Howdy Sheep & Goat Emailers

Included in this 7/21/2008 week of 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
July 2008
Extension Sheep & Goat E-Newsletter

1. DAIRY GOAT FIELD DAY
2. Parasites
3. Hay, Grass & Your Management
4. Animal Neglect
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1. DAIRY GOAT FIELD DAY
August 2, 2008 9:00AM until 1:00PM
Presented by The Johnston County Goats Producers

VENDORS
Materials & BBQ Lunch

Johnston County Livestock Arena
Smithfield, North Carolina
County Home Road, Off 210 Hwy
Livestock Arena (919) 934-9569

This is a joint effort by the JCGPA and the NC Cooperative Extension Service. For more field day information contact: James Paul Allen, Pres (919) 965-5976 - Leslie Averill, Sec (919) 965-9306 or Ron Hughes, Johnston County Coop Ext Agent (919) 989-5380 ronald_hughes@ncsu.edu

2. Parasites - In the past couple of weeks/month we have had some areas in Rockingham & Guilford Counties that have gotten some rain. When you have moisture for grass growth you can bet that you will also have good parasite growing conditions. That is what we have seen this summer, a spike in parasites numbers. Many problems have been seen in the pre-weaning age through adults. Have you had problems or death loss in your flock?

As you all know you must have a management plan that involves the economics, herd health & parasite control program that covers:
- vaccination against enterotoxemia and abortion losses, medication costs related to the control of internal and external parasites.
- Typically, recommendations regarding frequency, timing, and type of anthelmintic administration vary, but should be designed around individual farm management strategies and goals. Successful deworming programs are generally based upon parasite life cycle, weather conditions and individual farm management practices - not "cookbook" recommendations. The ultimate goal of any deworming strategy should be reduction of pasture contamination from parasite ova and larva. Adhering to a flock specific “strategic deworming” strategy should reduce risks of reinfection. Furthermore, timely administration of anthelmintic medications and proper dosing should greatly reduce treatment frequency by maximizing the efficacy of each administration. To monitor the effectiveness of deworming programs, producers should learn:
- FAMACHA and how to do fecal exams (or have the veterinarian regularly evaluate composite fecal samples) to determine parasite type, parasite load and the effectiveness of the deworming program.

Get a handle on your flocks Parasite Load, if you don't you can count on the parasite taking control and turning your flock into worm bait!

Maryland Small Ruminant Hope Page - Internal Parasites
http://www.sheepandgoat.com/parasite.html

3. Hay, Grass & Your Management - I know that you are all tired of the
drought and the hay situation. I know we have had some rain, but it has
been widely scattered. Tuesday night 1.6 inches fell in Eden and areas
South may have gotten a trace. We need some steady widespread rain to
help our situation. I do not think our hay supplies are where they
should be, and do not think at the current time we have enough to get
through the winter. I would strongly suggest that you go ahead and
purchase your winter hay supply. If you don’t have storage, you better
make arrangements now if you want to maintain animals through the
winter. As you all are aware a Hay Growers list is maintained for the
benefit of hay growers and hay buyers, I get numerous requests for this
list from all over NC and Virginia. Please go ahead and get your hay!
If you would like request an updated copy of the 2008 Hay Directory for
Rockingham & Guilford Counties. At this time there are 35 growers listed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR PASTURES & HAY FIELDS:

- Rotationally Graze - Efficiency is the key to economic pasture
  production and survival. Pastures need to be managed to maximize their
  use. Unmanaged grazing is not profitable. 50% of pasture grass or less
  is utilized by livestock if pastures are continuously grazed. So Rotate,
  Rotate, & Rotate!

