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SMALL RUMINANT EDITOR

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1929



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BIOSECURITY FOR SHEEP FARMS

Bringing a disease into your operation can be costly.

A good on-farm biosecurity plan is the best way to decrease the risk of introducing and spreading diseases between your animals and livestock operations. Biosecurity measures that focus on limiting exposure and building immunity can improve sheep health, well-being, and productivity. It is another way for sheep farms to maintain business continuity and prepare for a foreign animal disease outbreak.

Use the resources below to develop a custom biosecurity plan that addresses your specific site needs.

Prepare to Protect Your Flock

Producers should work with their herd veterinarian to assist in developing a site-specific enhanced biosecurity plan and to develop a routine flock health program that includes vaccination and other disease prevention measures.

Implementing this plan will help prevent exposing animals to disease. It will also help maintain business continuity in the event of an outbreak and the limited movement of animals.

Secure Sheep and Wool Supply (SSWS) Plan

If Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is found in United States livestock, Regulatory Officials will limit the movement of animals and animal products to try and control the spread of this very contagious animal disease.

FMD is not a public health or food safety concern. Meat and milk are safe to eat and drink.

The Secure Sheep and Wool Supply (SSWS) Plan for Continuity of Business provides opportunities to voluntarily prepare before an FMD outbreak. This will better position premises with sheep that have no evidence of infection to:

- Limit exposure of their animals through enhanced biosecurity,
- Move animals to processing or another premises under a movement permit issued by Regulatory Officials, and
- Maintain business continuity for the sheep industry, including producers, haulers, packers and wool processors during an FMD outbreak.

National Premises Identification Number (PremID or PIN)

Request a National Premises Identification Number (PremID or PIN) from the office of your State Animal Health Official. In a foreign animal disease outbreak, the PIN will allow producers to be notified if they are in a regulatory Control Area, speeding up a response.

American Sheep Industry Association



Scan the QR code for biosecurity resources.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Secure Sheep and Wool Supply Plan.



Scan the QR code to request a PIN.

TAKE THE CHILL OUT OF KIDDING GOATS IN WINTER

Goat kidding season may typically be associated with springtime, but more and more producers are shifting to get newborn goat kids on the ground earlier. Kids born in the first few months of the year have more time for growth and will be heavier at weaning – benefits for both the production and show sides of the industry.

Maximizing the benefits of an earlier kidding season means minimizing the impacts of cold weather stress on does, as well as newborn goat kids.

Keep these winter tips in mind when preparing for kidding goats in winter:

Start with goat minerals

When you think about winter feeding and management, you likely think of heat lamps, barn ventilation, warm bedding, or other tried and true tips that help provide a smooth kidding season experience in cold weather.

But, one thing is more important – feeding a quality goat mineral.

Mineral is absolutely the most important step. The last thing you want to deal with in below-freezing temperatures is kidding problems. Feeding a quality goat mineral can help get newborn goat kids on the ground with fewer issues.

Monitor goat body condition score

Cold temperatures mean does need to expend more energy to maintain normal body functions and regulate temperature. Evaluating goat body condition score (BCS) before kidding season can help ensure does have the proper amount of energy to keep themselves warm, recover from birth and tend to newborn kids.

Does should be in at least a BCS of three, or even a three and a half, before kidding season. If they have a little extra energy, they'll be more durable and more prepared.

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Feed more forage and water

One way to help does maintain body condition when kidding goats in cold weather is feeding more forage.

When animals metabolize feed, the process creates heat that can help keep them warm. Hay or forage creates more heat than other feeds like corn or fats because animals must spend more time breaking down forages in the digestive system.

The other side of the coin is water. Providing animals with fresh, clean water and frequently checking to ensure water sources aren't frozen is essential to help with digestion.

It's a combination of forage and water that will help animals stay warmer.

Keep newborn goat kids warm and dry

Newborn goats are tougher than you might realize. They can handle a lot and continue to thrive. One thing they can't handle is not getting dry quickly enough after birth.

Hypothermia in goats is a big concern – no matter the temperature. Anytime newborn goat kids are wet and there's a breeze, they will get cold.

If the doe isn't drying off a newborn kid immediately after birth, you may need to dry it with a towel. Heat lamps can also be a good tool for newborns that do get cold or in extremely cold weather.

The biggest thing is making sure kids get dry and start nursing so they can have a strong start. If you have those two things covered, they can withstand a lot from that point on.

With a few proactive nutrition and management steps, you can capitalize on the benefits of an earlier goat kidding season while reducing the impacts of cold weather stress on your animals.

Purina

Augusta Co-op Solution

Purina, Goat Mineral, 25 lbs.

