

## NEWS RELEASE

Melvin C. Price, Vice-President of the Meat Goat and Sheep Commodity Division in Henry County, and his wife, Dr. Elsa C. Price, Faulkner University Biology and Education Professor and Secretary-Treasurer of the Southeast Kiko Goat Association recently attended the AKGA [American Kiko Goat Association] Conference and Showcase Sale held in Ft. Scott, Kansas June 20-21, 2008.

The couple attended numerous presentations concerning forage, health management and marketing the Kiko breed of goats, which was introduced in the USA from New Zealand in the mid 1990's. Several veterinarians, college professors, geneticists, and goat breeders led panel discussions and presented vital information regarding the Kiko breed. Dr. Steve Hart, Research Scientist II Institute for Goat Research Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma, discussed parasite control and the goat health identification system, the FAMACHA testing system. Dr. Dave Sparks contributed to several discussions and assisted in the FAMACHA certification process of the attendees in which both Melvin Price and Dr. Elsa C. Price were certified. Dr. Bob Woods demonstrated how to analyze individual farm pastures using the USDA online tools. In her presentation, Dr. Ann Wells of Spring Pond Holistic Animal Health emphasized preventative health care involving forage and pasture management rather than drugs in maintaining a healthy goatherd. Dr. Cecelia Penedo, Associate Director of the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory University of California-Davis, explained the AKGA required DNA testing of the goats and its significance in establishing their pedigrees and registration in the AKGA.

Following the presentations on June 21, 2008 the AKGA Showcase sale was conducted with about one hundred persons attending in person and two hundred attending via the Internet. Members were allowed to bring five does (females) and one buck (male.) The bids ranged from one hundred dollars to thirty-two hundred (\$3200) submitted by a bidder on-line. Owners had the benefit of declining an unacceptable bid. The Price's purchased three 100% Kiko does at the sale for breeding purposes that can be seen at their Newville, Alabama farm or online at [www.mandenezelandkikogoatfarms.com](http://www.mandenezelandkikogoatfarms.com).