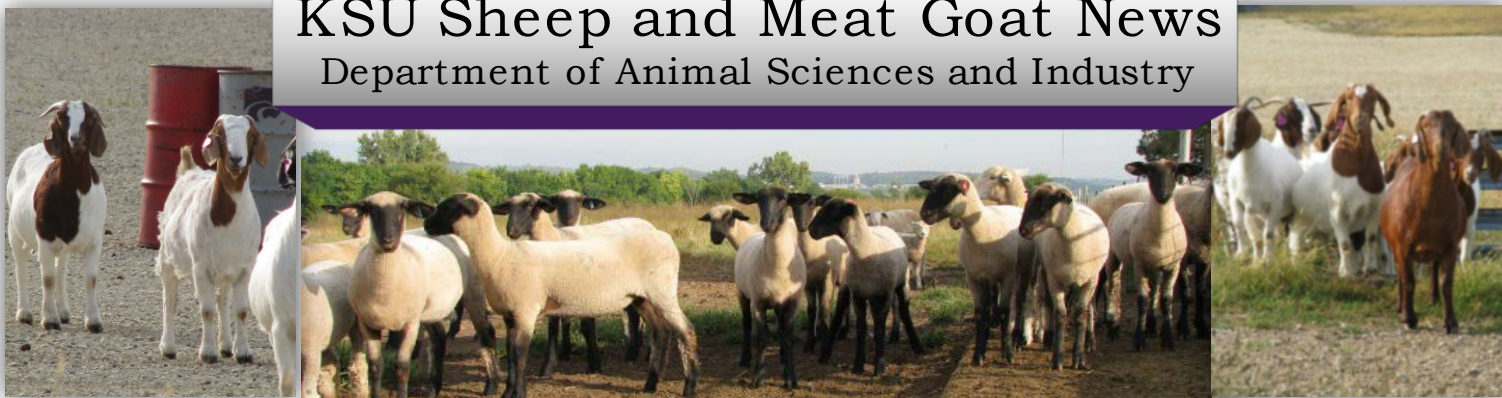


KSU Sheep and Meat Goat News

Department of Animal Sciences and Industry



Summer Issue - 2011
KSU Sheep and Meat Goat News

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KSU Sheep and Meat Goat Center



We Need Your Help!

Please send questions, comments
or ideas for future newsletter topics
to Brian Faris at brfaris@ksu.edu or
785-532-1255.



Brian's Bleats...

Howdy Kansas sheep and goat producers. This is the first of what will be a quarterly newsletter sent to you directly or via extension or association avenues. My desire for this publication is to give a brief update regarding a current-event topic(s) (Brian's Bleats), to address a couple of specific topics that may help improve the management or production of your operation, and include a list of upcoming sheep and goat events.

Construction on the new Kansas State University Sheep and Meat Goat Center started around April 20, 2011. It was exciting to see heavy equipment arrive and dirt start moving. The new facility will include two separate buildings containing an office, classroom, multipurpose room (indoor working facility), wool room, animal housing, feed/hay/equipment storage, kitchen, A.I./E.T. room and an apartment. Approximately 75 percent of the facility will be completed in the first phase. Additional funding will be required to complete the remaining portion of the project. At the current time, the north barn is framed and ready for steel. The footings and slabs are being completed in the south barn and the framing should start going up during the weeks of July 29th. We look forward to transitioning into the new facility starting December 2011. Follow us on Facebook "K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Unit".

In an effort to keep each producer informed of sheep and/or goat related topics, I am trying to expand my list of email contacts. If you would like to be added to the K-State Sheep and/or Goat Producers list(s), please send an email to Lois Schreiner at lschrein@ksu.edu and indicate whether you would like to be added to the sheep, goat, or both lists. This list will not be shared with other individuals or groups.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Faris

Brian Faris
Extension Sheep and Meat Goat Specialist

Producers' options for working through the drought

While some parts of Kansas are in decent condition in terms of moisture, southwest Kansas and many counties surrounding are suffering severe drought conditions. Droughts bring a number of challenges. Lack of feed resources can result in decreased animal performance, decreased reproductive efficiency, decrease in pasture quality, and ultimately difficult flock/herd management decisions. Unfortunately, there is no "silver bullet" approach for getting through a drought. A number of different management practices are exercised by different producers throughout the state and it is likely no two are the same.

