2021 TEXAS A&M ANGORA GOAT PERFORMANCE TEST

Goats were delivered to the Sonora station Dec. 10, 2020 and managed on pasture for 2.5 months to acclimate to the ranch conditions. The test began on March 2, 2021. After shearing, body weights were recorded. A subsample of bucks from each grower was tested for internal parasites. If parasite load was high (greater than 1,000 epg), all bucks from the consignor were treated with a combination of two commercially available dewormers. Bucks were managed on pasture and provided a 20% breeder range cube at 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 20, 2021. There were 72 animals that completed the test. Unfortunately, one goat became stuck in a tree and was found dead.

Goats were continually monitored for parasitism throughout the test. On May 17th the average fecal egg count (FEC) was under 1000 eggs per gram. On July 20th, a fecal sample was collected and the average FEC was 1500 eggs per gram, and ranged from 50-4150 eggs per gram. Goats were tested for juniper (cedar) intake on May 17th and 21st. The average goat consumed 16.6 percent of their diet as juniper. The individuals varied from 0 to 36 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 34.5 percent juniper and the low EBV goats consumed 8.4 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: Index = (4 x adj. clean fleece wt.) + (25 x avg. daily body weight gain) + (.12 x final weight) + (3 x straightened lock length) – (1.5 x fiber diameter) – (3 x face cover score) (no credit below 1) + (2.5 x character score) + (1.5 x 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 Jordan Moody. Dr. Reid Redden is the Angora Pasture Test coordinator. Special thanks to Jake Thorne, Dr. Ronald Pope, Dr. John Walker, Nick Garza, Coalson Brown, Dr. Dawn Brown, and Faron Pfeiffer for all their assistance with the test.

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