A free-choice mineral supplement rich in nutrients essential to the proper development and well-being of goats of all ages and breeds.



SKU - 53551

WINTER FEEDING GUIDELINES FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

Many of these flocks and herds are pasture-based enterprises and the sheep and goats have limited access to an indoor barn or shed. Both sheep and goats are capable of adjusting to winter temperatures by maintaining a wool fleece or growing a thick, insulating hair coat in the case of goats and hair sheep. In fact, these animals most often prefer to be outside on a winter day, even if they have access to a barn or shed. The caveat to this statement is that the ration must meet the nutritional requirements balanced to the production stage. The energy content of the ration must increase when winter weather results in a temperature condition below the animal's lower critical temperature. In addition, animals should have access to a shelter to protect from winter winds and resulting wind chill and hair coat animals should have access to protection from rain/sleet, or wet snow events.

Sheep and goats, like all livestock, have a temperature range in which the animal is most comfortable, and provides optimum conditions for body maintenance, and health. The lower boundary of that temperature range is termed the lower critical temperature (LCT). That LCT is dependent upon the animals insulating hair coat and weather conditions. When weather conditions result in temperatures below the LCT, the animal's metabolism must increase in order for it to keep warm and that takes additional energy. The lower critical temperature for goats is generally considered 32 degrees F, and for sheep, 50 degrees F when freshly shorn or 28 degrees F with 2.5 inches of fleece. Remember that once a hair coat has become wet it loses insulation ability and the animal's LCT is around 58 degrees F. The advantage of wool breed sheep is that wool sheds water and retains insulating ability. The rule of thumb is energy intake must increase by 1 percent for each degree of cold below the LCT.

Apart from temperature/weather conditions, feeding sheep and goats in the winter depends upon meeting the nutrient needs associated with the animal's weight and production stage, typically defined as the gestation or lactation stage of the ewe or doe. Nutrient requirements are highest during late gestation and early lactation. The following recommendations come from an article written by Dr. Chelsey Ahrens with Arkansas Extension:

"Some things to keep in mind are sheep and goats should consume 2-4% of their body weight on a dry matter (DM) basis to meet their nutritional requirements. Several things should be taken into consideration when figuring the nutritional requirements of females: age, stage of production, body condition score (BCS), and number of offspring. To understand how much roughage and grain should feed, it is important to know the nutritional composition of the roughage.

Late Gestation (Last 6 weeks)

This is a critical time for females as 70% of the fetal growth occurs during this phase of production. Proper nutrition is also important during this time to help prevent pregnancy toxemia (ketosis) and milk fever (low blood calcium). Other factors affected by nutrition include offspring birth weights, offspring mortality rates, lower milk yields, and dystocia (birthing difficulties). Females should have a BCS of 3-3.5 on a 5-point scale. It is best to separate the mature and young females as they are competing for feeder space and the young females are still growing.

In general, feed 4-5 lbs. of hay/female/day plus...

- 0.5-1 lb. of grain/female/day
- Free choice minerals
- Fresh, clean water

Early Lactation (First 6-8 weeks)

The highest nutritional requirements occur during this stage of production for females, especially if they are nursing multiple offspring. If possible, separate females according to the number of offspring they have (singles vs. twins vs. triplets) and feed them accordingly. Again, ideally separate the mature and young females.

In general, feed 4-6 lbs. of hay/female/day plus...

- 1 lb. of grain/offspring being nursed
- Free choice minerals

A loose, free choice vitamin/mineral premix is preferred to blocks. The ratio of calcium to phosphorus should be 2:1 and vitamins A, D, and E should be available. If soil is selenium deficient, seek out a premix fortified with selenium to prevent white muscle disease in offspring. During late gestation, ensure females are obtaining the proper amounts of calcium.

A good veterinarian relationship is important during these production stages. Your veterinarian can help ensure your flock or herd is achieving optimal nutrition, and aid in helping to prevent abortions and other diseases by providing recommendations for coccidiostats and antibiotics that could be mixed with supplemental feed."

OSU Extension

GUIDE TO LAMBING SEASON SUCCESS

Lambing is the most important activity that occurs in the sheep flock each year. Success or failure during lambing season is the largest single factor affecting the profitability of the sheep flock. Producers need to help stack the deck to ensure a successful lambing season.

Lambing season prep

As lambing season approaches, the ewes that are closest to lambing should be sorted out as they will require more attention. This is determined by using the breeding dates and physical appearance of the ewes. If there is enough room, this pen of ewes should be locked up at night. Never put ewes into lambing pens if they have not lambed as they may not have enough room to get the lamb out. Be sure they are finished lambing before putting ewes into lambing pens.

