



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

The auction pen was busy at the fairgrounds Saturday afternoon as 75 goats were sold in the first annual Range Buck Test and auction in Imperial.

Bruce Peterson, manager of the event, was happy with the day's event and the prices the goats brought at the sale.

Fifteen bucks were part of the performance-tested sale Saturday, which had been in the six-month Range Goat Test, Peterson noted. In order to have apples-to-apples comparisons, all 15 goats in the test had been feeding together on ground east of Enders Lake along the Frenchman River since May 2.

Peterson said the test goats were weighed and given health evaluations every 28 days during the six-month period. Prior to the auction Saturday, they were ranked for their rate-of-gain while in the pasture, weight per age and ribeye measurements.

Besides the bucks, up to four other goats related to the buck could be sold at Saturday's auction and that maximum number was reached.

The day started mid-morning with speakers who addressed goat nutrition, pregnancy checking and commercial goat production.

Peterson Boer Goats, which Bruce operates with his father, Larry, provided chevon (goat meat) fajitas for lunch, which served 75 people.

Buyers at the auction came from four states. Peterson said that was encouraging to see buyers willing to travel that far to attend the auction.

Peterson is already making plans for the 2010 Range Buck Test which will start May 1. He already has six entries and is hoping to draw 50 bucks next year for the test.

