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Abstract & Author Information

Sire and dam breed effects on carcass characteristics of meat goat kids from a three-breed diallel.

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Across three years, buck kids ($n = 275$) from a complete diallel of Boer (**B**), Kiko (**K**), and Spanish (**S**) sires and dams were harvested at 33 weeks of age to assess breed effects on carcass yield traits in meat goats. Kids had been weaned at 13 weeks of age and were raised after weaning on summer pasture supplemented with 0.4 g/d of 16% CP pelleted feed. Through visual procedures of USDA, live animal muscling grades favored ($P < 0.01$) kids of B and S sires over K sires. Chilled carcass muscling grades favored ($P < 0.01$) B-sired kids over K- and S-sired kids. Live grades of kids favored ($P < 0.01$) B dams over K and S dams. Dam breed did not affect carcass grades. Sire breed did not affect live, carcass or cut weights. Live kid and chilled carcass weights were heavier ($P < 0.01$) for kids of K dams (26.5 ± 0.6 kg; 11.1 ± 0.3 kg) than from S (24.4 ; 10.2) and B dams (23.7 ; 9.6). Chilled carcass dressing percent was lower ($P < 0.01$) for kids of B sires and dams ($40.3 \pm 0.4\%$; $40.4 \pm 0.4\%$) than from K (41.8 ; 41.9) and S sires and dams (41.8 ; 41.5). Kids of K dam had heavier ($P < 0.01$) forelegs, hind legs, and combined boneless right fore- and hind legs (3.26 ± 0.08 kg; 3.67 ± 0.09 kg; 1.95 ± 0.05 kg) than S (2.91 ; 3.37 ; 1.75) and B dams (2.76 ; 3.24 ; 1.68). Parental breed did not affect lean content (69%) of leg cuts. Loins were lighter ($P < 0.01$) for kids of B dams (1.37 ± 0.05 kg) than from K (1.62) and S dams (1.52). Ribeye area was greater ($P < 0.01$) for kids from K dams (8.54 ± 0.25 cm²) than from B dams (7.67), kids of S dams were intermediate (8.1 ± 0.25 cm²). Sire and dam breeds interacted ($P = 0.01$) for kidney-pelvic fat weight as straightbred kids (74 ± 16 g) differed from all four crossbred kid groups (127 to 164) only within B matings. Breed of sire and dam influenced carcass yield traits in meat goat kids.

KEYWORDS

Meat goats
Breeds
Carcass traits

(Note: kids fed 0.4 kg/d, not 0.4 g/d)