



2023 University of Florida Ram Test Data Overview

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Management

- 45 rams were received on June 3, 2023
 - Born between December 1, 2022 and February 15, 2023
 - 16 producers from Florida and Georgia
 - Administered three anthelmintics: Cydectin, Fenbendazole, Levamisole
 - Initial weight, BCS, and FAMACHA scores were recorded
- Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) on June 15, 2023
 - Individuals with fecal egg count (FEC) > 500 epg were dismissed from the program due to anthelmintic resistant parasites
- 41 rams participated in the entire test period
 - June 15 through September 7

Nutrition

- Bahiagrass pastures
 - Continuous access
 - 2 acres per 41 rams
 - Pasture remained > 5 inches in height
 - Pasture rotation every 14 days
- 'UF Ram Test' concentrate ration (69% TDN, 15% CP)
 - Target consumption of ~2% body weight daily
 - DDGS removed from ration this year



Data Collection

- Collected every 14 days throughout the test period:
 - Body weight (BW)
 - Body condition score (BCS)
 - FAMACHA score
 - Fecal egg count (FEC)
- Collected at test start, mid-point, and final data collection:
 - Scrotal circumference (SC)



FEC Management Parameters

- Any ram with a fecal egg count above 3,000 epg will indicate a threshold for deworming.
 - The ram will be allowed the opportunity to mount an immune response (14-days).
 - If the ram's FEC is $> 3,000$ epg at a given collection interval and the FEC remains ($> 3,000$ epg) at the following collection interval (14-days later), this will result in deworming of the ram.
- A FAMACHA score of > 4 also indicates deworming will be performed.
- Disqualification from ram test sale eligibility occurs after one deworming during the test period.

Performance Data



- Final weight (CW)
 - Ram weight at the conclusion of the 84-day gain test
- Test ADG
 - Average daily gain in pounds per day for the entire 84-day test period
- Final WDA
 - Weight-per-day-of-age at the conclusion of the test period
 - Calculated by dividing the final weight by days of age
 - Indicative of the ram's growth since birth and includes growth prior to arriving at the test

Performance Data

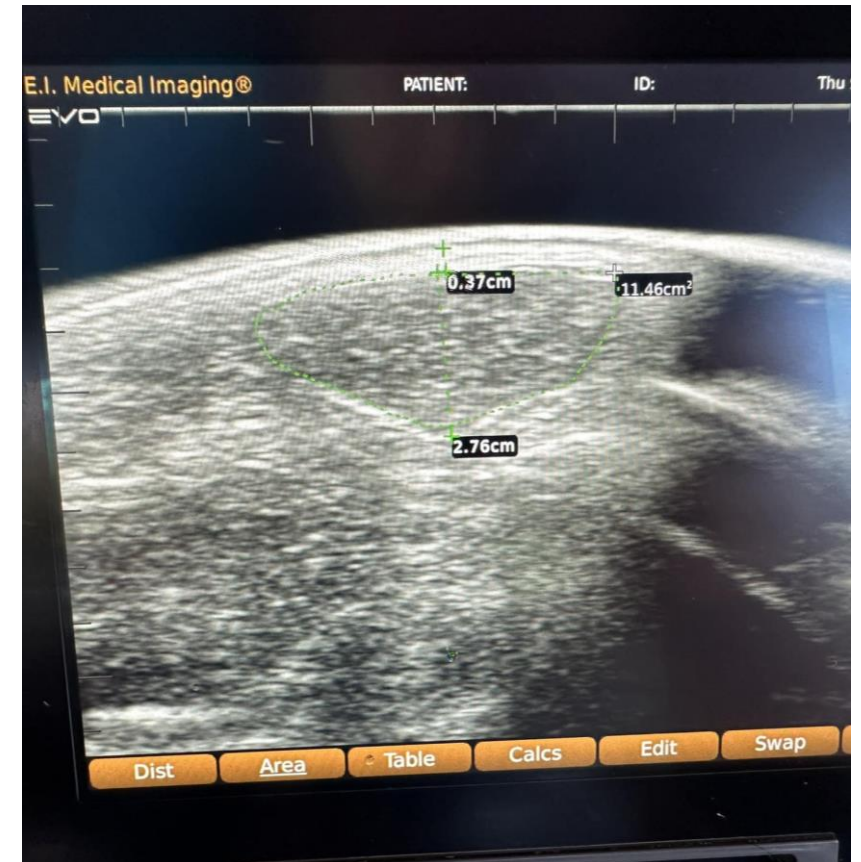
- ADG Ratio
 - Expresses an individual's ADG as a percentage of the average ADG for the entire test group
- WDA Ratio
 - Expresses and individual's WDA as a percentage of the average WDA for the entire test group
- Growth Index Ratio
 - Expresses ADG ratio and WDA ratio for an individual ram as a percentage of the average performance of all rams on test
 - Each ratio is weighted equally
 - Considers both pre-weaning and post-weaning growth
- **Ratio of 100 is average, 110 is 10% above average, and 90 is 10% below average**