There are a few options to consider, some more drastic than others, when making management decisions. First, you may choose to keep all of your livestock and feed them. Unfortunately this can be very expensive. If you have pasture and you choose this option, you may consider feeding animals in a drylot in order to minimize damage to the pasture from overgrazing. The fact that hay is extremely limited due to the severe drought throughout the southern United States makes this option even more complicated. Second, you may opt to temporarily move livestock to other locations with greater forage availability within or possibly out-of-state in order to maintain ownership of your flock/herd. Transportation costs can be relatively expensive, but the genetic base and production numbers of your flock/herd are not lost. Third, you may decide to sell a portion of your animals. This is where good records can benefit your program. Select those animals that are the least productive, older, have udder problems, have less genetic value, and even those that may be more susceptible to parasite or foot problems. Finally, selling all livestock may be the last resort for some producers. This option is not appealing for national or state numbers. In the wake of ASI's "Let's grow with twoPLUS" campaign, the drought is making the growth of the sheep industry's ewe base much more difficult.

National sheep numbers were down two percent in January 2011 to 5,530,000 head of sheep. Kansas sheep numbers are down 12.5 percent to 70,000 head of sheep with most of our commercial production in the west and southwest portions of the state that are being hit the hardest by the drought. National goat numbers were down one percent to 3 million head. Kansas meat goats were down by 4.7 percent to 40,000 head while Kansas dairy goats were up 23.6 percent to 4,700 head. While these numbers seem bleak, we must do our best to maintain the animals we have and, with the help of some needed rains, work to increase our state and national inventory.

Reproductive efficiency could be reduced with continued drought conditions. This Fall breeding season (August to November), you should be aware of the body condition of your flock. Ewes with a body condition of 2.0 or less should respond to nutritional "flushing". Due to the lack of high quality pasture, feeding grain at 0.5 to 1.0 pound per head per day could result in more lambs born in the Spring.

Emergency CRP Programs:

Counties approved for CRP emergency grazing include: Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Rush, Scott, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Trego, Wallace and Wichita. Counties approved for CRP emergency haying include: Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Grant, Gray, Finney, Ford, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, McPherson, Lane, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Sedgwick, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens and Trego. Contact your local USDA Kansas Farm Service Agency for more information regarding CRP emergency grazing and haying programs.

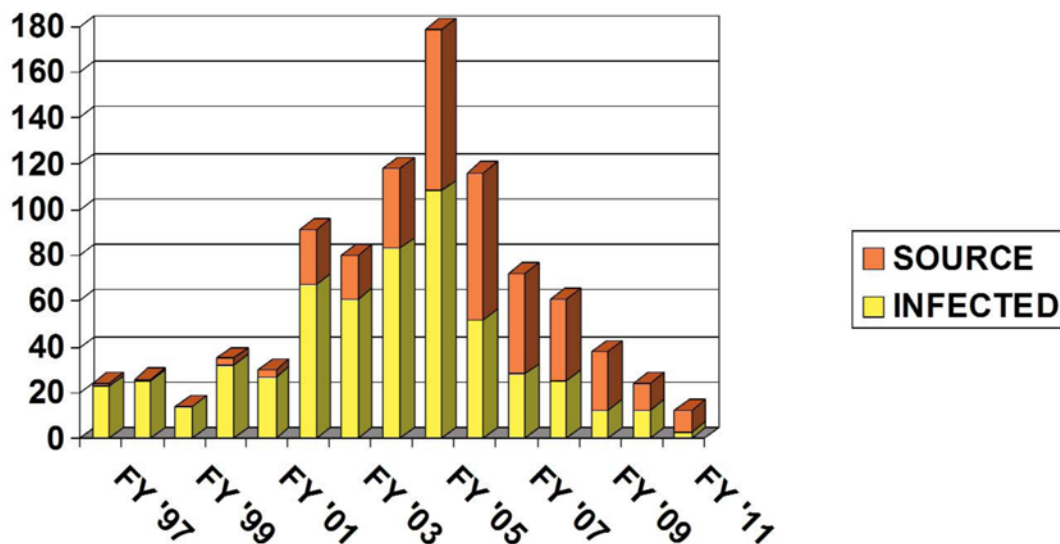
Where are we in our efforts to eradicate scrapie?

What is scrapie? Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. Scrapie can result in significant production losses and can be transmitted from infected flocks to other flocks. Scrapie is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) which is similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Because BSE has been linked to a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, concerns have risen regarding animals potentially infected with scrapie. These concerns mean producers and packers have faced challenges in marketing their animals over the past several years and will continue to face these challenges until the disease is eradicated in the United States.

