2018 TEXAS A&M ANGORA GOAT PERFORMANCE TEST

This performance test was undertaken to assist producers in identifying and developing more productive Angora goats. Goats were delivered to the Sonora station Dec. 6, 2017. They were shorn on Feb. 20, 2018. After shearing, body weights were recorded and the test started. Bucks were managed on pasture with supplemental feeding of 1 lb/hd 3 times/week. Intermediate body weights were recorded every 30 to 45 days to ensure adequate weight gains. Final body weight was recorded on July 17, 2017. Final shearing was on July 17, 2017.

On June 13th fecal samples were collected from all bucks. The average fecal egg count (FEC) was 755 eggs per gram. The individual values ranged from 100 to 1800 eggs/gram. Egg counts for individual bucks are shown on the report. Bucks were not treated for internal parasites while on the test. New this year, we tested the goats for juniper (cedar) intake. This test has been validated on research trials. The average goat consumed 24.7% of their diet as juniper. The individuals range varied from 8 to 38%.

There were 53 animals that completed the test in July. There was a 147-day test period for weight gain and fleece growth. Fiber length measurements represent an average of straightened lock measurements taken on the neck, back, and thigh. Fleece data (length and weight) have been converted to a 180-day basis. Fiber diameter measurements were obtained by measuring fibers from a core sample of the entire fleece. The column labeled fiber diameter STD shows a measure of the variation within a fleece, lower values are more desirable. Laboratory-determined yield, med, and kemp values were also measured from a core sample of the entire fleece.

The visual scores were assigned according to the following criteria:

Face cover	0 = bald...5 = closed (in the index, no advantage was given for values less than 1)
Neck cover	0 = bare...5 = excellent cover
Belly cover	0= bare…5 = excellent cover
Character	0 = none...5 = excellent

An **index value** has been calculated for all bucks as shown below:

Index = (4 x adj. clean fleece wt.) + (25 x avg. daily body weight gain) + (.12 x final weight) + (3 x straightened lock length) – (1.5 x fiber diameter) – (3 x face cover score) (no credit below 1) + (2.5 x character score) + (1.5 x neck cover score)

This index was empirically derived and should not necessarily be used exclusively for making selections. The index ratio, which is the index value of the buck divided by the average index multiplied by 100 was calculated and is listed on the report. All animals with an index ratio above 100 are above average.

This report is available online by going to: sanangelo.tamu.edu