danni Louie, Cullen Owen, Grace Toy, Jenna Williams, Scott Bice, Melanie Ferguson, Sheila Nixon when she was coming out of retirement, and Lauren Acton and Don Bergfield (although Lauren and Don did not become appraisers). His work training new appraisers significantly affected the consistency and future of the linear appraisal program going forward. He continued in the role of trainer through 2024.

## **Animals Scored**

From 1991-2020 Eric scored 54,047 animals in over 1427 appraisal days. He has recorded trips in ALL 50 states.<sup>1</sup> This includes:

- > Adult does=37,440
- > Adult bucks=6398
- > Young stock does=9029
- > Young stock bucks=1180

## **Other service to ADGA**

Committees: Linear, Type, Co-chair of Linear Long Range

## **ADGA Office Staff**

Since a move to North Carolina in 2016, Eric has worked in the ADGA office. He began working during the time of the year he was not working as an appraiser. In 2023 he began working in the office full time. He is largely in charge of all mail services. He has an excellent understanding of the rules of the Association and shares that knowledge throughout his work. This has been especially valuable in his roles within the ADGA office.

## **Participation in ADGA Programs**

Herds Eric has managed or owned have participated LA, DHIR, and shows on local, regional, and National levels. He has used this firsthand knowledge to guide members to receive greater benefit from ADGA membership.

## **Owner and Breeder of Outstanding Dairy Goats**

Eric supported two major herds in his career, Nixon's and One\*Oak\*Hill. Their contributions to their breeds are well known. Eric raised Alpines under the Gatewood Farm name. His herd sire ++\*B Sunshine Seign Sedric was Elite and first place Sr Get of Sire at the National Show in Harrisburg in the early 2000s. Sedric sired numerous GCH/EX daughters.

In summary, Eric Jermain has contributed outstanding work on behalf of the dairy goat industry, especially in the arena of Linear Appraisal. His years of dedicated service to the association makes him well deserving of the prestigious Mary L. Farley Award.

---

<sup>1</sup> This data was supplied by Lisa Shepard, former PPM. Requests to Jim Vanderlinde for data from 2021 to 2023 went unanswered. My hope would be for this data be added to this recognition when available to further support the impact Eric has had through his work as an ADGA Linear Appraiser.

**Selected Animals Across Three Breeds  
Bred and Managed by Eric in Partnership with John White**



SGCH One\*Oak\*Hill Sedric Stiletto (EX 91)



SG One\*Oak\*Hill Sedric Sihlvana (EX 92)



CH One\*Oak Hill Sausy Phlox



SGCH One\*Oak\*Hill Medicine Tuzla  
2002 ADGA National Champion/Reserve Best Udder



++\*B One\*Oak\*Hill Mac Tumbleweed, Premier Sire, 2003 National Show



Receiving the Herd Achievement Award from the American LaMancha Club in 2010



Eric with John at their North Carolina home, 2025