

Goat Report

The goat group did not meet.

There have been discussions I have been involved with in other segments related to the importance of performance data in the meat goat industry related to the American Boer Goat association and the North American Savanna Association. Both these associations have interested individuals on their boards at this time and are considering trying to implement data collection and calculation of EBV or EPDs. ABGA worked with NSIP in the past and they have indicated they were concerned with the animal ID requirements under the current program and difficulty in entering data. They may have someone that could work on developing a program for them that would make the data entry easier if it could be output into the correct format for NSIP. The Savanna group is looking to start a program and have no previous experience with NSIP. Their concerns are around data entry as most producers are not currently keeping data and cost.

Both groups have also been talking with Dr. Richard Browning, Tennessee State University, related to a program he has worked with out of Brazil that is said to be goat specific. I have not been able to find any details on his program. He has been working with a regional Kiko goat group on on-farm performance testing and trying to get them to participate in his larger program. When I asked him why he did not go with NSIP, he indicated he did not know that NSIP existed.

Based on the little I have seen of his program the data entry issue will still exist and the animal ID will be a larger issue in this program than what NSIP utilizes. I have tried to get specifics on the program but have not been able to get a reply or find information on the web about it. The links I was provided were not active.

One point for goat producers will be the FEC EBV. We need to make sure we know the protocols for this under KIDPLAN if they are different ages than under LAMBPLAN. As goats are generally weaned at 90 days rather than 60 should we just look at a 120 day sample if the ages are the same in both programs?

I am working with another university that plans to join NSIP, if they have not already, and we are very interested in looking at the FEC EBV and possible use of it for improving parasite resistance in goat. We believe this could help bring producers to the program.