

NDSU HETTINGER RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

2026 Dakota Meat Goat Test

May 31th – September 5th

Location:

NDSU Hettinger Research
Extension Center
102 HWY 12 W
Hettinger, ND 58639

Cost: \$150/buck

Out-of State Consignors: Include
an additional \$30 total for end-of
test health certificate.

Entries:

Please address to: Hettinger
Research Extension Center
Attn. Rachel Gibbs
PO Box 1377
Hettinger, ND 58639
rachel.gibbs.1@ndsu.edu

Delivery:

May 29-31st,
Centralized Pick-Up: May 30th in
Grand Island, NE; Contact
Rachel by May 28th to Reserve
a Spot.

Contact Information

Rachel Gibbs, 701-567-4323
rachel.gibbs.1@ndsu.edu

Why should you consign?

- This test is primarily designed to identify genetic potential differences in post-weaning growth performance for developing meat goat buck kids.
- As a centralized performance test, this test minimizes the impact of non-genetic factors as bucks are managed in the same environment and on the same plane of nutrition.
- Consignors are provided with detailed information on economically relevant traits to aid in genetic selection decisions and marketability of commercial sires.

Eligibility to Consign

- Bucks (any meat goat breed) must be 4-5 Months Old
 - Born 1/1/2026-2/15/2026
- Weigh a minimum of 40lbs at delivery.
- All bucks must originate from a scrapie and footrot-free herd and be accompanied by a current certificate of veterinary inspection.



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

By May 31st, 2026	Buck Delivery to HREC Deadline
June 5th	Process, Vaccinate, Pour, & Deworm
June 18th & 19th	Performance Test Start
	0-day Weights & Carcass Scanning
July 16-17th	28-day Weights – Consignor Health Update
August 13-14th	56-day Weights – Consignor Health Update
September 1st & 2nd	Performance Test End
	75-day Weights, Carcass Scanning, Visual Inspection (Breed Standard)
September 5th, 2026	Field Day; Bucks picked up by owner

Test Guidelines

1. Buck kids will be delivered to the test site by May 31st, 2026. Processed, vaccinated, poured for external parasites, and dewormed on June 5th, 2026.
2. Buck kids will be gradually transitioned to a self-fed custom or commercially available pellet ration over 17 days from May 31st to June 17th. Free-choice hay will be available for the first five days (May 31st – June 4th) of the transition and will be slowly removed thereafter.
3. Buck kids will be weighed and scanned for carcass measurements at the start of the official testing period on June 18th and 19th, 2026 and again at the end of the testing period on September 1st and 2nd, 2026. Weights will be collected on both days and averaged to minimize differences in gut fill.
4. Consigners and participating breed associations will be provided regular updates through email on buck performance as data is collected. Monthly updates will serve as a health check and should not be considered for performance evaluations.
5. Feed Efficiency: Feed intake and efficiency data will be generated by smart feeders during the growth test period. Limit 2 per consignor, up to 60 bucks total on a first-come, first-served basis. *Bucks will be adapted to this equipment before testing, and consigners will be notified if bucks fail to pass the adaptation period.
6. Liability: All animals remain the property of the consignor. 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 consignor 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 may be issued.
7. Feeding and management of the bucks on test will be under the supervision of Dr. Rachel Gibbs with the help of HREC staff/interns. 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.

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Registration

DUE: MAY, 24, 2026

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-Trp)	Breed	Sire ID	Dam ID	Feed Intake (Y/N)*
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

***Feed intake and efficiency data is limited to 2 bucks per consignor, up to 60 bucks total on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Rachel Gibbs for availability.**



I agree to the regulations pertaining to the conditions and management practices established for the 2026 Dakota Meat Goat Testing Program.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____
 City State Zip Code