

# Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test

## 2016 GOAT PERFORMANCE & CARCASS CONTEST

- 1) Purpose
  - a. Collect performance and carcass data on meat goats fed a moderate-energy diet in a pen.
  - b. Evaluate growth performance and carcass merit of goats with littermates or half-sibs in test.
  - c. Recognize producers whose goats excel in lean growth and carcass merit.
  
- 2) Entry
  - a. The contest is open to all consigners to the 2016 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test.
  - b. Consigners must have at least one goat in the test in order to enter a goat in the carcass contest. Contest goats must have littermate or half-sib in test.
  - c. Consigners who consign five goats to the test and enter a goat in the carcass contest will receive a discount of \$20 per goat.
  - d. There is no cost to enter the carcass contest. The test will cover the cost of feed, health care, slaughter, and data collection.
  - e. A minimum of 10 goats and a maximum of 15 is needed to have the carcass contest.
  
- 3) The criteria for eligible goats is the same as the performance test
  - a. Any breed or breed cross
  - b. Buck or wether
  - c. Born between January 1 and March 15, 2016
  - d. Weigh between 40 and 70 lbs. upon delivery to the test site on June 24
  - e. Vaccinated for CDT at least twice
  - f. Weaned for at least 2 weeks
  - g. Inter or intrastate health papers
  - h. Official USDA scrapie ID
  
- 4) Goats
  - a. Upon arrival, the goats will be dewormed, treated for coccidia, and vaccinated for soremouth.
  - b. The goats will be housed in a 16 ft. x 16 ft. zero-grazing pen, with ample room for exercise and expression of natural behavior.
  - c. The goats will be fed a hay and grain diet. They will be fed approximately 2 lbs. per head per day of a mixed grass-legume hay. They will be hand fed once daily whole barley. The amount of grain will be increased gradually according to appetite. They will have free choice minerals.
  - d. The goats will be weighed every 4 weeks.
  - e. The goats will be scanned using ultrasound.
  - f. The goats will be humanely harvested to collect carcass data
  
- 5) Data collected
  - a. Live weights (starting, ending, 4 week intervals)
  - b. Average daily gain (lbs. gain ÷ days on feed)
  - c. Weight per day of age (ending weight ÷ age)

- d. Carcass weight
  - i. Hot (HCW)
  - ii. Cold (CCW)
- e. Dressing percentage (DP,  $HCW \div \text{live weight}$ )
- f. Rib eye area (REA) and depth
  - i. Ultrasound
  - ii. Carcass
- g. Body wall thickness (BWT)
- h. Leg circumference (LC)
- i. Weight of primary cuts: leg, loin, rack, shoulder, and foreshank and breast.
- j. Kidney and heart fat (KH, pounds and carcass percentage)
- k. Fat (pounds and carcass percentage)
- l. Lean (pounds and carcass percentage)
- m. Bone (pounds and carcass percentage)
- n. Carcass yield (lbs. lean  $\div$  live weight)
- o. Lean growth per day on test [ $(\text{weight gain} \times \% \text{ lean}) \div \text{days on feed}$ ]
- p. Lean growth per day of age (lbs. lean  $\div$  age)
- q. Value (\$/carcass, \$/goat)