

OSU Cooperative Extension Service
&
The Kerr Center
2007 Meat Goat Forage Buck Performance Test

Purpose of the Test

The rationale behind the Oklahoma Meat Goat Forage Buck test is to begin to identify individual bucks as well as their sires and dams that carry genetics expressing strong traits important in commercial meat goat production. Additionally, this test will allow breeders to compare genetics within their herd to make better management decisions as to herd lines that will produce profitable progeny for future herds. This test will also provide valuable information for all goat producers and the public.

The sharing of duties is as follows:

Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Staff:

Oversight, Technical Consulting

Test Agronomist- Chris Rice

Test Veterinarian- Dave Sparks, D.V.M.

Test Nutritionist- Jack Wallace

OCES Facilitator & Educator- Brian Freking.

Kerr Center:

Facilities, labor, daily management, accounting

Test Manager- Mary Penick

Time of the Test

The buck test will be held July 16, 2007-October 26, 2007. Entrant bucks will be checked in starting at 8 a.m. on July 13, 2007. Final check in will be 6 p.m. on July 14, 2007. It is to the breeder's advantage to check bucks in as early as possible. We will have a resting period of 2 days until official entrant weights will be taken on the morning of July 16, 2007.

Nominations

- The test will be limited to the first 50 nominations. A minimum of 30 positions will be held until June 15 for Oklahoma entrants.
- Each breeder will be limited to 3 bucks.
- If a breeder desires more than 3 nominations or an out of state breeder desires entrance after the out of state positions are filled, notify the Test Manager at the time of original nomination. A list will be compiled and if there are additional positions available after June 15, the Test Manager will award positions according to the list.

Eligibility

- The performance test is open to purebred and crossbred bucks born between February 1, 2007 and April 15, 2007.
- At delivery to the test site, live weight of each buck must be at least 35lbs.
- All bucks must be weaned 14 days prior to delivery at the test site.
- All bucks must receive a minimum of 1 deworming and 1 CDT vaccination between May 31, 2007- June 15, 2007. This allows for a maximum of 6 weeks and a minimum of 4 weeks before the test.
- At the time of entry all bucks must have their feet trimmed.
- All bucks must be tagged with a scrapie tag from the state of origin.

- Out of state bucks must be accompanied by an official interstate health certificate, showing compliance with all Oklahoma shipment requirements.
- All bucks will be given a thorough examination by a veterinarian at entry. Goats showing signs of sore mouth, CL or other communicable diseases, as determined by the veterinarian will not be allowed to unload or enter the test.
- On arrival each buck will receive an aggressive deworming, CDT Injection, and an ear tag with test ID.

Procedures

- The great majority of the diet will be forage. A supplement containing protein, vitamins, minerals and other additive ingredients will be provided as needed to maximize the utilization of forage. All decisions regarding supplementation will be made by the Test Manager and the Test Nutritionist.
- Sufficient forage will be provided for the bucks to perform up to their genetic potential. Stocking rates, grazing paddocks and management plans will be determined by the Test Manager and the Test Agronomist.
- All bucks will be weighed monthly or more often if needed.
- All bucks will receive parasite evaluation monthly by FAMACHA and fecal egg counts.
- All animals with a FAMACHA score of 4 or 5 will be dewormed.
- Any buck that is suspected of symptoms of a communicable disease during the test will be held in a quarantine area on forage, until the test veterinarian or other licensed veterinarian can examine the animal. The examining veterinarian will then determine if and when the animal can safely re-enter the general population or leave the test.
- If the buck is not allowed access to the test, the owner will be notified and the animal will remain in quarantine until the owner can arrange for pick up.
- The decision of the examining veterinarian will be final.

Test Results

- Position within the test will be determined by the deworming requirements and daily gain of the individual throughout the test.
- The result of each weight and parasite determination will be posted on the Oklahoma Meat Goat Conference website (www.oklagoats.com) and the Kerr Center website (www.kerrcenter.com).
- A field day will be held on October 27, 2007 at the conclusion of the test to announce the winners.

Fees

- Fees for the 2007 meat buck forage test will be \$100/buck. The full amount of \$100 will be required as a deposit at the time of nomination to secure a place in the test. No fees will be assessed at check in.
- Breeders will pay the expenses of the test including supplementation, medications, and veterinary services (check-in requirements, vaccines, emergency treatment, etc.)
- Cost of any unscheduled veterinary services will be at the expense of the owner.
- Breeders whose goats are rejected at the time of check in will receive a full refund of the fee in the amount of \$100.
- Checks should be made payable to The Kerr Center.
- All fees incurred during the performance test must be paid on October 27, 2007, before the animals will be released.

Liability Statement

It is hereby understood that all bucks submitted by breeders to the 2007 OKLAHOMA MEAT GOAT FORAGE BUCK PERFORMANCE TEST are at their own risk and that neither the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service nor The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Inc. nor any persons employed by them will be liable in the event of death, sickness or injury to the animals entered into the above programs. Breeders must consent to the publication of data relating to the performance of bucks which are entered.

Contact Information:

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