Howdy Sheep & Goat Emailers

Hopefully you all have grass growing in the pasture and we will have more rain on a weekly basis!

BC

Shepard’s Announcements
March – April 2008

Extension Sheep & Goat E-Newsletter

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1. NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES - Veterinary Division
Raleigh, North Carolina

Sheep and Goat Importation Requirements
I. Purpose: This directive provides all parties interested in shipping sheep and goats into North Carolina with the specific guidelines that are hereby required by NCDA & CS.

After extensive review of import requirements for sheep and goats in all fifty states, import requirements in states bordering North Carolina, and discussions with USDA/APHIS/VS national brucellosis and tuberculosis epidemiologists, the conclusion was reached that the current import requirement policy for sheep and goats for North Carolina place an undue and unnecessary hardship on producers and the policy is in need of updating. This policy was developed with careful consideration to the overall health and safety of the entire North Carolina livestock industry.

“Livestock” means any hoofed animal, to include bovines, sheep, goats, swine, camelids, and horses and other members of the Equidae family.

V. Procedures:
1) All sheep and goats imported into the state, regardless of age, must be officially identified prior to leaving the farm of origin (see "Official scrapie identification," below), except:
a. Sheep and goats less than 12 months of age moving directly to slaughter
b. Sheep and goat wethers,
2) Sheep and goats consigned for the purpose of immediate slaughter to a livestock market licensed under G.S. 106, Article 35, or to a slaughtering establishment with state or federal inspection may be imported without a health certificate. A waybill or certificate marked for immediate slaughter must accompany such shipments.
No sheep or goats consigned for immediate slaughter may be removed from slaughter channels.

3) Sheep and goats not consigned for the purpose of immediate slaughter must be accompanied by an official health certificate from the state of origin signed by a veterinarian accredited in that state.

a. The health certificate covering the importation of sheep and goats shall include a report of inspection indicating the sheep and goats are not under quarantine and are free from signs of any infectious or communicable disease.

b. The health certificate shall contain a statement that the flock of origin has not had scrapie diagnosed within the past 42 months. The health certificate shall include USDA approved scrapie identification, age, sex, breed and markings for each animal.

Official scrapie identification shall consist of one of the following:

a. Official ear tags which are approved by USDA, APHIS for use in the Scrapie Eradication Program or the Scrapie Flock Certification Program

b. Electronic implants:
   (i) which are approved for use in animals participating in a scrapie flock certification program (SFCP) and when accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection or owner statement that includes the implant numbers and name of the chip manufacturer; or
   (ii) which are used in animals registered with a national registry association and the implant number is recorded by the registry on the registration certificate accompanying the animal; and
   (iii) the animal is accompanied by an implant reader which can read the implant in the animal.

c. Legible official registry tattoos that have been recorded in the record of a sheep or goat registry association when the animal is accompanied by either a registration certificate or certificate of veterinary inspection upon which the tattoo number is recorded.

4) Sheep and goats not consigned for the purpose of immediate slaughter that originate from USDA Certified and Accredited Free States are exempt from Brucellosis and Tuberculosis testing requirements. Sheep and goats that do not originate from a USDA Certified and Accredited Free State shall have a negative brucellosis test within 30 days prior to import, and shall have a negative tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to import unless they originate from a USDA Certified and Accredited Free Herd.

5) Dairy goats and sheep over six months of age and sexually intact imported from out-of-state shall have a negative brucellosis test within 30 days prior to import, and shall have a negative tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to import unless they originate from a USDA Certified and Accredited Free Herd.

6) The brucellosis and tuberculosis testing requirements of this Rule shall not apply to sheep and goats entering the state for only exhibition purposes, coming from states or herds that are USDA Certified and Accredited Free, when accompanied by an official health certificate which shall include a USDA approved scrapie identification. Such animals shall remain in the state for exhibition purposes for no more than 30 days from the date of issuance of the health certificate.

Dr. David Marshall
State Veterinarian

2. Pasture-Raised Meats Gain Converts

A proliferation of pasture-raised meat sources is inducing even some vegetarians to opt for grass-fed and humanely raised meats, according to the North Bay Bohemian. Niman ranch is one of the better-known operations offering a variety of pasture-raised beef and pork, but other producers are also offering sustainably raised meats that find a ready market among chefs and shoppers. A sidebar article describes a new twist on the CSA— a meat-buying club that provides members with a supply of
beef, pork and lamb each month. The service includes meat sauces and recipes prepared by regional chefs, to help buyers learn to cook unusual cuts.

