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Illinois Meat Goat Producers News

www.ilmeatgoat.org

Volume 10, Issue 1

January February March 2009

From the President's Desk

Greetings fellow goat herders!

Another year is upon us. With our current economy, there are many challenges to face: continued expensive feed costs, high hay and bedding prices, and rumors of slumping goat prices. Never fear--buyers are still out there and we have a valuable commodity!

Even with a depressed economy, Illinois Meat Goat Producers had a great annual meeting in January. We started the year financially sound which will enable us to provide educational opportunities, support for commercial producer programs, new and continuing youth programs, and of course shows for the meat goat industry. We say hello to new board members Betty Hazel, Greg Thompson, and Deric Wetherell and look forward to their valued inputs. Deric will be serving as our new Secretary. We say good bye to board members Donnie Montgomery, Drew Earles and Jen Miller. I personally would like to thank them for their tireless efforts and do hope they will IMGP. We are again involved in the buck test at WIU—this

year sponsored by AMGA. We are working on a couple special youth achievement awards to be announced soon. We will again sponsor at least three shows to feature some of the best show stock in the area. We have plans to collaborate on a goat recipe cookbook with our neighboring organization. And, as ever, we are working together to promote networking and sales of our meat goats.

As I mentioned before, there are many challenges ahead. There is no greater challenge in our industry right now than growing the industry itself in these difficult economic times. I ask only a small but important thing from each member of IMGP. *Make a difference to someone in the meat goat industry this year.* If you have the opportunity to promote goats—and goats of any kind—to even a small number of people, take that **opportunity**. If you don't have a set of goats that someone is looking to buy, refer your buyer to your friend down the road who has goats to sell. If you can give away a package of meat and gain two or three meat customers, do it. If your buck can sire some winning goats for someone else, call them up and see



WIU Researchers Breaking Ground in Goat Study

Reprinted from Page 7, Monday, November 17, 2008 Farmweek, by Kay Shipman

Western Illinois University (WIU) animal scientists want to improve the feed conversion efficiency of a meat species that has undergone very little selection—

meat goats.

“Boer (meat) goats are almost like a non-domesticated animal,” said Mark Hoge, WIU agriculture professor who manages the university goat and ram tests. **“There has never been pressure to improve goat efficiency.”**

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you from Back 2 Nature
Kelly and Sally Mahan



After a winning show season including six division grand championships and five overall grand championships, Bono ended 2008 by traveling to Louisville, Kentucky for the North American International Livestock Expo, where he was named Reserve Champion Yearling Buck. The Mahans would like to personally thank the following people who, in Kelly's absence, helped Sally with Bono at NAILE. Greg Patterson, Pete Stich, Betsy Muehlip, Dave Thomas, and Kevin Kidwell. Sincerely,

Kelly and Sally Mahan

Continued from page 1

From the President's Desk

mention IMGP.

My mom always used to say, "You've got to bloom where you are planted!" Well we are planted in and around IL and times are tough. But with the fellowship of our goat friends we can survive and prosper if we just have fun and work together. I encourage all of you to make a difference and bloom in 2009.

Happy New Year!

Til next time,

Jodie



IMGP Cookbook

We are collecting goat meat recipes to create a cookbook to raise funds for the IMGP. Please send one or two recipes to the attention of Deric Wetherell.

Email to: dpwether@yahoo.com
Or mail to: 779 CR 800 E, Tolono, IL
61880

continued from page 1

WIU Researchers Breaking Ground in Goat Study

There is a growing market for goat meat. A new goat processing facility in the Chicago area is looking 1,000 goats a week to meet demand for Middle Eastern and Hispanic markets, according to Hoge.

Last week Hoge described meat goat research to members of the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR). C-FAR funding paid for four test pens and related computer equipment.

WIU has completed its second year of offering meat goat producers an opportunity to collect data on prospective herd bucks. Hoge said neither producers nor animal scientists knew the optimum time to market meat goats based on their lean-growth curve. Instead, producers marketed goats based on a certain weight.

In comparison, sheep and cattle producers know conversion efficiency factors about their species and breeds. For example, feeding sheep for market after 62 days is inefficient, Hoge noted.

In goats, however, the animals were still efficient in converting feed to pounds of gain for up to 63 days. After that time period, the goats CONTINUED to eat, but didn't gain weight, unlike sheep, which cut back on feed consumption after they stop growing, he said.

