

2025 Dakota Meat Goat Buck Performance Test

The 2025 Dakota Meat Goat Buck Performance Test will be held at the Hettinger Research Extension Center in Hettinger, ND. This test is primarily designed to identify differences in post-weaning growth performance for developing meat goat buck kids managed under the same environmental conditions and plane of nutrition. This test aims to provide consignors and breed associations with detailed information on buck growth performance to expand selection criteria and advance breed improvement. Dr. Rachel Gibbs (NDSU Extension Livestock Specialist) and Dave Pearson (NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center Shepherd) will serve as the test managers.

Animal Requirements:

Buck kids must be within 4-6 months of age at the time of delivery (June 15th, 2025). This test is open to all meat goat breeds. Breed registration is not required to consign but may be for breed certification programs.

Cost:

The cost per buck kid is **\$85**, due to the Hettinger REC upon delivery at the test site. This will cover feed, management, feed intake/efficiency monitoring, carcass scanning, and general veterinary attention. Feed costs are subject to change based on actual feed prices. Additional funds may be requested at the end of the test to cover feed costs. Consigners will be responsible for extensive veterinary care outside of general management and monitoring.

Health:

Bucks will be vaccinated against enterotoxemia, drenched for internal parasites, and poured for external parasites shortly after arrival. ***In order to comply with North Dakota health regulations, ALL bucks must be accompanied with a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) and individual federal identification*** (scrapie tag, 840 electronic RFID tag, or breed registration tattoo). All animals must also be accompanied with a ***completed test entry form and originate from a footrot and scrapie free herd.***

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

By June 15, 2025	Buck Delivery to HREC
June 16-18th	Process, Vaccinate, & DNA Sample Bucks
June 19 th	Performance Test Start Date
	0-day Weights & Carcass Scanning
July 17 th	28-day Weights – Consignor Update
August 15 th	56-day Weights – Consignor Update
September 2 nd	Performance Test End Date
	75-day Weights, Carcass Scanning, Visual Inspection (Breed Standard)
September 6 th , 2025	Field Day; Bucks picked up by owner

Delivery: Contact Rachel Gibbs (701-567-4323 or 325-340-3703) prior to delivery at the HREC. *A centralized pickup location can be arranged with sufficient interest; contact Rachel to learn more about this option.

REGULATIONS FOR 2025 DAKOTA MEAT GOAT SIRE TEST

1. Buck kids will be delivered to the test site by June 15, 2025.
2. Buck kids will be weighed and scanned for carcass measurements at the start of the official testing period on June 19th, 2025.
3. Consigners and participating breed associations will be provided regular updates through email on buck performance as data is collected.
4. Feed: Bucks will be self-fed a balanced custom or commercially available pellet ration.
5. Feed Efficiency: Feed intake and efficiency data will be generated by smart feeders during the growth test period. *Bucks will be adapted to this equipment prior to testing and consigners will be notified if bucks fail to pass the adaption period.
6. Liability. All animals remain the property of the cooperator. The manager will make every effort to take proper care of the animal and to provide proper veterinary services, but it will not be responsible for any losses occurring during the test. In the event of a major health problem, the appropriate cooperator will be contacted on direction for disposal. If a buck is removed from test for health reason, or dies while on test, a partial refund of the entry fee will be made.
7. Feeding and management of the bucks on test will be under the supervision of Dave Pearson and Rachel Gibbs.

ABGA Registered Consigners

This test was developed in cooperation with the American Boer Goat Association, aligns with their performance testing criteria, and has been approved as an official ABGA performance test.

Other Registered Meat Goat Consigners

All data will be collected based on the ABGA performance testing program, but breeds will be kept separate. All certification programs are up to individual breed associations. Associations are encouraged and should contact Rachel Gibbs for breed specific testing requests.

2025 Dakota Meat Goat Buck Performance Test

Registration fees (\$85/head) is due upon delivery to the HREC. Out-of-state consigners, please include an additional \$30 to cover end-of-test health papers.

Please complete the registration form below and send to Rachel Gibbs with your registration fee by June 8th, 2025. All bucks must be delivered by June 15th, 2025.

Please make checks payable to **Hettinger Research Extension Center**.

Note: **Please address entries to:** Hettinger Research Extension Center
Attn. Rachel Gibbs
PO Box 1377
Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone: 701-567-4323
e-mail: rachel.gibbs.1@ndsu.edu

**Be sure to give the month-day-year of birth as we need this to figure weight per day of age.*

I agree to the regulations pertaining to the conditions and management practices established for the 2025 Dakota Meat Goat Sire Testing Program.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip Code

2025 Dakota Meat Goat Buck Performance Test Form

The following bucks are entered for testing under the program and are covered under the contract:

	Unique ID/Tag/Tattoo	Premises ID	Reg. Number	Birth Date (MM/DD/YR)	Birth Type (S-Tw-Trip)	Breed	Sire ID	Dam ID	Online Sale Interest (Y/N)*
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

*With sufficient interest from consigners, an optional online sale may be offered at the end of the testing period in association with the 2025 Dakota Meat Goat Buck Performance Test Field Day.