

# Results from the 2015 Maryland Buck Test

by Staff Writer

The year 2015 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Western Maryland Meat Goat Performance Test (Maryland Buck Test). The purpose of the test is to evaluate the post-weaning performance of male goats consuming a pasture-based diet with natural exposure to gastro-internal parasites. Since the initial test in 2006, 639 bucks from 89 herds in 18 states have competed in the Maryland Buck Test. The Maryland Buck Test is considered by most meat goat producers to be the premier buck test in the United States.

Each year, male goats, of any breed or breed cross, are tested at the test site facility in Western Maryland. While on test, the goats are evaluated for growth performance, parasite resistance (FEC) and parasite resilience (FAM), and carcass merit.

The test bucks are managed as a single group on forage pasture from late-June until early October. The bucks receive supplemental feed, not to exceed 1.5 percent of their body weight, throughout the testing period.

The goats are handled every 14 days to determine body weights, FAMACHA®, body condition, coat condition, dag and fecal consistency scores. Low stress livestock handling techniques are emphasized (generally, no handling by the horns). Goats with FAMACHA® scores of 1 or 2 are not dewormed, whereas goats with FAMACHA® scores of 4 or 5 are dewormed. Goats with FAMACHA® scores of 3 may or not be dewormed depending upon other factors.

Individual fecal samples are collected every 14 days. Pooled samples are collected every 28 days for larvae ID. Fecal analysis is done by Dr. Dahlia O'Brien's lab at Virginia State University.

Toward the end of the test period, the goats are scanned to determine rib eye area, loin depth, and rib fat. The ultrasound scanning is done by Jim Pritchard from West Virginia University. They are evaluated for structural correctness and reproductive soundness and given a frame score and USDA grade.

For the 2015 test, 25 consignors from

Test ID	Consignor	Weight	FAMACHA®			Fecal egg counts	
		ADG	AVG	High	Tx	AVG	High
539	Majancsik - KY	0.255	1.4	2	0	688	1575
584	Weber - IL	0.248	1.4	2	0	646	2427
551	Nelson - MD	0.241	1.7	3	0	746	1775
543	Maynard - TN	0.202	1.7	2	0	735	2150
501	Adams - IL	0.201	1.9	2	0	692	1150
557	Peters - NC	0.170	1.9	2	0	217	475
556	Peters - NC	0.141	2.3	3	0	642	1200
505	Ballenger - KY	0.118	2.0	2	0	432	914
550	Murphy - NJ	0.117	1.0	1	0	817	1800
527	Dennison - KY	0.077	1.9	2	0	688	1625
<b>AVERAGES</b>		<b>0.177</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>1509</b>

12 different states entered 84 bucks. The top rated buck in the 2015 Maryland Buck Test is owned by Randy and Jodie Majancsik of Butler Kentucky. The top rated consignor for 2015 was David Peters of Newport, North Carolina as he placed two bucks in the Top 10 finishers.

Other participants that placed bucks in the Top 10 finishers were The Craig Adams Estate, Litchfield IL; John Weber, Greenville IL; Steve Maynard and Darla Dishman, Pall Mall TN; Waldo Nelson, Waldorf MD; Jarred Dennison, Waddy KY; P.J. Murphy, Pittstown NJ and Brent Ballinger, Bardstown KY.

All consignors with Top 10 bucks have had top-performers in previous tests, with the exception of Maynard/Dishman, who are first time consignors. All of the Top 10 bucks were Kiko or Kiko crossbred bucks.

Applications for the 2016 Maryland Buck Test will be available in March. Entry fee is \$125 per buck. Bucks born between January 1 and March 15 are eligible for testing. Participants can consign up to 5 bucks.

**PARIS STOCKYARDS**

**SHEEP & GOAT SALE EVERY FOURTH TUESDAY 3:30pm**

1120 Millersburg Road, Paris, KY. (859) 987-1977  
**Receiving 8am-1pm**  
**"Farmers Doing Business with Farmers"**

For More Information Contact:  
 Kathy Meyer 859-749-7594

**Cattle Sales every Thursday 9:15 am**

For More Information Contact:  
 Craig Taylor, (859) 771-0146 or Sara Evans, (859) 987-9945

# Kentucky – Tennessee Well Represented in Maryland Buck Test

By Staff Writer

**M**eat goat breeders in Kentucky and Tennessee consigned four of the Top Ten performing bucks in the 2015 Maryland Buck Test.

**Little Green Pastures Farm** owned by Randy and Jodie Majancsik of Butler Kentucky consigned the **Top Performing Buck in the 2015 Maryland Buck Test**. In addition, Little Green Pastures also consigned the Top Performing Buck in the 2014 Maryland Buck Test and were co-winners of the Top Consignment Award. It is very rare that a breeder can put together back-to-back wins of a major buck test. Little Green Pastures Farm accomplished this feat largely due to the significant abilities of their Herd Sire, AFS Bullet 5, a five-year-old Kiko buck.

**Darla Dishman and Steve Maynard of Pall Mall TN own Shellotte Farms**. This was the first appearance of Shellotte Farms bucks in the Maryland Buck Test and they came out of



the gates quickly by placing a buck in the Top Ten on their first attempt at competing in a buck test. In fact, the Shellotte Farms buck finished in the Top Ten in both Parasite Resistance and Daily Weight Gain. Their Kiko Herd Sire, SDM Rambo, sired the Shellotte Farms Top Ten Buck.

**Jarred and Deidra Dennison of Waddy KY own JD Ranch**. The accomplishment of consigning a Top Ten Buck is nothing new to JD Ranch.

They have participated in the Maryland Buck Test six times and on three of those occasions they have had bucks place in the Top Ten. This years Top Ten Buck was sired by their colorful Kiko Herd Sire, JDR Romeo. This is the second time Romeo has sired a Top Ten Buck.

**Mill Creek Ranch is owned by Brent Ballinger of Bardstown KY**. This is the second year of participation for Mill Creek Ranch in the Maryland Buck Test. In 2014 Mill Creek Ranch placed two bucks in the Top Ten and were co-winners of the Top Consignment Award. This year Mill Creek Ranch had one buck in the Top Ten and that buck was sired by their Kiko Herd Sire, Rock Solid. This is the second time Rock Solid has sired a Top Ten Buck.

## KENTUCKY Small Ruminant Grazing Conference



Visit our website at  
[www2.ca.uky.edu/rcars/  
SRgrazingconference.php](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/rcars/SRgrazingconference.php)  
for Program and  
Registration Info.

Topics:

- Economic Update
- Pasture Management
- Hidden Benefits of Clovers
- Parasite, Breed and Management Interactions
- Co-Grazing with Small Ruminants
- FAMACHA Training (Optional)

## February 6, 2016

Boyd County Fair Grounds | Ashland, KY  
For more information contact: David C. Ditsch  
dditsch@uky.edu | 859-257-9511 x286





