

***By Russ Pankonin***

***The Imperial Republican***

For the first time ever, a Nebraska Range Buck Performance Test for Boer goats is being held here in Imperial.

The test was founded by Bruce Peterson, co-owner of Peterson Boer Goats, and Mel Uphoff, owner of Uphoff Boer Goats in Elwood.

Peterson said they hope to make the trials an annual event.

He will serve as the test manager with owners/ranchers from Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and Missouri participating.

One of the goals of the test is to evaluate the traits of meat goat bucks and their progeny in a true commercial type management system.

Peterson said they have 20 bucks of various breeds, ages, and bloodlines being evaluated and weighed every 30 days for their health, growth performance and breeding potential.

The test is also researching the goats' abilities to improve rangeland by removing unwanted weeds and brush.

The testing site is located just east of Enders, on the Frenchman River below the dam. The test began on May 2 and runs through Oct. 31.

At the end of the testing, Peterson said they will hold a field day of sorts here in Imperial. The day will also include an auction where test animals, as well as additional breeding stock from participants will be for sale.

Regular progress reports, photos and test results are available at [www.petersonboergoats.com](http://www.petersonboergoats.com).