



KSU Sheep and Meat Goat News

Department of Animal Sciences and Industry



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KSU Sheep and Meat Goat News

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KSU Sheep & Meat Goat Center



We Need Your Help!

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


K-STATE
Research and Extension

Brian's Bleats...

I hope everyone had a great time with friends and family over the past few days. The Faris family enjoyed a road trip south to see our families, but we are happy to be back in Kansas. This past year has brought a number of exciting things to the Kansas State Sheep & Meat Goat Program. I will give a brief highlight of 2012.

The year started by holding our first Wool Team practices in the new facility. We really enjoyed the building as did our friends from Texas Tech who came to practice on their way to Denver. March started with K-State Sheep Days held in conjunction with the Grand Opening and Dedication of the K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center. The Grand Opening was attended by over 125 individuals. Mike Caskey and Burdell Johnson spoke to approximately 30 producers who stayed for the afternoon Sheep Day program. Then I was off to Houston with the Wool Team where Monica Ebert, Kansas native and sheep producer, ended up Overall High Individual of the Contest. After returning from Houston, we geared up for K-State Jr. Sheep Producer Day which featured J.B. Massey speaking to a crowd of over 150 youth and parents. The annual K-State Judging Team Reunion featured the former wool judging teams. It was a very memorable event for me personally as Reyna and I spent most of the day with former coaches and sheep specialists Carl Menzies, David Ames, George Alschwede, and Clifford Spaeth and their wives. It was great to see many of the former wool judges. May started off with the first K-State Sheep & Goat Conference. The three-day event drew over 80 participants from five states to listen to nationally recognized speakers. The program focused on everything from selection and health to management and carcass evaluation. The next conference will be held in 2014. Late August saw the return of K-State students and the largest Sheep & Meat Goat Science class since I have been here with 45 students taking the course. The 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes Contest wrapped up August with Miami County winning the event. The Kansas State Fair and Junior Livestock Show were well attended by market and breeding sheep and goat exhibitors. The State Fair had over 150 goats in the second year being involved in the Grand Drive. The KJLS had their inaugural Commercial Doe Kid show where 69 does were shown.

We officially moved into the new facility the first week of October with all animals. We have hosted a number of groups and some livestock judging workouts in preparation for contests. The new facility has definitely impressed its many visitors thus far. Barrett Carlisle is our new shepherd at the K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center. He is originally from the Lubbock, Texas area where he and his family raise market lambs. He will graduate in May, but is seeking an opportunity to remain at K-State for Graduate School.

I hope you can share in some of the excitement that I experienced in 2012. You can expect 2013 to be just as exciting. Please be watching for notifications from me and your local extension agents regarding more information on upcoming events. I know the Kansas Sheep and Meat Goat Associations have some events planned.

Have a Happy New Year and may 2013 be prosperous in every way to you and your families. It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to serve each of you in your sheep and goat management needs.

Sincerely,



Brian R. Faris
Extension Sheep and Meat Goat Specialist

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

-Ben Franklin

Ben Franklin's famous words were actually meant in terms of fire prevention and the resulting economic down-turns experienced by individuals who lost their homes in Philadelphia fires. An abortion storm, an outbreak of clostridium (overeating), losses due to pregnancy toxemia, and other issues typically seen this time of year can be just as detrimental to a producer's operation as the fires were to their Philadelphia home owners.

Routine animal observations, appropriate nutrition, and a sound health management program can serve as an insurance policy to the sheep and goat producer. Ewe/doe nutrition during the last trimester of gestation is critical for the development of the fetus(es) and the ensuing lactation period. Due to the fact that 70 percent of fetal growth occurs during the last 50 days of pregnancy, ewe/doe energy and protein requirements will increase 15 to 30 percent and 20 to 45 percent, respectively, during this time period. It is generally easier to meet sheep/goat protein requirements than energy requirements. Use alfalfa or an alfalfa/dried distillers grain mix to meet your protein requirements. It is critical that a hay analysis be done on your hay as there can be significant variations from one field or cutting to another. Corn can be fed using the general rule of thumb that a ewe needs one pound of grain for every fetus she is carrying. Proper nutrition will ensure healthy birth weights. Ideally your ewes/does should have a body condition score (BCS) of 3.0 at this phase of production.