"We told the goat producers to sell their animals at 80 pounds because after that (weight) it is INEFFICIENT (to continue feeding them,)" Hoge said.

Meat goat producers "are thirsty for information," Hoge said. Illinois meat goat producers are developing protocols to improve their livestock and hope to work with producers in other states, he added.



Genetic Improvement and Crossbreeding in Meat Goats

Lessons in Animal Breeding for Goats Bred and Raised for Meat

Will R. Getz
Fort Valley State University

Appendix E. Basic Considerations in Heritability and Repeatability in Goat Breeding

In the case of meat goats and most other livestock, traits related to fertility and survivability tend to be lowly heritable. Production traits such as growth rate and milk production (even in meat animals) tend to be moderately heritable, and traits associated with carcass or product and traits related to skeletal dimensions, e.g. mature size, are the most highly heritable traits. Very few studies have been conducted to gather heritability estimates on meat goat populations directly. To do so requires a significant amount of time and herds that are dedicated for genetics research exclusively. Most research centers with a focus on meat goats are not in a position financially to do so. Nonetheless there is little reason to doubt that the values obtained for other species do not also apply to goats.

It is useful to understand that although tables and other sources of information on heritability often cite only one value, be aware that those single values are a composite of the values gained from numerous studies. It is not fixed; it varies from herd to herd and from environment to environment. Heritability can and does vary among breeds. Therefore, a *single* study is not adequate to obtain estimates that apply in all cases because the result obtained from any one study reflects the genetics of that population only. Heritability is a population measure, not a value to be associated with an individual. By using the results from several studies, a more accurate sense of the average heritability estimate for any particular trait is obtained.

Heritability is critically important to selection for polygenic traits; those influenced by many genes. We will see later how heritability estimates are a key element in estimating the amount of genetic change that can be expected over time or per generation. Heritability plays an important role in the prediction of breeding values, progeny differences, and producing abilities.

The equations used in prediction of these values are almost always a function of heritability. For example, if we want to predict a **doe's breeding value for number of kids weaned based on evidence from the first parturition (kidding)**, then we would need to know (or have an estimate) the average breeding value for number of kids weaned in the population, the phenotypic standard deviation in that population (herd or breed), and what would essentially be the heritability in order to have the complete equation.

Traits that are lowly heritable are too often ignored in the plan for genetic improvement, and are changed only through changes in management because more immediate progress can be seen. If lowly heritable traits are important to production, then they should still be included in the plan for genetic improvement because permanent change in those traits will often be critically important. Lowly heritable traits are not to be taken as less important. Certainly female goats that have a higher breeding value for ovulation rate will be more valuable as breeding stock in changing the next generation for that trait.

Very few studies have been completed to determine heritability values for traits in meat goats. There are few herds of meat goats maintained by universities for the sole purpose of conducting breeding research, including estimation of heritability or repeatability values. However because there appears to be some general agreement across species of meat animals, the following table lists some ranges for expected heritability values.

Table 1. Heritability Estimates from Sheep Research with Implications for Meat Goats

Traits	Heritability Value, %	Traits	Heritability Value, %
Doe fertility	5 to 10	Kids born per doe kidding	10
Scrotal circumference	35	Age at puberty	25
Kid survival	5	Weight of kid weaned per doe exposed	20
Kid weight at birth;	15	Kid weight at 90 days	25
Postweaning gain	40	Carcass weight	35
Loin eye area	35	Dressing percentage	10
Milk yield	30		





IMGP Junior Star(s)

By Beth Ellerbrock

Siera and Hunter Thompson from Quincy, IL were honored at the IMGP annual meeting for being the High Point Junior Winners of the 2008 show season, they will each receive a custom belt buckle and a \$25 IMGP merchandise certificate to be used for show entries or IMGP merchandise. The points were gathered at the 3 IMGP sponsored events in both breeding stock and market wethers.

Hunter and Sierra starting showing goats in 2007 at the Adams County Fair. Additionally, Sierra also took her goats to the FFA Regional Show. Their first ABGA/IMGP show was at Highland, IL in September 2007. In 2008 they hit the show circuit hard, attending all of the IMGP sponsored ABGA shows and even attended the ABGA National Show in Tulsa, OK. Both Sierra and Hunter show breeding stock as well as wethers.

