

## **Georgia and Southeast Meat Goat Buck Performance Evaluation Slated for 2010**

The Georgia Small Ruminant Research and Extension Center at Fort Valley State University will offer meat goat breeders a forage-based buck performance evaluation program in 2010.

Dr. Will R. Getz, Professor and Extension Specialist, says that the basic justification of this kind of evaluation is to provide an estimation of the genetic merit of each participating buck for various traits when compared to contemporaries under a common environment. Selection decisions among the bucks evaluated can then be made based on performance data from a comparable base.

Plans call for there to be two relatively uniform evaluation groups of bucks; those born in the Fall of 2009 and those born in the Winter and Spring of 2010. Bucks of any meat goat breed can be nominated. Animal health requirements and monitoring will be under the supervision of Dr. S. Mobini, Professor and Extension Veterinarian. "We have gotten repeated requests from breeders for continuing the program in this part of the U.S. Data will be collected on weight gain, internal parasite tolerance, ultrasound ribeye area, and disposition over 84 days following a 10-day warm-up period. Also, scrotal circumference will be recorded", says Getz. Total number of bucks to be evaluated will be determined by the grazing land area available at the Center. A maximum of five bucks per sire is recommended. Performance results of bucks tested at this location will be unique and will not be directly comparable to data obtained at other locations in the USA. Cost will be \$90 per buck evaluated. Nominations need to be sent in no later than 30 days prior to beginning of the test. Nomination forms and detailed program guidelines are available. Call 478-825-6955/6268 or send a message to [getzw@fvsu.edu](mailto:getzw@fvsu.edu).