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## **Angora Goat Sale Sees Buck Sold for Best Price in Years**

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SONORA -- Bids rose as rain fell during the sale of this year's top-indexing buck of the annual Sonora Angora Goat Performance Test held July 24.

The test is an annual event conducted by Texas AgriLife Research at the Texas AgriLife Research Station at Sonora. The field day and sale is a cooperative effort hosted by Angora goat producers, AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

When the gavel fell, Allen Belk of Winters had purchased the buck from Cerulean Farm of Harrah, Okla. for \$1,600, reportedly the highest price paid for a single goat from the test's sale in several years, according to Dr. Dan Waldron, AgriLife Research geneticist at San Angelo.

When the day ended, 29 head had sold for an average of \$440.52 each, totaling \$12,775, Waldron reported. And three-quarters of an inch of much-needed rain had fallen, the first moisture anyone remembered falling on sale day in the history of the 28-year-old event.

Volume buyers were Scott Mitchell of Sanderson and Virginia Epps of Sonora, who bought 11 head for \$3,300 and eight head for \$3,550, respectively.

The top-indexing animal produced a clean fleece weighing 11.5 pounds with a lock length of 7.22 inches. Its overall index score was 67.37. The animal finished the 112-day test weighing 174 pounds.

Waldron said the test helps producers identify and develop better Angora goats. Sixty-seven animals completed this year's test.

The test's top 30 percent based on index value – which were not sifted for undesirable traits and which met all the independent culling levels – were awarded certificates of performance by AgriLife Research, Waldron said.

He said the index ranked the bucks for overall merit and sale order.

For complete sale results and for more information on the Texas A&M Angora Goat Performance Test, go to: <http://sanangelo.tamu.edu/genetics/angoratest.htm>.