



Wild & Woolly

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Maryland's Sheep & Goat Producer Newsletter

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For more information, visit:
www.sheepandgoat.com

Shepherd's Notebook Blog
<http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com>

New Methods of Worm Control

Copper Oxide Wire Particles

Copper oxide wire particles (COWP) have been found to reduce parasite loads in sheep and goats. COWP were developed for copper deficiency in cattle. Numerous research trials have demonstrated the efficacy of COWP in controlling barber pole worm infections in sheep and goats. Research is on-going.

Sheep producers realize that sheep are very susceptible to copper toxicity and deaths can occur. The copper in COWP is very poorly absorbed, thus reducing the risk of copper toxicity. Goats are less susceptible to copper toxicity, tolerating up to 80 ppm.

COWP boluses can be made and administered on the farm using Copasure, a copper bolus marketed for copper deficiency in cattle. These boluses can be repackaged into doses suitable for sheep and goats. In research trials, the minimum dose that has demonstrated control is 0.5 g, but as much as 2-4 g may be necessary.

The FAMACHA® system can be used to determine which animals should receive a COWP bolus. COWP should not be the only method used for controlling parasites.

To learn more about the use of COWP to control parasites in sheep and goats, read the 2007 fact sheet, "Tools for managing internal parasites in small ruminants: copper oxide wire particles." The fact sheet is a joint publication of NCAT/ATTRA (http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/copper_wire.pdf) and the Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (<http://wormx.org>).

Sericea Lespedeza to Control Parasites

For several years now, small ruminant researchers and parasitologists have been evaluating sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) as an alternative to anthelmintics (chemical dewormers).

Sericea lespedeza is a perennial warm season legume that grows in acidic soils with

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New 4-H Animal Science Specialist

Christopher Anderson has accepted the position of 4-H and Youth Animal Science Specialist with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. He will begin work at the Maryland 4-H Center on April 21. Chris fills the position previously held by Willard Lemaster.

Chris Anderson currently serves as a two county (Sangamon-Menard Unit) 4-H educator in Illinois. He has been with University of Illinois Cooperative Extension for 20 years. Chris grew up on a livestock and grain farm in central Illinois. He served in the Peace Corps in Haiti. He holds a B.S. degree in Animal Agricultural Science and an M.S. degree in Extension Education from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. In recent years, Chris has served as national president of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.



The 4-H and Youth Program in Maryland welcomes Chris' expertise to the Animal Science program.

Goats Sought for 2008 Pasture Test

The 2008 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test will be conducted from June 7 until October 4, 2008, at the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center in Keedysville, Maryland.

The nomination period for this year's test is April 1-May 15. A nomination fee of \$20 per goat must accompany the nomination form. Checks should be made payable to the University of Maryland. An additional \$55 will be due when the goats are delivered to the test site.

Goat producers from any state may consign up to five male goats to the test, though preference will be given to previous consigners and Maryland residents. The pasture resource will accommodate approximately fifty goats. The guidelines stipulate that the goats be between 3 and 5 months of age at the start of the test. There is a minimum weight requirement of 35 lbs. and it is suggested that goats weigh no more than 70 lbs. They should be weaned prior to the test and have received two vaccinations for *clostridium perfringens* type C and D and tetanus (CD-T)



During the test, the goats will be managed as a single group on pasture. They will be rotationally grazed among five 2-acre paddocks. For 2008, the paddocks will consist of primarily orchardgrass, Max Q™ tall fescue, chicory, pearl millet, and forage kale. The goats will always have access to a central laneway containing port-a-hut shelters, water, minerals, and a handling system. As this is a pasture test, supplemental feed (nutrition tubs and/or grass hay) will only be provided if environmental conditions necessitate their use.

While on test, the goats will be evaluated for growth performance, parasite resistance, and carcass merit. They will be handled every two weeks using low stress live-stock handling techniques to determine body weight, FAMACHA© and body condition scores and assess overall health. Only goats scoring 4 or 5 on the FAMACHA©

eye anemia scale will be dewormed, unless other clinical signs are observed.

