

## 2017 TEXAS A&M ANGORA GOAT PERFORMANCE TEST

This performance test was undertaken to assist producers in identifying and developing more productive Angora goats. Goats were delivered to the Sonora station Dec. 7, 2016. They were shorn on Feb. 21, 2017. After shearing, body weights were recorded and the test started on Feb. 21, 2017. Bucks were managed on pasture with supplemental feeding of 1 lb/hd 3 times/week. An intermediate body weight was recorded on May 2, 2017. Final body weight was recorded on July 18, 2017. Final shearing was on July 18, 2017.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> fecal samples were collected from all bucks. The average fecal egg count (FEC) was 1122 eggs per gram. The individual values ranged from 200 to 2900 eggs/gram. Egg counts for individual bucks are shown on the report. Bucks with 1,000 or more eggs/gram were dewormed on June 20 with Prohibit and Valbazen. After treatment, all bucks were put on a different pasture that had not been used for a while and was presumed 'clean'.

There were 65 animals that completed the test in July. There was a 147-day test period for weight gain and fleece growth. Fiber length measurements represent an average of straightened lock measurements taken on the neck, back, and thigh. Fleece data (length and weight) have been converted to a 180-day basis. 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. 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:

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

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 D.F. Waldron and F.A. Pfeiffer, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, TX 76901.*

**This report is available online by going to: [sanangelo.tamu.edu](http://sanangelo.tamu.edu) and clicking on the 'Performance tests' link**