Experiencing an *abortion storm* can be heart-breaking after you have been anticipating the arrival of your next generation of genetics on your farm. You should not over-react upon finding one or two abortions prior to the scheduled start of lambing/kidding. Make note of the occurrence and collect placental tissues, if they are available, and freeze them for possible testing later if needed. ALWAYS wear gloves when handling aborted fetuses or assisting with births. Humans are susceptible to many of the same bacteria that cause abortions and other diseases in small ruminants. Quarantine the ewe/doe and call your veterinarian to make them aware of what has happened. If you experience a relatively large number of abortions, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Late gestating females that are excessively fat (BCS = 4.0 or higher) or thin (BCS = 1.5 or lower) are susceptible to *pregnancy toxemia*. They cannot effectively use their fat stores prior to lambing to meet energy deficiencies. This condition is mostly seen in fat animals that simply run out of room for food due to the size and number of fetuses. Symptoms might include a female that is lethargic, lags behind, has swelling of feet/legs, inability to stand for long periods of time, and has shortened/restricted gait. Early diagnosis and treatment can be beneficial. Overuse of propylene glycol can be detrimental. Use the appropriate amount of electrolytes and energy supplements to treat these females.

Producers are recommended to vaccinate their pregnant females for enterotoxemia type C and D at least 2 to 4 weeks prior to lambing/kidding. The offspring's first vaccination should come around 2 weeks of age and include tetanus. They should receive a booster every three to four weeks until they have had a least three vaccinations. This will limit losses during peak lactation times and as lambs/kids are weaned and moved onto high concentrate finishing diets.

Overall cleanliness cannot be underestimated. Lambs/kids born in a “clean” pen/barn will be at a much lower risk for pneumonia and other bacterial infections. Use an iodine dip/spray to treat the newborns' navels. When using a dip, be certain to change the iodine every 3 to 4 days or every 10 lambs/kids. Spraying or dipping the navel in iodine will reduce bacterial infections and help dry the navel. Reducing drafts and excessive moisture in your barn will help reduce the risk for pneumonia. If you lamb/kid through jugs, it is recommended that you let ewes/does drop their afterbirth prior to placing them in the jugs. Be sure to change the bedding after removing the mother and offspring, then treat the area with lime. In order to keep bedding as fresh as possible, do not bed the jug until you are ready to pen a new family. This will also allow the jug to “dry-out” more before using it again. While ewes/does are in the jug, consider this as the one time that you deworm every animal. This may give you an opportunity to get ahead of the internal parasites coming in the Spring.

Preventing problems and diseases are the key to a successful operation. I hope these tips will help you during your upcoming lambing/kidding season.

How will the Ban on Certain Antibiotics in Food Producing Animals affect your operation?

There is growing concern about the use of medications in animals which produce products that enter the human food chain. The concern stems from the risk that the food supply may become contaminated with medications or with bacteria that have developed resistance to groups of antibiotics used in animals, which would therefore mean that those bacterial infections in humans could be untreatable.

Antibiotics are grouped into several classes based on certain characteristics. The cephalosporin class of antibiotics consists of several drugs, including the brand name drugs Naxcel®, Excezel® and Excede®. In 2008, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed a complete ban on the extralabel use of the cephalosporin antibiotics in food producing animals. This meant that these drugs could not be used in *any way* or in *any species* that was not specifically on the label, even if ordered by a veterinarian. Fortunately, the FDA recinded this ban temporarily, but an amended proposal has been issued and became effective April 5, 2012. It allows for extralabel use of the cephalosporins as long as they are used at the dose, route of administration, and frequency that is stated on the label.