- Rotational grazing utilizes more and smaller paddocks and more
  frequent moves and results in more efficient use of pasture (less
  pasture loss), better re-growth and higher overall yields. Strip grazing
  results in less waste of pasture (only 15%), better pasture utilization
  and best distribution and recycling of manure nutrients

- Make sure you do not over graze, to do this you need to be in a
  grazing rotation and not over stocked. (Too many animals) Culling or
  selling animals may be needed. Over Stoked pastures have been one of the
  main issues we have seen. The lower the stocking rate, the less impact
  the drought will have on your pastures. Overgrazing will weaken
  pastures, and often kill or severely damage the stand.

- Consider renting or borrowing more pastureland may be more economical
  than overusing the land.

- Scout weeds and spot spray. Eliminate weeds before they cause an
  economic problem. You don’t want weeds utilizing that expensive fertilizer.

- Utilize warm and cool season grasses. (Annuals & Perennials)

- Plan location of sacrificed areas so to manage grass growth.

- If possible, sort and group animals based on body condition, class and
  physiological state for feeding. Maintain body condition Use good
  feeding management and feed according to Body Condition Scores and
  production status.

- Minimize feed wastage - Adequate feeders and feeder space

- Be prepared to grow grass when it does rain & stockpile cool-season
  perennials

- Consider creep feeding and/or early weaning

- Forage Test to ensure you are providing adequate nutrition. Balance
  diet for adequate crude protein and Ca:P ratio and provide a good
  mineral mix at all times

- Wise use of conserved forage - Factors to consider: Storage, Wastage
  reduction, Winter supply & Emergency supply

- Improperly stored bales - Add storage losses to other losses: realize
  that hay is an expensive feed

- Buy hay by weight, not by bales & Request hay to be tested for
  nutrients (quality) and nitrates before buying; ask for analysis sheet
  from NCDA. Call & arrange for me to come pull a forage test. NCDA
  charges a minimal fee of $10 for Forage tests.

- Soil test - (and forage tests - fresh or dried forages) are required to
  understand the fertility of the fields. Soil testing is free in North
  Carolina.

- Soil acidity (pH) is the most important factor in nutrient utilization
  by plants. “Acidic” soils with low pH cannot efficiently use fertilizers
  or nutrients. Maintaining a pH of 5.8-6.0 is critical for efficient
  nutrient mobilization and uptake by pasture plants, and should never be
  allowed to drop below 5.5. pH is increased by lime (more specifically
  the calcium and magnesium in the lime). Maintaining proper soil pH is
  the best soil fertility investment. If you can afford nothing else,
apply lime appropriately.

- Grasses do not grow well without a source of nitrogen. Generally, 50 pounds of nitrogen is needed to produce 1 ton of forage. Legumes (clover) can lower your N requirement and improve quality. Legumes have the ability to take nitrogen out of the air and release it into the soil so grasses can use it. They are also high in protein and highly digestible. Legumes can be the source of nitrogen production for pasture/hay systems especially with the high N costs. So consider adding a legume to your pastures or hay fields.

- To encourage volunteer legumes, manage lime and P to requirements (pH of 5.8-6.2). Apply no more than 30 pounds of N. Graze in order to allow legumes to have light, but do not graze leaves off legumes.

- Nitrogen is most effective when other fertility elements are adequate. If other fertility elements are not adequate, applying nitrogen is a waste of money.

- Animal manure, whether it is produced on your farm or someone else's, can be an excellent nitrogen alternative.

- Soil moisture is critical. Therefore, consider timing of fertility investments carefully. Lime and phosphorus will not be lost to the system over time, but nitrogen and potassium can easily be lost. Time your N applications to good rainfall and soil moisture.

4. Animal Neglect - Ok folks, I hope everyone will take notice and read this! I have gotten numerous calls and I know that the rescue groups in this area can testify to this - I am very aware of the raising fuel costs & forage/hay situation, and the added expense that this has placed on livestock and horse owners to keep animals fed and maintaining body condition. Even with these things considered, an animal which has not been fed or maintained in a fit body condition can be seen as NEGLECT. Now, sometimes factors can have a negative influence on body condition such as age and disease conditions, but I would guess that 90% of the time it is a neglectful situation.