Meanwhile, local beef is also carving a market niche in Kentucky, says a story on Kentucky Ag Connection. Consumers are interested in local meats, and farmers who finish animals themselves are avoiding the transportation costs and energy involved in the conventional system that finishes animals out of state and ships them back for sale.

Related ATTRA Publication: Beef Marketing Alternatives

3. Livestock Compensation Program Sign-Up Ongoing – Farm Service Agency
The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to apply for benefits. To be eligible under LCP, livestock must be dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, or goats, that have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period; have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation.

Recent disaster legislation has added 2007 as an eligible year to apply for grazing losses. Many livestock producers have already applied for losses from either 2005 or 2006. Since this program pays losses on the lesser of the grazing loss or the number of animals multiplied by a per head payment amount, producers should primarily look to apply for whichever year they owned the most livestock. If you had more cattle on your farm in 2005 or 2006 and have already applied for that year, there is no benefit in applying for 2007. To apply for benefits, producers need to know the number of livestock on their farm on the applicable date for the following years: June 1, 2005 for the 2005 Year, March 1, 2006 for the 2006 Year, & January 1, 2007 for the 2007 Year. A deadline for this program had not yet been announced.

4. Emergency Hay Program Winding Down
 Sales at distribution sites will scale back to two days a week starting March 3 – Brian Long, Director, NCDA&CS Public Affairs (919) 733-4216, ext. 242
The state’s Emergency Hay Program, which has been helping livestock owners meet their animals’ winter feeding needs, will begin to wind down in March. Beginning Monday, March 3, the state’s six hay distribution sites will scale back sales to two days a week – Tuesdays and Thursdays – from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Starting March 17, the sites will sell hay on Tuesdays only. Hours will remain the same. All sites will stop selling hay on April 1, but they will maintain a small inventory of large and small bales that can be used in an emergency. “Our goal has been to help livestock owners make it through the winter, and we have been able to meet their needs,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “By extending sales until April 1, we are confident that they will not be left without a safety net.” As of mid-February, the program had spent about $345,000 and brought more than 1,750 tons of hay into North Carolina from several states and Canada. Hay is being sold at different NCDA&CS locations and locally at the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market in Colfax, (336) 605-9157. Livestock owners may purchase up to eight large bales and 60 small bales per day. Limits are subject to change depending on supply and demand. Livestock owners interested in purchasing full loads of hay can use the NCDA&CS Hay Alert Web site and hotline. The department’s Ag and Equine Partners programs provide transportation cost-share assistance to livestock owners who source loads of hay themselves. For information about NCDA&CS hay relief programs, go to www.ncagr.com/hayalert or call 1-866-506-6222 weekdays.

5. Hay Sources & Directory
As you all know Extension in Rockingham & Guilford Counties maintains a hay directory that is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. Well in the current situation this list is very short and I am trying to keep this list current. To do this, I NEED YOUR
HELP! If you have got hay to sale or no longer have hay, please call me at 342-8235, 1800-666-3625 or ben_chase@ncsu.edu and let me know.

6. Resources Available to Help Small Meat Processors
Extension faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have developed Web-based resources to assist small meat and poultry processors with Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) implementation. The resources have been developed in three areas: validation of critical limits, development of HACCP plans and evaluation of raw-product temperature deviations. Meatingplace.com reports the group has also developed an interactive, Web-based predictive tool for evaluating the safety of raw meat or poultry held for a time at abusive temperatures. The University of Wisconsin Center for Meat Process Validation site also includes Model HACCP Plans, Supporting Documentation for Validating Critical Limits, Monitoring Guidance, and Corrective Action Guidance.

7. Disposition of dead domesticated animals. NC Statues § 106-403. (Effective October 1, 2009)
It shall be the duty of the owner or person in charge of any of his domesticated animals that die from any cause and the owner, lessee, or person in charge of any land upon which any domesticated animals die, to bury the same to a depth of at least three feet beneath the surface of the ground within 24 hours after knowledge of the death of said domesticated animals, or to otherwise dispose of the same in a manner approved by the State Veterinarian. It shall be a violation of this statute to bury any dead domesticated animal closer than 300 feet to any flowing stream or public body of water. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove the carcasses of dead domesticated animals from his premises to the premises of any other person without the written permission of the person having charge of such premises and without burying said carcasses as above provided.