<http://www.eradicatescrapie.org/About%20Scrapie/Fact%20Sheet.html>

The Scrapie Eradication Program started in 2001 with the goal of eradicating scrapie from the U.S. by 2010, and to have the U.S. recognized as Scrapie-free by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) by 2017. The graph below, reproduced from the most recent ASI Quarterly Scrapie Newsletter released June 2011, shows source and infected flock numbers are being reduced.

**Infected and Source Flocks New Statuses by Year
FY 1997-2011***



***Through May 31, 2011**

Infected flocks are those that had one positive scrapie animal diagnosed within the flock or that lambed in the flock. A Source flock is where one or more infected animals were born, if diagnosed at less than 72 months of age. Thirteen field cases of classical scrapie were identified in sheep and 5 cases in goats (all from the same goat herd). One of the thirteen cases in sheep was found in Kansas. Twenty Kansas flocks are participating in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program. I encourage everyone to do your part in helping to eradicate scrapie. If you would like more information regarding scrapie and/or the different programs in which you may participate, please go to the following website: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/. You may also find "A Producer's Guide to Scrapie" on the American Sheep Industry's website: http://sheepindustrynews.org/scrapie_guide/. The guide addresses the following topics: What is Scrapie?, Preventing Scrapie, National Eradication Program, Producer Obligations, and Assistance. If you are a sheep or goat producer that needs to enroll in the scrapie program and/or obtain official USDA Scrapie ear tags, you may contact the USDA Kansas office in Topeka at 785-270-1300 and ask for Jamie or call the USDA at 1-866-USDA-TAG. *Educational Note: This disease should not be pronounced or spelled as Scrapies with an "s" at the end.*

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

August 20, 2011: Kansas Meat Goat Association Meeting

The Kansas Meat Goat Association will be having a general membership meeting on Saturday, August 20, 2011 in Salina, KS. For more information contact Art Howell, KMGGA President, at 785-577-7810 or mulberry Meadows@yahoo.com. You may also follow the Kansas Meat Goat Association's website at <http://www.kmgaonline.net/>.

October 22, 2011: Kansas Sheep Association Fall Tour

The Kansas Sheep Association will be hosting a Fall tour on Saturday, October 22, 2011. This tour will include four stops demonstrating purebred, hair sheep, rotational grazing, and specific breed management strategies. For more information contact Matt Clark, Kingman County Extension Agent, at 620-532-5131 or mkc@ksu.edu. You may also follow the Kansas Sheep Association's website at <http://kansassheep.com/>.

November 4-6, 2011: Kansas State Sheep & Goat Conference

Kansas State University will host a Sheep & Goat Conference on November 4-6, 2011 on the KSU campus. This conference is open to everyone and will begin Friday, November 4, at 1:00 pm and conclude at 12:00 noon on Sunday, November 6. This program is designed as an intensive learning opportunity for commercial and purebred sheep and goat producers to attend every two to three years. Subject areas will include alternative feed stuffs, use of small ruminants to control sericea lespedeza, live animal and carcass evaluation, health, predation, marketing, parasitism, crossbreeding/composite genetics, and more. Breakout sessions will also be available related to specific species, types, and/or breeds. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend this event. A conference agenda and registration information will be available soon. If you have any questions or would like to participate as an attendee or sponsor, please contact Dr. Brian Faris, K-State Extension Sheep & Meat Goat Specialist, at 785-532-1255 or brfaris@ksu.edu.

March 3, 2012: Kansas State Sheep Producer Day

Kansas State University will host a Sheep Producer Day on March 3, 2012. Location will be confirmed later, but we hope to meet in our new K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center. This annual program will include topics related to sheep production, a sheep judging contest and fun activities. If you have any questions or would like to participate as an attendee or sponsor, please contact Dr. Brian Faris, K-State Extension Sheep & Meat Goat Specialist, at 785-532-1255 or brfaris@ksu.edu.

March 24, 2012: Kansas State Junior Sheep Producer Day

Kansas State University will host a Junior Sheep Producer Day on March 24, 2012. The program will be held in Weber Hall on the K-State campus. A tour of the new K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center will be available at the end of the event. This biennial event consists of topics related to sheep/lamb production, market lamb projects, and fun activities for our young sheep producers. If you have any questions or would like to participate as an attendee or sponsor, please contact Dr. Brian Faris, K-State Extension Sheep & Meat Goat Specialist, at 785-532-1255 or brfaris@ksu.edu.



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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