Performance Data

- Average FEC
 - Average fecal egg count in eggs per gram for the entire 84-day test period
- FEC Ratio
 - Expresses FEC for an individual ram as a percentage of the average performance of all rams
 - Ratio of 100 is average, 110 is 10% above average, and 90 is 10% below average
- Codon 171 genotype associated with resistance to scrapie
 - Presence of at least one *R* is associated with resistance

Performance Data

- LMA – Longissimus Muscle Area
 - The measure of the total area of the loin or ribeye (longissimus dorsi muscle) between the 12th and 13th rib (in cm²)
 - *Data adjusted to 125 lbs body weight*
- BF – Backfat Thickness
 - External fat thickness (back fat) is quantified at the 12-13th rib and measured directly over the ribeye muscle (in cm)
 - *Data adjusted to 125 lbs body weight*
- LED – Loin Eye Depth
 - The depth of the eye muscle or loin is measured between the 12th and 13th ribs (in cm)



Sale Qualification

- Overall index **greater than 90** for BOTH:
 - Fecal Egg Count ratio
 - Growth Index
 - Expresses WDA and ADG ratios

Ram ID	Breed	Tx	ADG	ADG Ratio	WDA	WDA Ratio	ADGxWDA Ratio	Avg FEC	FEC Ratio	INDEX
OAV 2221	Katahdin	0	0.20	72.91	0.53	113.77	93.34	21	3339.26	1716.30
OAV 2231	Katahdin	0	0.15	53.61	0.49	106.44	80.02	57	1230.25	655.14
OAV 2238	Katahdin	0	0.21	77.20	0.62	133.72	105.46	136	515.62	310.54
3073	FL Native	0	0.33	120.08	0.36	76.85	98.47	143	490.38	294.42
OAV 2223	Katahdin	0	0.07	25.73	0.51	109.37	67.55	157	446.65	257.10
23009	FL Native	0	0.32	113.65	0.43	93.44	103.54	193	363.34	233.44
OAV 2228	Katahdin	0	0.25	90.06	0.58	124.75	107.41	214	327.68	217.55
OAV 2220	Katahdin	0	0.17	62.19	0.51	110.54	86.36	207	338.77	212.56
EBH 0102	Katahdin	0	0.26	92.21	0.49	106.24	99.22	221	317.30	208.26
Pink 14	Katahdin	0	0.33	117.94	0.39	84.14	101.04	236	297.14	199.09
NWT 23030	Katahdin	0	0.35	124.37	0.49	106.74	115.56	250	280.50	198.03
FL59203 P155	FL Native	0	0.40	143.67	0.35	75.09	109.38	257	272.86	191.12
T8F2313	Katahdin	0	0.36	130.81	0.54	115.91	123.36	271	258.76	191.06
3060	FL Native x PolyPay	0	0.35	126.52	0.41	89.04	107.78	267	262.64	185.21
NWT 23102	Katahdin	0	0.39	139.38	0.62	134.89	137.14	343	204.44	170.79
DDW 0109	Katahdin	0	0.33	117.94	0.53	115.52	116.73	314	223.33	170.03
23001	FL Native	0	0.36	130.81	0.45	98.37	114.59	364	192.65	153.62
OAV 2245	Katahdin	0	0.33	117.94	0.59	127.69	122.81	393	178.43	150.62
OAV 2248	Katahdin	0	0.30	109.36	0.53	114.70	112.03	386	181.67	146.85
Yellow 40	Katahdin	0	0.40	143.67	0.51	109.44	126.55	450	155.83	141.19
3089	FL Native	0	0.35	126.52	0.37	80.03	103.27	400	175.31	139.29
FL1B1581	Katahdin X	0	0.43	156.54	0.41	89.45	122.99	500	140.25	131.62
FL1B1592	Katahdin	0	0.42	152.25	0.44	95.06	123.65	529	132.56	128.11
FL59203 P147	FL Native	0	0.27	96.50	0.34	72.95	84.72	421	166.57	125.64
EBH 0101	Katahdin	0	0.24	87.92	0.41	87.76	87.84	443	158.29	123.07
BERN 322	Katahdin	0	0.46	165.12	0.46	98.55	131.83	650	107.88	119.86
Pink 20	Katahdin	0	0.41	147.96	0.46	100.36	124.16	671	104.51	114.33
BERN 324	Katahdin	0	0.40	145.82	0.42	90.10	117.96	693	101.19	109.57
OAV 2225	Katahdin	0	0.21	75.05	0.55	118.10	96.58	700	100.18	98.38
23047	FL Native	0	0.42	152.25	0.49	106.76	129.50	1075	64.99	97.25
BERN 330	Katahdin	0	0.39	139.38	0.44	95.19	117.28	936	74.92	96.10
23014	FL Native	0	0.29	105.07	0.48	104.54	104.81	971	72.22	88.51
EBH 0104	Katahdin	0	0.21	75.05	0.42	91.59	83.32	943	74.36	78.84
FL60508 DW02	Dorper	1	0.30	107.22	0.32	70.07	88.64	1207	58.10	73.37
EBH 0103	Katahdin	0	0.29	105.07	0.49	106.24	105.66	1893	37.04	71.35
KAGR G0007	Katahdin	0	0.20	72.91	0.49	106.08	89.49	1814	38.66	64.08
DDW 0106	Katahdin	0	0.00	0.00	0.50	107.21	53.60	957	73.28	63.44
KAGR G0001	Katahdin	0	0.13	47.18	0.52	113.31	80.24	2343	29.93	55.09
FLIA6346	Barbados Blackbelly	1	0.04	15.01	0.33	70.81	42.91	1193	58.78	50.84
FL60433219	FL Native	0	-0.04	-15.01	0.45	97.67	41.33	1414	49.59	45.46
FL60508 DW01	Dorper	1	0.09	32.17	0.24	51.55	41.86	4114	17.05	29.45

