

Proceedings

2024 Virtual Shepherd's Symposium

**Wednesday & Thursday,
February 7 & 8, 2024
7-9 PM Eastern**



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech. • Virginia State University

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SCHEDULE	3
SPONSORS	4
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES	5
FLOCK HEALTH MANAGEMENT TIPS <i>HOLLIE SCHRAMM, DVM, VIRGINIA-MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE</i>	9
PRODUCTION AND FINANCIAL RECORDS THAT MAKE SENSE <i>CAMREN MAIERLE, PH.D., SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR, AMERICAN LAMB BOARD</i>	27
FALL VS. WINTER/SPRING LAMBING: MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING CONSIDERATIONS <i>SCOTT GREINER, PH.D., SCHOOL OF ANIMAL SCIENCES, VIRGINIA TECH</i>	42
BUILDING BETTER SHEEP GRAZING SYSTEMS <i>JOHNNY ROGERS, EXTENSION ASSOCIATE AND AMAZING GRAZING PROGRAM COORDINATOR, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY</i>	62
SCRAPIE IDENTIFICATION AND ANTIBIOTIC REGULATIONS <i>CHRIS FLETCHER, DVM, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES</i>	80
WOOL MARKETING– WHAT’S IN STORE FOR 2024 <i>TOM STANLEY, VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION</i>	102
UPDATE FROM ASI <i>LISA WEEKS, ASI EXECUTIVE BOARD- REGION II DIRECTOR</i>	107

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 7 - 9 PM

- **Flock Health Management Tips** - *Hollie Schramm, DVM, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine*
- **Production and Financial Records that Make Sense** – *Camren Maierle, Ph.D., Sustainability Director- American Lamb Board*
- **Fall vs. Winter/Spring Lambing: Management and Marketing Considerations** - *Scott Greiner, Ph.D., School of Animal Sciences, Virginia Tech*

Thursday, February 8th, 2024 7 - 9 PM

- **Building Better Sheep Grazing Systems** - *Johnny Rogers, Extension Associate and Amazing Grazing Program Coordinator, North Carolina State University*
- **Scrapie Identification and Antibiotic Regulations** - *Chris Fletcher, DVM, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*
- **Wool Marketing– What's In Store for 2024** - *Tom Stanley, Virginia Cooperative Extension*
- **Update from ASI** - *Lisa Weeks, ASI Executive Board- Region II Director, Virginia*
- **Virginia Sheep Industry Updates** - *reports from Virginia Sheep Producers Association and Virginia Sheep Industry Board*

2024 Sponsors



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Hollie Schramm, DVM
Clinical Associate Professor, Production Management Medicine
Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences
VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech
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Dr. Schramm is a clinical assistant professor at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, a role for which she is responsible for assuring the welfare and health of production animals, safety of the food supply, and teaching veterinary students in the field, classroom, and in hands-on laboratories. She does clinical and didactic teaching, research, and outreach.



Camren Maierle, Ph.D.
Sustainability Director, American Lamb Board
Thornville, OH
camren@americanlamb.com

Maierle is an Ohio native, he has a bachelor's degree in animal science from Ohio State University, and both master's and doctoral degrees in animal and food science from West Virginia University. Maierle is the Sustainability Director for American Lamb Board and leads ALB's research and producer education initiatives in this area and contribute to advancing the sheep industry's commitment to sustainability, one of the top priorities for the checkoff-funded association. A primary focus will be to develop and maintain a nationally recognized solar grazing education program, cultivate other contract grazing opportunities, and work with industry partners to improve American lamb sustainability. Prior to joining ALB, Maierle was was a livestock extension educator with Penn State University Extension, leading schools for sheep producers.



Scott P. Greiner, Ph.D.
Professor and Extension Animal Scientist
School of Animal Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
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Scott Greiner is a Professor and Extension Animal Scientist in the School of Animal Sciences at Virginia Tech. Dr. Greiner was raised on a diversified livestock farm in Eastern Iowa, and attended Iowa State University where he earned a B.S. in Animal Science. His graduate studies included an M.S. from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from Iowa State. He serves as Extension Department Leader for the department as well as chair of the interdisciplinary college Animal Production Program Team. As an Extension Animal Scientist, he designs and delivers educational programs in beef cattle and sheep to adults and youth, and conducts applied research. Greiner also teaches an Advanced Livestock Enterprise course, and provides numerous guest lectures in livestock production/management topics. He resides outside Christiansburg, VA. Along with his wife Lori and daughters Kaylee and Leah, the family is very involved in 4-H youth livestock activities.



Johnny R. Rogers, MS, PAS
North Carolina State University
Extension Associate, Amazing Grazing Program Coordinator
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Johnny serves as the Amazing Grazing Program Coordinator for NCSU and works with pasture-based livestock producers throughout North Carolina. Current focus of the program is emphasizing the benefits of adaptive grazing using temporary fence and managing pastures for improved soil health. As owner of Rogers Cattle Company LLC he is responsible for daily operations of a family farm that consists of beef cattle, hair sheep, free range poultry and pasture raised pigs. They offer Red Angus seedstock and commercial cattle, seedstock and market sheep and pasture raised meats both on the farm and at farmers markets.



Chris Fletcher, DVM
Regional Veterinary Supervisor, Office of Veterinary Services
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Wytheville, VA
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Chris Fletcher, DVM is a Regional Field Veterinarian for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and is part of the team in the Scrapie Eradication Program for Virginia. He was in large animal practice in Southwest Virginia for 15+ years before joining the State Veterinarian's office. Dr. Fletcher and his wife Mandy operate Beyond Blessed Farm, a registered Katahdin operation located outside Abingdon, VA.



Tom Stanley
Extension Agent, Farm Business Management
Virginia Cooperative Extension, Rockbridge County
Lexington, VA
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Tom grew up in Southwest Virginia and was an active member of both 4-H and FFA. He worked in livestock production from his 4-H sheep project at an early age. He has degrees from Virginia Tech and Kansas State. Tom joined Virginia Cooperative Extension in 1996 as Extension Agent headquartered in Augusta County. In 2010, Tom assumed the role of Unit Coordinator for the Rockbridge Unit. Tom's area of specialization as an Extension Agent is Farm Business Management. Tom is part of a team of Agriculture Extension Agents that serve Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, and Rockingham Counties. Their areas of specialization include Crop and Soil Science, Animal Science, Commercial Horticulture, and Farm Business Management. Tom and his family have a flock of sheep, and Tom has been a shearer for a number of years. Tom serves as Chair of VSPA's Wool Council where he provides leadership to state wool marketing programs and educational programs including shearing schools.



Lisa Weeks
Triple L Farms, Waynesboro, VA
Region II ASI Director
lweeks.lpw@gmail.com

Lisa along with husband, Larry, and daughters, Lexi and Laryn are first-generation shepherds raising Katahdins since 1990. Growing up on a crop farm in Dighton, KS., agriculture was something that simply could not be left behind. After graduating from Kansas State University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Textile Science, Lisa moved to Waynesboro, VA, to begin a career in quality assurance and eventually supply chain and data analyst at a company that manufactures polypropylene nonwoven roll goods. She and her husband purchased a 30-acre farm and manage a 50-ewe flock while continuing to work full time off the farm. The Weeks' have been members and supporters of ASI since 1994 and Lisa has served as the Virginia director at the ASI Annual Convention and as a producer member of the Production, Education and Research Council for numerous years. She and her husband have been long time members of the Virginia Sheep Producers Association and were awarded the Roy A. Meek Outstanding Sheep Producer Award in 2016. At the local level, their farm annually hosts students from the veterinary technician program of Blue Ridge Community College for some hands-on field trips for first- and second-year students. The family flock has been enrolled in the National Sheep Improvement Program since 2001 and Lisa is currently serving as NSIP secretary. She is also serving as a board member to the newly formed Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins.

Flock Health Management Tips



Dr. Hollie Schramm

Production Management Medicine, VMCVM

Associate Clinical Professor



Overview

- Flock health management programs
- The veterinary client patient relationship and what this offers
- Biosecurity
- Vaccinations
- Body condition scoring
- Impacts and prevention of coccidiosis
- Strategies for controlling pneumonia
- Other diseases of interest

Do have a Complete Health Management Program?

- Why must you have one?



Starts with **PREVENTATIVE** Health Care!!

- Biosecurity
- Vaccination program
- Good nutrition and feeding management
- Parasite control program
 - Internal and External Parasites
- Hoof care
- Predator management

Why is the VCPR so Important?

- A better understanding of a flock's animal management practices
- Improved medical judgments
- Assist with withdrawal time determination
- Extra-label drug usage decisions
- DO NOT determine dosages of medications without guidance from your vet



EXTRA LABEL DRUG USE (ELDU)

- Defined as
 - Use of a drug in an animal in a manner that is not in accordance with the approved labeling.



Biosecurity

Practices that are put in place in order to protect the health of your animals!

- **Bio-exclusion:** Preventing disease entry
- **Bio-management:** Reducing the risk of animal infection and disease
- **Bio-containment:** Containing diseases that are on farm

Applies to everyone and everything used on the farm
Encompasses disease management, excellent husbandry,
and routine health care



What is your herds level of risk?

- **Lowest Risk**
 - Closed flock
 - Animal from known low-risk status flocks, single contact
 - Borrowing or lending animals with low-risk flocks, multiple contacts with other flock(s)
 - Animal from farm of unknown-health status
- **Highest Risk**
 - Animal from sales barns or in contact with accumulations of animals (*shows*) of unknown health status

Do Reduce Risks Don't be Slack on Biosecurity

- What steps can be taken to reduce risks for disease/loss in your herd?



Do Vaccinate for Clostridial Diseases!!

- Clostridial (depends on risk of certain diseases)
 - CD&T
 - 8-Way
- Timing depends on:
 - Feeding regimen (at highest risk of CD during change in diet)
 - If unvaccinated dams or orphan lamb

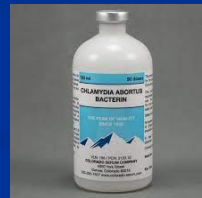


Group	Vaccination Timing (CD&T)
Ewes	4-6 weeks before lambing
Lambs	4-8 weeks of age
	Booster 7-11 weeks of age
Rams	4-6 weeks before lambing season
	8-way: 4-6 weeks before breeding

Vaccinations

■ Campylobacter (Vibrio)/Chlamydia

- What flocks should be vaccinated?
- When should they be vaccinated?



■ Pasteurella, CL, Soremouth, Foot Rot

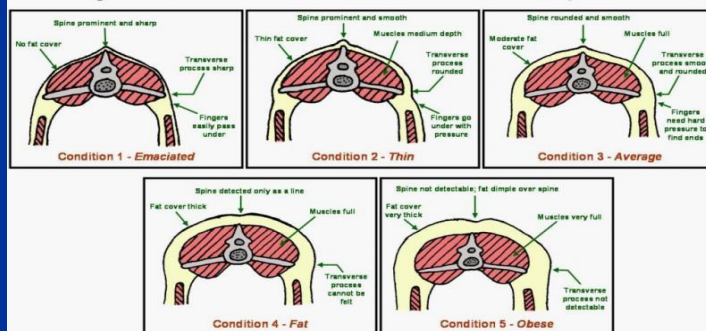
- Only use if problem in flock
- Use to contain and decrease disease in the flock

DO BODY CONDITION SCORING

Best way to Make Nutritional Decisions!

- A tool for producers to increase production efficiency in their flocks

Body Condition Scores – Sheep/Goats

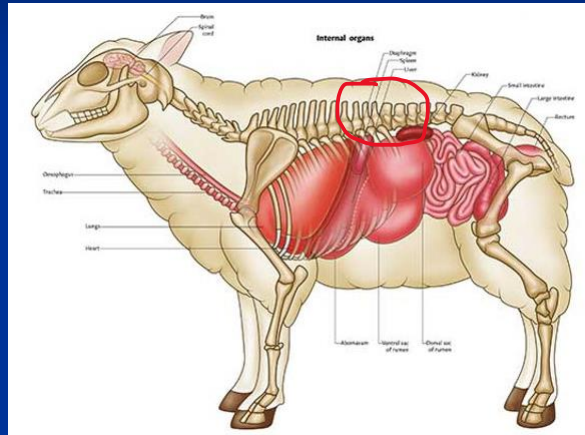


Adapted from "Body Condition Scoring of Sheep" by J.M. Thompson and H. Meyer Oregon State University

UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Agriculture
Department of Animal Sciences



Location for Palpation!



Don't Have Fat and Thin Ewes

- Why are ewes too thin?
Consequences?



- Why are ewes too fat?
Consequences?



