

2019 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. 4, 2018. They were shorn on Feb. 20, 2019. 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 periodically to ensure adequate weight gains. Final body weight was recorded on July 17, 2019. Final shearing was on July 17, 2019.

On Dec. 19th, all goats were treated with a 2 g Copper Oxide Wire Particle Bolus (Santa Cruz Animal Health) to reduce parasite load and reduce exposure to dewormers. This treatment was 61% effective at reducing parasite fecal egg count. Goats were continually monitored for parasitism throughout the test. On July 5th fecal samples were collected from all bucks and the goats were treated with a full dose of Valbazen and Prohibit. The average fecal egg count (FEC) was 789 eggs per gram. The individual values ranged from 100 to 2100 eggs/gram.

Goats were tested for juniper (cedar) intake on May 15th. The average goat consumed 36.4% of their diet as juniper. The individuals varied from 17 to 58%.

There were 53 animals that completed the test. Two goats died while on test. The causes of death are unknown; however, bitterweed was present in the pasture and could have been an issue for naïve goats. 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:

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

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 was compiled by R.R. Redden and F.A. Pfeiffer, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, TX 76901.

The test report is enclosed in this letter and is available online by going to: sanangelo.tamu.edu

