

2018 OSU Meat Goat Boot Camp Evaluation Summary and Impacts

The following is a summary of the evaluations from the OSU Meat Goat Boot Camp held in Ada, OK on October 15-17, 2018.

Participants

- There were 45 participants from 10 states representing Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, California, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Illinois.

Goat Herd size and Value of Goat Camp

- The average herd size was 73.
 - Herd size ranged from 0 to 400

Each participant were asked to place a value of the education and skills learned at the goat camp. Below is there response.

- Total value equals \$748,224
- Three participants listed the value as priceless.

Session Rankings

Each participant was asked to indicate the knowledge learned from each session during the boot camp. A five point scoring system was used were 1 = no knowledge gained and 5 = great deal of knowledge gained. Below are the results.

- Average score for all 21 sessions was 4.35.
- Session scores ranged from 3.83 to 4.56
- Top five sessions were:
 - Parasite De-wormer Resistance and Eye Scores – 4.56
 - FAMACHA – 4.56
 - Fecal Egg Count – 4.51
 - Goat Nutrition – 4.47
 - Reproduction – 4.44

Adoption of New Skills

Participants were asked if they planned to adopt any of the practices taught during the 20 sessions. The average adoption rate for all sessions was 76.4%. Across all sessions, the range of planned adoption was 41.0% to 89.7%.

Pre and Post Test Score Results

Methodology

In an attempt to measure the amount of knowledge gained during the Oklahoma Meat Goat Boot Camp, a 30 question test multiple choice/true-false test was developed by the instructors of the Boot Camp. Each question was taken from the material being presented at the Boot Camp. This test was then given to each participant at the beginning and the end of the Boot Camp. The following are the results:

Results

<u>Test</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>% Correct</u>
Pre-Test	17.8	7-26	59.3%
Post-Test	23.7	16-30	78.9%

The results show that participants improved their test scores by 35.3%.

Further, we can group the 30 questions into 7 areas of production and management. Then we can look at the test scores to determine which areas the group were the most and least knowledgeable before the Boot Camp and which areas had the biggest improvement in knowledge gained. The seven areas are as follows:

1. Parasite Management and Control
2. Record Keeping
3. General Herd Management including Herd Health
4. Herd Nutrition
5. Forages and Forage Production Systems
6. Marketing
7. Business Planning

Test Results

<u>Group</u>	<u>% Correct</u>		
	<u>Pre-Test</u>	<u>Post-Test</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1. Parasite	71.0%	88.7%	25.0%
2. Record Keeping	81.4%	79.5%	-2.4%
3. Herd Mgmt	73.9%	93.6%	26.6%
4. Nutrition	32.9%	48.1%	46.3%
5. Forages	53.1%	81.0%	52.5%
6. Marketing	51.4%	88.9%	72.8%
7. Business Planning	50.0%	60.3%	20.5%

Comments made by participants on camp evaluations.

- I really liked the hands on part of each day
- This was great. The speakers were great. I would say keep it as it is
- The boot camp is very well planned out.
- The section on fencing is awesome and I understand the value of conducting it in the pasture but it wasn't the most convenient for notetaking. You did an amazing job!
- Recommended by ABGA and AKGA as the best goat training venue in U.S. I found out about the course a week before it started. I was able to register and drove from SC (over 1000 miles) to attend. This is one of the best livestock training programs I have ever attended and the premier goat training program in the U.S. JJ, Diane, Brian, Justin and Dr Whitworth were phenomenal! All the instructors were "world class", very professional! Diane did a superb job in organizing the program and ensuring everyone was fed. Superb course!
- Very impressed and very well put together. Awesome to take a not popular livestock subject and roll with it. Future is bright for goats.
- Great program, very well worth the drive. Would definitely attend the Meat Goat 2.0 class. Thanks for everything that was taught. It was great!
- The hands on computer model for # of does/herd size to feeding options was very helpful. Also enjoyed putting into practice the forage production lesson on Tuesday and hands on Wednesday. Would like to see the plant ID expanded. Would like to have more in depth discussion on shelter and management, open herd house and pasturing. Very awesome class and group of instructors that love what they do and impart their excitement to the students. Thank you very much.
- Very well put together. Tons of information available, great for beginners through people that have been doing goats for a while. Everyone will take away something from the course.
- My scores should be thrown out. As a veterinarian there were many areas where I did not learn anything new but that is not an indication of poor quality instruction. My main objective in coming here was to learn about forage, nutrition and farm finances. I am very pleased with that and feel my money and time have been well spent.