

## ANGORA GOAT TEST ANNOUNCEMENT

January 22, 2010

Plans are being made to conduct an Angora Goat Performance Test at the Texas AgriLife Research Center at Sonora in the spring and summer of 2010. The purpose of this note is to advise you of the details and to invite your participation.

***THIS TEST WILL ONLY BE CONDUCTED IF WE HAVE AT LEAST 10 DIFFERENT BREEDERS WHO ENTER A MINIMUM OF 50 BUCKS ALTOGETHER. THEREFORE, BREEDERS MUST COMMUNICATE INTENT TO ENTER GOATS BY FEBRUARY 4 BY CONTACTING DR. DAN WALDRON BY PHONE (325-653-4576), OR BY E-MAIL (d-waldron@tamu.edu).***

Important dates:

Delivery to station	<b>March 1 &amp; 2</b>
Shear	<b>March 9</b>
Weigh on test	<b>March 10</b>
Weigh day	<b>May 5</b>
Final weight	<b>June 30</b>
Final shearing	<b>July 1</b>
<b>Field Day</b> and potential sale	<b>JULY 29, 2010</b>

This provides for a 112-day test period. Producers are advised to inspect their animals to ensure that they are healthy, have horns separated by one inch or more, have two normal testicles, and that the scrotum is not divided for more than one-third the length of the testicles. The animals will be inspected on arrival and any which show evidence of scab will not be accepted. Breeders will be requested to take home any animals that have visible signs of caseous lymphadenitis or other lesions. The animals will initially be fed in large groups, but will later be moved to sire or ownership groups for inspection and display between the final weigh day and Field Day.

An individual breeder will be limited to no more than 12 animals, except with special permission. A minimum of four animals per owner and sire group is suggested, but this is not a requirement.

Ideally, the goats (male kids born in Spring 2009) submitted for testing should be in fleece when they arrive at the Station. The fleece will be returned to the owner. Shorn animals will be accepted, but it will be necessary to re-shear them and this mohair will have no value. Please make sure the animals' feet are trimmed when they arrive. The producer is advised to make sure that his goats are free of internal and external parasites and have been vaccinated for soremouth and for enterotoxemia. After arrival at the Center, the goats will again be drenched and vaccinated. The goats' feet will be trimmed two times during the test, near the middle and between the final weigh day and Field Day. The costs for doing this will be charged to the producer. Producers are welcome to trim their own goats' feet as they wish to do so, but not to treat the animals or administer any drugs without permission of Center personnel.

The goats will be self-fed on a pelleted ration. This ration will be similar to that used in recent years. Rumensin or Deccox will be used as a coccidiostat.

Fiber diameter, yield, med and kemp values will be based on core samples obtained from the shorn fleece. The actual mohair clip (fleece) will be packaged in plastic bags for display and returned to the owner or the purchaser of the goat if it is sold at auction at the end of the test.

Attempts will be made to provide good care for the animals, but the Research Center or Center personnel will not be responsible for death losses or veterinary costs.

The index to be used for ranking the animals will be the same as that used last year.

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

**To be eligible for the sale, bucks must have  
less than .7% kemp fibers,  
less than 7% med fibers,  
less than 50  $\mu\text{m}$  fiber diameter,  
greater than 8.0 lb fleece weight, and,  
greater than 109 lb final weight.**

AgriLife Research Center will not be officially responsible for a sale; this will be the responsibility of cooperating breeders. A committee of cooperating breeders will serve as a sifting committee with respect to sale animals and for those animals to be eligible for a Certificate of Merit.

Participants are asked to deposit \$220.00 per animal to cover the cost of feed, shearing and laboratory work on the fleece. Any unused funds will be returned at the end of the test. An account known as the "Goat Test Account" will be established in the First National Bank of Sonora. Dr. C.A. Taylor and Robert Moen will be responsible for these funds and will do the necessary accounting. **Please mail or deliver deposits to the AgriLife Research Center at Sonora.** Make checks payable to the "Goat Test Account." **DEPOSIT IS DUE WHEN GOATS ARRIVE AT THE TEST STATION.**

For additional information, inquiries may be addressed to:

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**Please fill out the attached form and FAX it to us or give it to Juan Mendoza when you deliver your goats to the Center.**

