



Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: Potential WV Kiko Buck Test Consignors

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

Dear Kiko Producers,

*******NEW FOR 2024 – FORAGE-BASED TEST*******

The rules and regulations for the 2024 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 will be available on our website:

<https://sheepandgoats.wvu.edu>

Nominations are due on **May 3rd**, and buck delivery is scheduled for **Friday, May 24th**. Upon receipt of your nomination forms we will send you a 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 January 1, 2024 through March 15, 2024. At arrival please ensure that bucks weigh at **least 40 lbs** 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 2024:

- Upon arrival a fee of \$210/hd is due to cover costs of the testing program
- Prior to arrival, make sure your goats have been transitioned onto a pelleted feed sources to reduce the impact of transition on your bucks' performance
- Prior to arrival, make sure that your goats have had 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.

Should you have any questions, please give us a call. We look forward to working with you

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WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer – Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran

Rules and Regulations
2024 WVU Kiko Buck Performance Test

Location: Willow Bend Agricultural Innovation Center
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I. Program Purpose

This program was established to provide producers 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 consignor information or of data collected. Once nominations forms have been received, we'll ask each consignor to sign a waiver and return at arrival

III. Program Overview

DELIVERY (May 24, 2024): 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 allocated to one of four groups. After enrolled into test we will haul bucks to site.

ADAPTATION PERIOD (May 24 – June 7). After a two-week 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 12): 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% on body weight in supplementation, based on the average weight of the group. Additionally, all bucks will receive 5,000 *Haemonchus contortus* larvae.

After 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 7): Bucks will be weighed twice (12 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. Consignor Eligibility

Our test is open to purebred Kiko producers nationwide. For the past few years our test has serviced producers from 16 different states. All participating producer must pay nomination fee of \$50/hd and a test fee of \$210/hd. The fees cover all costs of the testing program. We have a maximum capacity of 200 bucks.

V. Progress Reports

Progress reports will be disseminated at three 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 3, 2024
Delivery day	May 24, 2024
On-Test	June 12, 2024
Off-Test	August 7, 2024
Pick-up	August 19 – August 24, 2022

VII. Health Requirements

- 1.) Bucks **must** carry appropriate Federal Scrapie Program identification tag at delivery. Must be a **non-RFID** tag. If there is a buck with a **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 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 40 lbs 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 check for \$25.00 per buck nominated, must postmarked by May 3, 2024. 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 24, 2024.
- 3.) Bucks will be received between 8:00am and 6:00pm EST on May 24
- 4.) **\$210** per buck 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. Awards Program

This year we will be providing awards to the top five bucks in each category.

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

There will be an overall award for the highest indexing buck based on the index:

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 contest 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. Awards will be announced using Facebook live and winners will be sent awards or will be available during buck load out.