

Ashe County Sheep and Goat Newsletter

Ashe County Center

February 2018



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Predator Control with Donkeys

If utilizing donkeys in your flocks, they should be introduced to the livestock as early as possible to increase the likelihood of bonding between the livestock and the donkey.



Donkeys are sociable animals and if allowed to be near other donkeys, horses, or cattle, the sheep and goats may be ignored. If the donkey has not been raised with sheep or goats then caution should be used when introducing the flock. If possible, house the donkey near the sheep or goats for 1-2 weeks before pasturing them together. After turning the donkey into the pasture, watch them to ensure there will be no conflicts. Be aware that the donkey's behavior may change as the ewes and does come into heat, as the ram or buck is introduced into the field, or during lambing and kidding. Donkeys can become overly aggressive towards the sheep and goats, including chasing, biting, preventing them from going to feed and water, or hurting or killing lambs/kids that they may see as an intruder. Donkeys may also bond with the newborn lamb or kid and prevent the mother from nursing and cleaning the lamb or kid.

The donkey's natural herding instinct will ensure that it will stay with the sheep or goats most of the time. This will allow the donkey to be with the animals should a predator be near. The donkey's natural dislike and aggressive behavior toward dogs and coyotes make it an effective guard animal. The donkey will bray and chase predators that enter the field and if the predator does not leave, the donkey will attack by striking it with their front feet. Individual donkey behavior varies, however, donkeys as a species do make good guard animals.

Lambing and Kidding Schedule

4 Weeks Prior:

- Vaccinate ewes and does for overeating disease and tetanus
- Deworm (read the label, some dewormers will cause abortions)
- Increase grain to one pound per ewe or doe each day

4-6 Weeks After:

- Vaccinate lambs and kids with C, D and T and again one week prior to weaning
- Tag
- Deworm



Prepare for Lambing and Kidding:

- Have barn and holding pens cleaned and ready
- Stock lambing and kidding kit with:
 - ◇ Bottles
 - ◇ Colostrum
 - ◇ Stomach tube
 - ◇ 60cc Syringe
 - ◇ Antibiotics
 - ◇ Needles and Syringes
 - ◇ OB Lube
 - ◇ Ear Tags
 - ◇ Tagger
 - ◇ Record Book and Pen
 - ◇ Lamb Puller
 - ◇ Dry-clean rags
- You may not use it this year, but chances are you will, it's good to have everything with you each time

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Vaccinating Goats Against Enterotoxemia and Tetanus: Is it Necessary?

What is overeating disease (enterotoxemia)?

Overeating disease is also known as enterotoxemia. It is an acute and often fatal disease affecting goats of all ages. The disease tends to be more deadly in young kids, and often in those which are the heaviest or fastest gaining. Overeating disease is caused by the bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D. These bacteria are commonly found in the soil, and are also present in the intestines of most normal goats.

The deadly action of these clostridial bacterial organisms are related to the bacteria's ability to produce toxins which cause shock and nervous symptoms (type D), or cause inflammation of the lining of the gut and diarrhea with blood (type C).

Under appropriate conditions, the clostridial bacteria in the gut rapidly grow to high levels and produce their deadly toxins. Most conditions favoring clostridial bacterial growth are related to access to a grain or "rich" feed, especially when the animal is not accustomed to the feed. Sudden access to grain, a richer diet or any dietary changes, especially to a "richer" diet, favors clostridial bacterial growth in the intestines. Changes in feeding programs must be gradual, with a week or more allowed for a change from one type of feed to another. It is also important to avoid over consumption by kids. For example, after they have become excessively hungry.

What are the symptoms of overeating?

There are many different signs associated with overeating disease. Signs include being down and/or having neurological signs, including twitching, star gazing, teeth grinding, fever, swollen stomach, diarrhea with blood, convulsions, and death within a few hours.

What is Tetanus?

Tetanus is a neurological disease caused by a toxin which is produced by bacterium *Clostridium tetani*. This organism is very common in soil and in the manure of animals. Bacterial spores enter the body through wounds following castration, ear tagging, disbudding, kidding, etc., resulting in signs of the disease 4 to 21 days later. The toxin affects the central nervous system.

What are the symptoms of tetanus?

Signs include stiff muscles, spasms, flared nostrils, erect/stiff ears and elevated tail. In addition, the affected animals have a difficult time opening their mouths, so the term "lockjaw" has been given to the disease. Animals can be hyper-responsive to stimuli. Eventually, the affected animals can go down and die.

What vaccine should be used?

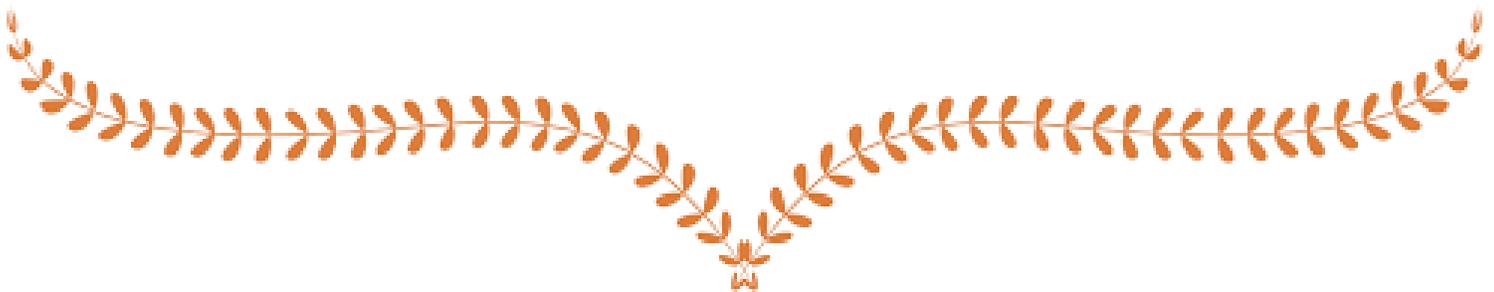
1. **C-D-T or 3-way vaccines: *Clostridium perfringens* Types C and D + Tetanus Toxoid** in one vaccine. Choose one labeled for goats.
2. **Multivalent clostridial vaccine (such as 8-way vaccine)**

*JM Luginbuhl, Extension Specialist (Goats & Forage Systems) Crop and Soil Sciences
Kevin Anderson, Professor, Ruminant Health and Production Medicine Veterinary Medicine*

Consider breeding your does and ewes to target ethnic holidays where meat is part of the traditional holiday feast:

Ethnic Holiday Calendar 2018 - 2020

Holiday	2018	2019	2020
Chinese New Year	February 16	February 5	January 25
Passover	March 31 - April 7	April 20 - 27	April 9 - 15
Easter	April 1	April 21	April 12
Eastern Orthodox Easter	April 8	April 28	April 19
Cinco de Mayo	May 5	May 5	May 5
Start of Ramadan	May 16	May 6	April 24
Festival of Fast Breaking	June 15 - 17	June 5 - 7	May 24-26
Festival of Sacrifice	August 22 - 25	August 12 - 15	July 31 - August 3
Islamic New Year	September 12	September 1	August 20
Rosh Hashanah	September 10 - 11	September 30 - October 1	September 19 - 20
Prophet's Birthday	November 21	November 10	October 29
Chanukkah/Hanukkah	December 3 - 10	December 23 - 30	December 11 - 18
Christmas	December 25	December 25	December 25



Sheep and Goat Meeting



**Thursday, March 15, 2018
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Agriculture Service Center
134 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC**

**Sponsored by:
Parsons Farms
& Supply
(Meal Provided)**

Topics:
• **Parasites**
• **Disorders**

Please RSVP by March 12, 2018 by calling the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850.



Sincerely,



Micah Orfield
Extension Agent, Agriculture

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