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 ÷ 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 ÷ live weight)

o. Lean growth per day on test [(weight gain x % lean) ÷ days on feed]

p. Lean growth per day of age (lbs. lean ÷ age)

q. Value ($/carcass, $/goat)