Pre-season lambing activities checklist:

1. Increase level of ewe nutrition six weeks prior to lambing
2. Crutch or shear ewes
3. Booster immunizations which may include C, D and T
4. Trim feet
5. Clean out barn and set up lambing pens
6. Check heat lamps, feeders and water buckets
7. Get lambing equipment supplies together

Observe ewes more frequently during lambing season. Observe the ewes as inconspicuously as possible. Upsetting a pen of ewes will sometimes interrupt an ewe that was in the early part of labor.

Lambing equipment supplies checklist:

1. Iodine (usually 7%)
2. Towels
3. Plastic sleeves and disposable gloves
4. O.B. lube
5. Scissors
6. Ewe restrainer
7. Baby bottle
8. Stomach lube and two-ounce syringe
9. Uterine boluses
10. Halter
11. Lamb milk replacer and colostrum replacer

Ewe lambing signs

The udder becomes engorged, swollen and slightly red. Ewe lambing signs also include the vulva stretching out and becomes red and swollen. Often, an ewe will miss a feeding or separate herself from the flock shortly before labor begins.

Sheep birthing process

The sheep birthing process starts when the ewe begins contractions and begins getting up and down frequently. She will paw

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Augusta Co-op Solution

Augusta, 16% Goat Grower/Developer Pellet, Medicated, 50 lbs.

A general purpose
pelleted feed for growing
kids, nannies, and bucks.
Also contains Rumensin.



SKU - GOATGROW

Augusta Co-op Solution

LOL, Lamb & Kid Colostrum Replacer, .3 oz Pack

A colostrum
replacement product
specifically developed
for goats and lambs.



SKU - 2402413

the ground. The ewe will lie down and push with her nose up in the air. At this point, leave the sheep alone and don't disturb. Observe them quietly. The water bag will appear first. After the water bag appears, lambs should be on the ground in about ½ hour to 1 hour. If you are there, make sure the lamb's mouth and nose are clean of mucous and fluid. Make sure the lambs are breathing.

Allow the ewe to claim the newborn lamb and dry it off. You can assist, if she will let you. Make sure the ewe isn't going to have another lamb. Put the ewe and lamb in the lambing pens. Shake out two flakes of straw in the lambing pens. Setup the heat lamp. Don't set up the lamps to low or it will burn the ewe. Clip and iodine the navel. Clip the navel to one inch long and dip in 7% iodine. Strip the teats. Make sure the milk is flowing from both teats. Make sure each lamb gets a good drink. Wait till the lambs have nursed on their own before giving the ewe a flake alfalfa hay and water.

If the lambs have arrived before you did follow the same steps. Check the ewe and lambs again in 1 ½ hours to make sure the ewe owns the lambs and they are nursing properly. The ewe will normally pass the after birth in one or two hours. Do not attempt to pull the after birth out.

How to help a sheep give birth

If the ewe is having trouble getting the lambs out, you may have to assist with the sheep birthing process. Use the ewe restrainer to restrain the ewe. Use the sleeves and O.B. lube provided. Check the ewe to make sure the ewe is fully dilated. Be sure all the legs and head belong to the same lamb. Alternate pulling one leg then the other, at a slightly downward angle. Place the lamb in front of the ewe.

Handling lamb death

Unfortunately, lamb death may occur during the sheep birthing process. If an ewe has a dead lamb, dispose of the lambs and any birthing fluids properly to prevent disease and deter predators. It is always good practice to wear disposable gloves or sleeves when handling dead lambs or birthing fluids. If the ewe only has dead lambs, put her in a lambing pen that has been strawed. Decrease the quality of her hay, provide water and do not feed her any grain supplement. The idea is to reduce energy consumption in an effort to save her udder and dry her up without mastitis complications. It is not recommended to strip her teats if she isn't nursing a lamb. In some cases, another lamb can be grafted on to this ewe.

Lambing season helpful hints

- During lambing season check the sheep barn first and feed the sheep first in the morning.
- Don't wear heavy perfumes or colognes around a newborn lamb as the smell will confuse the mother and could cause her to reject her lambs.
- Use extreme caution when handling lambs from more than one ewe. Mixing the smell of one newborn lamb to another will cause the ewe to reject her own lamb. Use the plastic gloves or wash hands in between.
- Get a newborn lamb breathing quickly by sticking a small piece of straw up its nose. This helps to clear the airway and makes the lamb sneeze. Always wipe away excess mucous or membranes first. Also rub the lamb's ribcage to get the lamb going.
- Getting colostrum into the newborn lamb in the first 15 minutes is very important. It will warm up the lamb, give it energy and supply antibodies.
- When attempting to get the newborn lamb to nurse, tickle the lamb under the tail. This stimulates suckling.
- When carrying a newborn lamb, keep it close to the mother. A good ewe will follow her lamb into the lambing pens. Carry the lambs low.
- When putting iodine on the navel, tip the lamb up with the bottle. The stuff will stain your hands and clothes.
- Before putting an ewe into the lambing pens, make sure they are cleaned out and freshly bedded. This prevents disease problems.
- If a ewe won't allow a newborn lamb to nurse, tie the ewe up with a halter and help the lambs nurse. A head gate can also be used to restrain the ewe so the lambs can nurse.

