

The Angora Buck Test is a cooperative effort involving Angora breeders and Texas A&M AgriLife to identify superior goats to be used for breeding.

The purpose of the test is to evaluate growth rate and fleece quality and quantity in an environment where goats are fed a limited amount of supplement while on pasture. The test is conducted on pasture because most of the Angora goats in Texas are raised on pasture.

Bucks from several herds arrived at the research station near Sonora, Texas in December and were turned out on pasture. Weights are taken and goats are shorn in March, and again the last of June.

At the end of the test, staple length is measured before the final shearing. Each fleece is weighed, scoured and clean yield is computed. Average fiber diameter is measured on a sample of the fleece as a measure of quality. Each sample is scrutinized for kemp and medullated fibers. Kemp fibers are hollow and do not accept dye. Although med fibers are less hollow, neither is desirable for our international mohair buyers.

Some of the very best Angora breeders in the U.S. participate in the test. Results are based on the numbers and are published for everyone to see. Grease weights, yields, goat weights, med and kemp percentages, fleece length, and fiber diameter are all provided in the report.



Dr. Dan Waldron, in charge of the test, explains it this way: “The purpose of the central performance test is to measure performance, growth and fleece characters of animals from several herds at one central location in order to identify genetically superior goats. This provides valid comparisons among animals and because all animals are handled alike (feed, housing, health), the differences between animals are better indicators of true genetic differences.”

The Angora Goat Performance Test is held annually at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Station in Sonora. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Waldron at (325) 653-4576 or d-waldron@tamu.edu.