



News for Immediate Release

Aug. 13, 2014

PA Performance-Tested Sheep and Goat Sale Grosses Nearly \$55,000

Top-Selling Buck Sells for \$1,700, Top Ram Sells for \$1,500 at Livestock Evaluation Center

Pennsylvania Furnace – Sheep and goat producers earned nearly \$55,000 for top-quality sheep and goats at the 36th Annual Performance Tested Ram Lamb and Meat Goat Buck Sale, Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center in Pennsylvania Furnace, Centre County.

Producers from across Pennsylvania and neighboring states sold 113 sheep and goats. Top males were selected after 77-day ram and 70-day buck performance tests. The tests evaluated growth, average daily gain, muscling and fat deposition. The higher-quality genetics will help improve sheep flocks and goat herds across Pennsylvania and throughout the northeast coast.

Forty-one performance tested rams averaged \$531, and 25 tested bucks averaged \$536. Select females also sold, with 32 consignment ewes averaging \$451 and 15 does averaging \$341.

The top-selling buck was consigned by Nix Besser Farm of Narvon, Lancaster County, and sold for \$1,700 to Isaac Winand of New Oxford, Adams County. The second-highest selling was consigned by Goldies Farms of Lisbon, NY, and sold for \$1,650.

Two top-selling rams sold for \$1,500: a Suffolk from Double Scott Farm of Princeton, WV, and purchased by Dale Wadel of Shippensburg, Franklin County, and a Dorper Ram from Nix Besser Farm of Narvon, Lancaster County, sold to Circle K Farm of Bedford, Bedford County. Suffolks were the highest-averaging rams, selling six animals for an \$850 average.

All rams and bucks passed a breeding soundness exam and sold with growth and feed efficiency data as well as loin measurements and fat thicknesses obtained through ultrasound scan. Producers can use this data to make important breeding and sales decisions that will bring more value to consumers and increasing farm profitability.

Sale averages by breed are:

- **Ram Lambs** – Seven Dorsets averaged \$475, six Suffolks averaged \$850, six Texels averaged \$608, five Dorpers averaged \$715, six Katahdins

averaged \$300, four White Dorpers averaged \$437, three Hampshires averaged \$408, a Polypay \$450, a Shropshire \$300, a Merino \$300 and one crossbred \$300.

- **Meat Goat Bucks** – Eleven full-blood senior Boers averaged \$743, five full-blood junior Boers averaged \$370, four purebred/percentage senior Boers averaged \$425, two purebred/percentage junior Boers averaged \$300 and three Purebred Kikos averaged \$358.

For more information, contact Greg Hubbard at 814-238-2527 or gghubbard@pa.gov or visit www.livestockevaluationcenter.com.

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The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Livestock Evaluation Center measures genetic traits for beef, swine, sheep and meat goats for two purposes: to benefit producers through evaluating economically important traits and to benefit consumers by providing wholesome, high-quality products at an affordable price.