Research and BCS

Oregon State University

- BCS 3 to 4 vs. <2.5 at lambing:
 - Lost fewer offspring
 - Weaned more pounds of lamb
- Pre-lambing BCS 3.5 vs. 2.5
 - 85 lbs lamb weaned vs. 64 lbs weaned (33% difference in total lbs of lamb weaned)

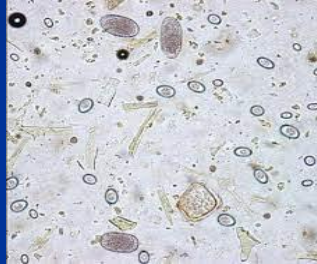
Body Condition Scoring

Review Nutrition at Each Exam

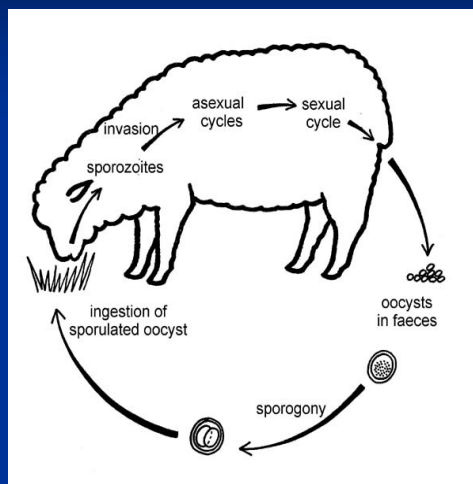
Group	Timing	Ideal BCS	Other Herd Health Events
Breeding Ewes	Pre-Breeding	3	BSE, famacha, palpate udders
	Midpregnancy	2.5-3	US and sort, famacha
	Pre-Lambing	3	CD-T, other vx, lambing
	Lambing	3+	management, famacha
	Weaning/Drying off	2+	Famacha
Rams	Pre-Breeding	3-3.5	BSE, 8-way, famacha
	Summer	2+	famacha

*Most cases of mastitis occur at weaning time

WHAT DO YOU SEE?



Eimeria species

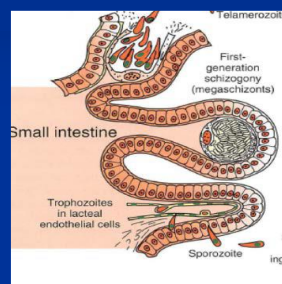
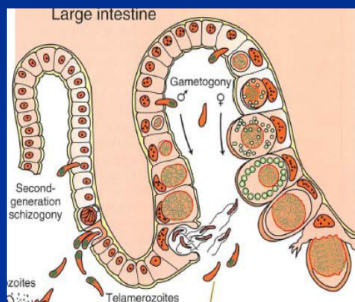


CLINICAL SIGNS

- **Diarrhea**
 - Blood and mucus in severe cases
- Rough hair coat (ill-thrift)
- Anorexia
- Dehydration
- Weakness
- Chronic wt loss (low BCS)
- Straining (can prolapse)
- Mild anemia/hypoproteemia



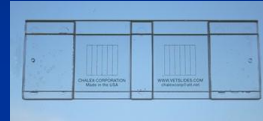
WHY DO THESE LAMBS HAVE TERRIBLE FEED EFFICIENCY?



Malabsorption due to large and small intestine damage

COCCIDIA DIAGNOSIS

- **CLINICAL SIGNS** (rule out other causes of diarrhea)
- Direct Smear , fecal float (useless)
- **BEST: McMasters or Modified-McMasters**
 - Quantifies the number of oocysts per gram
 - 5,000 + oocysts/gm
- ****Number of oocysts/gm does not correlate with severity of clinical disease**



COCCIDIA TREATMENT

- **Amprolium (Corid)**
 - Blocks metabolism of B1 in protozoa
 - Not FDA approved for sheep/goats (extralabel)
 - Separate and treat heavily parasitized animals separately

Dosage (Liquid Corid)	Sheep	Goats
Individual: mg/kg	50 mg/kg PO SID x 5 days	100 mg/kg SID x 5days
Individual: mL/10 lbs	2.25 mL PO SID x 5 days	4.5 mL PO SID x 5 days
Individual: mL/10 lbs (diluted 1:1)	4.5 mL PO SID x 5 days	9 mL PO SID x 5 days
Herd: Ounces/10 gallons	2 ounces/10 gallons	4 ounces/10 gallons
Withdrawal Time Corid (Meat)	10 days	12 days

**REPEAT TREATMENT
IN 3 WEEKS!!**



COCCIDIOSIS TREATMENT



- Sulfadimethoxine
- Not FDA approved for sheep and goats
- 50 mg/kg dose orally once daily for 5 days (not sure this dose is effective for goats)
- Meat withdrawal recommendations for sulfadimethoxine is 28 days from the last administered dose of 50 mg/kg www.farad.org

COCCIDIA TREATMENT



- Ponazuril (10 mg/kg once): Approved in USA
 - Diclazuril: Approved in USA, but not available
 - Toltrazuril: Not approved in USA
- We currently recommend at least 160 day meat withdrawal following a single 10 mg/kg oral dose of ponazuril in goats if you decide to use it.
 - We strongly discourage the use of Baycox in any food animal species. The active ingredient in Baycox is toltrazuril which is a precursor of ponazuril. Ponazuril is a potential carcinogen. If this drug has already been administered we recommend a 150 day meat withdrawal and a 42 day milk withdrawal.

www.farad.org



Do TRY to Prevent Coccidiosis THIS IS KEY!

**HUDSON
21% LAMB STARTER
"BOV"**

A complete grain ration to be fed to lambs up to 60 lbs of body weight.

INDICATIONS:
For the prevention of coccidiosis in sheep caused by *Eimeria* spp., *Cryptosporidium* spp., *Coccidia* spp., *Sarcocystis* spp., *B. abortus*, and *B. anthracis* in sheep maintained in confinement.

ACTIVE DRUG INGREDIENT:
Lasalocid (as lasalocid sodium) 30 gm/ton

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS:

Crude Protein, not less than	21.0%
Crude Fat, not less than	2.0%
Crude Fiber, not more than	1.0%
Calcium (Ca), not less than	1.0%
Calcium (Ca), not more than	1.5%
Phosphorus (P), not less than	0.3%
Sulfur (S), not less than	0.10%
Sulfur (S), not more than	1.00%
Moisture (M), not less than	12.00%
Moisture (M), not more than	0.5 ppm

INGREDIENTS: Grain Products, Processed Grain By-Products, Feed Preservatives, Feed Preservatives, Vitamins, Vitamins, Vitamins, Monocalcium Phosphate, Dicalcium Phosphate, Dicalcium Phosphate, Calcium Hydroxide, Potassium Chloride, Calcium Chloride, Zinc Oxide, Biotin, Vitamin D3, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Vitamin B12, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B7, Vitamin B9, Vitamin B10, Vitamin B11, Vitamin B12, Vitamin B13, Vitamin B14, Vitamin B15, Vitamin B16, Vitamin B17, Vitamin B18, Vitamin B19, Vitamin B20, Vitamin B21, Vitamin B22, Vitamin B23, Vitamin B24, Vitamin B25, Vitamin B26, Vitamin B27, Vitamin B28, Vitamin B29, Vitamin B30, Vitamin B31, Vitamin B32, Vitamin B33, Vitamin B34, Vitamin B35, Vitamin B36, Vitamin B37, Vitamin B38, Vitamin B39, Vitamin B40, Vitamin B41, Vitamin B42, Vitamin B43, Vitamin B44, Vitamin B45, Vitamin B46, Vitamin B47, Vitamin B48, Vitamin B49, Vitamin B50, Vitamin B51, Vitamin B52, Vitamin B53, Vitamin B54, Vitamin B55, Vitamin B56, Vitamin B57, Vitamin B58, Vitamin B59, Vitamin B60, Vitamin B61, Vitamin B62, Vitamin B63, Vitamin B64, Vitamin B65, Vitamin B66, Vitamin B67, Vitamin B68, Vitamin B69, Vitamin B70, Vitamin B71, Vitamin B72, Vitamin B73, Vitamin B74, Vitamin B75, Vitamin B76, Vitamin B77, Vitamin B78, Vitamin B79, Vitamin B80, Vitamin B81, Vitamin B82, Vitamin B83, Vitamin B84, Vitamin B85, Vitamin B86, Vitamin B87, Vitamin B88, Vitamin B89, Vitamin B90, Vitamin B91, Vitamin B92, Vitamin B93, Vitamin B94, Vitamin B95, Vitamin B96, Vitamin B97, Vitamin B98, Vitamin B99, Vitamin B100.

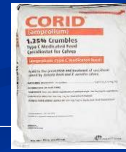
Feeding Directions: Hudson 21% Lamb Starter Complete "BOV" is intended to be used as a starter feed for lambs up to 60 lbs body weight. Careful management is necessary for acceptable results when growing lambs are fed high levels of concentrate. Consult your veterinarian for advice regarding management of parasitism and enterotoxemia (over-eating disease).

CAUTION: The safety of Lasalocid in unapproved species has not been established. Do not allow horses or other equine species to consume Lasalocid as ingestion may be fatal. Feeding undiluted or mixing errors resulting in excessive concentrations of Lasalocid may be fatal to them.

Manufactured By:
Eprabiol Mills, Inc.
P.O. Box 50146
Oskosh, Ohio 43150
419-738-3111
www.eprabiolmills.com

685bov Net Weight 30 lbs (22.68 Kg) or bulk 811041

	Dose in Feed	Duration to feed	Approved for
Decoquinat Deccox	13.6 g/ton	28 days	Sheep/Goats
Lasalocid Bovitech	20-30 g/ton	28 days	Sheep
Monensin Rumensin	20 g/ton	28 days	Goats



Prevention

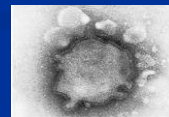
- Do not over-crowd pens
- Minimize moisture
 - Use gravel around feeders/waterers
 - Utilize the sunlight
- Keep maternity pens clean and dry
 - Clean jugs between litters
- Decrease ewe shedding
 - Feed coccidiostats to ewes to decrease oocyst shedding
 - Prior to time of risk for lambs (jugs, on pasture)

Prevention

- Minimize Stress
 - At weaning (keep lambs in familiar setting, fence-line)
 - Adequate nutrition, colostrum, bunk space, minerals
 - Don't change ration 2 weeks prior and 2 weeks after weaning
- Minimize fecal-oral consumption
 - Feed grain and hay off the ground
 - Refrain from over-grazing pastures
 - Clean waterers on a regular basis

Pneumonia

- Stress or immunodeficiency
 - Environmental (weather changes, wet conditions, hot, cold, dusty)
 - Management (ventilation issues, crowding, concurrent diseases)
- Viruses: PI-3 (Parainfluenza-3)*, Adenovirus, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)
- Bacteria: *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Bibersteinia trehalose*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia*



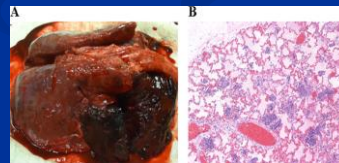
Vaccination for Respiratory Disease

- Vaccination for viral components
- Intranasal modified live cattle vaccines available
 - Use for PI-3 and RSV viral components (efficacy variable per study)
 - Serotypes for cattle and sheep may not match up
 - Use in high risk herds (show animals, high incidence of pneumonia)
 - Vaccinate dams 4-6 wks before parturition (same time CD&T)
 - In lambs at 1-3 days of age, decreases morbidity
- Can use in the face of an outbreak



Bacterial Vaccine

- Serotype of *Mannheimia* in this vaccine may not match up to serotype causing disease
- Potentially may decrease severity of clinical signs and mortality
- Targeted vaccine for bacterial pathogens causing disease
 - Necropsy
 - Culture and determine cause of pneumonia



Pneumonia Control

- Appropriate management is the key to success!
 - Ventilation, ventilation, ventilation
 - Reduce dust
 - Avoid handling/transporting in weather conditions that induce pneumonia
 - Adequate nutrition and disease control
 - Biosecurity for new arrivals
 - Avoid mixing animals from different sources

Do Deworm with **THREE** Different Classes of Dewormers



Foot Rot and Foot Scald



QUESTIONS?

Production and Financial Records that Make Sense

2024 VA Shepherd Symposium
Camren Maierle, PhD

Why keep records?

"You can't change what you don't measure"

Don't we

- It's the right thing to do
- Time consuming
- Enjoy spreadsheets or additional work
- Access or implementation of technology
- Better understanding of the operation
- Lack direction in how to use the data
- Identify areas of improvement
- Lack need or drive to improve

Record Keeping Essentials

Where do we start?

- Only collect/keep useful records
 - Micron diameter in hair sheep
 - Birthweight if you don't plan on adjusting WWT*
- Organization
- Benchmarking
 - Establish what baseline production is
 - Set goals for **YOUR** operation - attainable
- Follow through!
 - Utilize data to track improvement
- **K.I.S.S.** - keep it simple silly



Types of Records

- Identification
 - Inventory
- Pedigree
- Production or Performance
 - Reproduction
 - Growth
 - Marketing
- Health
 - Vaccinations and medical treatment
 - Drug residue
 - FAMACHA
- Financial
 - Input cost



<https://www.sheepandgoat.com>

Identification

- Identification
 - Scrapie tag is mandatory
 - Can easily be used for flock ID
 - Premier 1
 - Allflex
 - Shearwell
- EID - Electronic ID
 - Must have reader
 - Allows for improved data collection
 - Labor savings
 - Cost
 - Still have to use the data
- Inventory
 - Can you count sheep?