Fecal samples will be collected every 14 days until the goats require deworming. Scrotal measurements will be taken at the beginning and end of the test. Ultrasound carcass measurements will be done towards the end of the testing period. Consigners may nominate up to two goats for the collection of slaughter data. There will be an additional fee of \$25 per head for this option. The slaughter component is **NEW** for 2008.

There will be a Performance Tested Buck and Invitational Doe Sale on Saturday, October 4, at the Washington County Agricultural Center in Boonsboro, MD (an adjacent property). The top 20 bucks based on performance data and minimum standards for structural correctness and reproductive soundness will be eligible to sell via live auction. In addition, consigners will be able to nominate up to 5 doe kids for each male goat they have on test. Sale does must have on-farm performance records.

A Goat Field Day will be held at the research center prior to the sale. The field day and sale are **NEW** for 2008.

For more information about the 2008 goat test, sale, and field day, contact Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu; Jeff Semler at (301) 791-1304 or jsemler@umd.edu, or Jeanne Dietz-Band at (301) 432-7296 or jdietzba@umd.edu. Information can also be obtained from the blog at <http://mdgoatstest.blogspot.com>.

The Meat Goat Test is sponsored by University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. Visit <http://sheepandgoat.com/releases/goatstest-08release.html> to access the nomination form, guidelines and protocol, Maryland Health Regulations, and CVI and self-certification form.

**To learn more about the
Western Maryland Research and Education Center, visit us online at:
<http://wmrec.umd.edu>**

Sheep & Wool Skillathon at Festival

The Sheep & Wool Skillathon will be held on Sunday, May 4, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. The Festival (www.sheepandwool.org) is always held the first full weekend in May at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Maryland.

The Sheep and Wool Skillathon is open to any youth between the ages of 8 and 18. Individuals and teams (of 3 or 4) from any county, state, or province may compete. Youth compete according to their actual, not 4-H, age. Youth ages 8 to 11 compete as juniors; youth ages 12 to 13 compete as intermediates; and youth 14 to 18 compete as seniors.

The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival awards ribbons and premiums to the top ten individuals in each age division and Festival t-shirts to the members of the top three teams in each age division.

A Skillathon provides youth with the opportunity to blend knowledge and skills acquired in livestock judging, demonstrations, and care and exhibition of livestock into a single activity. It consists of a series of stations where youth are tested on their knowledge and abilities related to livestock. All of the stations in the Sheep & Wool Skillathon will obviously relate to sheep and wool.

Last year's Sheep & Wool Skillathon consisted of the following stations: equipment ID, disease ID, forage and feed ID, breed ID, meat ID, fleece (wool) judging

(Rambouillet fleeces), sheep judging (Romney yearling ewes), hay judging (grass hay), a written test (10 Qs for juniors, 15 Qs for intermediates, and 20 Qs for seniors), and a senior team problem (calculating average daily gain, feed efficiency, cost of gain, and profitability of feeding lambs). Study resources for Skillathon teams can be found at the Skillathon's web page at www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/skillathon/skillathon.html.

Sponsors are currently being sought for each of the Skillathon stations. Sponsors (individuals, organizations, or businesses) will receive recognition via signage and press. So far, the following companies and organizations have agreed to sponsor stations: Premier Sheep Supplies, Ltd. - equipment ID; Sheep! Magazine - breed ID; Frederick Sheep Breeders Association - sheep judging; and The Delmarva Farmer - undecided.

In 2007, the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival hosted the 2nd annual Sheep & Wool Skillathon. Ninety-five (95) youth from six states and nine Maryland counties competed for prizes. The first place junior team was from St. Mary's/Calvert County. The first place intermediate and senior teams were from Carroll County.

For more information, to register individuals or teams for the 2008 contest (April 20 registration deadline), or to sponsor one of the Skillathon stations, please contact Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or



Photo by Kate Bennett

Sericea Lespedeza (continued from page 1)

low fertility. It is considered a noxious or invasive weed in some states. Sericea is rich in tannins. Though the mode of action is not fully understood, some plant tannins reduce parasite loads in sheep and goats.