The governing body of each municipality shall designate some appropriate person whose duty it shall be to provide for the removal and disposal, according to the provisions of this section, of any dead domesticated animals located within the limits of the municipality when the owner or owners of said animals cannot be determined. The board of commissioners of each county shall designate some appropriate person whose duty it shall be to provide for the removal and disposal, according to the provisions of this section, of any dead domesticated animals located within the limits of the county, but without the limits of any municipality, when the owner or owners of said animals cannot be determined. All costs incurred by a municipality or county in the removal of a dead domesticated animal shall be recoverable from the owner of such animal upon admission of ownership or conviction.

“Domesticated animal” as used herein shall include poultry.

8. FORAGE TIPS: * Do NOT allow livestock to graze pasture grasses before they reach a height of 3-6 inches. Yes, this is difficult to do with short forage supply. However, grazing pastures (during late February/early March) actually delays spring growth. During the late fall and winter, cool-season forages make carbohydrates and store them in the stem-base and/or roots. These reserves are then used to initiate spring growth. If cattle remain on pasture, they consume these reserves and consequently delay spring growth and reduce spring yields. Finish your winter feeding in a sacrifice pasture and let the rest of the pastures recover from the drought and winter. * Scout pastures & determine if they need to be renovated or if they are acceptable and determine if weed control is necessary. * One good method to renovate pastures is to simply add clover. Adding clover reduces the nitrogen requirement and it improves animal performance. Clover can be planted through March. * Drag pastures to break up and scatter manure piles. This adds fertility back to the soil and increases the effective grazing area. * Controlled Graze. * Keep the stocking rate low.

8:30-10:30 a.m. Caswell Pines Golf Club
You are invited to the Second Annual Rural Farmers’ Briefing with Congressman Brad Miller on Monday, March 17, 2008 from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m. at Caswell Pines Golf Club. A biscuit with juice and coffee will be provided at no cost.
Congressman Miller wants to hear from you at the briefing and it is hoped that you will take advantage of this time to share your thoughts and opinions on the agriculture industry.

Seating is limited and we also want to make sure we have enough food, so please reply with your name and number of guests no later than Wednesday, March 12, 2008 to Carol Reid Erichsen at the Raleigh office Toll Free at 1-877-272-3435 or email to carol.reiderichsen@mail.house.gov.

10. For Sale:
Chicken House Retiring  Generator 80 K W  4 Cylinder Detroit  $5,500.
48 Inch Fan with thermostat  $100. Feeders, Water, Nest, Motors, Etc.
Tommy Oliver  336-674-2158

11. The My Hometown Helper! Award Program helps organizations with projects that impact and support communities. Applications will be accepted February 1, 2008 – March 31, 2008.

Visit the following website for additional information:
http://www.myhometownhelper.com/LearnMore.aspx

12. FLASH
A Publication of NCMGP
March 2008
The NC Meat Goat Producers, Inc. Spring 2008 Breeders Sale will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in Oxford, NC at the Southern Livestock Arena located on NC Hwy15. This will be USDA graded auction.

Genetics featured at this sale will include National Grand Champion RENCI1, EGGSFILLY, TSTJARII, EGGSTEME, and the famous Australian genetics of WARLORD, GERONIMO, APACHE, & TARMAC. For those looking for good dairy stock to compliment your embryo or commercial production program, there will also be a good selection of quality dairy animals. Fine meat goat stock from member breeder’s herds will be available for auction. Hair Sheep from several breeder's herds will also be offered for sale. Registered and non-registered animals compose the lots. Don’t miss this splendid opportunity to enhance your herd or start your herd with fine animals. We had a GREAT sale last spring and we have buyers coming from as far away as Delaware, so tell your friends and come join us in Oxford.

Those interested in consigning animals please contact Larry Smith, Sales Coordinator, at (336) 573-4155 by Saturday March 01,2008.
Directions to Arena: From I-85 to Oxford,NC exit at NC-15 South. Arena located about 1 1/2 miles on the right.

Upcoming Events
March 15, 2008
2008 Spring Breeder’s Sale
Pickup Dates: March 07, 2008
By appointment only with
B.C. Brown (252) 430-7111
March 08, 2008
Louisburg, NC 10-1p.m. Hobbsville, NC (Greg Winslow Farm) 9-1p.m.