Siera, 17, is active in 4H and the Liberty High School FFA Chapter, her local 4H club, as well as running for the 2009 Adams County Beef Queen. She has experience not only in showing goats, but also cattle and poultry. Sierra's percentage show doe, 3TF Cricket, placed 5th at the JABGA National Show. In addition to showing

Reminder from Newsletter Editor:

February 1, 2009 the 4/H and FFA Ethics and Quality Assurance Website opens and is ONLY available until June 9 for Horse and July 1 for other livestock. Juniors must complete the Ethics & Quality Assurance program on the website, register, and pass the final test in order to be allowed to show livestock at the Illinois State Fair. There are no exceptions.

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/qaec/>
Check for tattoo requirements with your local extension office. 

her own goats, Siera often accompanies Randy and Beth Ellerbrock to shows helping with washing and showing their goats.

Hunter, 14, is also active in 4H and is a Discovery FFA member. Hunter's buck, RRD W6 Sniper placed 8th at the JABGA National Show. His fullblood show doe, Star E Ranch Tsunami, has won several division and overall grand championships in the ABGA.

And the Thompson kids' legacy is far from over as their little brother Kutter will soon be hitting the show circuit with his goats and competing for the IMGP buckle as well.

Congratulations Siera and Hunter Thompson on your accomplishments and we wish you the best as you look forward to a very promising future!

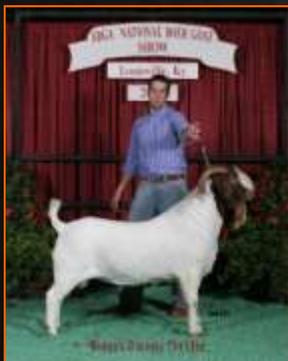


PERFECT STORM

Spring Club Goat Sale

April 25, 2009

OVER 40 WETHERS AND DOES FROM SOME OF THE TOP BOER GOAT GENETICS IN THE COUNTRY.



Consignors:

3F Boer Goats
Tim & Joyce Fuesting
Thorntown, IN

Hillside Stock Farm
Rodney & Lori Meyer
Chebanse, IL

Lazy Raven Boer Goats
Pete & Vicki Stich
Woodhull, Illinois

Namchick Farms
John & Lesa Namchick
Braceville, IL

Trifecta Boers
Rollie Rosenboom
Steve Homerding
& Calvin Wagner
Milford, IL & Clifton, IL

Windy Hill Farm
Burt & Nan Walker
Kewanee, IL

LOCATION: Hillside Stock Farm, off Interstate 57,
3.5 miles west of Chebanse, IL

SALE CONTACTS

Rodney Meyer 815-791-5088 E-mail: hillside@hillsideboergoats.com

Chris Peters 815-378-3656 E-mail cpeters@heritagefs.com

Website: www.hillsideboergoats.com/wether-sale

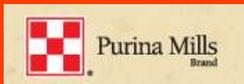
Catalog: www.boergoats.com/tools/catalog/index.html

Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Viewing Starts
9:00 a.m. Feed Seminar presented by Purina Mills
10:00 a.m. Fitting and Showing presented by Rick and Gayla Childress
1:00 p.m. Sale Starts
Auctioneer: Rollie Rosenboom Food Stand Available All Day



Sale and Show Sponsor:



Spring Forecast: Excellent Wethers

Showback Sanctioned by:



Newsletter Reminder:

The Classified Ads and Calendar of Events page is free of charge. Please contact us if you know of an event that is goat related. Include a brief description of the event, the date, location and contact information.

The IMGP newsletter is a "community project" and we try to compile helpful and timely news for the Illinois meat goat community. Your submissions are welcome and appreciated!

Newsletter Deadlines:

- December 15
- March 15
- June 15
- Sept 15

Newsletter Disclaimer:

We reserve the right to edit your submission. We reserve the right to refuse any inappropriate submissions. Only those of a constructive and informative nature will be published. Please ask permission before reproducing IMGP newsletter content. Authors retain all **copyrights, and privileges. The author's views** do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the IMGP.

PAID ADVERTISING

Paid advertising is available from business card size to full page ads in the newsletter.
Business Card Size Ad

- (calendar year 2009)\$15**
- Quarter Page Ad (One Edition)... \$8**
- Half Page Ad (One Edition)..... \$16**
- Full Page Ad (One Edition) \$32**

Ads must be submitted in PDF, PNG, or Microsoft Publisher format. There will be an additional charge for designing ads. Contact: Nan Walker at (309) 525-0033 mckenzie0810@yahoo.com for assistance. Checks can be made payable to IMGP and sent to Vicky Wetzel, Treasurer, 13505 E Dix Texico Road, Texico, IL 62889

Classified Advertisements:

WANTED:

Round pen panels - need 1-2 panels, 8' in length or longer. Andy & Jen Miller 217-688-2043 or email info@rushcreekfarms.com

Livestock Guardian Puppies
Contact: Bill Cate
815-476-9620
815-768-9989 cell



Tips for Goats & Goat Herders

Question: Is it safe for pregnant women to assist in the birth of goats and other livestock?

