
Book reviews

Devendra, C.; Burns, M.: Goat Production in the Tropics. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux: Slough, UK 1984. viii + 183 pp., several tabs. and plates. Hard bound £ 12.00.

The book is a valuable contribution to aid in understanding the information available on goat production. The authors have reviewed practically all aspects of reproduction, production and products. In addition, they have attempted to link the available information with its application by identifying environmental and genetic limitations and their relationship to management. The book is effectively and interestingly written and clearly shows a great deal of experience and depth of understanding.

Although the book is adequate for many persons interested or working with goats, it falls short in some respects in providing the author's peers with what they might expect or need to make their own interpretation of the data presented. This is considered to be true because insufficient detail is provided as to the criteria by which traits or parameters are measured and the basis on which they were compared by the authors of the book. One example deals with lactation. What were the criteria for determining when lactation was terminated and what allowances were made for early lactation when does were not milked. Similar questions also need clarification concerning carcass information and results reported on reproduction. Much of the data available to the authors were not compatible for comparisons and deficient in description about how measurements were made. In some cases the authors recognized this but still made comparisons without establishing the basis for their comparisons. The date the manuscript was submitted is not known, but it appears that some more recent references may have been available.

The authors made some very valuable points concerning the relevance of available information to application and criteria for application at the end of the chapter on genetic improvement and in the chapter on economic potential and prospects. A more thorough discussion would have strengthened the book.

Overall, my congratulations to the authors.

W. C. Foote, Logan (USA)

Oltmann, W.; Burba, M.; Bolz, G: Die Qualität der Zuckerrübe – Bedeutung, Beurteilungskriterien und züchterische Maßnahmen zu ihrer Verbesserung. Fortschritte der Pflanzenzüchtung. Advances in Plant Breeding, Vol. 12. Berlin, Hamburg: Paul Parey 1984. 159 pp., 24 figs., 60 tabs. Soft bound DM 76,-.

This supplement to the Journal of Plant Breeding is written by a team of experts in their fields and reports on the frontiers of modern sugar beet breeding. Introduced by a survey of methodology and progress of systematic sugar beet breeding up until now, the objectives of present breeding efforts are described. A further spectacular increase of sugar storage in the sugar beet is controlled by physiological limits. Therefore, breeding for quality aims at reducing systematically the content of such non-sugar-constituents as potassium and sodium and amino-nitrogen, which during sugar refining inhibit the crystallization of certain portions of sucrose and act as molasses formers. Modern automated computer-controlled beet laboratories can determine the most important quality-governing constituents in a series of large numbers of individual beets. Thus, these characters can be included in the evaluation for selection and directed hybrid breeding. In numerous, very detailed tables the genetic differentiation of a group of 60 varieties tested by the Bundessortenamt and of breeding material of the KWS Kleinwanzlebener Saatzucht AG, Einbeck, as well as the success of selection for quality characters, are represented. An analysis of correlations between the most important characters proves the possibility of progressing towards the desired combination of high root yield with high sugar yield and good juice quality. This report on active practical work is highly informative for every worker in sugar beet breeding and related fields. All figures and tables have English legends and each chapter is fully summarized in English.

L. Stange, Kassel