Howdy Sheep & Goat Emailers

Included in this 6/2/2008 Shepard's Announcements is Extension's Sheep & Goat related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties.

As Always - I would like to hear your comments about the Shepard’s Announcements or the Extension Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

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Shepard’s Announcements
June 2008
Extension Sheep & Goat E-Newsletter

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1. Area Sheep & Goat Producers To Meet June 12th

Parasites are by far the biggest cause of death loss for Sheep & Goat producers. Worms and Coccidia infestations kill more of these animals than other causes combined. Even with death losses it is surprising how many producers do not get on a parasite control program. The only sure fire way to know what parasites you may be dealing with is to have a microscopic exam done on the feces of the animals to look for the parasites. This is also known as doing Fecal Egg Counts. This is not a difficult job, and one that should be incorporated into the management plan for your flock.

Sheep and Goat Producers in Rockingham and Guilford Counties will have an opportunity on June 12th to attend a class about internal parasites and learning how Fecal Egg Counts are done. Linda Trainum will be presenting and teaching this program. At this program you are asked to bring a FRESH fecal sample from your sheep/goat along with you to the class in a ziplock baggie. (Please dont bring samples that have sat in the heat for any length of time, not in your pocket or on the dash of your truck. This sample needs to be kept cool and fresh)

The program will begin at 7:00 pm at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center in Wentworth. (525 Highway 65). This will be a night with a really good educational program and the enjoyment of getting together with other sheep & goat producers.

If you are planning to attend this Program, Please give me a call or send an email to let me know that you are planning to attend. Ben Chase, Extension Livestock Agent, Rockingham & Guilford Counties, 342-8235, 1800-666-3625 or ben_chase@ncsu.edu (This will tell us how many people to prepare for)

Please read Parasite Control: Meet the Enemy - by The Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control, at http://www.scsrpc.org/SCSRPC/Publications/parasitecontrol.htm This will prepare and familiarize you for the program. So Please Read this to help the program move along on the 12th.

Other sites for your interest:
Products Used to Treat and/or Prevent Coccidiosis in Livestock http://www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/coccidtable.html

The Internal Parasites That Affect Sheep and Goats
2. 2008 NC Wool Pool Information – Charles Young NCCES, Ashe County
   At the annual meeting of the Mid-States Wool Cooperative we saw several
   of the problems that limit our ability to market wool in North Carolina
   and Virginia. All of these problems are easy to solve by the producer,
   yet they continue to plague the wool industry.
   - Poly contamination is one of the biggest problems. Little pieces of
     plastic, either from plastic baling twine or from the “blue tarps” is a
     major problem. As little as 2 oz. of poly fiber can contaminate 40,000
     lbs of wool. It cannot be washed out or carded out and will cause
     defects in both the dying process and the weaving. If you feed hay,
     especially small square bales, tied with poly, your wool will be
     contaminated. The only way to avoid this is to use sisal twine. When
     the blue tarps are exposed to weather or wind, they shred with the poly
     getting in the wool. Use a higher quality tarp around sheep and for
     covering hay.
   - Black wool has always been a problem in the commercial market. With
     the current emphasis on club type lambs, a lot of wool has non-white
     fibers. Just keep it all separated.
   - Hair sheep are growing in popularity, with some good reasons. However,
     the crosses often have hair mixed with the wool. The processors call
     this “kempy wool”. The kemp is hair, not wool. It
     dyes differently and it really itches. If you bag kempy or black wool
     with clean wool, the fleece on either side becomes contaminated, with a
     lesser value.
   - If wool is sheared damp and then bagged, it can turn yellow or can
     actually mold. Either way it is reject wool and has very few uses and a
     low price. One problem is wool can contain 18-20% moisture and still
     feel dry, so the sheep need to be really dry before you shear. Remember,
     the wool may stay in the bag for several months, so get it right the
     first time.
   - Remember that good wool handling practices will enable us to keep
     selling our wool.
   - Keep black and colored wool separate. This means if you have a flock
     that has both white faced and black faced sheep, keep the wool separate.
     If you have dark colored sheep, keep that wool separate. That will help
     Mid-States to get the best price for the best use of the wool. You can
     pack the wool in the same bag if you don’t have enough of one kind to
     fill a bag, but put something between the types, like a paper feed sack
     or piece of cardboard.
   - Remove tags, the manure is not wool, and can cause the mold and reject
     problems.
   - Make sure each bag is labeled with producers name and address. We do
     not repack any wool, so the bags it comes in should be able to handle
     shipping to Ohio. I don't accept tags at the Sparta pool, the price does
     not justify it. Black and colored wool counts for the LDPs, so I would
     weigh and record, even if it may be low or no price.
   - We sell wool on a grade and yield basis, so the way you package your
     wool will determine what price you can receive. If you bag everything
     together, the price will be that of the lowest grade. If you can
     separate the different types and keep out the foreign material, you can
     get what the wool is worth. It is really up to you. I would also remind you of the USDA price support program for wool, in
     the form of loans and LDPs. Our local FSA office will be at the site so
     all the paperwork can be handled that day. Most producers will opt for
an LDP payment, and current rate is $0.15/lb. on ungraded wool. Details of the program and rates can be found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA

North Carolina Wool Pool dates and locations are:
7-2-08 Albemarle AM Agent- Steve Lemons
7-2-08 Asheville PM Jeff Bradley
7-2-08 Williamson AM Al Cochran, Jeff Copeland
7-3-08 Sparta 8-11 AM Charles Young
Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

3. There have been a lot of questions about the price of hay. Yes, we have seen a lot of hay being cut and baled, but most of that hay has been put into the barn to re-supply from the drought. Most hay producers also have livestock, so they are making sure they have enough forage supply for their own animals. Some hay has hit the market but I have not seen a great influence on price as of yet.

Price – From what I have seen the price range of hay (not distinguishing type or quality) this week is anywhere from $150 - $300/Ton. Yes you read that correctly, there is still a rather large spread in the price. And again, this does not mean that the higher priced is any higher in quality. I have seen a lot of average to poor quality hay go for a premium price.

So, to get up on the box again, I encourage you as hay buyers to ask for a forage test when you purchase hay. Many hay producers have not been testing just simply because they are not getting the request to have it tested. If enough folks request forage test when purchasing hay, hopefully it will encourage hay producers to start forage testing. Testing is beneficial for both the buyer and seller. The forage test provides the many benefits, but this can allow for the price to be set based on the quality of the hay. So start testing or request a forage test when you buy!

Pasture Management is the key for your survival. Grazing can make or break a livestock producer. Get on a grazing plan to make the most out of your pastures so you don’t have to buy much hay! Rotate, Rotate, Rotate, Rotate, Rotate, Rotate, Rotate!

4. Hay Directory
As everyone knows, hopefully the drought is behind us and our hay supplies are next to none. So with the spring rains hopefully we will start to refill our reserves and our barns and perhaps some will have some hay to sell. With this in mind, you are aware that a Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham and Guilford County area. This directory is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. So if you have hay or if you would like to be added (or removed) from this Hay Directory please call me at 1-800-666-3625 or 342-8235 and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale. Do assume you are on this list, if you want to be included in this hay directory, please let me know

5. Are you interested in Marketing Meat or Eggs Direct? I have had many requests in the past 6 months for the requirements for marketing meat/eggs directly, off the farm or to super markets. Well, this can be a rather donkey chasing process but one that I think should be explored. You are all aware of the resent video of the downer cow at the processor plant that brought up animal welfare issues or of the Ecoli scares, tainted meat, antibiotics being fed and so on. With all these things in the media, it has opened up what I think are some possible opportunities for the few that are willing.