Studies with sericea lespedeza have involved mature sheep and goats, as well as young lambs and kids. Sericea has been grazed as a fresh forage and fed as loose or ground hay. More recent studies have looked at feeding sericea as a pellet. The effects of sericea on both natural and acquired infections have been evaluated.

While results of the studies have varied, sericea lespedeza has generally been effective in controlling barber pole worm infections. The barber pole worm

(*Haemonchus contortus*) is the primary worm parasite affecting sheep and goats in warm, moist climates, such as Maryland.



However, as with all methods of parasite control, producers should not rely on sericea as the sole method for controlling parasites. Parasite control requires an integrated approach that minimizes the use of chemical dewormers.

To learn more about the use of sericea lespedeza to help control parasites in sheep and goats, read the 2007 fact sheet, "Tools for managing internal parasites in small ruminants: sericea lespedeza" (http://www.wormx.org/SCSRPC/Files/sericea_lespedeza.pdf). The fact sheet is a joint publication of NCAT/ATTRA (<http://attra.ncat.org>) and the Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (SCSRPC).

Educational Opportunities

2008 MD-DE Shearing Schools

The 2008 MD-DE Sheep Shearing School for beginners will be held Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The school for advanced shearers (those who have attended previous schools and sheared at least 150 sheep) will be held Saturday, April 5, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Both schools will be held at Ridgely Thompson's farm at 1942 Uniontown Road, Westminster, MD 21157.



Participation (minimum age is 16) is limited to the first 25 for the beginners' school and first 10 for the advanced school. The registration deadline for the beginners' school is March 17. The registration fee is \$80 per person and includes a copy of ASI's Sheep Shearing Note-

book and instructional DVD. The registration deadline for the advanced school is March 28. The registration fee is \$25 per person.

The New Zealand method of shearing will be taught. Blade shearing will not be taught. Instructors are David Greene, Dr. Richard Barczewski, and Aaron Geiman. The schools are sponsored by University of Maryland and Delaware Cooperative Extension, the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, and the Delaware Sheep and Wool Producers Association. More information is available online at:

Beginners' school: <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/rograms/08shearschoolbeg.pdf>

Advanced school: <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/rograms/08shearschooladv.pdf>

MPWV Spring Educational Conference

The Maryland-Pennsylvania-West Virginia (MPWV) Meat Goat Producers Association will be holding an educational seminar on April 26th at Carroll Community College in Westminster, Maryland. The seminar will be held at the college from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. before moving to Don and Pam Adams' Bridgestone Manor Farm for lunch and a field day from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Seminar topics will include: traditional veterinary and

health care; selling your goats; pasture and nutrition; non-traditional goat health care; and the pros and cons of registering your goats. Field day topics will include: getting ready for the show: trimming hooves and clipping goats; animal health: giving shots correctly and evaluating goat health.

A separate educational track for youth is being planned. It will cover selecting, raising, and getting your kid(s) ready for the show and sale. The day's speakers will include veterinarians, extension agents, and experienced goat producers.

The conference will begin with a business meeting and discussion of upcoming events: Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Tested Buck and Invitational Doe Sale (October 4); WV Purebred Sheep Show & Sale (which includes goats), Washington County (MD) Open Class Goat Show, and plans for the 2009 educational conference.

The cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per family (paid in advance) or \$20/person and \$30/family (if paid at the door). Lunch is included in the registration fee. For more information, contact Pam Adams at 443-802-3734 (cell) or pamela.j.adams@eds.com.



The MPWV Meat Goat Producers Association (<http://www.meatgoat.biz/>) was organized to promote the meat goat industry and provide its members with information to help them breed and market high quality meat goats. The association includes members from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Membership dues are \$35 for the first year and \$20 for subsequent years.

NLFA Sheep Industry Leadership School

The California sheep industry will be the focus of the Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School,

Featured Web Site**eXtension: An Internet Resource You Can Trust**

eXtension was officially launched on February 21 in a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture did the honors from the USDA Ag Outlook Forum in Washington DC. A local extension office from each of the seventy-five land grant universities participated via web conference. In Maryland, the Washington County Extension Office hosted the eXtension public launch.



eXtension is unlike any other search engine or information-based website. It's a space where university content providers can gather and produce new educational and information resources on wide-ranging topics. Because it's available to students, researchers, clinicians, professors, as well as the general public, at any time from any Internet connection, eXtension helps solve real-life problems in real time.

eXtension resource areas are known as Communities of Practice (COP). These Community of Practices are typically multi-institutional, multi-state, and multi-disciplinary bringing the "best of the best" educational resources to the public. A "meat goat" COP is currently being developed.