Please, Please look after your animals. If you do not own animals but have animals on your property that are in bad body condition, you are the individual who will be gone to first as being the responsible party with the animals! So insist that animals are maintained or take appropriate measures.

- I encourage each of you to pull back and evaluate the body condition of your animals. Sometimes, one can be blind of things that one occurs daily on there own farm, the eye of the beholder so to speak.

- If you have friends that have animals, take a look at their animals Body Condition, be a friend to them and their animals. If needed, Use it as a teachable moment.

There is no Excuse for a Neglected Animal, it is obviously not good for the animal and reflects on others involved in the Livestock and Horse industry.

5. Interested in Marketing locally produced Meat & Eggs (Beef, Pork, Lamb, Goats or Poultry Products)

On September 9th beginning at 7 pm at the Guilford County Agricultural Center Auditorium located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro, there will be a program that will discuss the direct marketing of meat and egg products. There are many issues that need to be well thought through such as who will be your customers that you will market your product, what Farmers Need to Know to Direct Market meat and eggs in North Carolina, the Regulatory requirements and the product liability issues that may be involved. Planning for Success is a key to being a success. Developing a Plan for Your Meat & Egg Business begins with the end in mind. Please look at the entire overview of the operation and consider where and how to market your product.

When looking at direct marketing of livestock and livestock products producers must concentrate on the production end of things, looking at breed of animals, pasture management & nutrition or Husbandry management practices that influence the economics of the livestock business. There are many resources that folks need to be aware of if you are considering this venture. One Great local resource is the Cooperative Extension as well as the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Extension can provide you with the production management and budgeting information and NCDA has detailed information regarding the regulations for the sale and distribution of meat & Eggs and is also responsible for the enforcement
of these laws.
The Extension website can be found at
*http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture*

and the North Carolina Department Of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences -
*Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Home Page is located at:
*http://www.ncagr.com/meatpoultry/index.htm*

On this web site is a list of Frequently Asked Questions about
Processing and Marketing of Meat products as well as the NCDACS
Directory of Meat and Poultry Processing and Slaughter Plants &
Facilities in North Carolina that are either inspected by NCDACS as
state plants or custom processing facilities, or by USDA.

Resources for Evaluating Some of the Economic Aspects of Direct
Marketing such as Enterprise budget guidelines are available from the
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at NCSU. These include
forage budgets and beef production budgets, including a budget for
finishing cattle on pasture. Budgets are available in print or
spreadsheet versions and come with explanatory notes. They are available
on line at
*http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension/Ag_budgets.html*

At this meeting the basics of Direct Marketing will be discussed.
The NCDA & Consumer Services custom exemption law allows an Individual
to slaughter up to 1,000 chickens or rabbits of their own raising for
retail or wholesale sale without benefit of inspection.

Slaughtering on The Farm
Meat Handlers License
Labels

If you are interested in Direct marketing of Meat or Eggs, plan on
attending this program on September 9th beginning at 7 pm at the
Guilford County Agricultural Center Auditorium located at 3309
Burlington Road here in Greensboro. For more information or directions
give Ben Chase, Extension Livestock Agent in Rockingham & Guilford
Counties a call at 1800-666-3625 or 342-8235.

6. Notes From The Soil Conservation Office
No-till grass drills arrive to help renovate pastures - Farmers in
Davidson, Guilford, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry counties can rent them.
NRCS can be reached in Rockingham Co - 336-342-0460 Ex3 and in Guilford
County at 336-375-5401 Ex3

PUBLIC NOTICE - July 1, 2008
NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM & COMMUNITY CONSERVATION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (For Non-Point Source Pollution Control)
The Sign Up Period is July 1 until August 31st

Funds will be available to assist crop and livestock farms for
installing Best Management Practices to decrease the amount of sediment,
nutrients and pesticides from entering into surface waters from cropland
and pastures.