What I am asking you: If you are interested in coming to a program that would discuss what the requirements are in North Carolina to market your own meat products, let me know of your interest to do so. If enough interest is shown, a program will be planned in the fall to go over these requirements. SO LET ME HEAR FROM YOU IF THIS IS OF ANY INTEREST TO YOU! 342-8235, 1800-666-3625 OR ben_chase@ncsu.edu I have had many requests in the past 6 months for the requirements for marketing meat/eggs directly, off the farm or to super markets. Well, this can be
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6. Rockingham County Farmers Market Open at Historic CHINQUA PENN Plantation Stables.
Would you like to purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, and specialty foods? Well, you can find all this at the Rockingham County Farmers Market. The market hours are:
Wednesdays: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. & Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Featured items include (in season): Specialty produce including locally grown fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, local wines and goat cheese; A variety of fresh herbs; Baked goods, jams and jellies; Flowering plants in flats and by container, and Fine arts and farm crafts.

For Information on the market or on acquiring a Vendor Space, Contact market Manager Randy Billingsley at 342-5348

7. COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO HELP FARMERS RECOVERING FROM DROUGHT
North Carolina farmers reeling from drought can obtain help under a program that will cover 75 percent of the cost of restoring drought-damaged pastureland and providing additional water supply for livestock and crops. The N.C. Agricultural Drought Recovery Program will be administered statewide through local Soil and Water Conservation district offices beginning May 1. It was made possible by a $6 million grant from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

“This grant makes it possible for more than 1,000 farmers and farm operations to restore some of the damage from last summer’s severe drought and to prepare, so the next long, hot and dry summer doesn’t do as much damage,” said Billy Ray Hall, president of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center. The Rural Center worked with the General Assembly’s Joint Select Committee on Agriculture Drought Response, the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, several state agencies and other agricultural interests to design the program and arrange funding. The Division of Soil and Water Conservation will administer the program. Rep. Ray Rapp, co-chairman of the legislative committee, said a bill seeking an additional $6 million to extend the program to more farmers will be submitted to the General Assembly in May. “We recognized that any proposal we made to the legislature could not go into effect before July at the earliest, too late to save many of our farmers,” Rapp said. “Fortunately, the friends of agriculture in North Carolina are not limited to members of the General Assembly. Money from the Tobacco Trust Fund lets us put this project into effect immediately.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture last year designated 85 of North Carolina’s 100 counties as natural disaster areas. As of April 8, 80 counties remained under drought conditions with the other 20 considered abnormally dry.
Farmers affected by the drought may apply to one of the state’s 96 Soil and Water Conservation district offices for help with several types of projects. These include pasture renovation, drilling and redrilling wells, pond construction and renovation, converting closed lagoons to fresh water ponds, and upgrading existing irrigation systems to more efficient models. The program is open to farmers with a total adjusted gross income of less than $250,000 or those who derive 75 percent of their income from farming operations. “North Carolina farmers lost a half billion dollars in crops last year because of this drought – that’s 17 percent of total crop revenue in a typical year,” said Sen. Charlie Albertson, also a committee co-chair. “The damage wasn’t merely in lost
harvest. Pastureland needs to be renovated and reseeded before livestock can graze again, and we’re still in this drought. Farmers really need our help to go forward.”

8. Notes from our FSA Office - 2008 Crop Reporting Deadlines - Producers have until Monday, June 30, 2008, to report all spring-seeded crops. These crops include tobacco, corn, soybeans, fruits and vegetables and all grassland.

Livestock Compensation Program - Sign-Up Ongoing - 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 has not yet been announced.

9. First ever Got to Be NC Festival set for State Fairgrounds June 5-8 -NCD&A&CS Public Affairs Division, Brian Long, Director
RALEIGH -- A four-day festival celebrating North Carolina’s agricultural heritage and locally produced foods will take place June 5-8 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The Got to Be NC Festival will feature a food trade show, antique tractors, draft horse and antique tractor pulls, the official state barbecue cooking championship, carnival rides, games, a petting zoo, pig races, a bluegrass band competition and country, bluegrass and beach music performances.
Festival hours will be 3 p.m.-midnight Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Tickets to events in the Sam Rand Grandstand will be $5.

