

Everlah Riley – Riley Crest Farm LLC  
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Background:

I've lived and worked on my family's farm since I was a child. I grew up on a 60 head organic dairy cattle operation. I have hands on experience with veterinary procedures, maintenance; buildings, sanitation, feed and biosecurity. My farm knowledge shifted from cows to goats in 2014. In 2013, I received my first free fainting goat, my passion sparked and I decided to venture into dairy goats as it is in my roots for dairy animals. My interest in goat production increased when I took tours to several dairy goat farms across Wisconsin. I wanted to get into the dairy goat industry and learn about goat genetics, nutrition, Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) prevention, milk production and meat yields. I bought a few inexpensive dairy bucks in 2014 to learn about normal goat behavior and illnesses before I purchased quality goats for breeding. I currently own around 300 dairy goats. I am currently milking 90 goats that produce around 8 pounds of milk per day. I ship my goat milk to Mont Chevre, with the support of milk check I am able to double my herd size every year to increase my business.

Overview:

My goat production includes owning and operating a herd of dairy and market goats. I have been intrigued with goats since I was a young child. I currently own approximately 250 dairy goats and 30 dairy market goats. Once all the mature does kid, all the males will be used as market wethers or sold as pets. The doe kids will be used to increase my herd for next year. The dairy milk breeds I own consist of LaMancha, Alpine, Nubian, Saanen and Oberhasli goats. I show 5-7 of my goats at the Waupaca County Fair and sell two dairy market goats at the market animal auction each year since 2014.

I promote my goat production through FFA, one of my favorite organizations to be a part of. I participate in more than 90% of the activities the Waupaca FFA Offers. I have served as a Waupaca FFA officer for the last three years, being vice president two years in a row, and currently president. I am heavily involved in the Parliamentary Procedure speaking contests, Dairy Products and Quality events, and agriculture education classes. I have been an active member or chairperson of Partners in Active Learning Support, Joining Hands with the Elderly, Farmfest, 8th Grade Ag Career Day, Fall O Rama, and Day on the Farm for the past four years. At these events, when possible I bring my goats to have hands on learning of the caprine species. I truly enjoy teaching younger generations about agriculture because of their interest and eagerness to learn. They are the future of our world, and by teaching them, I feel I am shaping the future generations to be the best ones yet. For that, I am humbled to work with such individuals. I am active in 4-H in my club and county level as a Waupaca County 4-H Ambassador and Waupaca County Goat Project gives me more opportunity to share my goats and expertise to younger members.

### Personal Qualities:

My responsibilities and management decisions started in 2014 when I purchased my first few goats. My management includes bottle-feeding newborns, feeding grain and hay to my breeding goats every morning and night, clean and dry goat pens to prevent disease and hoof rot. I've succeeded in my business by the knowledge I've gained to be able to select market goats and breeding stock goats. I know their value to for purchasing to transfer to breeding stock or to show at the county fair. I keep breeding and kidding records to keep track of my increase of production. I track all expenses, income, feed on hand, and supply inventory on the farm. Throughout my experiences, my knowledge of goats has greatly increased. My goals for my business is to increase and expand my goat herd to 500 goats by the beginning of 2021. I plan to make this a reality by keeping all female kids to raise and purchase 100 yearling does to get bred in the fall. My family and I selected Mont Chevre to pick up the goat milk twice a week. I am able to select a buck for the milking herd with top genetics for milk and type.

The hardest part is when I go to college and my family will need to continue my dairy goat business. This is a family affair as my parents still help and are co-signers on the farm and own the land and capital investments. Despite the volatile market of dairy milk prices and hay commodity prices we estimate our minimum operating costs to cover the seasons of low income. Ideally I would love to have my dairy goat operation become a hands on learning farm center. Having volunteers verses employees can be money saving, raises agriculture awareness and gives people a sense of pride in their responsibility.

### The Future:

I have been involved with agriculture for my entire life. Having been involved with animals, agriculture industry, the farming community, and many youth organizations, I have a deep love and dedication to all aspects of agriculture. These opportunities and experiences have molded me into the agriculturalist and advocate that I am today. Farming is my passion, my livelihood. I have learned animal husbandry such administer medicines and vaccinations, how to take temperature, observe animal behavior, clean barn, bed and feed animals, select nutrition genetics and assist with birthing. I have gained soft skills, being timely, optimistic, kind, empathetic, a good communicator, and have a good sense of humor. I excel in public speaking, organizational skills and problem-solving. I have learned to love learning, for example I take every opportunity possible to learn about nutrition, genetics, veterinary, and marketing from specialists to make the best decisions for my goat entrepreneurship. As I begin my college career at the University of Wisconsin River Falls, I plan to major in animal science. This major will allow me to "dive deeper" into agriculture and the needs of struggling farmers. In the future, after graduating from the University of Wisconsin- River Falls, I plan to continue my dairy goat operation. Also teach/mentor all ages of individuals: children,

adolescence, and adults about aspects of agriculture. Growing up on a farm has given me many hands-on opportunities and experiences which will benefit me for my future career in the agriculture industry. I plan to have a career that would be working with animals daily and potentially turn my goat dairy operation into a hands-on learning farm.