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**REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF BOER GOATS SUPPLIED BY NAADS TO  
FARMERS OF OBALANGA SUB COUNTY, AMURIA DISTRICT**

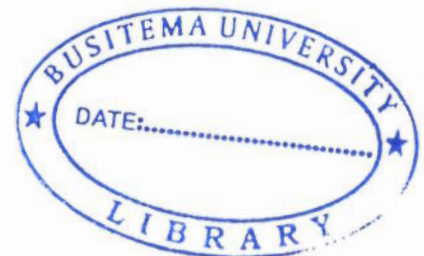
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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND  
ANIMAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A  
BACHELORS DEGREE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**



**JULY, 2013**

## DECLARATION

I, **Ojakol James Francis**, declare that this study is original and has not previously been submitted to another university or higher institution of learning for the award of any degree.

Signature



Date

4<sup>th</sup>/09/2013

## Approval

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with the approval of my supervisor

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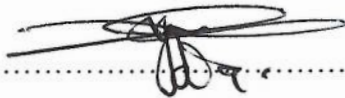
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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my mother **Ms. Apoo Elizabeth** who emphasized the importance of education and always gave me moral and spiritual advice.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>LCs</b>	Local Councils
<b>MFPED</b>	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
<b>NAADS</b>	National Agricultural Advisory Services
<b>PMA</b>	Plan for Modernization of Agriculture
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Scientists

## ABSTRACT

The study was to evaluate the reproductive performance of Boer goats supplied by NAADS to the selected farmers of Obalanga sub-county in Amuria District. The study looked at the reproductive parameter of Boer does and buck and the relationship between the duration of keeping goats and the number of goats owned by the households.

The cross sectional study design was used and both quantitative and qualitative approaches were involved. Samples of 100 households in 25villages of 5 out of 7 parishes were randomly selected for the study. The study instruments were observation and questionnaire. The data collected was analyzed using SPSS program and presented in tables, pie-charts and graphs.

In the study, the reproductive performance of Boer does and bucks was found to be high. The Boer does attained puberty from 5-10 months. The heat period lasted for 17-23 days. The gestation period of doe was found to be approximately 5 months. The litter size was found to be close to 2. The kid's presentation during kidding was normal (anterior). The interval between kidding and onset of heat was found to be 2 months. The bucks had no difficulties in mating since their hind legs were normal. The testes were observed to be symmetrical. The libido was revealed as being moderate and high during dry season.

There was a statistical significant relationship between the duration of keeping goats and the number of goats owned by households of Obalanga Sub County in Amuria district.

The study recommended that the government and other stakeholders e.g. donors, CBOs, NGOs, through animal health or extension personnel should sensitize farmers on good management practices like proper breeding of goats for better reproductive performance of the Boer goat in the area and the region. More research should also be done in this field more particularly on the indigenous breed(s) of the area for a better comparison.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the study

Goats play an important socio-economic role in many rural areas of the world. More than 95% of the goat population is found in developed countries (FAO, 2006). Goats provide milk and meat therefore meeting the nutritional needs of the rural population especially in areas with rapidly increasing human population (Castel *et al.*, 2010). Goats when compared with other livestock species are better due to their size, beginning capital is small and their turn over is faster (Winrock International, 1983).

Indigenous goats particularly the small East African goat constitute a valuable genetic resource because of their ability to adapt harsh climatic conditions; to better utilize the limited and poor quality feed resources and their resistance to a range of diseases. Exotic breeds in East Africa for example Boer goats when used for breeding, superior traits can be transmitted to the next generation (Haas, 1978).

The Boer goat originated from South Africa and "Boer" means farmer from the Dutch (Casey & Nickerk, 1988). The breed was established from selecting all existing breeds of goats in South Africa and the first breed standards were established in 1959 following the formation of the South African Boer goat Breeders' Association. The end result is the improved Boer goat existing today (Malan, 2000).

There are six types of Boer goats known for instance the ordinary Boer goats, long hair Boer goats, polled Boer goats, white red-headed Boer goats, brindle or briekwa goats and mouse eared and short eared Boer goats (Campbell, 2003). Selection of Boer goats has been solely based on fertility and fecundity, good conformation and adaptability to different environments. In many parts of the world like Asia, Africa, unimproved Boer goats characterized by lean bodies, with a mixed array of color patterns (white bodies and distinctive brown heads) are kept (Malan, 2000).

Boer goats are noted for being docile, faster rate of growth and care given to the kids. Due to high quantity of kilograms reproduction of Boer goats should be well handled and managed by farmers. This should also be closely integrated with nutritional and health management. The

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