

2010 Pape Ranch Field Day Report - Dr. Frank Pinkerton

As advertised in the May Goat Rancher, Elgin and Shirley Pape (PAH-pee) and immediate family members sponsored a Field Day at their Hill Country ranch near Harper, Texas on June 19th, 2010. Just over a hundred came for the noon barbecue and, presumably, for the program which featured invited speakers and a guided tour of pens containing Savannahs and Savannah/Spanish crosses owned by the Papes and local ranchers who had, in recent years, used Pape, and other, Savannah bucks to good effect on mostly Spanish and Spanish crosses. Owners and speakers were pen-side to provide commentary and answer questions from participants who demonstrated much interest in the potential of this breed and its crosses for commercial kid production. Kidding rates, mothering ability, litter weights, parasite resistance, and carcass quality were much discussed.



Kenneth Mincey (centre) listening to long term friend, Brian Payne

The presence of Mr. Kenneth Mincey of Cumming, GA was acknowledged with appreciation. His 4 bucks and 17 females, all full blood Savannahs of South African origin, were due in the New York City area quarantine station in early July from Australia. After a month in-situ, they will be relocated to Cumming, GA for embryo transplant and semen collection—a most welcome addition of new and unrelated Savanna genes that are urgently needed for further breed development and expansion.



Dr. Ken Andries, KYSU spoke on Performance Testing

The morning presentations featured Dr. Frank Pinkerton (aka The Goat Man and, lately, Author) on Industry Status and on Cross-breeding Opportunities; Dr. Kenneth Andries of KY SU on genetic selection via on-farm testing programs; Ms. Becky Sauder, USDA Market Reporter from San Angelo, on recurring variations in slaughter goat prices; Ms. Dawn Steiger of Kentucky on the North

American Savannah Association (NASA); and Mr. Brian Payne, Canadian goat producer and importer of Savannah stock from South Africa, on the arrival of Savannah goats to the U.S. (his paper on this topic was in the June 2010 issue of Goat Rancher). Following the pens tour, Dr. Ken McMillin, LSU meat scientist and Rancher contributor, described and demonstrated carcass grading and fabrication as well as providing useful commentary on consumer preferences for goat meat. (Our Guide on this subject is available, in colour, from Ken or me for \$2).



Dr. Ken McMillin, LSU, demonstrated carcass grading

Ken and Frank acknowledged, with much appreciation, the long-time support of the Papes for industry development activities, in particular the sustained use of their stock in research and extension activities at PVAMU in Texas and LSU/SU in Louisiana. Such support is being continued through the sale, this summer, of 100 Spanish doelings and 150 Spanish male kids to FT Valley SU in GA and of 100 Spanish doelings and two Spanish bucks to KY SU for research and demonstration projects at these institutions. Pape goats have also been sold to commercial breeders in many states over the years as well as large-scale noxious weed control programs in SD and WY.



USBGA founder Annette Maze and husband Everett chowing down on the fabulous chevon BBQ lunch provided by the Papes

At the end of the day, participants appeared favourably impressed, as well as being tired, but sated. Some even suggested a repeat in '11, but the Pape womenfolk (tired workers, all) seemed, perhaps understandably, somewhat non-committal. But, all speakers did

drink to their health with enthusiasm and appreciation as the crowd dispersed, some with copies of the The Goat Man's recently published book—a steal at only \$35, from The Rancher's on-line store.



NASA founding directors, Brian Payne, Dr. Frank Pinkerton and Elgin Pape were most appreciative of the interest in the Savannah breed demonstrated by the Texas crowd