

Commercial Meat Goat Project

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[Abstract]

In 1992, the Goat Research Unit at Bodles through the Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute purchased a shipment of thirty six (36) weaned purebred Anglo-Nubian does and eight (8) bucks from England. This formed the basis of the government's nucleus of purebred Anglo-Nubians.

The objectives of this project were:

- To evaluate the productive performance of the Anglo-Nubian under local conditions, as purebreds and as crosses with the native goat.
- To multiply and disseminate purebred and grade Anglo-Nubian bucks to farmers for the improvement of their herds.

More recently, in 1997, the Boer Goat was introduced to Jamaica and comparative evaluation studies with the Anglo-Nubian are being conducted.

The consistently high demand for goat's meat locally, which encouraged increased research in this area in the first place, is still far from being satisfied. As more farmers expand their herd with improved stock and the number of new entrants increases, this has led to a demand for breeding stock. Bodles Research Station has been unable to supply more than a few of many requests for the improved bucks (Boers and Nubians) with which the Station is bombarded each year.

The Bodles Research Station and the facilities at the goat research unit will be used to facilitate the necessary expansion program that is required to address the increased demand. The Commercial Goat Meat Production Project will be formed on this basis.