What this means for sheep and goat producers is that when we are selecting a drug to treat an ill animal, we should first consider whether or not there is a drug labeled for this disease in sheep and goats. If yes, then it can be used as directed on the label and the slaughter withholding time followed. If not, a veterinarian must be contacted to determine the most appropriate extralabel use of a drug for the condition. Once a drug is selected, the veterinarian is responsible to provide an appropriate slaughter withholding time for that drug in that animal to ensure that the drug is cleared from that animal prior to slaughter.

What this legislation provides is a reminder that we have a responsibility as food producers to think beyond the moment when we reach for a drug off our shelf, and consider the impact our choice will make to the end consumer of our product. As sheep and goat producers and veterinarians, we have a handful of drugs labeled for use in our animals, as well as the Minor Use Minor Species Act (MUMS), which allows us access to some drugs that are not labeled. MUMS-approved antibiotics in sheep and goats include ceftiofur sodium (Naxcel®), chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline, procaine penicillin G and tilmicosin (sheep only; fatal in goats). Fortunately, these labeled and MUMS-approved drugs have broad effectiveness and can be used successfully to treat most routine infections. We want to be certain that we use these drugs in a responsible way to ensure that we will be able to continue their use.

Article contributed by Dr. Meredyth Jones, Texas A&M University Vet School (formerly of Kansas State University Vet Teaching Hospital)

REMINDER from Jason Lamprecht, Deputy Director of USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service & Kansas Agricultural Statistics in Topeka:

Please fill out your 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Fill out your Agriculture Census.

Visit www.agcensus.usda.gov



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YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

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YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**



UPCOMING EVENTS.....

January 19, 2013: Kansas Meat Goat Association Annual Meeting

The Kansas Meat Goat Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January, 19, 2013, at the Salina Public Library in Salina, Kansas. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. followed by a program at 11:00 a.m featuring Dr. Deb Mangelsdorf. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Bachofer, KMGA President, at 785-826-7855 or mulberrymeadows@yahoo.com.

January 30, 2013: SW Kansas Sheep Producer Meeting

K-State Extension will host the annual SW KS Sheep Producer Meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2013, at the Hodgeman County Fairgrounds in Jetmore, KS at 6:00 pm. This meeting is open to everyone. Artificial insemination, use of CIDRs, and automated equipment needs will be discussed by presenters at the meeting. If you have any questions or would like to participate as an attendee, please contact Barrett Smith, Kiowa County Extension Agriculture Agent, at 620-723-2156 or basmith@ksu.edu or DeWayne Craghead, Hodgeman County Extension Agriculture Agent, at 620-357-8323 or dcraghea@ksu.edu.

January 31, 2013: NE Kansas Lambing & Kidding Clinic

K-State Extension, led by Jody Holthaus in the Meadowlark District, will host a Lambing & Kidding Workshop on Thursday, January 31, 2013, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Valley Falls, KS at 7:00 pm. This meeting is open to everyone. If you have any questions or would like to participate as an attendee, please contact Jody Holthaus, Meadowlark District Livestock/Natural Resources Agent, at 785-364-4125 or jholthau@ksu.edu.

March 2, 2013: Kansas State Sheep Day

Kansas State University will host K-State Sheep Day on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center. This meeting is open to everyone. I can assure you that you will not want to miss this opportunity to hear Dr. Dan Morrical, from Iowa State, give several talks that may offer ways to improve your sheep operation. The schedule is still being finalized and will be posted on our website in the next couple of weeks and it will also be in the Spring newsletter. Registration information will also be included. 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 23, 2013: K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day

K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day will be held Saturday, March 23, 2013 in Weber Hall on the K-State campus. The program will be targeted at experienced and novice individuals. The event consists of topics related to goat/kid production, market goat projects, and fun activities for our young meat goat producers. We are currently working to secure our featured speaker. Rest assured the speaker will have a great deal of experience with the project and be excellent with kids. Go ahead and mark your calendars and plan to attend. Dr. Faris will be working with some of the novice participants in breakout sessions during the day. 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, or Kristine Clowers, Extension Youth Livestock Coordinator, at 785-532-1264 or clowers@ksu.edu. You will be able to find registration and program information at the following link:

<http://www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu>. A tour of the new K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center will be available at the end of the event.



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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