I never recommend pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals (HIV, on cancer treatment or on rheumatoid arthritis treatment, other immunosuppressive drugs) to be around birthing animals (any animal, not just goats). There is too much risk with leptospirosis, chlamydia, toxoplasmosis and campylobacter (and other less common diseases), especially if they are aborting.

I also recommend EVERYONE who assists in pulling kids to wear vet OB sleeves. That's because some animals will shed these organisms but not abort, so there is the risk to the owner of unknowingly getting exposed while assisting with delivery. Yes, gloves are not a fashion statement, but these diseases can be contracted by healthy people as well. Also, if abortions, all aborted material not needed for diagnostic purposes should be burned (including contaminated bedding). This is where I strongly encourage folks to have a relationship with a veterinarian. One of our jobs is to protect the public health, and informing our clients of these diseases/risks is part of that.

Jen Miller, DVM
Rush Creek Farm



Goat Health Mini-Seminar

February 28, 2009 - 9:00-1:30

Black Hawk East Campus Kewanee, Illinois

Both meat and dairy goat producers looking to sharpen their management skills related to animal health will want to check Saturday morning, February 28 on their calendars. The entire seminar will be held on the campus of Black Hawk East, in the warmth of the Ag Arena building, located just south of Kewanee, Illinois at the junction of Routes 34/78.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Ag Arena building bleacher area with coffee and donuts. The program will then start promptly at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome and a short update by Jeff West, Extension County Director, Henry-Stark Unit, concerning available Extension goat management resources. This short presentation will be followed by the featured speaker Dr. Chris Duemler, D.V.M. from Brodhead, Wisconsin with a presentation on "Whole Herd Health."

In addition to Dr. Duemler, there will also be an excellent round-up of knowledgeable speakers who will present the following topics during the morning session. They are "Increasing Pasture Production and Quality with Multi-Species Grazing" by Dean Oswald, University of Illinois Extension Grazing Specialist; "Live Hoof Trimming Demonstration" by Charlie Onley, a meat goat producer; "Meat & Dairy Goat Feeding Similarities and Differences" by Dr. Rodney Dennis, Nutritionist with Kent Feeds.

Following the 'feeding' presentation by Dr. Dennis, participants will also have the opportunity to sign up and participate in a FAMACHA certification program at 1:30 p.m. The certification and training program will run from 1:30 until 4:00 p.m. and will cost an additional \$15 per family/farm for the card. FAMACHA is a parasite management program designed to help producers identify and treat only problem animals rather than the entire flock. The training program, which includes classroom and hands-on instruction, will be provided by Jennifer Miller, D.V.M. and Andrew Miller.

The program is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, Heartland Dairy Goat Club, and Black Hawk East College. A light lunch of chili, hot dogs, and a drink will be available for purchase on site between sessions from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Registration is \$10 for adults, free for youth; \$12 for walk-ins that day. FAMACHA training fee is separate from registration. Pre-registration should be made by February 20 by contacting the Extension office at 309-853-1533 or email Jeff West at jwest@illinois.edu or mail your registration directly to Henry-Stark Extension, 26234 Black Hawk Road, Galva, IL 61434.

CENTRAL PERFORMANCE TESTING by Paul Miller

What is Central Performance Testing (CPT)?

Central Performance Testing is a voluntary assembly of animals (usually post-weaning males) of similar purpose and breed. These animals are brought to a single location for evaluation in a uniform and carefully controlled environment. Periodic objective measurements of animal development are made to identify genetic variances between test animals. Central performance tests can be generally categorized as either forage (pasture) or confinement (dry lot) testing with some overlap possibilities. Central performance testing for meat goat bucks:

- Focuses on single-purpose (meat) goat performance through controlled feeding and monitoring of recently weaned bucks of similar ages.
- Normalizes the test environment and animal management program to eliminate or minimize non-genetic development bias, improving comparison accuracy.
- Evaluates differences in objectively measured post-weaning carcass development traits of meat goat buck kids rather than subjectively measured traits (such as

visual/tactile appraisal of conformation).