Pedigree

- Does this have value?
- Sire selection is critical
- Use records and performance data to find genetic "families"
- Can further hone selection for advantageous traits - CAN improve consistency

Date of Birth	02/02/2015	Type of Birth	Single	Type of Service	Natural Service	Permanent ID	NSP ID
							Supernine 05 Stockton 7211-P14 -- 569617
							Foralfourc Flash Dance -- 569601
							Stockton 721116 -- 569615
							URF 445 -- 513511
							BYU 115 -- 477125
							BYU 910 -- 429294
							Shack 0115b -- 456335
							Shack 9397-4an -- 420655
							Shack S 3181F -- 514305
							Mid.aublinGriffin 01-144 -- 486243
							Mid.aublinGriffin 01-144 -- 486243
							Kimm 97059-00115 -- 438509
							Mid.aublinGriffin 0038 -- 444887
							Mid.aublinGriffin 9547 -- 448870
							Mid.aublinGriffin 31-7 -- 453277
							Kimm 3019-07012 RRNN -- 562155
							Kimm 00027-02027 -- 490308
							Kimm 001103019 -- 514120
							BarcZel 0011 -- 438138
							Gold SBRReak
							Donner Trail DTR 02-1455 -- 489276
							Donner Trail DTR 04-1503 RR -- 52804
							Donner Trail DTR 02-1450 -- 494056
							MacCaulley 1932 QR -- 569135
							MacCaulley 1553 -- 492695
							Speonistic 335 -- 425747
							Brezzeview 10 -- 440153

<https://suffolks.org/wp/registration/>

Production or Performance Records

What do we measure?

Reproduction

• Conception

- Length of breeding season
- Production system (accelerated vs annual)

How/When can we measure this?

- Lambing (5 Months)
- Ultrasound (1.5 - 3 Months)
- Blood test (1 Month)

What do we do with the information?

- Cull open ewes
- Identify ewes that breed early

Heritabilities of Various Traits

Reproduction	Percentage
Ewe fertility	5
Prolificacy	10
Scrotal circumference	35
Age at puberty	25
Lamb survival	5
Ewe productivity	20

Sheep Production Handbook

Benchmark Example

- 90% conception in the first 34 days (2 cycles)
- Only keep replacements from first 17 days
- Priority to ewe lambs lambing at 12-15 months old

Reproduction

Optimize vs. Maximize

• Prolificacy

- Number born (NLB)
- Production system (accelerated vs annual)
 - Time of year

How/When can we measure this?

- Lambing? %
- Weaning %

What do we do with the information?

- Cull less productive ewes
- Cost of maintenance relatively the same
- Identify ewes that breed early

Heritabilities of Various Traits

Reproduction	Percentage
Ewe fertility	5
Prolificacy	10
Scrotal circumference	35
Age at puberty	25
Lamb survival	5
Ewe productivity	20
Sheep Production Handbook	

Benchmark Example

- 200% Drop , 190% Weaned
- Can't have single lambs in back-to-back lambing events
- Tolerance for lower NLW than NLB
 - If she has 3 she should raise 3

Reproduction

• Ewe Productivity

- Lbs. of lambs weaned / ewe exposed
- Combination of maternal traits

How/When can we measure this?

- Breeding - Weaning
- Must adjust WWT

What do we do with the information?

- Cull less productive ewes
- Cost of maintenance relatively the same

- ★ Add in ewe weight at breeding
 - % of ewe weight produced/sold

Heritabilities of Various Traits

Reproduction	Percentage
Ewe fertility	5
Prolificacy	10
Scrotal circumference	35
Age at puberty	25
Lamb survival	5
Ewe productivity	20
Sheep Production Handbook	

Benchmark Example

- Select ewes that produce $\geq 100\%$ of their BW
 - Set a time frame
- Expect ewes to do their "job"

Growth

What's required?

- Identify what time points make sense for your operation.
- Can help justify changes in management
- Help identify when to market lambs for improved profitability



Heritabilities of Various Traits

Growth	Percentage
Birth weight	15
60-day weight	10
90-day weight	15
120-day weight	20
240-day weight	40
Preweaning gain (0-60)	15
Postweaning gain (60-120)	25

Sheep Production Handbook



Marketing

Often overlooked

Long term data collection

- Multiple years

Opportunity to change management for increased revenue opportunity.

Direct sales

Seedstock: do input costs stay consistent across years

Meat: Demand for product

- Value added ?



Health and Treatment Records

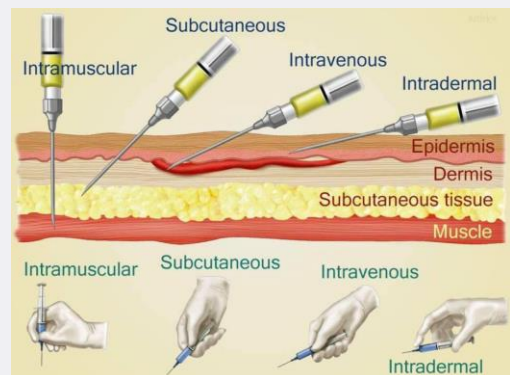
The essentials

Treatment records

Long-term commitment (2-5 years)

- Date of treatment
- Drug name
- Animal identification
- Dosage
- Route of administration
- Expected treatment duration
- Slaughter withdrawal
- Individual who administered the drug
- Actual treatment duration

Your responsibility in a VCPR



<http://www.shagbarkridge.com/info/injections.html>

How to Collect

Time is money

Ewe Name/ID:

Scrapie ID:

BD:

BT:

Codon 171:

Reg. No.:

Sire:

Dam:

Lamb ID	Sex	Birth Date	Sire	Comments

Data collection improvements



When is it the right time to invest?

Justification?

Labor/time savings

Pay up front for labor



Financial Records

The Basics

Finance on the farm

"I want to run it like a business"

"I just don't want to lose money"



Record keeping is essential in developing a business plan and assisting with what to change to create a more sustainable business.

What tools are available?

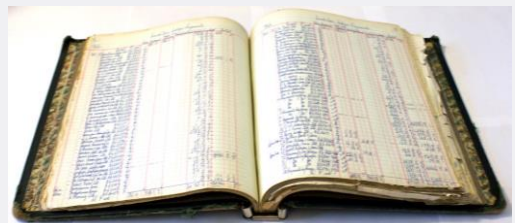
Finance on the farm - tools

Identify where you need to start

- Size of the operation
 - Complexity of the operation
- Your organizational skills
- Time commitment

★ Extension resources

If you have an opportunity to work with an accountant who understands agricultural finance, take advantage of it



Summary – Why, What, When, How

Why

- Allows for the ability to make change/improvement
- Improve overall production of the ewe flock
- Helps show/document progress
 - Encouraging

What

- Animal ID & Inventory
- Treatment records
- Production records
- Financial records

When

- Should align with production goals
- Collect usable data

How

- Up to you
- Start collecting the basics



Questions?

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Camren@americanlamb.com

(740) 877-5529

ALB Climate Smart Grant



USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will provide grants for pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forest products produced using climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring and verification of greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits.

What are climate smart practices?

Agricultural practices or combinations of practices, and/or practice enhancements that provide GHG benefits and/or carbon sequestration, including but not limited to:

- Cover crops
- Low-till or no-till
- Nutrient management
- Manure management
- Feed management to reduce enteric emissions
- Planting for high carbon sequestration rate
- Climate-smart pasture practices, such as prescribed grazing or legume interseeding



Producer Enrollment

- Limited to 150 Producers
- Applications will be available Fall 2024
- Producers will be enrolled Jan 2025 - implementation for the 2025 growing season
- Producers will be assigned a technical assistance provider
 - Up front visits and meetings to review grazing plans and management practices and make recommendations
 - Help organize data for emissions calculator and COMET Planner
 - Monitor progress
 - Back-end visit to verify program requirements



Fall vs. Winter/Spring Lambing: Management and Marketing Considerations

SCOTT P. GREINER, PH.D.
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Key Considerations

- When is our lambing season?
- What determines when we lamb?
 - Ewe productivity? (number born, number weaned)
 - Marketing program (age, weight of lambs)?
 - Breed?
 - Management ?
 - Facilities
 - Forages/nutrition
 - Health (parasites)
 - Convenience?
 - Habit?



Factors impacting lambing season

- Breed/genetics
 - Seasonality
- Management strategies
 - Ram effect
 - Flushing
 - Forage quality/quantity, nutrition
- Technology
 - CIDRs
 - Estrus synchronization

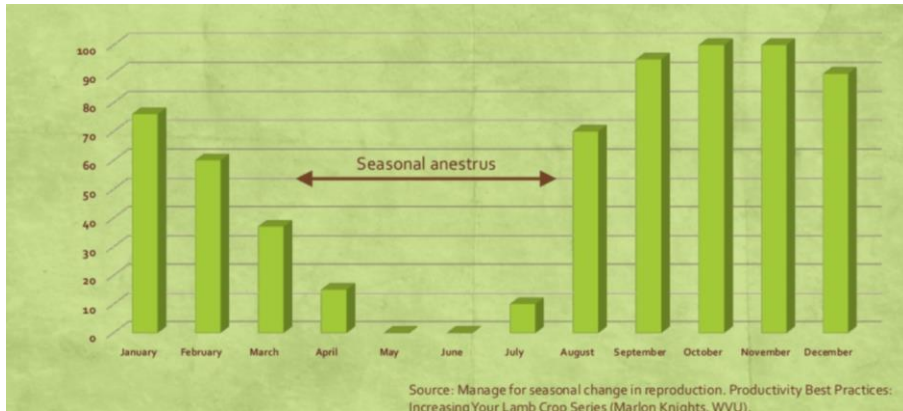


Managing seasonal breeding in sheep

- Sheep are seasonally polyestrous (seasonal anestrus period)
- Reproduction cued by photoperiod (day length); short day breeders
- Gestation = 5 mo → potential lambing intervals of 7-8 mo, yet we struggle to achieve >1 lambing/year
- Seasonality impacted by several factors
 - Breed
 - Genetics- variation within breeds
 - Lactational anestrus



Sheep Seasonality



So when should I lamb?

- What is my market?
 - Marketing date
 - Market weight/type
- How will my lambing date impact my bottom line?
 - Number of lambs born/marketed
 - Cost of production (ewes and lambs)
- What are my resources?
 - Facilities
 - Labor
 - Forages





Ethnic Holiday Calendar

HOLIDAY	RELIGION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eid ul-Adha Festival of the Sacrifice	Muslim	July 20-23	July 9-10	Jun 28-29	Jun 16-17	Jun 6-7
Muharramm/Hajra Islamic New Year	Muslim	Aug 9-10	July 29-30	July 18-19	July 7-8	June 26-27
Mawlid al-Nabi Prophet's Birthday	Muslim	Oct 18-19	Oct 7-8	Sept 26-27	Sept 15-16	Sept 4-5
Ramadan (month of fasting)	Muslim	April 12-May 11	April 2-May 1	Mar 22-Apr 20	Mar 10-Apr 8	Feb 28-Mar 29
Eid ul-Fitr Festival of Fast Breaking	Muslim	May 12-13	May 2-3	Apr 21-22	Apr 9-10	Mar 30-31
Pesch (Passover)	Jewish	Mar 27-Apr 4	Apr 15-23	Apr 5-13	Apr 22-30	Apr 12-20
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	Sept 6-8	Sept 25-27	Sept 15-27	Oct 2-4	Sept 22-24
Chanukkah	Jewish	Nov 29-Dec 6	Dec 18-26	Dec 7-15	Dec 25-Jan 2	Dec 14-22
Western (Roman) Easter	Christian	April 4	April 17	April 9	April 17	April 4
Eastern Orthodox (Greek) Easter	Christian	May 2	April 24	April 16	May 5	April 20
Christmas (Western)	Christian	Dec 25	Dec 25	Dec 25	Dec 25	Dec 25
Epiphany, Feast of the Nativity	Christian	Jan 7	Jan 7	Jan 7	Jan 7	Jan 7
Chinese New Year		Feb 12	Feb 1	Jan 22	Feb 10	Jan 29



Lambing Season & Marketing

- Holiday: begin Ramadan – 3/22/23, **3/10/24**, **2/28/25**
- Holiday: Eid ul-Fitr – 4/21/23, **4/9/24**, **3/30/25**
- Holiday: Eid ul-Adah – 6/28/23, **6/16/24**, **6/6/25**
- **Each holiday gets 10 days earlier every year!**



Projected Performance (Age x Growth Rate)

<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>WW at 60 days</u>	<u>weight at 90 days</u>	<u>weight at 120 days</u>	<u>weight at 150 days</u>
High (0.75 ADG)	60	83	105	128
Med (0.50 ADG)	50	73	95	118
Low (0.30 ADG)	40	63	85	108

