

The goat committee had a discussion through e-mail this past month as we were not able to find a day when most of the group could be on a conference call.

We discussed the need to establish breed codes within the NSIP ID number for herds to represent the major meat goat breeds. This will allow us to offer breed specific calculations in the future similar to what is done on the sheep side of NSIP. The concern was over defining a purebred animal within the meat goat industry.

There are multiple breed associations and/or registries for most breeds of meat goats and the Spanish breed does not have a specific association or registry that is used by most breeders. With the different associations they often do not agree or accept pedigrees from each other.

The other part of this was multi breed herds that exist and may participate. Some of these are research while others are commercial seed stock producers that maintain more than one breed.

Because there is not any association affiliation at this time, it was decided to follow the model of the Sheep side of NSIP and allow producers to simply declare breed and request that they not submit data as purebred on any animal that is less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  blood of the designated breed. We have maintained a code of Meat Goats and are using specific breed codes for Boer, Kiko, Savanna, and Spanish goats.

There is some movement and interest by the American Boer Goat Association to conduct genetic evaluations again. We still have not been able to get much information from them on why they do not want to participate in NSIP rather than develop something on their own. The only response I have received has been that they want to be able to run the program through their registration process and use their breed association herd ID and animal registration numbers rather than have the NSIP IDs used. There was some talk about difficulty in using the Pedigree Master program for data entry as well. The company that is doing their pedigree registration program has talked to them about working with Sheep Genetics to do analysis from their data base directly. The other aspect of their concern is that they want show traits to be included in the analysis and not just performance data.