Farm owners and operators may apply for cost-share assistance through
the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program to help install
conservation practices such as:

• Animal Waste Management, Livestock Exclusion w/ Watering Tanks,
  Wells, Poultry Mortality Management, Cropland Conversion To Grass Or
  Trees / Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Long Term No-Till, Grassed
  Waterways, Field Borders, Grass-Based Rotation, & Agricultural Chemical
  Handling Facilities.

Each District Board will rank applications based on priority parameters.
(which are different between Counties or districts) A priority list of
Best Management Practices is established in each District that include
items such as water quality problems and issues such as:
Animal Waste, Mortality and Stream Protection Management Practices,
Cropland Conversion, Long Term (5 Yr) No-Till, All other Erosion Control
Practices, Year No-Till: Conventional Crops or Tobacco or Vegetable No-Till

The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) is designed to help
non-agricultural landowners install best management practices (BMP’s)
that will improve offsite water quality. Some of these conservation
practices that can be installed are as follows:

• Abandoned Well Closures
• Cisterns
• Pet Waste Receptacles (Public Property only)
- Back Yard Rain Garden/Wetlands
- Bio-retention Areas
- Stream Restoration
- Riparian Buffers
- Grassed Swale, Diversions, Critical Area Seeding

To find out more about what your District is offering or for information on applying for cost-share funds, land owners and farm operators may call or come by the County Agriculture Center.

Rockingham County - 336-342-0460 Ext. 3
Guilford County - 336-375-5401 ext. 3.

7. TICKS - A July 9, 2008 press release from NCDHHS mentions the death of a Wilkes County resident likely due to Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). As noted by Dr. Leah Devlin, the state Health Director, North Carolina had 665 cases of RMSF reported in 2007.

We are likely to see an upsurge of media queries about ticks and tick-borne diseases. There are no magic fixes to tick problems but there are measures (both chemical and non-chemical) that people can use to reduce tick infestations around their property and to protect ourselves and our families, pets & livestock.

For more information on Ticks & Control of Ticks go to:

Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases in North Carolina
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/ticks.htm

Insect Pests of Horses
http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ansci/horse/eb55-1.htm

NC Ag Chemical Manual
http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/5-24.pdf
http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/5-13.pdf

INSECT REPELLENT PRODUCTS
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/repellents.htm

8. NC STATE FAIR BOOKS - The Premium Book provides detailed information regarding State Fair competitions, including rules and regulations, entry deadlines, premiums, and judging criteria. The 2008 State Fair Premium Book is now available online at www.ncstatefair.org.

