

Symbolism

The symbols used for advertising goats in Canada may seem more than a little confusing. In this article, we will explain the meaning in your extended pedigrees or sales list.

BUCKS – The ***S** designation is acquired by a buck of any age, provided that his sire is a *S or +S or ++S, and his dam must have earned her *P or *M award. This symbol does not necessarily mean that the buck is a superior animal. It recognises that the parents met minimum star requirements.

The **+S** prefix is awarded to a buck who has sired at least five daughters (out of at least three different dams) who have earned their *M or *P award, with at least 3.25% butterfat. A second “plus” is awarded when a buck has sired three sons who have earned their own +S, as described above.

DOES – A ***M** certificate is conferred upon a doe who successfully meets or exceeds the minimum production level for her age group at a One Day Milking Competition. At this type of test, a doe is milked out 12 hours before the first official test, and then twice twelve hours apart. The milk is weighed and samples taken for butter fat analysed. The age at time of test and stage of lactation are taken into account in the calculating procedure.

The ***P** award is given to does who successfully complete a 305 day lactation under official DHI testing procedures, meeting or exceeding the minimum production standards for her age group. The entire herd must be enrolled in the official program. The herd is tested morning and evening, for the duration of the lactation. Again, butterfat samples are taken. Does may qualify for their *P on the basis of either milk production or butterfat levels or both. The 305-day testing procedure certainly provides a more accurate picture of a doe's ability to produce. The 305-day program is the most useful method of milk testing for genetic evaluations. A number in front of a milking award is not official, but is generally accepted in Canadian advertising to indicate the number of generations in unbroken maternal line have earned their * awards. Hence, a doe who is a *P may have a daughter who may be referred to as a 2*P if she also earns a milk production award. The qualifying granddaughter may then be referred to as a 3 *P, and so on. It does not indicate any higher production, but rather pays tribute to a strong milking line of does.

The CH (Permanent Champion) designation is awarded to does and bucks who have earned three championship legs at a [CGS](#) sanctioned show, under at least two different licensed judges. The title Permanent Grand Champion (GCH) is accorded to a doe which has become a Permanent Champion and which also merits one of the milk production awards. A doe requires a *M or *P. A buck must have acquired a +S to earn the title of Permanent Grand Champion (GCH)

CLASSIFICATION scores are often appended to an animal's name in advertising or conversation. Type Classification is an objective analysis of conformation conducted by officials retained by the [Canadian Goat Society](#).