

1998 Meat Goat Central Performance Test

The 84-day test was completed on September 2, 1998. There were 261 bucks (Boer, Spanish and Crossbred) that completed the test. The rationale for a central performance test is to try to accurately measure performance of animals from different ranches in a common environment so that performance is not influenced by different environments. If there are no pretest environmental effects that influence performance, the observed differences in performance are better indicators of genetic differences that will be passed on to the next generation.

The test announcement requested that only bucks born between January 1 and March 31, 1998 be brought to test. The bucks were delivered to the ASU testing facility at San Angelo on June 1, 1998. The bucks were then allowed an adjustment period to get accustomed to the feed and facilities. The performance test started on June 10. All bucks were fed a growing-finishing ration in self feeders.

Ribeye area (REA) was measured from an ultrasound scan taken at the conclusion of the test.

Table 1. Average weights at each weigh day and daily gains.

Date	Days on Feed	Average Weight	Daily gain for 28 day period	Daily Gain since June 10
June 10	0	64.6		
July 8	28	81.3	.60	.60
Aug. 5	56	94.1	.46	.53
Sep. 2	84	105.0	.39	.48

Performance data is summarized by owner and sire groups. When a sire produces several sons with superior gain, a breeder can have more confidence that the observed superiority is genetic. Because some sires will have sons in more than one year, it will be possible to make comparisons of sires from the records from multiple years. As more performance data is accumulated, the accuracy of genetic evaluations increases.

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