



# Angora Pasture Performance Test

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Sonora Experiment Station, Sonora, Texas



## Overview

Performance tests have been conducted for decades to assess the performance of breeding animals in a controlled environment. This allows ranchers to identify genetically superior, higher performing animals. The test is roughly six months long with a two-month acclimation period. Billies are shorn at the start and end of the test. Top goats must perform on the range with minimal supplementation.



Billies at the start of the test waiting to be weighed.

## History of the Pasture Performance Test

- From 2001 to 2013, the Angora Performance Test was conducted in a feedlot setting.
- Starting in 2014, the Texas A&M Angora Goat Test was transitioned to a pasture test at the Sonora Station.
- High cost of feed and a desire to obtain more information on the goat's ability to produce in a range environment resulted in the change. Goats are fed 3 pounds of supplement per week.
- Performance after 2014 can not be directly compared with performance in prior years. Potential buyers can contact the participating breeders with questions about billies that are available for sale.

## Measurements

- Average Daily Gain
- Fecal Egg Count (Parasite Resistance)
- Estimated Juniper (Cedar) Intake
- Fleece Weight
- Fiber Diameter
- Fleece Yield
- Medullated and Kemp Fibers
- Staple Length
  - Neck, Side, and Britch
- Visual scores
  - Face, Neck, & Belly Covering
  - Fleece character



Juniper consumption has been shown to be a heritable trait. Increased juniper consumption can improve range health and increase carrying capacity.



Robin Giles gathering fleeces at test shearing time



Fleece evaluation and scrotal measurement.



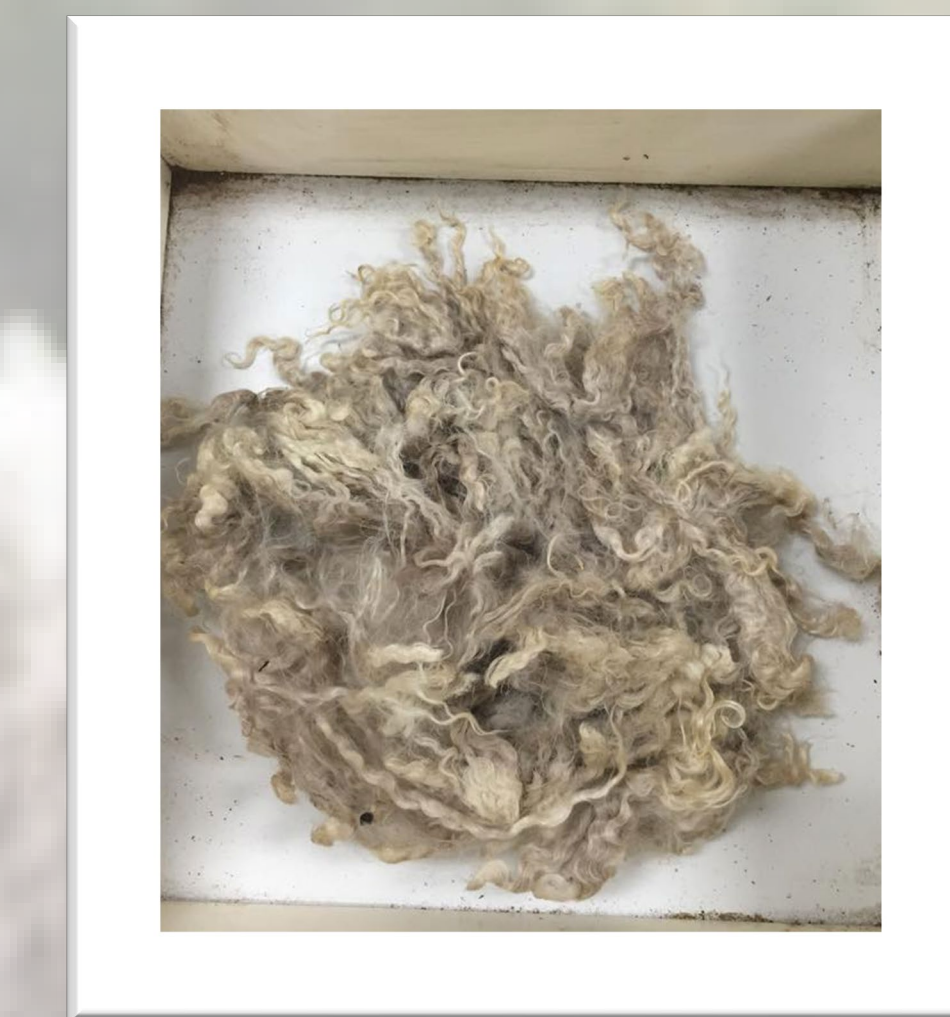
Measuring fleece staple length.

## Performance Index Calculation

All data gathered from test billies is compiled into one figure called an index. The formula for the index is calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{Index} = (4 \times \text{adj. clean fleece wt.}) + (25 \times \text{avg. daily body weight gain}) + (.12 \times \text{final weight}) + (3 \times \text{straightened lock length}) - (1.5 \times \text{fiber diameter}) - (3 \times \text{face cover score}) + (2.5 \times \text{character score}) + (1.5 \times \text{neck cover score})$$

The index provides a standardized way of compiling all the different traits into one value to represent the commercial value of an Angora billies.



Mohair sample to be evaluated for fleece quality and fiber characteristics

## Conclusions and Implications

The Angora Pasture Performance Test provides producers an opportunity to evaluate the performance of their billies alongside billies from other ranchers in a standardized environment. The test is also a great way to build relationships among producers to share knowledge and genetics within in the mohair industry.

SCAN ME with your mobile phone camera to see the results of the 2021 Angora Pasture Performance Test



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