

2010
Oklahoma Commercial Meat Goat Forage Performance Test
Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Inc.
In partnership with
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Rules, Regulations and Protocol

Objective:

To identify individual bucks as well as their sires and dams that carry genetics expressing economically important traits 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.

Dates:

Check-in: June 28, 2010 (Monday) 1pm-5pm

Warm-up: June 28, 2010- July 11, 2010

Test Period: July 12, 2010- October 20, 2010

Field Day & Awards: October 23, 2010

Entry Requirements:

- a) A producer group will consist of 1 or more bucks (maximum of 6) that were born between January 1, 2010 and March 31, 2010. All breeds and crossbreds are accepted.
- b) To be considered for the Herdsman Award you must have a group of 3 or more bucks.
- c) Producers must provide Birth Date and Weaning Date to verify.
- d) Bucks must weigh a minimum of 35lbs at check-in.
- e) Bucks must be weaned 30 days prior to entry, had a minimum of 1 de-worming and 1 CDT vaccination 4 weeks prior to entry, and have their feet trimmed. No exceptions.
- f) Bucks must be tagged with a scrapie tag from their state of origin. No exceptions.
- g) All out of state bucks must be accompanied by an official inter-state health certificate and in compliance with all Oklahoma shipment requirements. For information: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, and (405) 522-6142.
- h) Entry fee of \$120 per buck will be required to secure a position within the test. The entry fee will cover feed supplementation, medication, wormer, routine veterinarian services and other test costs.
- i) Producers will be responsible for all vet fees incurred in the case of treatment for serious injury, disease or necropsy (in the case of death).

Test Protocol:

- a) Bucks will be given a thorough examination by a veterinarian at check-in. Goats showing signs of sore mouth, CL, foot rot or other communicable disease will not be allowed to enter the test.
- b) Bucks will receive a CDT vaccine, worming, fecal test, FAMACHA score and an ear tag with test ID at the time of check-in.
- c) Bucks will be wormed with two or three different classes of wormer at the time of check-in. A second Fecal Egg Count will be conducted 10 days after check-in.
- d) Bucks that do not show a 90% reduction in there egg count after the initial worming will not be allowed to enter the test.
- e) Bucks that display symptoms of disease or illness during the test will be held in quarantine (on forage) until it is determined by the Test Manager or either the Test Veterinarian or On-Site Veterinarian that they may re-enter the general population or must leave the test.
- f) Low performing bucks may need to be removed from the test. This decision will be made by the Test Manager in consultation with the producer.
- g) Every effort will be made to accommodate the producer if a buck must leave the test.

- h) In the case of death, a full necropsy will be performed by the On-Site Veterinarian at the expense of the owner.
- i) Sufficient forage will be provided for the bucks to perform up to their genetic potential. A feed supplement containing protein, vitamins, minerals and other additive ingredients will be provided as needed to maximize the utilization of forage.
- j) Bucks that score a 4 or 5 on the FAMACHA scale during the test will be de-wormed and disqualified.
- k) All decisions made by the Test Manager, Test Veterinarian and On-Site Veterinarian will be final.
- l) Weights, FAMACHA Scores and Fecal Egg Counts will be taken every 17 days with the results posted within 3 days on www.kerrcenter.com. The Weigh dates are: June 28, July 12, July 29, August 16, September 2, September 20, October 7 and Final weight October 19 and 20.
- m) Ultra sounding for cutability will be provided and the producer has the option to have an animal processed to compare ultra sound details to on the rail details. If a producer wants to take part in the processing option it is encouraged to bring more than one animal for a better sire evaluation.

Results:

- a) Buck ranking within the test will be classified by Average Daily Gain and Fecal Egg Count.
- b) To compete for Grand Champion Herdsman, each producer must enter 3 or more bucks. This award will be determined by the average of the top 3 bucks for each producer.

Educational Information

- a) A summary sheet containing all data collected for the bucks will be supplied to each producer. A test summary with forage, weather and other important information will also be distributed.
- b) A Field Day will be held at the test site on October 23, 2010 to view the bucks, tour the forage test and discuss performance on forage for the meat goat industry.
- c) All test data and results will be made public.

Information collected on individual bucks:

Breed
 Birth Date
 Sire (Optional)
 Dam (Optional)
 Beginning Weight
 Midpoint Weight
 Final Weight
 Average Daily Gain
 All FAMACHA Scores
 Scrotal Circumference
 Medical Records
 Ribeye Area
 Back Fat Thickness

Technical Advisory Committee

Test Agronomist- Chris Rice, OCES Southeast District Agronomist
 Test Nutritionist- Jack Wallace, OCES Southeast District Animal Nutritionist
 Test Veterinarian- Dave Sparks, OCES Area Food-Animal Quality and Health Specialist
 Leflore County Educator- Brian Freking

Test Staff

Test Manager- Mary Penick, Kerr Center Livestock Specialist
 Test Herdsman- Andy Makovy, Kerr Center Livestock Herdsman
 Kerr Center Intern(s)

On-Site Veterinarian

Leon Mitchell, DVM