

2020 TEXAS A&M ANGORA GOAT PERFORMANCE TEST

Goats were delivered to the Sonora station Dec. 11, 2019. They were shorn on Feb. 19, 2020. 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 with the exception of two weeks prior to fecal collection for juniper intake. Intermediate body weights were recorded periodically to ensure adequate weight gains. Final body weight, scoring, and shearing was conducted on July 15, 2020.

There were 40 animals that completed the test. Unfortunately, fifteen goats were removed for health issues or died while on test. At the first shearing two goats were removed for signs of Caseous Lymphadenitis, which was positively confirmed by the Texas A&M Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. We suspect most goats that died was a result of toxic plant poisoning. Many of the goats that were found ill had classical symptoms of Sacchuista toxicity. This is an unfortunate incident but it is a risk of a pasture-based test.

Goats were continually monitored for parasitism throughout the test. On June 17th, the average fecal egg count (FEC) was 1150 eggs per gram and it was decided to treat all the goats were with a full dose of Cydectin and Prohibit.

Goats were tested for fecal egg count (fec) and juniper (cedar) intake on May 15th and 18th. The average goat fec for both days was 588 eggs per gram. The individual goats varied from 0 to 1800. The average difference between days for each goat was 300 eggs per gram. The average goat consumed 9.6 percent of their diet as juniper. The individuals varied from -3 to 22 percent. A few weeks before testing for cedar intake 4 high and 4 low EBVs mature billies from the Super Juniper Eating Goat project (aka AgriLife Cedar Eaters) were put in the pasture with the test billies. On average, the high EBV goats consumed 28 percent juniper and the low EBV goats consumed 8 percent juniper.

Fiber length measurements represent an average of straightened lock measurements taken on the neck, back, and thigh. 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. Fleece measurements were adjusted to 180 days, per testing protocol. 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 Reid Redden, Jake Thorne, Ronald Pope, John Walker and Faron 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