Notice to all members:
Your organization is undergoing some administrative changes. Any questions can be directed to Larry Smith of Smith Farms and he will route your question to the correct Board Member for answer and/or resolution. Larry can be reached at (336) 573-4155.

The “Flash” is distributed via email notice to members with email addresses. To change from email distribution to print copy please email the office. NCMGP Spring 2008 Breeders Sale Saturday, March 15, 2008

Kidding Management
By: Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña, Livestock Agent for Richmond County
Cooperative Extension

There are several preparations that you can do on your farm before the newborn kids start arriving. The first thing to think about is getting the doe ready. You can give her vaccinations and shots 30 days prior to kidding. It is a good idea to give her 2 cc of Clostridium perfringens CD and Tetanus toxoid combination and 1 cc per 40 pounds of Vitamin E and Selenium. Always make sure to follow the label! Fifteen days before kidding, the doe needs to start receiving a ration of ½ cup of goat feed gradually increasing to 2 cups per day. When the doe starts milking, you can help her by feeding grain at 1 pound per day plus ¼ pound for every pound of milk produced. You can clip the hair around the doe's tail and vent, down her back legs, and under her belly to be more sanitary. Start preparing a kidding pen with clean dry straw. After the kid is a few days old, you can switch to shavings, but straw is better for kidding so that shavings don’t stick to the baby while the doe is trying to clean it up. It is important to understand the signs of labor in does so that you can be prepared. It is recommended to isolate her on the early due date which is around 145 days gestation. This is where good breeding records come in handy. Does usually kid in late afternoon or early evening. These are good times to check on her. The early signs of labor include: restlessness, smelling the ground, pawing at bedding, looking behind her, lifting tail, rises and lies down frequently, increased urination, udder fills up, vulva becomes flabby, and a white discharge appears.

A doe may show all these signs or only a few of them. During the delivery, you can wash the genital area with udder wash, remove water buckets so that babies don’t drown, and stay with the doe in case she needs assistance. The signs of final labor include: extensive discharge, strong labor pains about 2 minutes apart, ears stand out and lips curl, doe strains, a fluid filled bubble may appear, water breaks, second bubble appears, and feet or nose will become visible. Does usually deliver with the head lying on the forefeet with the chin on the knees or with both rear legs in the birth canal first with the kids back facing up towards the does back. These positions are usually normal and won’t require any assistance. Abnormal positions include: head first with only one foreleg forward, head first with no legs for ward, breach position with rump and tail first, and feet first with head turned back. There are many more possible abnormal positions than there are normal positions.

Some important things that you may need in your kidding kit include: a bucket with warm water, disinfectant (for naval), old towels, rubber gloves, lubricant, bulb syringe, and a flashlight. To care for the kid, it is necessary to clear the newborn's nose and mouth of any fluid. You can use a bulb syringe normally used for children to do this easily. Kids should try to stand within 15 minutes of birth. It's a good idea to dip the naval with diluted iodine or novalan. Kids need 4 to 8 ounces of colostrum within the first 4 hours of birth. Kids acquire immunity to most diseases from their mother in utero and are protected for the first 30 days. After that they need their own vaccinations. It is important to work on your herd-health program with your veterinarian and always read the label when giving medication or vaccinations.

Upcoming Marketing Opportunities
March 20, 2008
Mawlid al-Nabi - a celebration of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.
March 23, 2008
Easter - a Christian feast commemorating the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion.
April 20-27, 2008
Passover - a holiday beginning on the 14th day of Nisan (first month of the religious calendar, corresponding to March-April) and traditionally continuing for eight days, commemorating the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt. Also called Pesach.
April 27, 2008
Eastern Orthodox Easter - Eastern Orthodox Christians come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds:
Greek, Russian, Egyptian, Romanian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Armenian,
Bulgarian, Georgian, Albanian,
Ethiopian, Syrian, and American.
FOR SALE
.. Semen from sons of GERONIMO, APACHIE, WAR LORD. Pick up, delivery, or
shipping available.
Larry Smith, Smith Farms, Stoneville, NC (336) 573-4155.
Anyone wishing to place an advertisement in the Flash should contact Ron
Howard at (276) 647-8567.

Please Don’t Forget Our Troops & Their Families!

Ben Chase
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