- Identifies individual bucks that carry genetics expressing superior traits important in commercial meat goat production.
- Provides data to be used in herd sire selection (retention or outside purchases) that can result in improved herd and breed genetics (gains in performance, productivity, and profitability).

What Are the Differences between Forage and Confinement Tests?

The primary differences in the two basic types of tests are in the feeds provided for the animals and the feed delivery systems. Breeder feed management systems run the gamut between two extremes. On one end are animals raised on open range with no feed input except what exists on native or improved range. At the other end are feedlot systems with no browse or graze, utilizing processed feed rations that include grains. The two basic test types reflect this variation in feed management.

Forage tests are usually conducted during the peak season of vegetation growth for the test region on managed open pasture. Confinement tests involve close-pen management with processed, complete feeds. Both tests

include unlimited, free-choice feed. Each test type has advantages and disadvantages, but both provide valuable data on animal genetics. Protocols can vary from test to test while attempting to maximize the advantages of each type of test.

Advantages for forage tests include:

- Simulation of the most natural environment for goats (especially if they can be exposed to browse rather than graze)
- Simulation of the lowest input goat management
- Regionally accurate evaluation of parasite resilience/resistance
- Animal free selection of forage/nutrient mixes
- Minimization of confinement health issues.

Advantages for confinement (dry lot) tests are:

- Near-elimination of parasite issues (beyond initial loading)
- Evaluation of feed efficiency (conversion)
- Elimination of the effects of environmental fluctuations on forage (consistent feed quality and quan-



tity)

- More accurate reflection of management systems employing creep
- Greater control and observation of test animals
- Minimization of open area health issues (including predation)
- Can be implemented in existing CPT facilities (for other species) with little capital expenditure.

What Objective Measurements Can Be Made in CPT?

A variety of genetic traits can be objectively evaluated (either directly or indirectly) in central performance testing. Individual test protocols will identify target traits for evaluation. The accuracy of different measurement techniques will vary. In addition, the relationship of the test results to actual genetics is not 100% valid since the tests are only indirect measurements of genetic traits.

- Rate of Gain – This is the trait evaluated universally in central performance testing and represents high value in meat production. It is highly accurate and has a high level of validity in genetic evaluation of an animal. Values are generally reported as Average Daily Gain (ADG) in lbs/day. This testing only requires a calendar and a calibrated scale.
- Feed Efficiency (FE) or Feed Conversion – This genetic trait as important as rate of gain, but requires a highly controlled environment and specialized recording equipment (e.g., FIRE system at right). The trait has extreme value in the economics of meat production. Measuring this trait is currently limited to confinement-type tests equipped with automated measuring and recording equipment.

- Meat Profile – This is a non-intrusive measurement (ultrasonic) of the cross section of the animal's loin (ribeye) in in² and can include a measure of the diameter of a rear leg. These two test points are the prime carcass cuts for goat and directly relate to carcass quality in the wholesale and retail meat market.

- Scrotal Circumference – This is simply a physical measurement of the size of the buck's testicles and is highly indicative of a buck's virility, fertility, and fecundity..

- Fat Layer – This is a non-intrusive measurement (ultrasonic) of subcutaneous fat deposits and is an important measure of carcass quality as well as an indication of potential dressout percentage.

- Parasite Loading – This parameter is generally monitored through a combination of FAMACHA scoring and fecal egg count (FEC) and can give some indication of parasite resistance/resilience. This is an effective evaluation in open-pasture tests but has limited value in confinement tests.

- Hoof Growth – This trait is evaluated through direct measurement of hoof length (heel to toe) at the start and end of the test.

An additional test (seldom included) is a true carcass evaluation following the front end of the test. It tends to be counter-productive to submit a high-indexing buck to slaughter and direct carcass evaluation. Future tests may include a functional variation on testing animals in this manner.

What Value Results from Participation in CPT?

Goat producers (buck buyers) are interested in buying a sire that will improve the next kid crop. Central performance testing of bucks provides the breed stock producer important information about buck genetics for the individual

breeder's program as well as genetic comparisons with other breeders' programs. Herd sire selection is one of the most important decisions in managing meat goat herds. CPT

data use is optimized when applied in conjunction with detailed on-farm performance data collection and evaluation. Performance testing provides:

- Relatively unbiased data on an animal's rate of gain, feed efficiency, carcass fat, scrotal circumference, meat profile (leg and loin), parasite resistance/resilience, and hoof growth rate



FIRE SYSTEM

for consigned animals. These data can be used in selection and culling of herd sires, dam-sire pairings in breeding schedules, feeding program variations and modifications, and weaning schedules.