Participate in an eXtension Webinar

Are you considering adding a value-added product to your agricultural business? Want to learn what makes one value-added product a cash generator and another product a money pit? Join eXtension's Entrepreneurs and Their Communities team for an online workshop on Wednesday, March 26 from 1:30-2:30 (EST).

Ginger S. Myers, Ag Marketing Specialist with the University of Maryland Cooperation Extension, is the featured speaker. The title of her presentation is "Marketing Value-added Products: Where do I sell all this stuff?"

No pre-registration is required and there is no fee to participate. About 10 minutes prior to the start time simply go the Adobe Connect Pro meeting room at <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/ecop/>. You will be presented with a login screen that has an "Enter as Guest" option. Enter your first name, last name and state, then click "Enter Room" to join the conference.

To hear the audio of the workshop and participate in the Q&A portion of the workshop we will be using a built-in teleconferencing capability of Adobe's Connect Pro conferencing software. Once you log into the meeting you will be presented with the option to enter your call-back number, your phone will automatically be called. After entering your number you will be automatically called and joined into the audio portion of the Web conference on your phone. The session will be recorded and posted to the internet.

Newcomers to online learning are welcome! We're all learning this together. For more information, contact Cindy Mason at 301-432-2767 x301 or cmason@umd.edu.

Leadership School (continued from page 4)

when the 23rd annual Leadership School meets July 13-16, 2008 in Dixon, California. Interested sheep men and women with all levels of experience in the sheep industry may apply by completing a brief application and submitting a short essay explaining their experience in the sheep industry and what they would like to learn.

Applications must be received by May 1, 2008 and no fee is required. However, once selected, applicants will be notified and asked to submit a registration fee of \$100 to

secure their placement. The National Lamb Feeders Association (NLFA) covers the other program costs, including food, lodging and tour expenses. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the Dixon, CA site.

For more information, visit the NLFA web site, www.nfla-sheep.org.



DSU Update from Dr. Dahlia Jackson

It's been a cold winter and at DSU we're looking forward to springtime to get started with our planned research projects. We weaned our October born kids in January when they were approximately 3 months of age and we will be kidding again in March with a separate breeding group. The weaned kids are from does that were used last spring in an out-of-season breeding project. We did this study to look at the buck effect alone or the buck effect in combination with progesterone priming to induce and synchronize estrus in does during the non-breeding season (April – early May).

The buck effect (also known as the ram or male effect) defined simply is the induction and synchronization of estrus in females following the separation from sight, sound, and smell of all males for a period of at least three weeks. An undergraduate student, Jodie Lynn Eierman, assisted with conducting this project and the results were presented at the Southern Section American Society of Animal Science meeting a few weeks ago.

Early last May, fifty-four crossbred does were used in the experiment and were separated into two groups. In one group, estrus was induced and synchronized using only the buck effect (27 does) while in the other group, estrus was induced and synchronized by progesterone priming prior to the buck effect (27 does). We took blood samples from all females to ensure that they were not cycling.

Regumate™ was the progesterone of choice for this experiment because previous studies with another progesterone, Melengestrol acetate (MGA), resulted in reduced fertility in treated females. Therefore, we wanted to see if Regumate™ could be an effective alternative. Some of you might be familiar with Regumate™ since it has been used for many years to suppress estrus in the swine and horse industry.

Following treatment, all females were grouped for mat-

ing with 4 meat-type bucks (2 Boer and 2 Kiko) wearing marking harnesses for a period of 15 days. We checked twice daily to see which females were in estrus and who had been mated.