***ADG dependent on diet, health, management**



Winter Lambing

Breed mid-August, lamb mid-January

<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>WW at 60 days</u>	<u>weight at 90 days</u>	<u>weight at 120 days</u>	<u>weight at 150 days</u>
	March 15	April 15	May 15	June 15
High (0.75 ADG)	60	83	105	128
Med (0.50 ADG)	50	73	95	118
Low (0.30 ADG)	40	63	85	108



Winter Lambing

Breed mid-August, lamb mid-January

Major ethnic holidays- Feb, March, June

<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>WW at 60 days</u>	<u>weight at 90 days</u>	<u>weight at 120 days</u>	<u>weight at 150 days</u>
	March 15	April 15	May 15	June 15
High (0.75 ADG)	60	83	105	128
Med (0.50 ADG)	50	73	95	118
Low (0.30 ADG)	40	63	85	108



Spring Lambing

Breed mid-October, lamb mid-March

<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>WW at 60 days</u>	<u>weight at 90 days</u>	<u>weight at 120 days</u>	<u>weight at 150 days</u>
	May 15	June 15	July 15	August 15
High (0.75 ADG)	60	83	105	128
Med (0.50 ADG)	50	73	95	118
Low (0.30 ADG)	40	63	85	108



Spring Lambing

Breed mid-October, lamb mid-March

Major ethnic holidays- Feb, March, June

<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>WW at 60 days</u>	<u>weight at 90 days</u>	<u>weight at 120 days</u>	<u>weight at 150 days</u>
	May 15	June 15	July 15	August 15
High (0.75 ADG)	60	83	105	128
Med (0.50 ADG)	50	73	95	118
Low (0.30 ADG)	40	63	85	108



Fall Lambing

Breed mid-May, lamb mid-October

<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>WW at 60 days</u>	<u>weight at 90 days</u>	<u>weight at 120 days</u>	<u>weight at 150 days</u>
	Dec 15	Jan 15	Feb 15	March 15
High (0.75 ADG)	60	83	105	128
Med (0.50 ADG)	50	73	95	118
Low (0.30 ADG)	40	63	85	108



Fall Lambing

Breed mid-May, lamb mid-October

Major ethnic holidays- Feb, March, June

<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>WW at 60 days</u>	<u>weight at 90 days</u>	<u>weight at 120 days</u>	<u>weight at 150 days</u>
	Dec 15	Jan 15	Feb 15	March 15
High (0.75 ADG)	60	83	105	128
Med (0.50 ADG)	50	73	95	118
Low (0.30 ADG)	40	63	85	108



Lambing Season & Marketing

- Holiday: begin Ramadan – **3/10/24, 2/28/25**
 - Winter lambing- feed lambs aggressively (young)
 - Spring lambing- X
 - Fall lambing- less aggressive feeding (heavier)
- Holiday: Eid ul-Fitr – **4/9/24, 3/30/25**
 - Winter lambing- feed lambs aggressively
 - Spring lambing- X
 - Fall lambing- less aggressive feeding (longer hold)
- Holiday: Eid ul-Adah – **6/16/24, 6/6/25**
 - Winter lambing- less aggressive feeding/pasture
 - Spring lambing- will need be fairly aggressive feeding, get lambs in proper condition
 - Fall lambing- X (older lambs, hold longer)



Finding balance.....

- Ideal marketing time
 - Strong, reliable prices for age/weight/type
- Ideal lambing season
 - Fits marketing
 - Fits facilities, management, resources
 - Optimizes number/weight lambs to market
- Ideal management system
 - Feeding requirements for ewes- suppl. hay/feed vs grass
 - Feeding and mgt of lambs- pasture vs. drylot, forage vs. grain, how long to hold, intense vs. extensive mgt.



Out of Season Breeding Approaches

- Genetic Selection
- Ram or Buck Effect
- Hormonal Control

- As holidays move forward, there is more advantage to lambing earlier (in 3-5 years, lambing in Sept-Nov will fit ethnic holidays nicely)
- Need to begin planning now



Best candidate breeds for out-of-season breeding

- Polypay – [Dorset-Finn-Rambouillet-Targhee]
 - Dorset – all Dorset are not created equal
 - Finnsheep or Romanov crosses
 - Katahdin (?)
 - Rambouillet
-
- Avoid straightbred black-faced breeds
 - Dorper, Texel may be ok, but not great



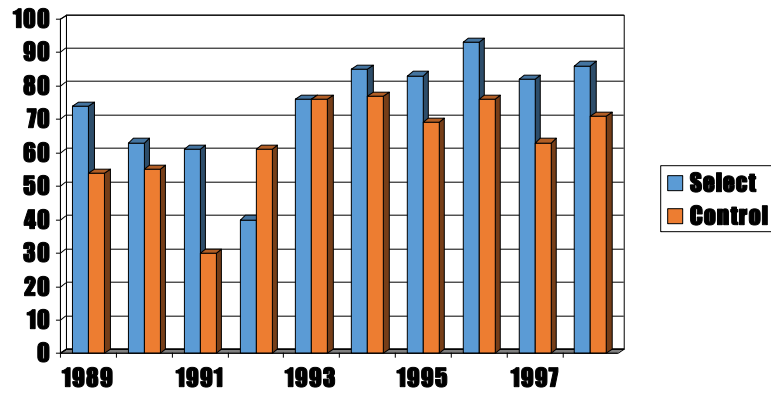
Use of Selection to Develop a Population with Reduced Seasonality

- Developed from crosses among 3 breeds
 - 50% Dorset
 - 25% Rambouillet
 - 25% Finnsheep
- Establishment began in 1983
- Selection began in 1988
- End selection after fall 1998 lambing
- Maintain the flock with relaxed selection

All Have Some Innate Potential for Out-of-Season Breeding



Fertility (%) in Select and Environmental Control Lines



Ram Effect



Ram Effect

- Method (applicable all seasons)
 - Isolate ewes from rams for 4 to 6 weeks. Shorter periods may work but less reliable.
 - No fence-line contact; one-half mile or so is better. No shared pens, chutes, etc.
 - Join rams and ewes ~ 2 wks before you want to start getting ewes pregnant
 - Can use teaser (vasectomized) rams to tighten up lambing. Or just introduce breeding rams 2 wks early; will get a few early lambs.



Ram Effect

- Expect:
 - 50 to 90% of ewes ovulate within 2 to 7 days after ram introduction, *but*
 - Less than 20% of ewes in heat within 7 days (first ovulation is *silent* – no estrus)
 - 50 to 80% of ewes in heat 16 to 25 days after ram introduction.
 - Two peaks of estrus: 1st at 16 to 20 days and 2nd at 22 to 26 days.
 - 35 to 60% of ewes pregnant after the 2nd estrus peak
 - Most effective in summer as breeding season is approaching. Less effective in the spring as ewe becoming anestrus.



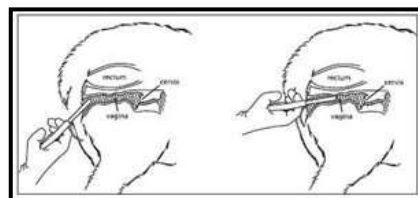
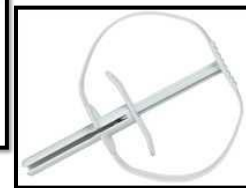
Ram Effect

- How does it work:
 - The smell of the ram (a pheromone) can act directly on the ewe's brain to cause an LH surge and ovulation
 - The exact pheromone has not been isolated (no "ram in a can")
 - The presence of ewes in heat (ie. cycling ewes) also can help to induce anestrous ewes to cycle. Can be an important effect.
 - Ram + cycling ewes provide an optimal social environment for getting ewes to cycle.



Eazi-Breed Sheep CIDR

- Vaginal insert releases progesterone
- Removal after 5 days
- Heat 1-3 days post removal
- Cost ~\$6-7





VT Dorset Flock

- Historically fall-lambing
- Decline in spring pregnancy/fall lambing percentages
 - Environment?
 - Genetics?
- CIDR synchronization initiated Spring 2010
 - Goal: return to natural spring breeding/fall lambing



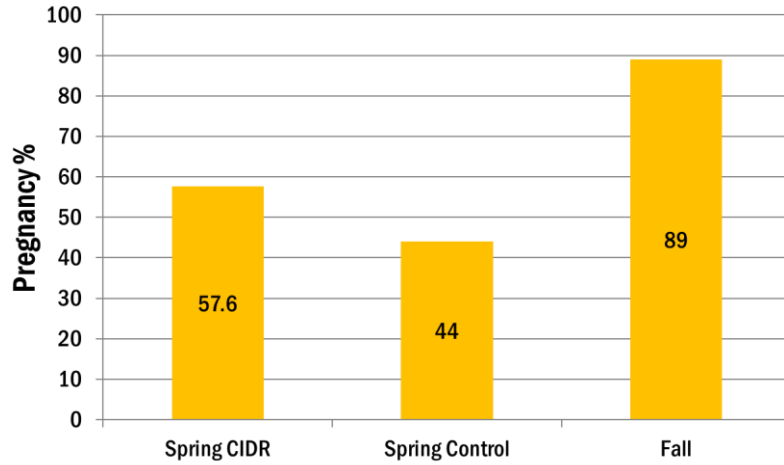
Protocol

- Spring breeding (2 groups)
 - 1) Control group of ewes (no synchronization)- ewes had lambed previous fall
 - 2) Ewes lambing Jan-Feb received CIDR (weaned at 60 d)
 - CIDR administered late April to late May
 - CIDR removal after 5 or 7 day
 - Single sire breeding groups (3-4 sires per yr)
 - Same sires across treatments, ~45 d breeding season
- Fall breeding
 - All mature ewes not pregnant for fall lambs (as well as ewe lambs)
 - August breeding to lamb Jan-Feb

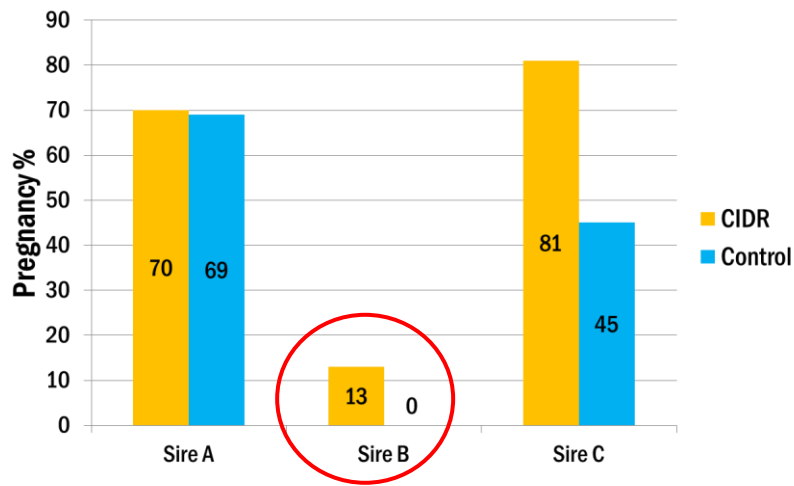


Pregnancy Rates

7 years, 594 ewes



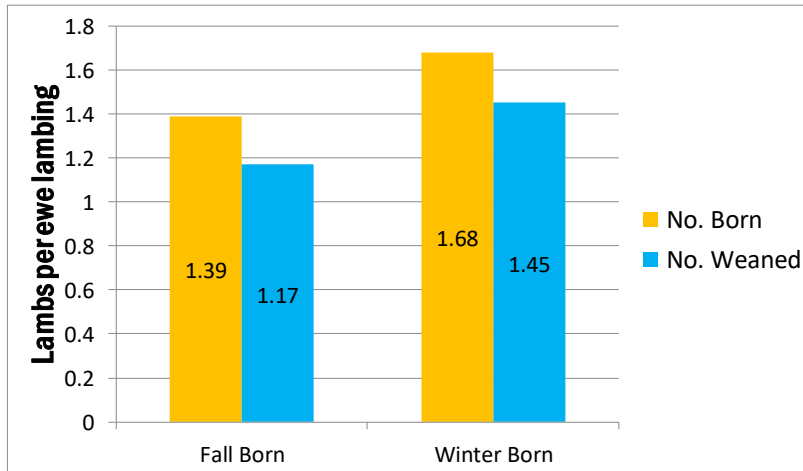
Service Sires- Spring 2011





Fall (Oct-Nov) vs. Winter Lambing (Jan-Feb)

5 yr, 323 mature ewes



Fall vs. Winter Lambing Economics

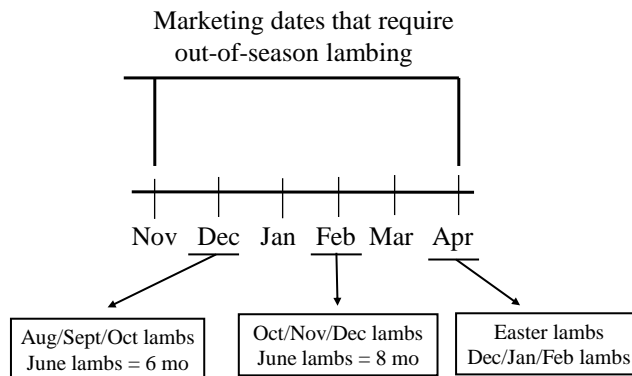
- +30% lambs born and weaned in Winter
 - Requires 24% higher price/lb. for fall lambs sold to generate same total gross revenue (assuming same sale weight)
 - 100 pound lambs: \$2.47 vs. \$2.00 (\$47/head)
- This does not account for differences in pregnancy rate
 - not all ewes will conceive for fall lambs
 - requires second lambing season (winter/spring)



Summary- Economics

- Lambing rates will be significantly lower for fall vs. winter/spring lambing ewes
 - Offset by higher lamb prices and lower costs of production??
- Economic considerations (will vary with your goals and objectives for lambing out of season):
 - Cost and labor of synchronization, along with reduced litter size and lower pregnancy rates...
 - vs. potential increased lamb price and decreased production costs
 - vs. alternative strategy of meeting seasonal marketing goals with lamb management and feeding strategies (not significantly change lambing season)

Squeeze down the Marketing Dates that Really Require Out-of-Season Lambing



Currently ethnic holidays with historically strong lamb prices are Feb-June (and getting earlier each year)



Should I move my breeding season?

