Market Goat Selection

BOBBY STRECKER

Selection Priorities

- Age/Maturity Pattern
- Skeletal Correctness/Structure
- Muscle
- Balance/Icom
- Know your goals, management style, be willing to ask questions
Terminology

Age/Maturity Pattern

- Know your end point
- Visit with the breeder, they know their genetics
- Earlier maturing wethers usually can stay in the lighter weights and will be managed differently
- Later Maturing wethers you might need to feed longer and harder to hit the correct window.
- Age: Majority of wethers are currently shown between 6-10 months of age.
Skeletal Correctness/Structure

- Make sure the goats are sound structured so they can mature and develop as you want
- Becoming a growing issue. You can gain muscle, you can't change large structure flaws

Muscle

- One of the most important traits for Market Animals
- The easiest to see
- Feed, maturity, weight helps
- Where do we look?
  - Younger goats I depend more on skeletal fundamentals; chest, base width, body shape
Balance, Quality

- When it all comes together
- Level, correct structured, proportional

Next Steps...

- Build a relationship with a breeder
- Vaccinations
- What type of feed?
  - Fresh, something they will eat
  - Early on I prefer plain feed and get consumption high
- Deworm, treat for coccidiosis, external parasites
- Facilities