

2006 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Performance Testing Program for Meat Goats

Guidelines and Protocol

Location: Western Maryland Research & Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, Maryland (located approximately 9 miles south of Hagerstown)

Date: June 10, 2006 – October 7, 2006

Purpose

1. To have a common environment and unbiased evaluation of economically important traits of young sires and progeny.
2. To feed a diet that is consistent with meat goats and the production systems which they are most commonly raised.
3. To evaluate growth performance on pasture and measure resistance and resilience to internal parasites.

Eligibility requirements

1. The 2006 test is open to buck and wether kids of any breed or breed cross, born between December 15, 2005, and March 15, 2006 (inclusive).
2. Producers may consign up to five animals. It is recommended that producers consign at least 2.
3. A maximum of 50 goats will be accepted to the test.
4. Maryland producers will be given priority to fill half of the test. Otherwise, participation in the test is open to producers in any state and will be based on a first-come, first-serve basis.
5. Consigners will be required to sign a statement releasing the University of Maryland from any liability.
6. There will be a fee of \$75 per goat for the test. This will include pasture maintenance, minerals, veterinary costs, and data collection. \$20 is required to nominate a goat. The balance (\$55) is due when the goats are delivered to the test location.

Health requirements

1. All goats will be inspected by a committee at the time of check-in. Goats showing signs of disease or ill-thrift will not be accepted for the test.
2. Goats must have received two vaccinations for CD-T
3. Goats must be weaned at least two weeks prior to the test.
4. Goats must have properly trimmed hooves.
5. Goats must arrive with a certificate of veterinary inspection (health papers) based on the requirements of the state of Maryland.
6. Goats must carry USDA scrapie identification.
7. After the test begins, if a goat shows signs of Caseous Lymphadenitis or is deemed to be in poor health, it will be sent home.

Test protocol

1. The 2006 test will start on June 10 and last for 119 days. The test period will be shortened if the forage base is depleted. Consigners must agree to leave their goats at WMREC for the duration of the testing period.
2. The goats must be delivered to the test location on June 10, 2006, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. They must be picked up on Saturday, October 7, 2006, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
3. Upon arrival, goats will be dewormed with Cydectin® or levamisol, treated for coccidiosis, and ear-tagged. A fecal sample will be collected. The goats will stand in a foot bath (with zinc sulfate) before being released onto the pasture.
4. Goats will be managed as a single group on pasture. They will have free choice minerals (with Rumensin), but no other supplementation unless deemed necessary. They will be inspected once daily. Observations and pasture movements will be recorded in a notebook.
5. The goats will be rotationally grazed on 10 acres of pasture, which is divided into five 2-acre paddocks. Pastures include a variety of cool season plants: Max Q tall fescue, orchardgrass, clover, birdsfoot trefoil, chicory, and various volunteer plants. The field includes a central laneway with Port-a-hut shelters and a handling system. Minerals and water will be provided in each 2-acre paddock. Pasture movements will be based on forage availability.
6. The goats will be handled every 2 weeks to determine their FAMACHA© eye anemia scores and body condition scores and the need for individual deworming. Goats scoring 3, 4, or 5 on the FAMACHA© scale will be dewormed. Goats showing other signs of parasitism (poor body condition, scouring, and bottle jaw) will be dewormed regardless of FAMACHA© score.
7. The goats will be weighed every 4 weeks to determine average daily gain.
8. Fecal samples will be collected from the goats rectally at 0, 28, and 56 days. Fecal egg counts will be used to determine genetic differences in parasite resistance.
9. Progress reports will be provided to consigners every 14 days.
10. A day will be set up to scan the goats for back fat thickness and rib eye area.

For more information, contact Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu.

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NOMINATION FORM

I hereby make application for entry of _____ goats in the 2006 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Performance Testing Program for Meat Goats beginning on June 10, 2006. Enclosed is a deposit of \$20.00 per goat, totaling \$_____ to the University of Maryland.

Owner's Name _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Herd ID	Scrapie ID	Sex	Date of birth	Breed
Please give manufacturer and lot number of CD-T vaccine				

I, _____, sign this contract stating that I agree to all the conditions outlined in the 2006 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Performance Testing Program for Meat Goats Guidelines and Protocol, as outlined above. In consideration of being permitted to participate in the University's research, the owner(s) voluntarily agrees to indemnify, release, and hold harmless the State of Maryland, the University of Maryland and its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers from any and all costs, liabilities, expenses, claims, compensation, demands, causes of action on account of any loss or personal injury that might result from participation in the Research. The University of Maryland shall not be responsible in any way for loss or injury to the lambs or goats grazing on the WMREC property.

I have read and signed this document with full knowledge of its significance. I further state that I am 18 years of age or older, authorized and competent to sign this Consent and Release.

Signature _____ Date _____

Nomination Fee: \$20 per goat (due with this form)

Nomination Dates: April 15 - May 20

Make check payable to: University of Maryland

Send nomination form and fee to: Western Maryland Research & Education Center
 Small Ruminant Pasture Testing Program
 18330 Keedysville Road
 Keedysville, MD 21756