

Preliminary Studies on the Boer Goat as a Potential Breed for Improving Meat Production in the Native Goat

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[Abstract]

The production of chevron or goat meat, in Jamaica, has mostly been derived from the Native goat and to a lesser extent from Anglo-Nubian x Native crossbreeds. More recently, since 1997, the Boer goat, because of its large size, fast growth rate and strong meat producing ability, has been imported into the island to assist with the national breed improvement programme.

Preliminary work done at the Bodles Research Station using Native does mated to pure-bred Boer bucks have produced crossbred offspring with male kids, average, 3.38 ± 1.34 kg, 14.38 ± 5.94 kg, and 17.71 ± 7.77 kg, for birth, 90 and 120 day weights, respectively. Females averaged 2.82 ± 0.80 kg, 13.04 ± 2.36 kg, and 14.60 ± 2.12 kg, for birth 90 and 120 days respectively. The data were collected from 10 male and 11 female kids born in the 1997/98, and 1998/99 kidding season.

This work is ongoing and the data set will increase as more weights are recorded.

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