- Relative performance rankings for animals within a single herd (for breeders with multiple consignments) and between breeder animals within the

target region

- Heritability feedback on carcass development for progeny of bucks consigned in previous tests (as applicable) or side-by-side testing of single-sire offspring. This has not yet been observed through two annual tests at WIU.

- Variations in performance and development during different phases of the test can be used to modify feeding programs and adjust stocking rates based on kid weight. This can result in improved herd economics.

What Are CPT Limitations?

- Performance of individual goats on test can be accurately compared. However, the Consignor selection methodology (choosing which kids get tested from a particular herd) limits the comparisons to only the goats on test, unless pedigree information is used along with the performance data to predict genetic merit of relatives of the tested animals.

- Differences in the population size and diversity from where the consignments are selected will limit the ability to compare off-test animals and genetic programs between breeders.

- Targeted periods (pre-weaning or post-weaning) for maximum carcass

development in breeder's production program will change the level of applicability for the test results.

- The variance level between feed management programs of individual breeders and the test format/protocol will restrict the direct application of data to a particular breeder

- A buck test can only test growth characteristics of males from the point of weaning to the upper limits of prime marketability (and beyond).

- The genetic merits of the sires and dams of the consigned bucks can only be evaluated if sufficient offspring of those

sires and dams are consigned to the same test.

- Accurate heritability of carcass development traits can only be determined if a sufficient number of future offspring are consigned to later central testing.

What Comprises an Example CPT?

The 2009 Western Illinois University (WIU) Midwest Buck Test will be a confinement test designed and overseen by a consortium of Midwestern states and meat goat associations (Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota) under the sponsorship of the American Meat Goat Association (AMGA). The test will be administered by the WIU Department of Agriculture in Macomb, IL. . The 2009 test will evaluate and compare test bucks in a common environment for average daily gain (ADG), feed efficiency (FE), scrotal circumference, rear leg circumference, ribeye area (REA) and fat. In addition for 2009, the test will add parasite load evaluation (via fecal egg count and FAMACHA scoring) and a trial effort to objectively measure hoof growth.

The test interval will be a total of 90 days comprising 6 days of adjustment followed by 84 days of testing divided into approximately 21-day quarters. During this period of time the bucks will be provided with free-choice, complete, pelleted feed rations; clean potable water; and free-choice salt (with trace minerals). The test animals will be subjected to handling only during data gathering at the completion of each test division.

The WIU test facility is equipped with a FIRE (Feed Intake Recording Equipment) system that allows continuous recording of individual buck feed intake. (This is the system that allows feed efficiency to be determined for each buck.)

2009 WIU Buck Test

- Held at the livestock research center in Macomb, IL
- For intact bucks born between Feb 20 and Apr 20
- \$25 breeder reservation due at time of registration
- Buck delivery to the test facility in Macomb, IL on July 18 from 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. with balance of \$100/ buck fee due
- Test runs from July 25 to Oct 16
- Seminar and buck pick-up on Oct 25

For information, e-mail
wiu-bucktest@attglobal.net
 and www.wiu.edu/goattest/

Where Can Tests Be Found for 2009?

Testing Organization	Test Type	Test Start	Contact Name	e-mail
Western Illinois University	Confinement	18-Jul-09	Paul Miller	wiu-bucktest@attglobal.net
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	Confinement	07-Apr-09	Glen Eberly	geberly@state.pa.us
Angelo State University	Confinement	28-May-09	Dr Micheal W Salisbury	mike.salisbury@angelo.edu
Nebraska Range Buck Test	Forage	02-May-09	Bruce Peterson	bpeterson@chase3000.com
Oklahoma State University	Forage	12-Jul-09	Mary Penick	mpenick@kercenter.com
University of Maryland	Forage	06-Jun-09	Susan Schoenian	sschoen@umd.edu
Langston University	Confinement	06-Jun-09	Dr. Terry A Gipson	tgipson@luresext.edu

Upcoming Livestock Conference Features Dr. Temple Grandin Saturday, February 7, 2009

Bi State Group (University of Illinois Extension/Purdue Extension)

The Bi-State Group (University of Illinois Extension/Purdue Extension) is hosting a livestock conference for beef, sheep, meat goat producers and horse owners on Saturday, February 7 at the Beef House, IN Hwy 63 & US Interstate 74, Covington, Indiana. Registration is 10:00 a.m. EST and concludes at 3:15 p.m. EST.