Even though on average, Regumate™ primed females were mated faster than the group that received no priming (3 versus 6 1/2 days), all females were mated at the end of the breeding period (15 days). Similar numbers of females in both groups (combined 42 out of 54 females used) kidded with birth weights averaging

approximately 7 lbs and litter size averaging 2.3 kids. At weaning, there were no differences between the groups, with kid weight averaging 40 lbs and around 2 kids weaned per/doe. For this study, we concluded that progesterone priming was not necessary to induce cycling and the buck effect alone could be used to induce and synchronize estrus in does. Also, Regumate™ did not negatively influence fertility since similar

numbers of females were mated and kidded in both groups. For 2008, we plan on repeating the study to include a third group that will be primed with Melengestrol Acetate (MGA) in order to make comparisons between the two products (MGA and Regumate™).

At DSU, we enjoyed kidding in the fall last year. Our Animal Science students actively participated in our kidding project and due to this we had minimal problems and kid losses. In addition, the temperature was warm which made it even more enjoyable. Even though we had to feed more at this time of year (due to limited pastures), the kids grew a lot better and most of this can be attributed to less parasite problems at this time of year.

If you would like more information on year-round breeding in sheep and goats and for more information on the project mentioned above please contact me at (302) 857 – 6490 or djjackson@desu.edu.



DID YOU KNOW . . . There are over 210 breeds of goats with an estimated 450 million goats in the world (2001). Of the 450 million goats in the world, it is estimated that approximately 6 to 8 % of them are in North America (2001). The majority of the world goat population can be found in the Mideast and Asia. *Source: <http://www.genuinepride.com/>*

Delmarva Goat Association

The Delmarva Goat Association was organized in April 2007. It currently has about 40 members, comprised of adult as well as youth producers and exhibitors of meat goat, dairy goat, and Pygmy goats.

The Delmarva Goat Association's mission statement is to promote the education, breeding, showing, and marketing of all breeds of goats within the Delmarva region, through networking, professional seminars, clinics, breeding and marketing services, and sanctioned shows.

Goat Field Day on April 5

The association's first large event will be a Goat Field Day on Saturday, April 5, 2008, in Camden-Wyoming,

Delaware. The field day will feature seminars conducted by professional educators and nationally-recognized breeders. In addition, there will be a small auction, raffle, and private treaty sales.

The goal of the field day is to provide a well-rounded experience to our youth, as well as adults, who are interested in goats for pleasure or business. For more information about the Delmarva Goat Association and field day, contact Kim Vincent at kimv.1@netzero.net.

Download program flyer for field day at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/DelMarVa.pdf>

A Successful Lambing & Kidding School

Approximately 130 people attended the 2007 Lambing and Kidding School, held December 8 at Carroll Community College. The last school was held in December 2005 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The next school will be held in 2009 at a similar geographic location.

The Lambing and Kidding School was sponsored by University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, with support from Sheepman Supply Company. Door prizes were donated by Premier Sheep Supplies, La Belle Animal Health Division, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Participants in the School received a lambing and kidding kit. Pocket record keeping notebooks were donated by Sheepman Supply Company, Shepherd Magazine, and University of Missouri Cooperative Extension.



Dr. Kevin Pelzer, Production Management Medicine Specialist at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, was the featured speaker.

Other speakers included Susan Schoenian, John Hall, Jeff Semler, and Donielle Inskeep, all with Maryland Cooperative Extension; Dr. Dahlia Jackson from Delaware State University; Jeanne Dietz-Band from Many Rocks Farm (Keedysville, MD); Alice Orzechowski from Caprikorn Farms (Gapland, MD); Bev Pearsall from Pearsall Sheep Farm (Thurmont, MD); Kate and Claire Bennett, sheep and goat producers from Carroll County; and Shannon Uzelac, a UMES graduate student and goat producer.

Ultrasound Services Available

SonoVision, Inc. in Reisterstown, Maryland, provides state-of-the-art animal ultrasound services performed by a registered diagnostic medical sonographer. Information from an ultrasound exam may help sheep and goat producers better manage their pregnant animals. Pregnancy in sheep may be detected as early as 30 days. Fetal number and gestational age may be determined accurately between 50-80 days.

For more information, contact Gretchen Dimling, RDMS, at SonoVision@verizon.net.

