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MediaRelease

For Immediate Release

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Goat Classification Launched Across Canada

Brantford, ON July 5, 2012— After announcing in the February-March *Info Holstein* that Holstein Canada had recently classified its first goat, dairy goat classification services are now available to all interested goat producers across Canada. Regular round visits as early as September 2012 can now be scheduled.

Ontario Goat (OG) received an investment of \$700,000 over three-years from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to spear-head the project entitled **GoGen**. The project aims to create a framework to enhance the genetic evaluation system for dairy goats including the expansion of important management tools such as registration, classification, milk recording, use of artificial insemination, and young sire testing and on-farm health protocols. Holstein Canada was approached in 2010 to consider offering classification services to Ontario goat producers under the framework of the **GoGen** pilot project initiated by OG. Although the pilot project is still underway, the Canadian Goat Society, Holstein Canada, and Ontario Goat have signed a two-year contract establishing Holstein Canada as the service provider for any dairy goat producer across the country.

Holstein Canada believes this initiative will enable diversification and expansion of existing dairy breed services as the dairy goat industry in Canada becomes more progressive with over thousands of goat producers across Canada.

Goat producers interested in classifying their herds must contact Holstein Canada's Client Services at 519-756-8300 or email classification@holstein.ca if they'd like more information regarding this exciting new initiative or to schedule a visit.

