

-----Original Message-----

From: XXX YYY<xxx@yyy.zzz>

Sent: Sat, Sep 7, 2013 at 5:47 PM

To: Managing Editor

Subject: RE: Request for final decision for manuscript number 2013_AJEA_4929

I have checked the manuscript entitled "The Relationship between Phenotypic, Testicular Traits and Serum Testosterone Levels in Pre-pubertal Male Boer Goat Crosses" (2013_AJEA_4929).

I agree with the reviewer DH that "the scientific content is justified and the study is well executed", and that the presentation of the results is not perfect.

In my opinion, before acceptance of this manuscript for publication in AJEA some further amendments are needed.

Please find my suggestions in the attached file.

Editor's Details:

Dr. Edward Wilczewski

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Technology and Life Sciences in Bydgoszcz,
Poland

Attached Part:

Abstract

1. The authors write:

"Although, results show a non-significant relationship between TT levels and many body conformation traits, serum testosterone levels were lowly and positively correlated to BL ($r = 0.19$), BW ($r = 0.19$), CG ($r = 0.13$), HTW ($r = 0.11$) and SC ($r = 0.18$)."

Whereas coefficients for: CG ($r = 0.13$), HTW ($r = 0.11$) and SC ($r = 0.18$) were non-significant.

I suggest removing this part of sentence.

2. The authors write:

“In addition, SC ($23.22 \pm 0.86\text{cm}$, $31.95 \pm 2.64\text{kg}$, and $24.53 \pm 1.43\text{cm}$) and BW ($34.72 \pm 2.98\text{kg}$, $26.05 \pm 1.35\text{cm}$, and $37.46 \pm 3.44\text{kg}$) increased ($P < .01$) linearly from week 6 through week 12, respectively.”

I agree with the reviewer (DH). This sentence should be corrected.

I suggest removing values from this sentence (values are in tables and there is no need to re-write them in the text).

Maybe like this: In addition, SC and BW increased ($P < .01$) linearly from week 6 through week 12.

3. “TT levels increased from week 0 to week 3, after which there was a decrease into week 6”

According to Table 1. these differences are non-significant. So you cannot write that TT levels increased or declined in this period. The same sentence should be improved in lines 175-176.

Part 2.2. Body Conformation Measurements

Line 94 - is: wk **0/31 instead 0/131**

Moreover, according to the reviewer (DH) suggestion, the phrase: “body weight, BW, kg (recorded using a MTIAHS500 Sheep and Hog Scale System) and, body condition score, BCS, (scored subjectively on scale of 1 = emaciated to 5 = obese) should be improved.

Results and discussion

lines 181-182

The authors write: “SW is slightly negatively correlated ($r = -0.08$) with TT levels, which is correlated with SC ($r = 0.18$), BL ($r = 0.19$), BW ($r = 0.19$), CG ($r = 0.13$),”

Whereas coefficients for: SW vs. TT and TT vs. CG were non-significant.

Note: Modification was done in this document ONLY to hide the email id.