The Skinny on Soremouth

Despite research, “sore mouth,” also known as “scabby mouth” or contagious ecthyma, remains an industry challenge. A six-year-old survey showed that four out of 10 U.S. sheep and goat operations reported sore mouth infecting their flocks in the previous three years. And, with no known treatment and only 14 percent of nursing lambs vaccinated—and just 5 percent of operators using a vaccination in replacement or breeding ewes, sore mouth will continue to invade sheep and goat herds.

The pox virus that causes sore mouth is found worldwide and is easily spread between animals and can be passed from an infected kid to a doe’s teats. Additionally, the scabs of infected animals contain a virus. As such, scabs that fall off an infected animal can serve as a source of infection to susceptible animals for up to a month. A flock can also become infected through contaminated soil, bedding, feed or trucks, or by direct contact with infected animals such as at shows or replacement animals brought onto the operation.

The sore mouth virus can be passed within a flock by carrier animals that may not show symptoms. Once an animal has been infected, it takes two to 14 days for the first signs of disease to appear. Infected animals usually recover from sore mouth within a month. Animals may become infected with sore mouth more than once in their lifetime although infections are likely to occur years apart and subsequent infections are usually less severe.

Sore mouth lesions are painful and may cause reduced feed intake and weight loss. In a young kid, these sores can cause the kid to stop nursing. As a consequence, the kid may incur severe weight loss, stunted growth, or even death. If a doe’s teats become infected, she may become too painful to nurse the kid and will abandon it. Being a zoonotic disease, sore mouth can be transmitted to humans who come in contact with infected animals. People often develop sores on their hands. These sores may be painful and can last for up to two months. People do not infect other people, however.



Protecting Against Sore Mouth

Certain measures can be taken to lessen the risk of sore mouth infection:

1. Reduce the likelihood of mouth and muzzle cuts. For example, remove thistle or harsh brush from grazing areas.
2. Quarantine new animals until sore mouth can be ruled out.
3. Avoid bringing animals with sore mouth to public events such as fairs and shows.

In addition, since sore mouth may be transmitted through saliva, it is recommended that hands not be placed on the muzzle or inserted into the mouth of

sheep and goats at shows and then placed on or into the mouth of other sheep and goats from other flocks in the show ring or pens. Commercial live virus vaccines are available to help protect against sore mouth.

Producers considering the use of an orf vaccine should consult a veterinarian. Use of a vaccine is only suggested for previously infected flocks since the vaccination will cause an

orf infection in the animals and could lead to contamination of the operation with virus-containing scabs. In addition, all sore mouth vaccines contain live virus that can cause infection in humans. As such proper protective measures must be taken when vaccinating.

If you observe animals that appear to have more serious symptoms than sore mouth, call your veterinarian, state or federal animal disease control officials or your county agricultural agent. The reason: foot-and-mouth disease resembles sore mouth and can affect sheep and goats. Although FMD has not occurred in the United States since 1929, one cannot be too cautious.

Reprinted from the Sheep & Goat Health Report, Fall/Winter 2007

No Beneficial Effective Treatment for Tapeworms

Opinions on the importance of tapeworms (*Moniezia* sp.) to sheep (and goat) health and growth are controversial. Researchers in Germany used two flocks of sheep and several breeds of sheep to determine the effect of treatment (with praziquantel) for tapeworms.

Individual fecal flotations were performed (using a combination of zinc chloride and sodium chloride). Lambs were assigned to treatment (n=117) or control (n=117) groups. The treated animals received a commercial 2.5% solution of praziquantel at 3.75 mg/kg orally, repeated every six weeks for up to 4 treatments. All lambs, treated and control, received oral moxidectin on the same schedule, at the labeled dosage, to remove possible effects of nematodes on lamb health.



At the beginning of the trial, in June-July, 28 to 45% of lambs were positive for tapeworm eggs. The percentage dropped off markedly in both the treated and untreated lambs, such that 0 to 7% of treated animals and 0 to 9% of control lambs had detectable eggs at the last sampling before slaughter, up to 140 days after the beginning of the trial. There was no significant differences in body weight between the groups. In fact, the animals that remained

infected with tapeworms were often heavier than the average of the uninfected lambs.

