Results from the 2015 Maryland Buck Test

by Staff Writer

The year 2015 marked the 10year anniversary of the Western Maryland Meat Goat Performance Test (Maryland Buck Test). The purpose of the test is to evaluate the postweaning 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 consigners from

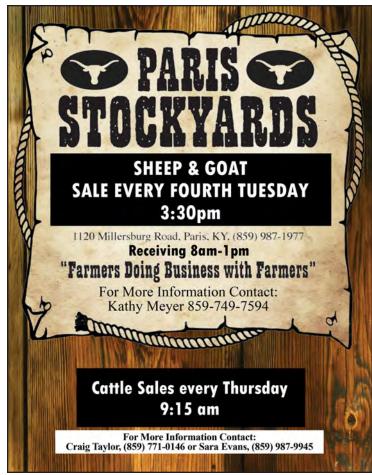
Fecal egg counts Weight FAMACHA© Test Consignor AVG ADG AVG ID High Tx High 2 0 539 Majancsik - KY 0.255 1.4 688 1575 584 Weber - IL 0.248 1.4 2 0 646 2427 0.241 3 0 746 1775 551 Nelson - MD 1.7 543 Maynard - TN 0.202 1.7 2 0 735 2150 501 1.9 2 0 692 Adams - IL 0.201 1150 557 Peters - NC 0.170 1.9 2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

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 consigner for 2015 was David Peters of Newport, North Carolina as he placed two bucks in the Top 10 finishers.

0 t h е r participants that placed bucks in the Тор 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 topperformers 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.



Kentucky – Tennessee Well Represented in Maryland Buck Test

By Staff Writer

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



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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.