Topics include: "Pasture Weeds & Brush Control," Glen Nice, Purdue Ext. weed science specialist; "Fencing, Watering, High Traffic Areas," Jay Solomon, U of I Ext. engineering technology specialist; "**New Markets, Creative Concepts for Marketing Beef, Sheep and Goats,**" **Richard and Darlene Knipe, U of I Ext. ag entrepreneurship & business development**

specialists, and "Equine Supplements- Wading Through Your Options (Including Joints, Hooves, Calming, Energy & Weight Boosters)," Debra Hagstrom, U of I Ext. horse specialist.

Lisa Ellis, U of I Extension-Edgar Unit, a member of the planning committee, states "An exciting addition to this year's program for market livestock producers is the afternoon marketing presentation. The Knipes have done extensive work matching producers and end market users, including arranging sales into high end Chicago restaurants. They will introduce creative strategies for marketing livestock that result in premium prices."

The remainder of the program provides

updates for typical challenges: facilities and equipment. According to Jay Solomon, "Good planning, equipment, and installation are the keys to affective fencing and watering systems for any livestock operation. High traffic areas, such as alleyways and dry lots, can be designed to reduce muddy conditions with easy maintenance."

A buffet lunch catered by The Beef House is included. Registration is \$20 per person through January 30 and \$25 per person after January 31. Registration is available online by logging on to www.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar and checking out "Upcoming Events" or by calling University of Illinois Extension, Edgar Unit at 217.465.8585.

Calendar of Events

February 7, 2009

Bi-State Livestock Seminar
Beef House, Covington, Indiana
Sponsored by Illinois and Purdue Extension
10:00 a.m. registration
RSVP by January 30
Fee \$20/person payable at the door
UI Extension--Edgar Unit: 217-465-8585

March 27, 2009

Wethermania
Greenfield, Indiana
www.wethermania.com

April 17 and 18, 2009

Tri State Spring Sale
Youth Club Doe and Wether Sale Friday eve 17th
Breeding Stock Sale Saturday the 18th
For more info: Visit www.tristateboergenetics.com

April 18, 2009

Tall Corn Meat Goat Wether Association, Inc.
3rd Annual Club Goat Sale
(Sale to include registered Boer Goat doelings & bucklings)
Kalona Sales Barn, Inc., Kalona, Iowa
Contact: Vern Thorp, 641-660-1390
www.meatgoatwether.com

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May 9 & 10

IMGP SHOW

Fairfield, Illinois

Two ABGA Shows

Coni Ross Day 1, Sherri Stephens Day 2

June 6, 2009

Goat Extravaganza

Feature Speaker: Beth Mason, ABGA Judge, Carlsbad, Texas

Kalona Sales Barn, Inc., Kalona, Iowa

Contact: Susan Thorp, 641-660-1388

June 27, 2009

Henry County Fair Boer Goat Connection

Over \$3,300 in Premiums

ABGA Show

www.henrycountyfairillinois.com

Contact: Vicki or Pete Stich (309) 521-7192 or Nan and Burt

Walker (309) 853-6988 or (309) 525-0033

July 18, 2009

Third Annual Midwest Buck Performance Test

Western Illinois University

Macomb, Illinois

Paul Miller 217-322-4687 or (continued)

Jennifer Miller 217-688-2043

Email: wiu-bucktest@attglobal.net

www.ilmeatgoat.org

July 25, 2009

Southern Iowa Fair ABGA Sanctioned Open Meat and

Boer Goat Show

Southern Iowa Fairgrounds, Oskaloosa, Iowa

Contact: Bruce Handy, 641-933-4905

August 1, 2009

Tri State Boer Genetics August Sale

Televised Live Via DV Auction

www.tristateboergenetics.com

September 19, 2009

Tri State Boer Fall Sale

Televised Live Via DV Auction

www.tristateboergenetics.com

September 26 & 27, 2009

IMGP SHOW

Fairfield, Illinois

Two ABGA Shows



IMGP Newsletter
c/o Nanette Walker
R R 2, Box 101
Kewanee, IL 61443

To:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED