Sheep and Goat News

June 2006

Worming Clinic and Workshop Offered at McDowell Agricultural Center

An Internal Parasite Control Clinic and Workshop will be held at the McDowell Agricultural Center to introduce sheep and goat producers to the Famacha method of Parasite Control. The clinic will be held on June 8th, at 6pm at the McDowell Agricultural Center, ½ mile south of I-40 on Highway 226. Traveling south, the Agricultural Center is on the left side of the road. Turn left on the drive just past the Minimum Security Prison and go to the top of the hill.

As many of our producers know, there are a limited numbers of wormers on the market for use on sheep and goats. Many of these have become ineffective due to parasite resistance to the active ingredient in the wormer as a result of frequent and prolong use by producers. The extreme cost of developing new products and the low volume of product used by the sheep and goat industry has made it uneconomical for pharmaceutical companies to develop new products. Basically what we currently have is all we are going to have!!!

Most of the damage caused by worms is caused by their feeding on the blood causing an anemic condition and unthriftiness in the animal. The Famacha method gives us a simple tool to identify the animals that are in anemic distress so that we can selectively treat only the animals needing treatment. Since resistance to worms is heritable, (meaning we can breed for the trait) by identifying which animals are consistently not showing signs of anemia, we can save females out of those lines and develop family lines of resistant stock.

We will begin the clinic with a powerpoint presentation outlining the facts and procedures and follow it with a hands on demonstration of the procedure. If necessary steps are not taken to insure the effectiveness of the few wormers we currently have, we will be left with no effective means to control internal parasites. I hope you will make an effort to attend this very important meeting.

If you are planning to attend, please call my office at 652-7874 by Tuesday June 6th so I will have enough handouts and supplies on hand. Hope to see you on the 8th.
2006 Wool Pool Information

Mid-States is in the process of establishing prices for this year’s wool. It looks as though cash prices will be a little lower than last year, probably in the .30-.35/lb range. However, prices have not been set, so this is a best guess.

The plastic wool bags are preferred, although wool in the old burlap bags will be accepted. Mid-States will offer plastic wool bags for sale at each pool ($2.50 per bag) to save producers shipping costs.

I would also remind you of the USDA price support program for wool, in the form of loans and LDPs. Prior to each producer delivering their wool to the pool, they need to sign up for the program at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Morganton, by calling Kim Rumfelt at 828-439-9727 x 106. Most producers will opt for an LDP payment, and current rate is $0.21/lb. on ungraded wool. Details of the program and rates can be found at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/mohair.htm

Remember that good wool handling practices will enable us to keep selling our wool. Eliminate plastic contamination, remove tags, and keep black and colored wool separate. Make sure each bag is labeled with producers name and address. The wool will not be repacked, so the bags it comes in should be able to handle shipping to Ohio. Black and colored wool counts for the LDPs, so I would weigh and record, even if it may be low or no price.

The pool will be June 28 in Asheville, for more information contact Kenneth Reeves (828-255-5522)

Dairy Goat Milk Test and Show at Agricultural Center

The Piedmont Dairy Goat Association will be sponsoring a milk test for any producers wishing to have their goats tested on Thursday, June 23rd and Friday, June 24th at the McDowell Agricultural Center on Highway 226 south of Marion. A sanctioned show will again be held immediately following the 24 hour milkout on Friday, 24th, and Saturday 25th. Showmanship will be held at approximately 8:00 pm on Friday, and the Open Junior and Senior Doe show and Buck show will be held on Saturday.

Goats will be checked in from 2:00-6:00 pm on Thursday, with the first milkout beginning at 6pm on Thursday. Goats will be milked on Friday morning at 6am for their 12 hour weights and again at 6pm for their 24 hour weights. Goats will be tested for milk weight and % butterfat. Points will be given for milk production, % butterfat and length of lactation. A nominal fee will be charged. Producers will need to bring their registration papers to verify their tattoos and a covered dish for Friday nights covered dish dinner.

Contact Sherry Williams at 756-7187 for entry forms and to pre-register.
NC Meat Goat Association (NCMGA)

Summer Field Day

The NC Meat Goat Association (NCMGA) will be having its annual summer "Field Day" on July 22 in conjunction with a two-day ABGA Boer Goat Show (Carolina Foothill Classic) in Morganton, NC at the Burke County Fairgrounds.

The "show" will begin around 8:30am and the "field day" will begin immediately following the show.

**Guest Speakers include:**
- Jean-Marie Luginbuhl - Extension Specialist/Goats & Forage Systems
- Brian Faris - Extension 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist
- Jerry Pardue - Manna Pro Feed Co
- Mark Seawell - The American Boer Goat Association
- Steven Matthews - Matthew's Embryo Transfer/Laparoscopic AI Service
- David Tift - Hidden Creek Ranch - Mocksville, NC - 2005 NC Meat Goat Association's Commercial "Breeder-of-the-Year"

**Topics include:**
- **Controlling Internal Parasites** - Learn how to determine your goat's health by using the new "FAMACHA" system
- **The NC "wether" market** - Learn why showing "wethers" for NC Youth is increasing every year & how you can tap into this growing market & increase your bottom line.
- **Importance of using "minerals" in your goat herd**
- **The American Boer Goat Association's (ABGA) "Breed Standards"** -(What to look for when you purchase your next goat)
- **The benefits of using "Embryo Transfers & Laparoscopic AI in your goat breedings**
- Learn the ABC's of how to get started raising a good commercial herd of goats that will make your farm successful in the meat goat business

**Vendors:**
- Register Goat Supplies
- Barr 5 Semen & AI Service
- Manna Pro Feed Co

For more information contact Mr. Todd McLeod, 336-241-2245 HM or 336-626-6670 WK

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Should I vaccinate my goats?
Although some producers have had no problems so far without implementing a vaccination program, it is recommended that you vaccinate your goats.

What should I vaccinate my goats against?
1. Overeating Disease (Enterotoxemia) and Tetanus

What vaccine should I use?
1. Clostridium Perfringens Types C and D + Tetanus Toxoid in one vaccine, against overeating disease and tetanus. This vaccine is labeled for goats.
2. Multivalent clostridial vaccine (8-way vaccine)
One example of a multiway clostridial vaccine, labeled for sheep, is Covexin8. Covexin8 is more reactive and may cause a higher incidence of adverse reaction at the injection site.
Covexin8 may preferably be used in herds which have had problems with blackleg and malignant edema (gas gangrene). Although blackleg and malignant edema are common and costly infections in sheep and cattle, they are very uncommon in goats.

What dosage should I use when should I vaccinate my goats?
Always read the instructions provided with the vaccine.

1. Clostridium perfringens Types C and D + Tetanus
   **Dosage (Bar-Vac CD/T; Fermicon CD/T)**
   - 2 mL per animal, regardless of age and weight
   **When**
   Bucks. Once a year
   Breeding females. Once a year: 4 to 6 weeks before kidding (some immunity is passed on to the kids), or twice a year: 4 to 6 weeks before kidding and 6 months later (4 to 6 weeks before breeding if breeding does once a year).
   Kids. If breeding females have been vaccinated before kidding, vaccinate kids at week 8 of age, then give a booster at week 12 of age.
   If breeding females have not been vaccinated before kidding and you experience problems, vaccinate kids at 2 weeks of age, then give a booster at 6 weeks of age.
2. Multivalent clostridial vaccine
   **Dosage (Covexin8)**
   - 5 mL per animal, regardless of age and weight. Kids get 5 mL initially, then a 2 mL booster 6 weeks later.
   **When**
   Bucks. Once a year
   Breeding females. Once a year: 2 to 6 weeks before kidding (some immunity is passed on to the kids).
   Kids. If breeding females have been vaccinated before kidding, vaccinate kids at week 10-12 of age, then give a booster at week 16-18 of age.
   If breeding females have not been vaccinated before kidding and you experience problems, vaccinate kids at 4 weeks of age, then give a booster at 10 weeks of age.

How should I give the injections and where?
Both Clostridium perfringens Types C D /Tetanus and multivalent clostridial vaccines are given in sub-cutaneous or intramuscular injections. Sub-cutaneous injections are favored because of the greater tissue damage at the injection site from intramuscular injections.
For sub-cutaneous injections, pinch loose skin between thumb and index finger high on the neck (close to the head as possible) and insert the needle. Make sure that the needle is under the skin and does not stick out on the other of the pinched skin.

Is there a slaughter withdrawal time?
Yes, there is a 21 day waiting period between vaccination and slaughter for both vaccines.

**Should I vaccinate my goats against tetanus before castration and/or disbudding?**
If you have not implemented a vaccination program in your herd, it is advisable to vaccinate your goats against tetanus before disbudding and castration, whether using banding, cutting or using a burdizzo. Tetanus Toxoid vaccines are available.

**Should I give a Tetanus Toxoid booster to my goat if a severe wound occurs?**
Yes.
Give a subcutaneous injection of **Tetanus Toxoid** for long term protection (one year). **Tetanus antitoxin** can also be given to protect goats when a wound occurs, but this only protects for approximately 30 days.

**Are there other vaccines on the market?**
Yes, many other vaccines are available, including those for leptospirosis, chlamydiosis, sore mouth, bluetongue, foot rot, etc. However, those should be used to control existing problems upon veterinary recommendations - often only after management changes have failed.

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**Be sure to visit**

The McDowell Cooperative Extension
Commercial Agriculture Web page

http://mcdowell.ces.ncsu.edu

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