

DATE: March 24, 2026

TO: WV Kiko Buck Test Participants
FROM: Scott A. Bowdridge, WV Buck Test Program Coordinator

Dear Kiko Producers,

The rules and regulations for the **2026 WV Kiko Buck Performance Test** are now available. We invite you to consign another set of high-quality bucks for this year's test. All information is available on our website:

<https://sheepandgoats.wvu.edu>

Nominations are due by **May 2nd**, and buck delivery is scheduled for **Friday, May 22nd**. Upon receipt of your nomination forms, we will send you confirmation of reservation for a spot in our test. We have a capacity of 200 bucks this year.

Please read through the rules and regulations carefully. The performance test is open to breeders nationwide, and specifically focused on Kiko bucks born between December 15, 2025 through March 15, 2026. Upon arrival, please ensure that bucks weigh at **least 45 lbs for Winter-born and 40 lbs for Spring-Born divisions** and have a completed Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). When your veterinarian is filling out CVI, make sure that they are listing the entire scrapie tag number, including premise ID and individual ID numbers.

Here are a few reminders for 2026:

- Upon arrival, a fee of \$210/hd is due to cover the costs of the testing program
- Prior to arrival, make sure your goats have been transitioned onto a pelleted feed source to reduce the impact of transition on your bucks' performance
- Prior to arrival, make sure that your goats have exposure to gastrointestinal parasites. Our test does an artificial infection to determine parasite resistance and assumes that all goats have had prior exposure to parasites.

****New for 2026****

This year we will be conducting the test using two age divisions

Winter-Born Division: Bucks born between December 15, 2025, and January 31, 2026.

Spring-Born Division: Bucks born between February 1, 2026, and March 15, 2026. Each group will be capped at 100 bucks. Birthdates must be provided at consignment.

**2026 West Virginia Small Ruminant
Evaluation Program
Nomination Form**

Must be postmarked by May 2, 2026

Please Print

Owner's Name _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Number of Bucks in Winter-Division ____

Number of Bucks in Spring-Division ____

I, the owner, do hereby accept full and complete responsibility for my animals throughout the 2025 West Virginia Small Ruminant Evaluation Program. I have read and agree to abide by the rules, terms, and conditions of the program, outlined in the Guidelines for the 2025 West Virginia Small Ruminant Evaluation Program.

(Owner's Signature)

(Date)

Nomination Fee: \$50.00/Buck (Due with this form)
Make check payable to: West Virginia University

Send nomination fee and form to: Dr. Scott Bowdrige
West Virginia University
1194 Evansdale Dr
2213 Ag Science Bldg
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108

Rules and Regulations
2026 WVU Kiko Buck Performance Test

Location: Willow Bend Agricultural Innovation Center
6080 Willowbend Rd
Union, WV 24983

Coordinator: Dr. Scott Bowdridge
Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist
West Virginia University
School of Agriculture and Food Systems
1194 Evansdale Dr
2213 Ag Science Bldg
Morgantown, WV 26506
Phone (304) 293-2003
Email: scott.bowdridge@mail.wvu.edu

Manager: Eric Nestor
Research Technician
West Virginia University
School of Agriculture and Food Systems
Phone (304) 288-6091
Email: enestor@wvu.edu

Site Manager: Mr. Ty Judy
WBAIC – Farm Manager
(304) 646-3893

I. Program Purpose

This program was established to provide producers with an unbiased evaluation of economically important traits in young bucks using a common environment.

II. Liability

Bucks in the evaluation program will receive appropriate management. Veterinary services will be used when deemed necessary by the station management and/or the program coordinator. The sponsors assume no liability for loss of bucks, property damage, personal injury, or the accuracy of participant information or of data collected. Once nomination forms have been received, we'll ask each participant to sign a waiver and return on arrival.

III. Program Overview

DELIVERY (May 22, 2026): Will occur at the WV State Fairgrounds (same site as MPI Sale). At delivery, bucks will be weighed, vaccinated for clostridial diseases and soremouth, fecal sampled, and dewormed. Bucks will be randomly split into assigned age groups. After test enrollment, bucks will be hauled to test site by station management.

ADAPTATION PERIOD (May 23 – June 2). After an 11-day adjustment period in a dry lot, bucks will be weighed and fecal sampled. Any bucks with fecal egg count reduction of less than 90% will be returned to the producer and cannot enter the test. The rationale for this decision is to reduce the spread of drug-resistant parasites. While we don't expect this to happen using three dewormers, the possibility exists.

ON-TEST (June 9): Bucks will be weighed twice (12 hours apart), fecal sampled, FAMACHA scored, and placed onto grazing lots in their different groups. While grazing, bucks will be given 2% of body weight in supplementation, based on the average weight of the group. Additionally, all bucks will receive 5,000 *Haemonchus contortus* larvae.

After the bucks go "On-Test," data will be collected every two weeks until the end of the project. Bi-weekly reports will be sent out and available on our website.