- Moving it later- very simple. Will have more lambs born, lambs to market, etc.
- Moving it earlier- needs to be done incrementally.
 - Start with moving it 30 days earlier
 - Ewes need to be in adequate body condition, recovered from previous lactation
 - Wean lambs in timely fashion to increase post-partum interval
 - Strategies such as Ram Effect and CIDR will be helpful



Summary

- Inducing out-of-season breeding with hormones or ram effect is a process, not an event.
- White-faced breeds are usually better out-of-season breeders than black-faced breeds
- May and June are the deepest part of the anestrous and most difficult time to achieve fertility. Breeding in April or in July will be much easier than breeding in May and June.



Summary- CIDRs

- CIDRs can improve out-of-season breeding but results are variable and fertility seldom exceeds 65 to 70%
- Ram fertility and libido just as important as cycling ewe for spring breeding
 - Single vs. multiple sire breeding pastures
 - Staggering of CIDR removal
- Ewes should be in good body condition, weaned and recovered from the weaning process
- Ewes should not be exposed to rams prior to synchronization



Final Thoughts

- Integration of lambing season, management, and marketing is critical
- Key components:
 - Lambing season- optimize number born/weaned at projected age/weight based on market
 - Management- manage costs of production (both ewe flock, and lamb crop)
 - Marketing- establish goals relative to lamb age and weight, position to be flexible as needed



Have a great lambing season!



BUILDING BETTER SHEEP GRAZING SYSTEMS



NC STATE

EXTENSION

Johnny R. Rogers
Amazing Grazing Program Coordinator
North Carolina State University

AmazingGrazing™
Pasture-Based Livestock Education Program

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

“When you buy an acre of land, you buy 43,560 square feet of solar panel.”

-Jim Gerrish



You also have a 43,560 square feet rainfall collector.....





Soil Health Principles

1. Soil Armor
2. Minimizing Soil Disturbance
3. Plant Diversity
4. Continual Live Plant/Root

healthy
soil is
made of about **45% minerals**
25% water
5% organic matter **25% air**

Source: *The Nature & Properties of Soils* page 17
(Nyle Brady, Ray R Weil)

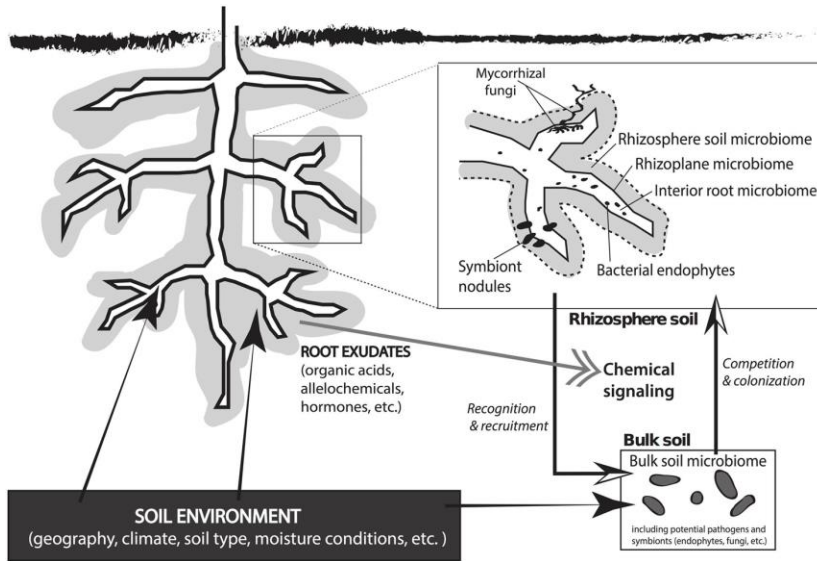
USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture

Want more soil secrets?
Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

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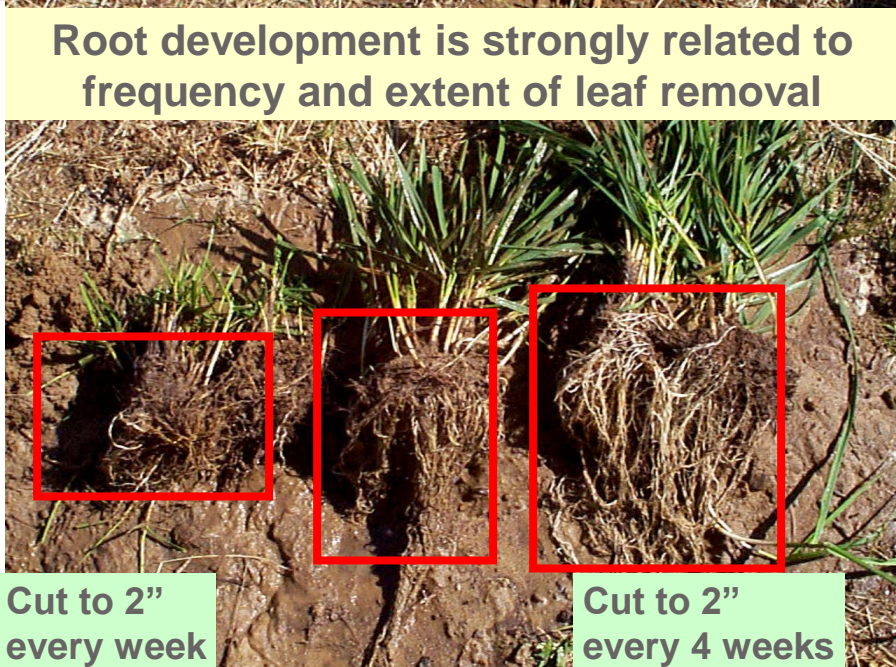
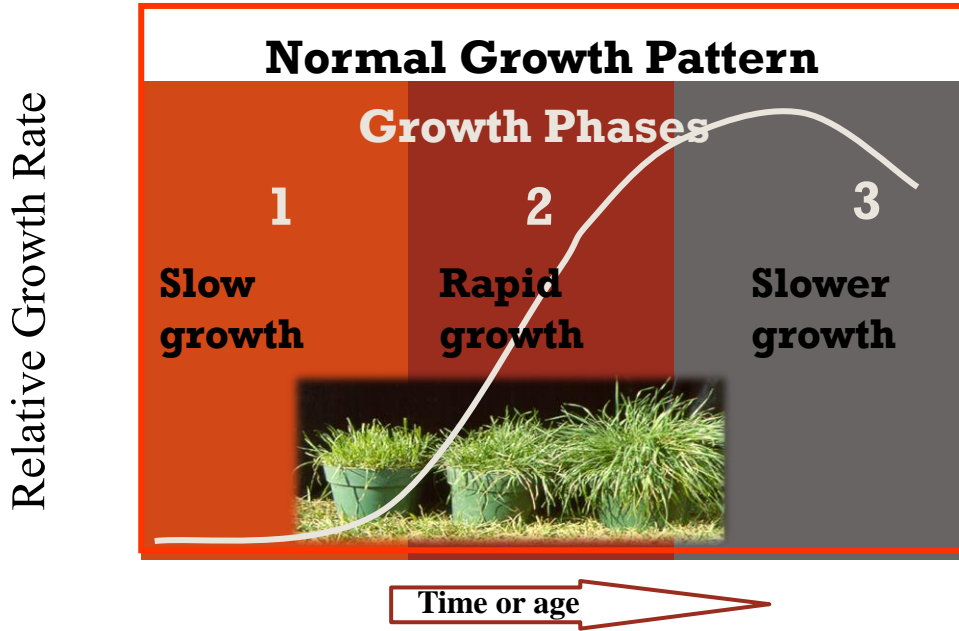
The infographic features a stylized cross-section of soil with a green top layer and brown soil below. A large, clear flask is shown on the right, containing a blue liquid and several brown bubbles, representing the composition of soil. The text is arranged in a clean, modern font, with percentages and key components highlighted in bold.

BUILDING SOIL ORGANIC MATTER



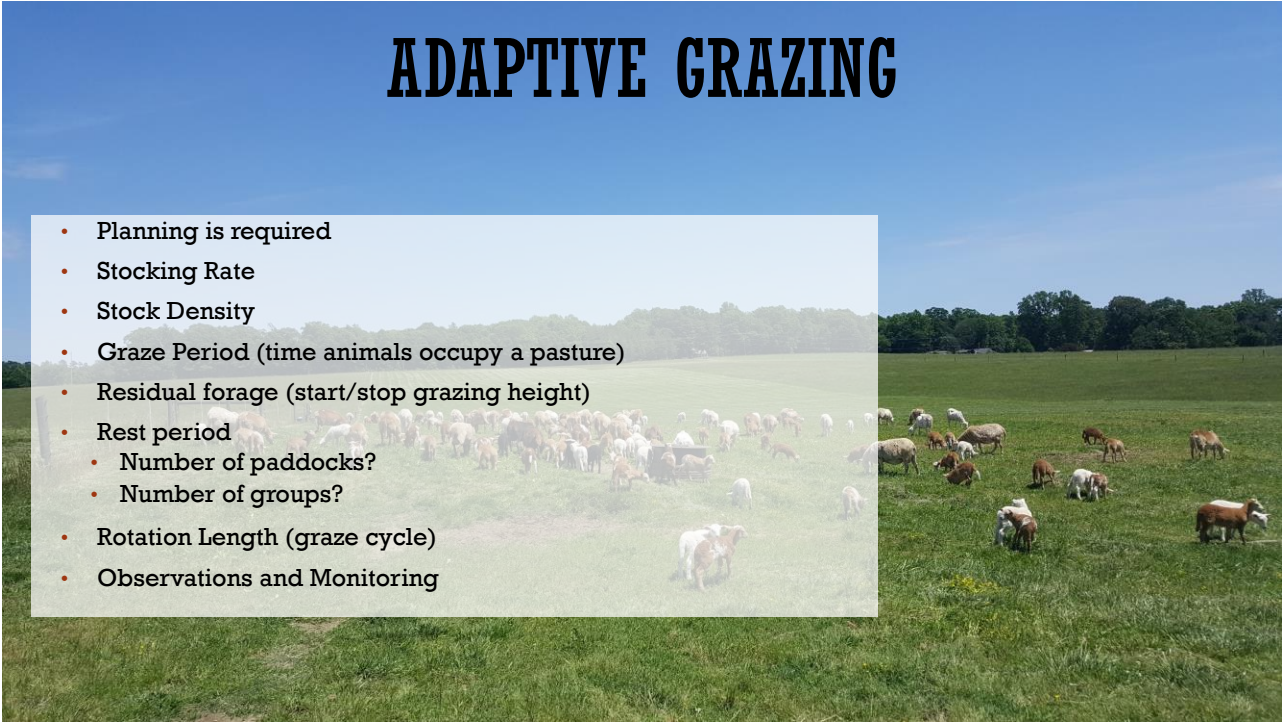
Source: <http://www.dfiles.me/soil-microbes.html>