Sale Qualification

- Achieve 'Satisfactory' Breeding Soundness Evaluation
 - Performed by UFCVM licensed veterinarians within <30 days of the sale



Sale Lot Order

- Based on combination of traits measured including growth parameters and parasite resistance
- Sale lot order priority will be given to rams registered with a recognized breed association, followed by commercial rams
- Sale order will be determined in descending order beginning with the highest ratioing animal for the combined traits of Fecal Egg Count and Growth Index.
 - In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the Fecal Egg Count ratio

Willoughby Livestock Sales

- New this year!
 - Our sale format is online.
- It will be open for 24 hours, **beginning September 29 at 11 AM and closing September 30 at 11 AM EST.**
- <https://wlivestock.com/auction/22085>



Acknowledgements

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 - **Roxanne Newton**
 - **Louise Hall**
 - **Ruth Taber**
 - **Carol Postley**

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 - Wild & Woolly Acres/Amanda McKillop – High Springs, FL
 - Fairmeadow Farms/Carol Postley – Ocala, FL
 - Santa Fe BRE Farm/Diane Warfield – High Springs, FL
 - Oakvale Farm Katahdins/Samantha Musho, DVM – DeLeon Springs, FL
 - Had The Raddish Farm – Bronson, FL
 - EBH Plantation/Jon & Leslie Hall – Callahan, FL
 - Bernwood Farms/Matt Bernes – Canon, GA
 - Hound River Katahdins/Roxanne & Milledge Newton – Hahira, GA
 - T8 Farms – Bell, FL
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Acknowledgements

- UF IFAS Extension Agents
- UF IFAS Animal Science Student Ambassadors
- UF Animal Science SPU & HTU Student Employees & Volunteers
- Small Ruminant Short Course attendees
- UF Ram Test Sale buyers & bidders



2023 Ram Test Data Collection

2023 UF Ram Test BCS Data

2023 UF Ram Test FAMACHA Data

2023 UF Ram Test Body Weight Data

2023 UF Ram Test FEC (Tri) Data

2023 UF Ram Test Scrotal Circumference Data

- collected 3x during the test

2023 UF Ram Test Carcass Ultrasound Data

- only collected at the end of the test

All data is available on our website...

<https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/ramtest/>



2023 Ram Test Final Index

2023 UF Ram Test Overall Index

2023 UF Ram Test Index & Sale Lot



Future Events

- **Coming in 2024....**
 - UF Ram Test
 - UF Buck Test
- Events will run separately but concurrently
- Specific requirements/details will be released this winter



Thank you!