9. Facilities - Looking & Available -
   - For Sale: 5.14 Acre Farm w 4 acre fenced pasture, basic 3 stall barn w loft/new shed attached/electricity/water to pasture. Remodeled 1600 sq.ft 3 BR/3 bath farm house. 800 sq ft partial remodeled building could be living space or workshop/2 new carports/new pump house. $250,000. Pleasant Garden area. 336.601.8388 or jkelly9@triad.rr.com
   - For Rent: (Optional 1 BR apt) 2 Barn Stalls $175.00/each with water and electricity. 4 Acre pasture. Greensboro with easy access to I85-40-220. Call Emory @ 336.601.8388 or jkelly9@triad.rr.com
   - Horse Boarding Available- Owners/Operators live on site, No Barbed Wire, Electricity and Running Water, Run in shelters, Stalls, Green pastures, Grooming Daily, Designated Riding Area, Pasture Board $150.00 owner supplies feed and hay, Pasture Board $175.00 farm supplies feed and hay, Stall w/ Pasture $200.00 farm supplies feed and hay. Services include feeding and turn out, fly spraying and putting masks on, blanketing when needed, holding horse for vet and farrier. Call for more information (336) 516-2677 or visit website www.doublejfarmnc.com for information, details and contracts.
   - Adult boarding barn in Gibsonville. Quality hay and grain, vitamins and minerals, daily wormer, new morton barn, wash stall with hot and cold water, wood and electrobraid fencing, dressage arena and trails. 300.00 mo. Services included in price. $300.00 mo. 336-449-6244
   - Wanted to Lease ~25 acres of pasture within 10-15 miles of Greensboro for small cattle herd. Prefer property on western side of town, with fence and water. Contact Gabriel at 859 421-0669 or agrigabe@yahoo.com
10. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted
   - Rain Barrels For Sale - Guilford County Extension Center - 3309 Burlington Road, Greensboro - 375-5876 - 65 Gallons - $100 each, ONLY
   - FOR SALE - Oldenburg GOV gelding by Diamond Hit 4yrs 16.3 lightly started $5000 Call Kim 336 342 0883 or email summerwindfarm@bellsouth.net
   - Quiet 6 yr old 16.2 registered quarter horse gelding for lease/ sale in Gibsonville area. Can be ridden English or Western. Please e-mail me at jtev3@triad.rr.com or call 336-684-3300.
   - 15 year old registered Black/Tobiano, 15.3 hand mare. Fabulous on trails, through water, and has the smoothest jog you will ever find. She's also great with advanced beginner kids and has perfect manners for farrier, vet and grooming. If you are interested please call Don Money 919-247-6515. Asking $3,000 (firm) which includes saddle (Circle Y Park & Trail), blanket, bridle, brushes and a whole lot more. References and a good home a MUST. JV Peppermint Kandy is being boarded in Summerfield. Email Fleminggourds@yahoo.com for flyer/pictures.
   - For Sale - 11yr old 16.1h Grey Registered Performance horse (TBxOld) mare. She is a proven broodmare and has potential for dressage, jumpers, eventing. She is not for a beginner rider, she needs a quiet leg. No lameness, great feet, stands for vet/farrier, crossties, easy to handle, not aggressive/mareish. Experienced broodmare, delivered all 3 on her own with no issues, good mom. Built well, nice mover. W/T/C on contact, lunges nicely, started over small fences. Safe, not spooky, no bucking, kicking, bolting etc. Great project horse. She has played polocrosse, could care less about racket and ball. She is handy for a big mare and has a good stop. Sadly can't afford to keep her. Asking $4500. Sarah Ferebee, 336-245-1477, Summerfield.
   - Red Dog Farm Animal Rescue Network, based in Summerfield, has five adoptable horses at this time. Please see www.reddogfarm.com for pictures of local horses needing homes. We also need a trainer to volunteer some training time to help young horses become more adoptable. Thank you!
   - HAY FOR SALE - Rolled 800# Fescue/Orchard Grass, Stored in completely enclosed barn. Price: $50/roll $250 minimum purchase. We load your trailer by appointment only Call Lee Carter, Southern C's Farm 117 Southern C's Trails, Summerfield, N.C. 27358-8300 carterlee@bellsouth.net www.southerncsfarm.com 336-951-2871 Telephone, 336-337-8777 Cell
   - Saddle for sale $625 - "Crusade" saddle by Crest Ridge Saddlery. It's got a 16" slick padded seat, extra-wide tree and weighs only 24.5 lbs. It's 1 1/2 years old and is in excellent condition. It's an endurance western style saddle with no horn. For pictures and more information, please contact Karen at 336-210-5699 or kbregan@yahoo.com. or go to www.crestridgesaddlery.com
   - Horse Manure - free for the asking. Call 299-9663. Leave message if no answer and will return your call. Normally have 2 truckloads on hand. Will help you load.
   - Pine/Hardwood shavings For Sale. Excellent horse bedding, packaged in 35lb+ plastic bags. Easy to pick & store, low waste & low dust. $4.25+tax per bag. Contact Tony Aprile at (336)698-0207.
   - Found peacock - Multicolor male. Call and describe to claim at 336-382-6540
   - I always want to know what you think of the Shepard’s Announcements, good or bad, especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Let me hear from you!

Thanks & Have A Great SAFE Weekend!
Ben

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