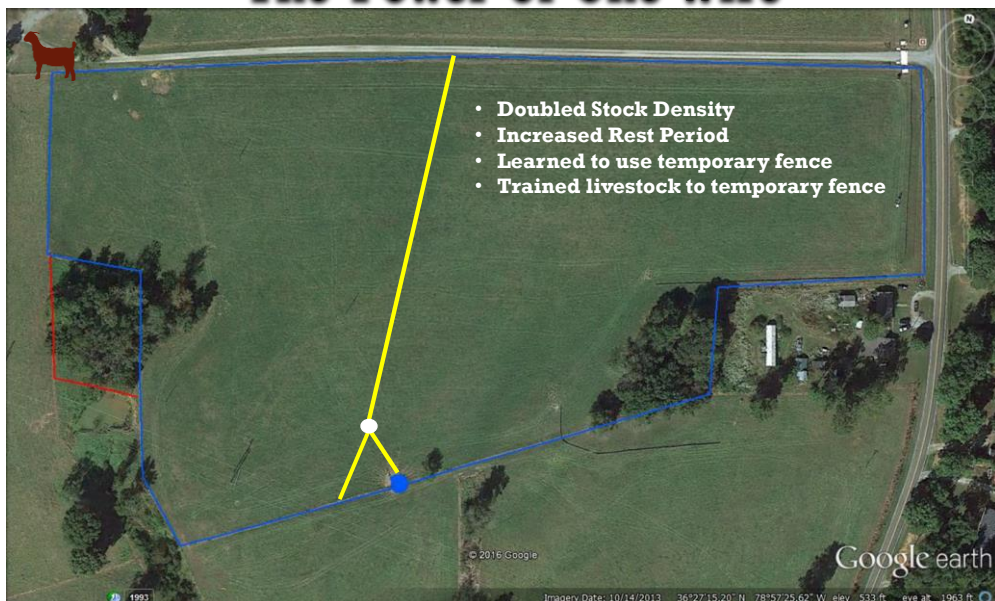


ADAPTIVE GRAZING

- Planning is required
- Stocking Rate
- Stock Density
- Graze Period (time animals occupy a pasture)
- Residual forage (start/stop grazing height)
- Rest period
 - Number of paddocks?
 - Number of groups?
- Rotation Length (graze cycle)
- Observations and Monitoring



“The Power of One Wire”





PASTURE INVENTORY CHECKLIST

- Grass species
- Weed species/pressures
- Distribution of species in pastures
- Poisonous species
- Water/shade locations



ASSESSING THE PASTURE STAND

- **Point Step Analysis is the most practical approach**
- **Randomly walk the pasture and identify plants or bare ground on 100 to 200 points**

Figure 1. Point Step Worksheet

Pasture #	Tall Fescue	Orchard -grass	White Clover	Buttercup	Other Desirable	Other Undesirable	Bare Ground	Total
1*	 34			 			 29	100
2								

* Pasture 1 shows signs of heavy horsenettle and dog fennel population.



INDICATOR SPECIES REPETITIVE CLOSE GRAZING

- Annual bluegrass
- White clover
- Chickweed
- Buttercup



Figure 1. Point Step Worksheet

Pasture #	Tall Fescue	Orchard -grass	White Clover	Buttercup	Other Desirable	Other Undesirable	Bare Ground	Total
1*	 34			 			 29	100
2								

* Pasture 1 shows signs of heavy horsenettle and dog fennel population.

50% Desirable species (Fescue, Orchard, Clover, Other Desirable)
 9% Clover
 21% Weeds. Mostly Buttercup.
 29% Bare Ground

Interpretation?

- Overgrazing may be an issue (bareground)
- Not enough clover to worry about (chemical treatments)
- Candidate for weed control only with rest, or complete renovation.
- Spray to control buttercup later winter and/or wait and spray for the other perennial in late spring. For full renovation spray with glyphosate and plant summer annual.



TYPE OF RENOVATION

- Partial Renovation
 - Rejuvenation or enhancement of existing pasture
 - Generally improving existing forage stands after injury from winter, drought, flood, other stressors.
 - Fertility correction, herbicide (if indicated), rest
- Total Renovation
 - Correct fertility issues
 - Address grazing management issues
 - Killing existing plants followed by reestablishment of desirable forage species

PLAN, PLAN, PLAN



SOIL TEST AND FOLLOW FERTILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



**Sample hayfields
every year and
1/3 of your
pastures each year**



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey

You are here: Web Soil Survey Home

Search: Enter Keyword, All NRCS Sites, Browse by Subject

Soils Home, National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCCS), Archived Soil Surveys, Status Maps, Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSD), Soil Series Extent Mapping Tool, Geospatial Data Gateway, eFOFG, National Soil Characterization Data, Soil Health, Soil Geography

The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.

START WSS

Welcome to Web Soil Survey (WSS)
Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

Soil surveys can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning. Onsite investigation is needed in some cases, such as soil quality assessments and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center at the following link: [USDA Service Center](#) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist at the following link: [NRCS State Soil Scientist](#)

Four Basic Steps

1. Define

Use the Area of Interest tab to define your area of interest.

I Want To...
Start Web Soil Survey (WSS), Know Web Soil Survey Requirements, Know Web Soil Survey operation hours, Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data, Find information by topic, Know how to hyperlink from other documents to Web Soil Survey, Know the SSURGO data structure

Announcements/Events
Web Soil Survey 3.3 has been released! View new features and fixes, Web Soil Survey Release History, Sign up for e-mail updates via GovDelivery

I Want Help With...
Getting Started With Web Soil



NCDA SOIL TESTING

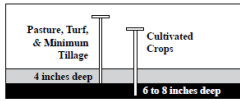


Figure 1. Proper sampling depth depends on tillage practices for the area sampled.

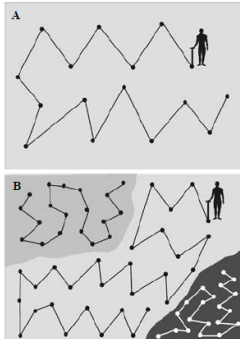


Figure 2. Sampling strategies. A) Use a zigzag pattern to collect cores randomly from a field with uniform soil. B) Subdivide fields that have distinct zones (soil type, cropping history, etc.) if it is feasible to lime and fertilize each area separately.



Form AG-1 (April 2015)

SOIL SAMPLE INFORMATION — N.C. Soil Only

NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Soil Testing Section
 Mailing Address: 1540 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27695-1540
 Physical Address (UPS/FedEx): 4300 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC 27607
 Phone: (919) 733-2655 Website: www.ncagr.gov/agronomi

For laboratory results, go to www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/yak.

SAMPLE INFORMATION	PAYMENT	GROWER INFORMATION (please print legibly)	CONSULTANT/OTHER RECIPIENT
FARM ID (optional)	FEE TOTAL	LAST NAME	LAST NAME
SAMPLE DATE (optional)	METHOD OF PAYMENT (check account number below)	ADDRESS (in N.C. where samples were collected)	ADDRESS
NC COUNTY (where collected)	NC COUNTY (where collected)	CITY	CITY
NUMBER OF SAMPLES	PHONE	PHONE	PHONE

By submitting this form to the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division, I attest that the accompanying samples were collected in North Carolina.

LAB NUMBER (Leave blank)	SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION	LIME APPLIED WITHIN (FIRST 12 MONTHS)			You must specify a crop CODE to receive a recommendation (see reverse side of form)			
		Tons/Acre	Month	Year	FIRST CROP	CODE	SECOND CROP	CODE
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

NCDA&CS Agronomic Division	Phone: (919) 733-2655	Website: www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/	Report No. FY17-SL032738
<p>Predictive Soil Report Mehlich-3 Extraction</p> <p>Links to Helpful Information</p>	Client: Johnny Rogers 945 Woodsdale Rd Roxboro, NC 27573	Advisor:	
	Client ID: 350281	Advisor ID:	
Sampled: 05/01/2017	Received: 05/02/2017	Completed: 05/11/2017	Farm:
Sample ID: 15	Recommendations: Lime (tons/acre) Crop 1 - Sudan/Sorghum past. 0.0 2 - Small Grain (SG) 0.0	Nutrients (lb/acre) N P ₂ O ₅ K ₂ O Mg S Mn Zn Cu B 140-180 100 50 0 0 0 0 0 0 80-100 100 10 0 0 0 0 0 0	More Information Note: 12 Note: 3
Test Results [units - W/V in g/cm ³ ; CEC and Na in meq/100 cm ³ ; NO ₃ -N in mg/dm ³]: Soil Class: Mineral HM% W/V CEC BS% Ac pH P-I K-I Ca% Mg% S-I Mn-I Mn-Al1 Mn-Al2 Zn-I Zn-Al Cu-I Na ESP SS-I NO ₃ -N 0.46 0.98 9.5 84 1.5 6.0 17 75 53 27 43 862 534 527 200 200 112 0.1 1			
Sample ID: 9a	Recommendations: Lime (tons/acre) Crop 1 - Fescue/OGrass/Tim, E 1.2 2 - Fescue/OGrass/Tim, M 0.0	Nutrients (lb/acre) N P ₂ O ₅ K ₂ O Mg S Mn Zn Cu B 50-70 110 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 120-200 110 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	More Information Note: 12 Note: 3
Test Results [units - W/V in g/cm ³ ; CEC and Na in meq/100 cm ³ ; NO ₃ -N in mg/dm ³]: Soil Class: Mineral HM% W/V CEC BS% Ac pH P-I K-I Ca% Mg% S-I Mn-I Mn-Al1 Mn-Al2 Zn-I Zn-Al Cu-I Na ESP SS-I NO ₃ -N 0.41 1.02 10.7 87 1.4 6.0 15 94 54 28 41 1263 767 775 152 152 120 0.2 2			
Sample ID: 9b	Recommendations: Lime (tons/acre) Crop 1 - Sudan/Sorghum past. 0.0 2 - Small Grain (SG) 0.0	Nutrients (lb/acre) N P ₂ O ₅ K ₂ O Mg S Mn Zn Cu B 140-180 90 40 0 0 0 0 0 0 80-100 90 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	More Information Note: 12 Note: 3
Test Results [units - W/V in g/cm ³ ; CEC and Na in meq/100 cm ³ ; NO ₃ -N in mg/dm ³]: Soil Class: Mineral HM% W/V CEC BS% Ac pH P-I K-I Ca% Mg% S-I Mn-I Mn-Al1 Mn-Al2 Zn-I Zn-Al Cu-I Na ESP SS-I NO ₃ -N 0.41 1.04 9.8 83 1.6 5.9 20 81 55 24 40 1573 961 954 95 95 103 0.1 1			

DO NOT CUT OUT LIME

Get your priorities right!

Lime is still job #1

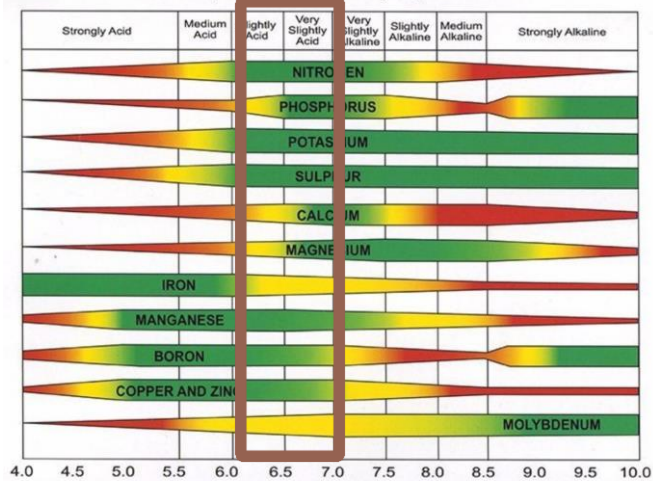


6-12 months prior to seeding



HOW SOIL PH AFFECTS AVAILABILITY OF PLANT NUTRIENTS

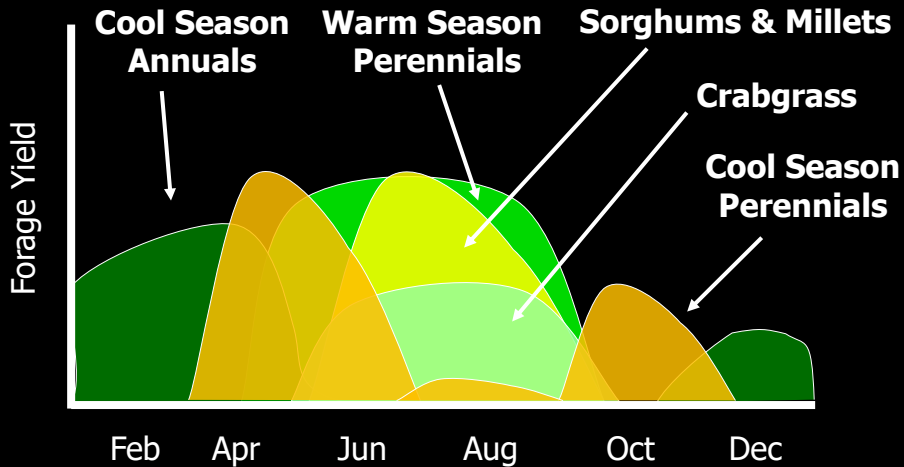
How soil pH affects availability of plant nutrients.



SOURCE: <https://www.emporiumhydroponics.com/what-is-ph-1-to-14>



Forage Distribution In The Mid-Atlantic



Extending the Grazing Season with Stockpiling Fescue

- Select fields with a high fescue content.
- Clip/graze to 3-4 inches residue
- Fertilize 50 units N
 - Late Aug. to Mid-Sept. gives the best yield.
 - Late-Sept to early Oct. gives best quality grazing.
- Consider livestock nutrient requirements.
- Dry Fall
 - Split N applications
 - Buy other feedstuffs
- Strip graze with 1-3 day moves
 - use daily moves during rain/ice/snow to minimize trample damage.
- Graze stockpile that contains clover, other cool season forages (i.e. orchard grass) and/or warm season species first.
- Save heavy fescue field for later grazing
- Feeding some hay with stretch stockpile
- Do not run a brood stock operation without stockpiled forage.