Reinfection presumably occurred on pasture as 11 of 22 lambs last treated 30-36 days before slaughter had juvenile tapeworms in the intestine as did 5 of 45 necropsied up to 29 days after the final treatment. 29 of the 67 control lambs contained juvenile tapeworms.

In this study, the researchers found no clear evidence for pathogenicity. A beneficial effect of treatment for tapeworms could not be demonstrated in this trial.

Source: *Wool & Wattles*, AASRP Newsletter, Oct-Dec 2007.

Read article about tapeworms at www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/tapeworms.html

About praziquantel

Praziquantel is considered to be more effective at removing tapeworms than albendazole (Valbazen®), which is more effective than fenbendazole (SafeGuard®). Praziquantel is marketed in the U.S. primarily for cats and dogs as Droncit®. Some horse dewormers contain praziquantel: Zimecterin® Gold Paste, Equimax™ Paste, and Quest® Plus Gel.

Prevalence of Scrapie in Goats

While there have been only 19 cases of scrapie in goats reported since 1990, the extent to which the disease affects goats is not known. USDA is in the process of determining the prevalence of scrapie in the U.S. goat population.

The study started in May of 2007 and is expected to be completed in 2008. The primary sampling sites are those most likely to slaughter goats that have been commingled with sheep and slaughter facilities which have found scrapie-infected sheep.

The goal of the study is to determine the prevalence of scrapie in goats. If no scrapie is found, there will be a 95 percent confidence that the prevalence is below 0.1 percent (1 in 1,000 goats).

USDA is currently conducting research to determine which codons affect scrapie susceptibility in goats. Currently, all goats test QQ, though it is not known if resistance /susceptibility is determined solely by codon 171.

Source: *Sheep & Goat Health Report*, Fall/Winter 2007



Goats Improve Bog Turtle Habitat

The bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) is a threatened species in Maryland and other eastern states. It is found in Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, and Cecil counties. In fact, Maryland has 30 percent of the global population of bog turtles.

The habitat of bog turtles is being threatened by development, shifts in land use, woody succession, and invasive plant species. In 2007, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) designed, implemented, and funded two prescribed grazing projects in Carroll County to restore wetlands for bog turtles.

Both projects utilized goats to control young red maple trees and multiflora rose that were threatening the open canopy and delicate wetland ecosystem required by bog turtles.



*Photo by Linh Phu
Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

Those involved with the prescribed grazing projects were very satisfied with the first year results. The projects will be repeated in 2008, with a few modifications: lower stocking rates and supplemental feeding of the goats. DNR is hoping to expand the prescribed grazing projects to other counties.

Goat producers in the mentioned counties should contact Linh Phu at (410) 260-8554 or LPhu@dnr.state.md.us, if they are interested in leasing their goats out for future prescribed grazing projects. Linh is a biologist with DNR's Landowner Incentive Program.

Source: Technical Memorandum: Restoring bog turtle wetlands with the use of prescribed grazing: first year results. Maryland Department of Natural Resources, January 2008.

Low Stress Weaning

German scientists evaluated the effects of age at weaning in combination with different weaning procedures on two breeds of lambs (Merinoland, Rhoenschaf). Lambs were weaned at either 8 or 16 weeks of age in two stages or with the traditional method of weaning by abrupt separation.

In the 2-stage treatment, the lambs were prevented from suckling their dams for 1 week (stage 1) before their separation (stage 2). Control lambs were nursed by their dams until they were separated. Lamb body weight and behavior were recorded before and after separation.



After separation, lambs weaned at 8 weeks of age had better average daily gain (ADG) than lambs weaned at 16 weeks of age. ADG until 12 and 16 weeks of age did not differ for either treatment in the study.

Based on behavior data, lambs weaned in two stages were less distressed than lambs weaned by the traditional method of abrupt separation. Control lambs had higher agitation scores regardless of weaning age or breed.