We’re excited to show off agriculture in North Carolina with more than 70 N.C. food companies sampling and offering delicious foods for sale, said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. In addition, this could be the largest gathering of antique farm equipment in North Carolina, based on the response we’ve gotten so far. Mix in the N.C. Barbecue Championship and great music, and it’s going to be a real celebration of our agricultural heritage.

Teams from across North Carolina will compete in the 2008 N.C. State Barbecue Cooking Championship on Friday and Saturday. The N.C. Pork Council sponsors this. The bluegrass band competition will be in Heritage Circle Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. There also will be daily music from Sweet Potato Pie, a North Carolina band that performs a musical blend of bluegrass, country, classical and blues.

Each night, the Sam Rand Grandstand will host entertainment. Greenville’s Super Grit Cowboy Band kicks off the series Thursday. The
Coastline Band of Charlotte brings beach music on Saturday, and Steep Canyon Rangers from Asheville plays bluegrass on Sunday. The winner of the bluegrass competition will open for the Sunday show. All concerts begin at 8 p.m. A draft horse and mule pull will take place in the Grandstand Friday from 6 to 9 p.m.

The key festival sponsor is Kids Green Earth. Additional sponsors include Food Lion, Touchstone Energy, Kerr Drug, Quality Equipment LLC, Golden LEAF Foundation, Clearwater and Davis Guns. For more information, log on to www.ncagfest.com <http://www.ncagfest.com>.

10. Preparations for severe summer weather – Home

Safety steps need not be time-consuming or expensive, so make sure you cover the basics:

- **Look around your home or apartment and decide where you can – or should – go in case of a severe storm, fire, flood, power outage or other emergency.**
  - Discuss and decide where to meet if storm sirens should sound.
  - Include in the discussion what to do if children are on their way home from school or if a friend’s house or if parents are on the way home from work. While such family discussions are important, singles and others who live alone also should work out a system with friends and neighbors to account for each other if a storm should strike.
  - Invest in a battery-operated radio and flashlight, and an extra set of batteries.
  - Put together a three-day emergency kit with enough supplies for each person in your household: allow 1 gallon of water per person per day; nonperishable food such as canned, cooked meats or fish, canned vegetables, canned or dried fruits, nonfat dried milk, and canned or bottled fruit and vegetable juices, crackers and cereal bars. Rotate emergency supplies to prevent foods from becoming outdated, and remember to include a manual can opener, utensils, tableware, paper plates, napkins, towels and toilet paper.
  - First-aid kit.
  - Prescription medications for 72 hours.
  - Extra set of eye glasses, perhaps the pair most recently replaced.
  - Blankets, sleeping bags and a tent (if the family happens to have one).
  - Change of clothes for each person, including shoes or boots, socks, coat, jacket or rain poncho.
  - Coffee can or other re-sealable metal container with candles and matches.
  - Deck of cards and board games, and a few children’s toys. Such items as coloring books can reduce stress and anxiety.
  - A cell phone, if available, address book and phone book.
  - List of emergency contacts, cash, copies of insurance policies, household inventory and immunization records.
  - Taking pictures of each room in your home can be helpful in identifying how the home looked before a disaster. Store photos in a safe place, with other essential documents.
  - Stashing a camera – or making sure that you take it with you during an emergency – also can be helpful in documenting emergencies.

11. Wanted— I am getting numerous calls from time to time about folks looking for:

- Someone in the Guilford or Rockingham County that would be willing to cut and bale hay.
- Fence or barn building

If you are interested in doing these type things, Please let me know!

**ben_chase@ncsu.edu**

**PS I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOU COMMENTS ABOUT THE SHEPARD’S ANNOUNCEMENT AND IF THE INFORMATION IS USEFUL OR ITS IMPACT ON YOU!**

Please Don’t Forget Our Troops & Their Families!

Ben Chase
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Livestock
The use of brand names or any listing or mention of products or services
does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor
discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

The goal of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is to
provide information about the potential availability of items of
interest to livestock & horse owners in Rockingham & Guilford Counties.

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