INCORPORATING LEGUMES

▪ Steps to frost seeding

- Graze close (stockpiled fields)
- Soil test/ higher pH (>6.0) and adequate P
- DO NOT apply Spring N
- Select legumes
 - White clover – grazing
 - Red Clover – summer grazing and hay fields
- **Broadcast** from Feb. 15 to March 15

▪ Managing Renovated Fields

- Fertility
- Mow or graze to keep grass vegetative (2-3 inches)
- Rotational grazing

Table 3. Recommended seeding rates for legumes used in renovation.

legume(s) used	seeding rate (lb/acre)
white clover	2
red clover	8
annual lespedeza	25-35
white clover + red clover + annual lespedeza	2 4 8

Source: University of Tennessee



EXTENDING THE GRAZING SEASON WITH ANNUAL FORAGES

▪ Forages to fill gaps

- Small grains
- Ryegrass
- Annual legumes
- Brassicas
- Diverse mixes (i.e. Ray's Crazy Mix, etc.)





Annual forages:

- Build soil health
- Fill gaps in forage production and quality
- Alternative to toxic fescue



FORAGE CHICORY AND PLANTAIN

- Can be planted in the fall or spring
- Works well when mixed with clovers
- High mineral content
- High nutritive value



Photo credit: Southeast AgriSeed

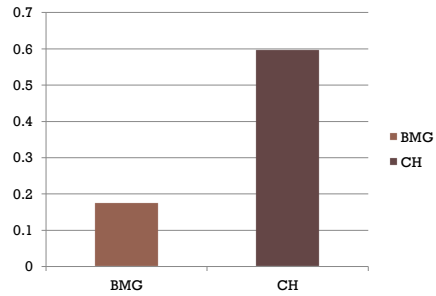
FORAGE CHICORY AND PLANTAIN

- Must have good soil contact for establishment
- Plantain seems to work better for overseeding existing pastures
- Needs a firm seedbed
- Planting depth 1/8 to 1/4 inch



Photo credit: Southeast AgriSeed

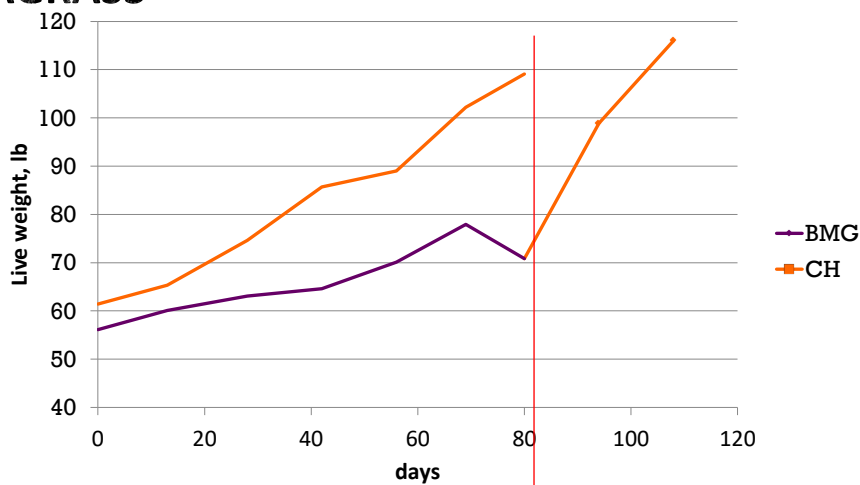
AVERAGE DAILY GAIN OF SHEEP GRAZING CHICORY VS BERMUDAGRASS 84 DAYS



Lambs grazing chicory +38 lbs
0% vs 72% wormed on bermudagrass



GROWTH OF LAMBS GRAZING CHICORY OR COASTAL BERMUDAGRASS



Switched BMG to CH



SUMMARY

- Evaluate pastures to learn plant species, challenges and opportunities.
- Pasture renovation requires planning.
- Be patient when renovating pastures.
- Newly seeded perennial forages will need at least 12 months to establish and only limited grazing should occur during this period.
- Learn how to use temporary electric fence.
- Use Annual Forages to fill forage gaps and for renovation.
- Good grazing management will improve soil health and build diversity.





2024 Scrapie Update

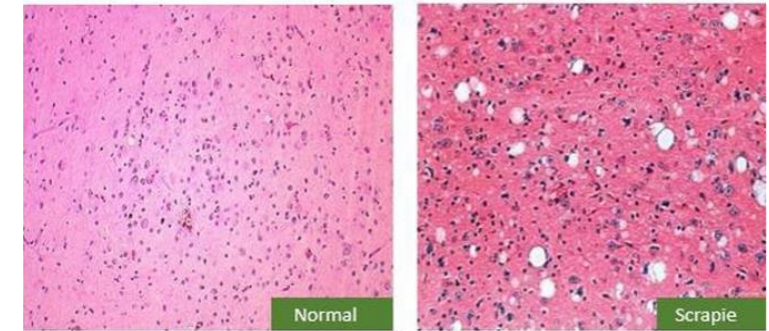
Contacts:

Dr. Chris Fletcher (276) 228-5501

Dr. Dan Hadacek (540) 209-9120

Dr. Tabby Moore (540) 209-9122





Scrapie

- A fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats.
- Classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)
 - BSE - “Mad cow” disease, and CWD – chronic wasting disease in cervids
- Genetic resistance
 - Sheep codon 171: RR/QR/QQ
 - Goats codon 222: KK/QK/QQ
- Surveillance, and depopulation are the primary means of controlling this disease.
- Spread through all secretions.

History of Scrapie

- First recognized in the 1700's in Europe
- 1947 first found in the US
- 1952 → USDA initiated a National Scrapie Eradication Program
- 2003 - Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS)
- Since 2012 – Only Australia and New Zealand only countries “Scrapie Free”

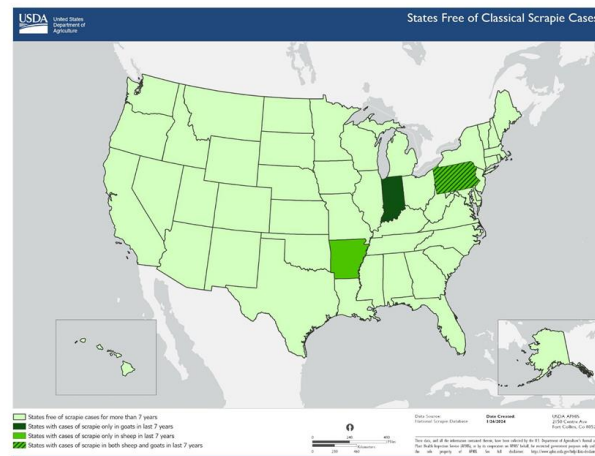


In the US



- Total of 16,811 animals (10,828 sheep and 5,983 goats) were sampled in FY 2023 with a goal of 40,000
 - Last positive sheep was in January 2021 (Arkansas)
 - Last positive goat was in June 2019 (PA and Indiana)
- Virginia has not had a positive in over 7 years

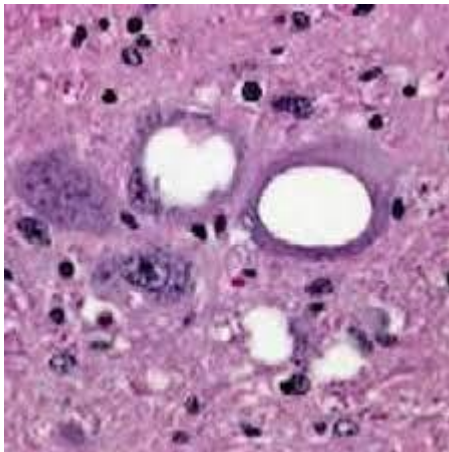
States Free of Classical Scrapie Cases > 7 Years



* As of December 31, 2023.

Virginia (All State) Producers

- We need Whole heads from sheep and goats
 - Over 18 months
 - Slaughtered, die, or euthanized
 - Especially if the Sheep/Goat was exhibiting neurological symptoms
 - Your veterinarian or VDACS can collect
 - Scrapie Tag needs to be submitted with the animal



Free Scrapie Tags for New Producers

- 1-866-USDA-TAG
- VA producers → 804-343-2569





Both plastic and metal tags are acceptable identification.



RFID OFFICIAL TAGS



New style (Shearwell) plastic tags from USDA

Who Needs Tagged?

- Any Sheep or Goat that leaves your farm!
 - Livestock market
 - Shows
 - Even if you sell an animal to your neighbor!
- The only time they don't need a tag is:
 - Staying at home (however it's good for your own records)
 - Lambs under 18m going directly to slaughter facility



Why is all this important?

- For the US to be deemed FREE of Scrapie
 - Must go 7 years without a positive classical scrapie case
- Only Australia and New Zealand are considered Free of Scrapie
- Would open new Sheep and Goat Trade
 - Est. loss of \$10-20 million



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Antibiotic Use in Livestock For 2024

Chris Fletcher D.V.M.

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The Recent Past

- January 1, 2017
- Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)
- Affected ANY antibiotic placed in feed/water used in livestock
- Prohibits using antibiotics for growth promotion
 - Does NOT affect Ionophores
- VFD is a written directive (prescription) for antibiotics in animals



VFD

- Very specific on what a veterinarian can write
- Really hit the Poultry, Swine, Bee industries hard!
- Can NOT go off-label
- Works like a prescription
- Veterinary – Client – Patient Relationship (VCPR)
- Veterinarian must fill out a form for you to take to the feed store to be able to buy the medicated feed with an antibiotic
- Paperwork must be kept by Veterinarian, Producer, and Feed Mill for 2 years



Products that REQUIRE a VFD

- Chlortetracycline (Aureomycin, CTC, Pennchlor)
- Chlortetracycline + Sulfamethazine (AS 700)
- Neomycin + Oxytetracycline (Neo-Terramycin, Neo-Oxy)
- Oxytetracycline (Terramycin, Pennox)
- Tylosin (Tylan)
- Tilmicosin (Pulmotil)
- Virginiamycin (V-Max)

Do NOT require VFD

- Amprolium (**Corid**)
- Decoquinatate (**Deccox**)
- Fenbendazole (Safe-Guard)
- Lasalocid (**Bovetec**)
- Melengestrol Acetate (MGA)
- Monensin (Rumensin)
- Morantel (Rumatel)
- Poloxalene (Bloat Guard)
- Ractopamine (Optaflexx, Actogain)
- Tetraclovinphos (Rabon)

June 11, 2023.....OTC → Prescription



- FDA regulates what antibiotics Veterinarians can use
- Goal: “to slow the development of antibiotic resistance through increased oversight and judicious use of antibiotics deemed medically important in human medicine.” REGARDLESS OF ROUTE OF DELIVERY
- Removes human medically important antibiotics from the farm store shelf





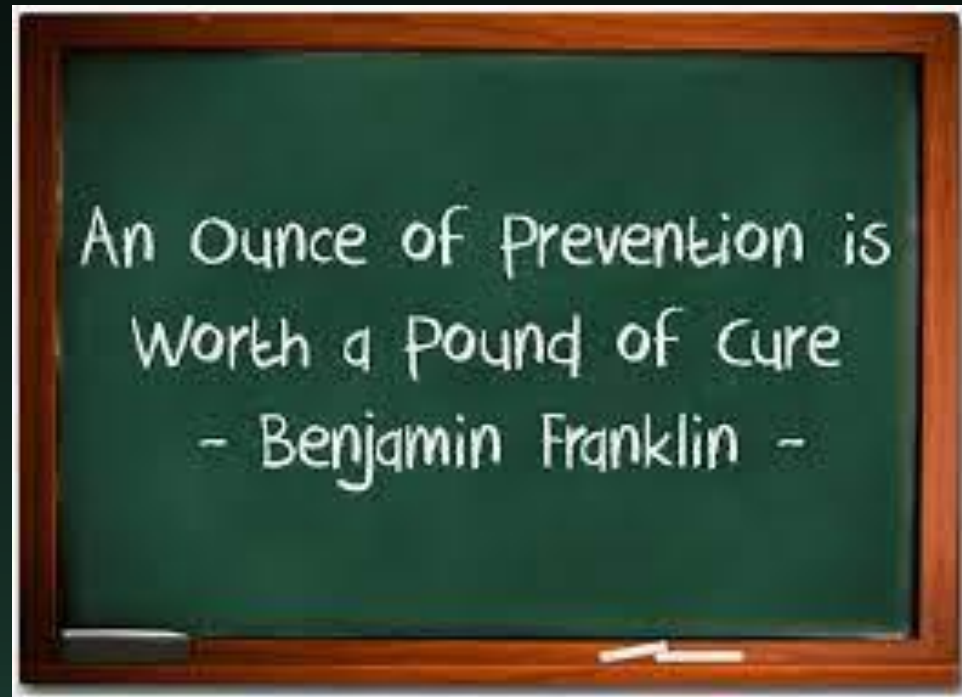
Veterinarian-client-patient relationship

- The veterinarian has assumed the **responsibility for making clinical judgments** regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, and the **client has agreed to follow** the veterinarian's instructions
- The veterinarian has **sufficient knowledge of the animal** to initiate at least a general or preliminary **diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal**. This means that the **veterinarian has recently seen** and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by virtue of an **examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept**
- The **veterinarian is readily available** or has arranged for emergency coverage and for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or the failure of the treatment regimen.