Read the abstract in Journal of Animal Science (January 2008) at <http://jas.fass.org/cgi/content/abstract/86/1/220>

2008 Maryland State Fair Schedule

The Maryland State Fair will resume its traditional schedule in 2008. 4-H livestock activities will be centered around the first weekend of the fair, while open class livestock shows will occur Labor Day weekend. The dates for the 2008 fair are August 22-September 1.

In 2007, the schedule was changed, in hopes of reversing the downward trend in 4-H livestock entries, partially attributed to conflicts with school opening dates, which vary by county.

Changes to Meat Goat Show

Several changes were approved for the 2008 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Show. The yearling doe classes have been split. Does that have kidded will not compete against does that have not kidded yet. The breeding show consists of a commercial and registered division, with all breeds competing together.



A county group class has been added to the market goat show. To be eligible, counties must show four market goats from a minimum of three exhibitors.

Ten market goats will now be eligible to sell at the 4-H Livestock Auction. Previously, goats were limited to six sale animals. The Grand Champion Market Goat must sell, whereas the Reserve Champion and Champion Rate-of-Gain animals have the option of selling after the champion. Other sale animals will be chosen by the judge. Market goats must weigh a minimum of 50 lbs. to be eligible for the sale.

Contact Susan Schoenian at sschoen@umd.edu or (301) 432-2767 x343 for more information about the state fair 4-H meat goat show.

Maryland Had a Little Lamb

The University of Maryland owns and houses a small flock of breeding Katahdin and White Dorper hair sheep at their facility directly on the College Park Campus, the CAMPUS FARM. Our facility is also home to the resident horses, cattle, pigs, and chickens!



The Animal and Avian Science Department uses the animals at the Campus Farm as a student teaching facility to help enrich

the students' learning experience outside the classroom. By offering such classes as ANSC 235, commonly called "Lamb Watch," students can gain valuable hands-on experience that can be used in expanding their education in animal care and management.

Should you have any questions about our Department, University, facility, or animals, please feel free to contact: Lindsay Callahan, Campus Farm Manager, at (301) 405-1298, or e-mail at lindsayc@umd.edu.

Calendar of Events - June thru Oct

June 7 - Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Test Starts

Western MD Research & Education Ctr., Keedysville, MD
Info: Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 or sschoen@umd.edu

June 18 - Maryland-Delaware Wool Pool

Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD
Info: Dr. Rich Barczewski at (302) 857-6410 or rbarczew@desu.edu

September 25-27 - Katahdin Hair Sheep International Annual Gathering

Sheraton Four Points Hotel and Washington Co. Agricultural Education Center
Info: Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu or <http://www.khsi.org>

October 4 - Performance-Tested Buck and Invitational Doe Sale & Goat Field Day

Washington Co. Agricultural Education Ctr., Boonsboro, MD
Field Day held at the W MD Research & Education Center
Info: Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu

See back page for events occurring March through May.

Calendar of Events

March 27-28 - MD-DE Sheep Shearing School for Beginners

Ridgely Thompson Farm, Westminster, MD

Info: David L. Greene at (301) 329-6241 or greelamb@bcpl.net

April 5 - MD-DE Advanced Sheep Shearing School

Ridgely Thompson Farm, Westminster, MD

Info: David L. Greene at (301) 329-6241 or greelamb@bcpl.net

April 5 - Delmarva Goat Association Field Day

Camden-Wyoming, DE

Info: Dr. Dahlia Jackson at (302) 857-6490 or djackson@desu.edu

April 8-9 - Targeted Grazing Workshop

Pennsylvania Furnace, PA

Info: Rochelle Oxarango at (208) 436-1113 or targetgraze@pmt.org

April 26 - MPWV Spring Educational Conference

Carroll Community College & Bridgestone Manor Farm

Info: Pam Adams at 443-802-3734 (cell) or pamelaj.adams@eds.com

May 3-4 - Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD

Info: www.sheepandwool.org

See page 11 for events occurring June through October.

For additional events, visit <http://www.sheepandgoat.com> and click on the "Upcoming Events" link on the right.



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Comments and suggestions regarding the newsletter are always welcome. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

More information on sheep and goats can be accessed at <http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com> and <http://www.sheepgoatmarketing.info>.

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