OFF-TEST (Aug 11): Bucks will be weighed twice (11 hours apart), fecal sampled, FAMACHA scored, and ultrasounded for carcass measurements

While grazing, bucks will be supplemented with a pellet containing 75% TDN and 16% CP. FAMACHA scores will be performed bi-weekly to determine if a buck requires deworming. Bucks requiring deworming will be removed from ranking consideration.

The following performance measures will be determined:

Test Average Daily Gain (ADG) = total weight gain / number of days on test

ADG Ratio = individual ADG / test group average ADG

Ultrasound Loin Muscle Area (REA) = adjusted to 100 lbs of live weight

REA Ratio = individual adjusted REA / test group average REA

Fecal Egg Count (FEC) = Average FEC over three samplings

FEC Ratio = adjusted FEC / test group average

Overall Index = (0.4*FEC Ratio) + (0.3*REA Ratio) + (0.3*ADG Ratio)

IV. Participant Eligibility

Our test is open to purebred Kiko producers nationwide. For the past few years, our test has served producers from 19 different states. All participating producers must pay a nomination fee of \$50/hd and a test fee of \$210/hd. The fees cover all costs of the testing program. We have a capacity of 200 bucks.

V. Progress Reports

Progress reports will be disseminated at two-week intervals and can be accessed on the web at: <http://sheepandgoats.wvu.edu> or our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/wvrambucktest>

Please allow 72-96 hours after data collection for reports to be posted – it takes us some time to process data

VI. Important Dates

Nomination forms due	May 2, 2026
Delivery day	May 22, 2026
On-Test	June 9, 2026
Off-Test	August 11, 2026
Pick-up	August 29, 2026

VII. Health Requirements

- 1.) Bucks **must** carry the appropriate Federal Scrapie Program identification tag at delivery. Must be a **non-RFID** tag. If there is a buck with an **RFID, we will remove it**. Our new tagging system does not allow us to use your RFID tags. You will be required to provide a new Scrapie tag for your buck before they can leave WVU's farm.
- 2.) No bucks may enter from any flock under federal or state quarantine
- 3.) **A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) must accompany bucks being delivered to the station. A valid CVI must be presented and cleared before animals are unloaded. Complete scrapie tag numbers must be on the CVI for each buck.**
- 4.) All bucks must have had their feet trimmed within 10 days prior to delivery to the station
- 5.) Cooperators are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to:
 - a. Wean bucks at least 2 weeks prior to delivery and have them started on ad-libitum pelleted feed to minimize stress.
 - b. Make sure that bucks have had pasture exposure to parasites

- 6.) Animals will be processed during the warm-up period as follows:
 - a. treated for control of internal and external parasites,
 - b. feet soaked in a foot bath of zinc sulfate at the time of delivery
 - c. tagged with RFid tag
 - d. vaccinated for Enterotoxemia, Tetanus and Sore Mouth
 - e. treated for Coccidia
- 7.) On arrival at the test station, bucks will be evaluated for type, soundness (reproductive, mouth, feet/leg structure), and health (including any foot problems) by the station manager and veterinarian. To qualify bucks must meet all of the above conditions.
- 8.) **Kiko bucks must weigh at least 45 lbs (Winter-Born Div) or 40 lbs (Spring-Born Div) to be allowed into the test.**

There will be a 5% of body weight allowance (2lbs) for bucks being shipped from outside WV. Test admittance is at the discretion of the test program manager.

VIII. Buck Eligibility

- 1.) Complete Nomination form, an animal care agreement, and mail with a check for \$50.00 per buck nominated, must be postmarked by May 2, 2026. Make check payable to "West Virginia University". Entry fees for bucks not accepted due to insufficient facility space will be refunded. **However, nomination fees will not be refunded for bucks that do not meet entry requirements**
- 2.) After notification of acceptance, complete Consignment Forms and deliver them with the bucks on Friday, May 22, 2026.
- 3.) Bucks will be received between 8:00am and 5:00pm EST on May 22
- 4.) **\$210** per buck due at delivery (applied to feed, bedding, veterinary costs, yardage and other station costs associated with recording ultrasonographic data, rfid tags and fecal examinations).
- 5.) Veterinary and medical costs of bucks with chronic health problems will be the financial responsibility of the consignor (above standard Test Expense cost).
- 6.) Program coordinators reserve the right to charge for additional unforeseen expenses that may arise during the test. Details of any such circumstances will be shared with consignors as they arise.

IX. Ranking Acknowledgement

Ranking will be reported for all bucks, within divisions, for the following traits:

- 1.) Average Daily Gain
- 2.) Muscling (as measured by adjusted REA)
- 3.) Fecal Egg Count (adjusted FEC)
- 4.) Overall Index

*The highest indexing bucks across divisions will be recognized in the final report

Buck Test Index = 0.4*(FEC Ratio)+0.3*(ADG Ratio)+0.3*(REA Ratio)

If, for any reason, a buck needs to be dewormed or requires excessive health treatment, those bucks will be removed from ranking consideration.

There will also be a top consignor award, which will be the sum of index scores for their top three bucks. To be eligible for this award, you must submit a minimum of three bucks (in a single division). Awards will be announced at Cream of the Crop Sale in Corydon, IN.