What it means for you

- If you already work closely with your Veterinarian
 - Not really going to affect you other than where you purchase Antibiotics
 - If purchasing online....will need a prescription from your veterinarian
 - “Shop Local”
- If you do all your “Doctoring” yourself
 - Must form a relationship with a Veterinarian
 - A Veterinarian must come to see your operation
 - Must have a VCPR for a veterinarian to provide you with a prescription
 - Not unlike a human doctor
- Keep in mind that these Antibiotics have an Expiration Date
 - If you did stock-up

Our Focus.....



Take Home

- Find a Veterinarian that you can build a working relationship
- Be good stewards → use Antibiotics wisely
 - Safely and Correctly
- Don't forget about Withdrawal times for antibiotics



Wool Marketing in Virginia What's in Store for 2024

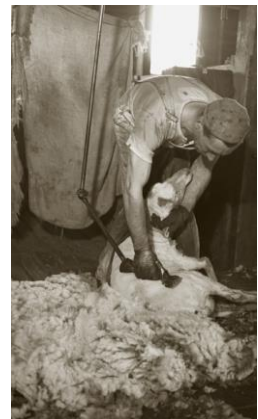
Tom Stanley

Virginia Sheep Producers Association

Chair, Virginia Wool Council

stanleyt@vt.edu 540-588-0241

1. Sheep Shearing Schools
2. Wool Pools & Commercial Marketing of Wool
3. Direct & Specialty Marketing



Beginner Sheep Shearing School
 Pulaski Livestock Market
 5509 Banks Avenue
 Dublin, VA 24084



Friday, 23 February 9:30 am to 5pm: machine set-up, blade selection, shearing belly and breech (back of hind legs and under the tail)

Saturday, 24 February 9:30am to 5pm: opportunity to practice full-pattern shearing with experienced shearers present to assist.

First day's instruction should conclude around 2pm. For those who attend the first day and wish to try full pattern shearing, they are welcome to continue shearing from 2pm to 5pm. If you have attended a shearing school in the past and are already familiar with machine set-up and blade selection, you are welcome to attend the second day only.

Class size is limited so participants must pre-register.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own machines and blades but there will be machines and blades for people to use.

To Register: Contact Tom Stanley at 540-588-0241 voice/text or e-mail stanleyt@vt.edu

Cost: \$60 per person each day, includes lunch.
Make Checks payable to Virginia Sheep Producers Association
 High quality shearing poster available for participants to purchase for additional \$25.

Notice to Participants:

Sheep shearing is physically demanding and requires bending and lifting the equivalent of 50 lbs. or more. Participants take part in this training at their own risk. It is recommended participants regularly engage in, at a minimum, gentle stretching and light to moderate exercise in the weeks before the shearing school. People with chronic spinal pain or injury are discouraged from participating in this school.

That stated – Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs are open to all. If you have a disability or circumstance that requires special accommodations in order to participate in this program, contact Tom Stanley at 540-463-4734 ext. 2 by February 16, 2024.



Sheep shearing for Fun, Fresh Air and Exercise!

Two-Day Beginner Sheep Shearing Schools:

Friday & Saturday 23&24 February, Pulaski County. Class is full, but contact Tom Stanley to be placed on waiting list. Taking more students will be a function of getting additional assistant instructors.

Friday & Saturday 26&27 April Lee County. Registration process pending, contact Tom Stanley for more information.

Why do we raise wool sheep?

Many Virginia sheep producers raise a wool-type sheep because of their breed's carcass characteristics relative to other breeds

Shearing is strictly a 'cost-of-doing-business'



Commercial Wool Marketing: Wool Pools

**Wool Pools: traditional process of collective marketing by Virginia wool growers
Wool marketed as a commodity.**

**Overwhelming percentage of the wool delivered to Virginia Wool Pools is
>26-micron from British 'down-breeds'**

**(22-micron and finer comes from Merino-derived breeds and ≤22-micron is US
Department of Defense standard for 'garment-quality' wool)**

**High percentage of Virginia wool brought to pools is from black-faced breeds
(Suffolk/Hampshire) = black fibers, fabric with black wool fiber does not yield
consistent color when dyed, especially with brighter colors**

Commercial Wool Marketing: Wool Pools

In recent years, fleeces from **wool X hair breed crosses** have been coming to wool pools.
Hair is a hollow fiber, wool is a solid fiber, they behave very differently in fabric.

Contaminants in the wool bag has been a problem for decades: manure, straw, shavings,
cocklebur, burdock, polytwine.

Result: very limited market options for wool from Virginia wool pools.

Possible uses: insulation products, horticultural applications, sound bafflingbut
these are **not** high-value markets!

**For many wool pools, the price offered by a wool merchant does not justify transporting
the wool the distance to the pick-up point.**

**A Number of Virginia Wool Pools effectively do not have a market
for wool in 2024.**

USDA Wool LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment) available through your local USDA Service Center's Farm Service Agency

Serves as a price 'floor' for U.S. produced wool. 2024: \$.40/lb for Raw Ungraded Wool

Different Virginia Pools use different classifications for wool (white-face, black-face, clear, burry, etc) but these are not wool grades recognized by USDA. All Virginia Wool going through Virginia Pools is "Raw Ungraded Wool"

Wool Growers who wish to receive higher LDP payments for lower micron (finer) wools must secure documentation from a qualified third-party confirming the wool grade.



A Number of Virginia Wool Pools effectively do not have a market for their wool

All Raw Ungraded wool can qualify for the \$.40/lb. LDP payment.

Organization: Local Wool Pool, VA

Date: MM/DD/2024

Name: _____
Address: _____

SHORN WOOL

Lof #	Gross Wt	Yield	Net Wt	Grade	Gross Price	Net Price	Amount
1	175	3	172	White Face	.20		34.40
2	100	3	97	Black Face	.10		9.70
3	10	3	7	Black wool			0.00
4	50	3	47	Tags			0.00
5	50	3	47	Black			0.00
TOTAL							370

Check No. _____ Dues _____
Wool Bags _____ Total Net _____
Wool Pool Manager _____

Wool Grower listed agrees to terms of sale and is relinquishing beneficial interest in the wool listed here on the date of this receipt

Organization: Local Wool Pool, VA

Date: MM/DD/2024

Name: _____
Address: _____

SHORN WOOL

Lof #	Gross Wt	Yield	Net Wt	Grade	Gross Price	Net Price	Amount
1	75	2	73	Wool			0.00
2	50	2	48	Black			0.00
3	30	2	28	Tags			0.00
TOTAL							149

Check No. _____ Dues _____
Wool Bags _____ Total Net _____
Wool Pool Manager _____

Wool Grower listed agrees to terms of sale and is relinquishing beneficial interest in the wool listed here on the date of this receipt

- These sample wool pool tickets (left) have been reviewed by Virginia USDA FSA leadership and approved as acceptable documentation.
- Ticket must be signed by third-party wool pool manager and producer must relinquish all beneficial interest in the wool on the date of this receipt.
- It is critical the wool producer complete all necessary paperwork at their local USDA Farm Service Agency Office **before** the day of the wool pool.
- Acceptance of wool receipts by each FSA office is ultimately the decision of that county office's 'Farm Service Agency County Committee'



All wool qualifies for \$.40/lb. LDP. Accurately describe each wool bag's content so Wool Pool Managers know how and if it can be marketed.



Clear fleeces – no debris



Fleeces with debris and contaminants



Bellies, Breech, manure tags, sweepings, etc etc

Communicate with our wool pool management before shearing. Find out their marketing plan and how they want the wool packaged.



Direct, Specialty, and Value-Added Markets



American Sheep Industry Wool Trust Fund provides funding annually for wool outreach and education, including shearing schools.

Virginia's allocation is driven by membership in the State Association. Thank you for joining Virginia Sheep Producers Association today!

<https://vasheeproducers.com/>

ad hoc committee developing plans for wool fiber education event late summer or early fall, 2024. Contact Tom Stanley for more information: stanleyt@vt.edu

American Sheep Industry Update

REGION II DIRECTOR
LISA WEEKS

Lamb Import Investigation

- **April 2023 – 8 member states plus NLFA requested ASI investigate the possibility of addressing the ever increasing lamb imports from AUS and NZ.**
- **Need proof of injury before remedy can be pursued**
- **Evidence was found that would support the anti-dumping investigation, but at a 1-2% margin.**
- **There was no evidence that either AUS or NZ were subsidizing producers (anti-countervailing)**

Lamb Import Investigation

- Additionally the DC Law firm looked into the possibility of a 201 trade case.
- Two main deterrents:
- Covid hit within the middle of the three year window
- The boxed meat price for half of the period actually increased. For six months the price was at record levels.

Lamb Import Investigation

- Other US influences: A major lamb company closed, the changes to H2-A wages, dramatic increase in inflation at the farm/ranch level.
- The DC law firm is on retainer.
- If the window of opportunity opens to pursue the 201 trade case, ASI will initiate action.

Stop the Ban!

- A referendum to prohibit slaughterhouses in the city of Denver is on the November ballot. (Denver)
- This referendum unfairly targets the single employee-owned business of Superior Farms. If passed the company would be forced to shut down.
- The ripple effect could embolden similar efforts across the country, threatening jobs and impacting the supply chain.
- www.stopthebanprotectjobs.com

Howard Wyman Leadership School

- Lambfeedersusa.org
- Applications due February 15.
- Email to Lambfeeders1@outlook.com
- School will be held in Brownsville, OR March 24-27

ASI Legislative Week

- Annual trip to Capitol Hill March 11-13
- Tuesday a.m. – Briefing and USDA plus any land management agencies
- Congressional visits Tuesday p.m. and Wednesday
- Reception Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m.
- ASI covers 2 sleeping rooms per state
- Zahrah@sheepusa.org

USDA NAHMS 2024

- US Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducted every 10 years. Random selection of 5000 sheep operations across 30 states. (Virginia included this time)
- Phase I (Jan/Feb)
- Phase II (Apr-Jul) - NAHMS 2024 will include collecting biologics: fecals, blood, and interdigital swabs. All samples will be stored for future research.
- \$3200 compensation potential to producer participating in Phase II. Participating producers will receive a report on their animals.
- NAHMS2024@USDA.GOV

Secure Sheep and Wool Supply Plan

- If foot and mouth disease (FMD) is found in US livestock, Regulatory Officials will limit the movement of animals and animal products to try and control the spread of disease.
- The SSWS Plan for Continuity of Business provides opportunities to voluntarily prepare before an FMD outbreak.
- Limit exposure through enhanced biosecurity.
- Ability to move animals to processing or another premises under a movement permit.
- Maintain business continuity for the sheep industry, including producers, haulers, packers and wool processors during an FMD outbreak.

Secure Sheep and Wool Supply Plan

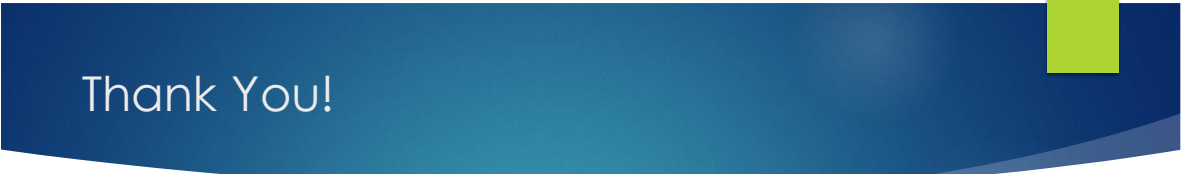
- Create a premises map
- Define a line of separation or boundary line separating off-farm from on-farm movements.
- Develop a contingency plan that can be implemented at the beginning of an FMD outbreak.
- Disease monitoring (surveillance) – ability to recognize when something is “off”.
- Securesheepwool.org

ASI Rapid Fire Program Update

- Sheep Production Handbook – www.sheepusa.org
- Webinars – www.sheepusa.org under Producer Education
- ASI Market News App – market reports, wool calculator, gestation calculator, and more!
- ASI Podcast Research Update – www.sheepusa.org under Producer Education

ASI Rapid Fire Program Update

- Quality Assurance Programs – Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance (SSQA), American Wool Assurance (AWA), and Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) – www.sheepusa.org under Producer Education
- Webinars – www.sheepusa.org under Producer Education
- ASI Market News App – market reports, wool calculator, gestation calculator, and more!
- ASI Podcast Research Update – www.sheepusa.org under Producer Education



Thank You!

Questions??