Purina

Augusta Co-op Solution

Durvet, Controlled Iodine Spray, 1 Pint

A topical antiseptic for use on horses, cattle, swine and sheep prior to surgical procedures such as castrating and docking. For application to the navel of newborn animals and for use as an aid in the treatment of minor cuts, bruises and abrasions.



SKU - 066548

Vendor Day



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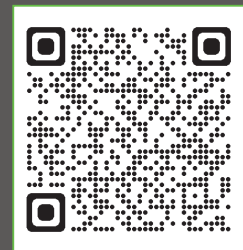
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AGRONOMY CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

Friday, February 9 | 11 AM - 2 PM

Augusta Expo - Building 2
277 Expo Rd, | Fishersville, VA 22939
Additional information: RSVP to Staci Alger at
(540) 885-1265 x 253 or SAlger@AugustaCoop.com

STAFF UPDATE

BRAD BROWN - CEO



Brad Brown is the Chief Executive Officer at Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc.

Before being named CEO in January 2024, Brad was Augusta Co-op's Assistant General Manager / Retail Operations and Purchasing Manager and was responsible for all of the company's retail supply chain, store operations and sales generation.

Prior to Augusta's senior leadership team, Brad was Manager of both the Weyers Cave and Staunton retail store locations and was responsible for day-to-day store operations including inventory management, sales generation and payroll.

Brad also leads Augusta Co-op's wholesale division, Greener Valley Supply, LLC., and played a key role in the company's launch and development of strategic supplier relationships, overall ensuring flexibility to an increasingly demanding marketplace.

In addition to his professional activities, Brad currently sits on the board of the Virginia Cooperative Council and is an active board member of the Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show & Sale since 2017. Furthermore, he speaks regularly on leadership in agriculture at industry forums and other agriculture institutions.

Brad earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Science with an Ag Business Management minor from Penn State University in 2007.

MEET RYAN SENSABAUGH AUGUSTA CO-OP FIELD REPRESENTATIVE



Ryan grew up in Greenville, Virginia on his family's sheep farm.

Throughout middle and high school, he was active in both 4-H and FFA where he competed in various contests including Stockman's, Livestock Judging, Forestry Judging and Poultry Judging. He also participated in the Augusta County 4-H & FFA Market Animal Show. Ryan graduated from Virginia

TROY GRIMM - COO



Troy, an Augusta County native, grew up outside of Churchville, VA where his passion for agriculture began at a young age. After graduating from Buffalo Gap High School, Troy attended Virginia Tech University where he received an Associate's degree in Agri-Business in 1990. Troy began his professional career with May Brothers, managing a beef and poultry operation outside

of Parnassus, VA while simultaneously building his own cow/calf operation.

In 2007, he accepted a Field Sales Representative position with Augusta Cooperative managing the western territory region. Two years later, Troy began managing the Weyers Cave store and moved into his role as Agronomic Manager in 2011.

As the lead for the agronomy team at Augusta Co-op, Troy maintains a Nutrient Management Planner and Commercial 1A license. In January of 2024, Troy accepted the position of Chief Operations Officer, and in tandem, will additionally remain as the Agronomic Division Manager.

In his 17 years with Augusta Co-op Troy has made significant contributions to many aspects of the business, as well as to the customers and community he serves. He has charted high standards for his team members he manages and takes pride in being a knowledge resource for his customers.

Troy and his wife Lori, currently reside outside of Churchville, VA. Their two children, Taylor and Drew also reside in VA, pursuing their professional careers; Taylor, Ministry and Drew, IT/Cyber Security. Troy's love for hunting and traveling with his family remain as a passion in his personal time.

To visit with Troy about any agronomic needs he can be reached at TGrimm@AugustaCoop.com.

Tech in 2021 with a degree in Agribusiness Management.

While in college he was an active member of the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club, a national organization focused on agriculture and service. During his membership he was active in assisting host many 4-H and FFA Block and Bridle events.

Ryan currently lives in Greenville, Virginia and is an active member in the community.

To contact Ryan, customers may reach him at (540) 294-5179 or RSensabaugh@AugustaCoop.com.

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