



Wild & Woolly



VOLUME 12

ISSUE III

SUMMER 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Sheep & Goat for Vegetative Management 2
- Hydroponic Fodder as a Feed Source 3
- Research From Around the World 4
- Scrapie Update 5
- Revisions to Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program 5
- Eight-One bucks in 2013 MD Pasture Test 6
- Violative Drug Residues In Goats 6
- Pen vs. Pasture: Which is better? 7
- New Lamb/Goat Processor in Western MD 7
- DE is Not Effective for Parasite Control 9
- Three Sisters Win Jr. Sheep & Wool Skillathon 10
- Featured Breed: Suffolk 11
- Calendar of Events 11

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

Twilight Goat Tour On August 1

There will be a Twilight Goat Tour on Thursday, August 1, 5:30 p.m. to dark, at the Western Maryland Research & Education Center in Keedysville. In addition to wagon tours of the goat test facility and research program, there will be an opportunity to taste recipes prepared with goat meat. The recipes will be prepared by a local chef.

To make sure we have enough meat, pre-registration is required for the event. A small donation is requested to help cover the cost of the meat. You can pre-register by calling the Center (Pam Thomas) at 301-432-2767 x315. You may also pre-register by sending an e-mail to Pam at pthomas@umd.edu. The pre-registration deadline is July 26.

The Western Maryland Research & Education is the location of the Western Maryland



Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test. This year, there are 81 bucks (mostly Kiko) on test. The tour will also showcase the Center's pen vs. pasture study, a three-year project in which the performance and carcass characteristics of pen-fed and pasture-raised goats are being compared.

Decreasing Parasite Loads

*By Jean-Marie Luginbuhl
Professor and Extension Specialist
North Carolina State University*

Decreasing parasite loads is every producer's challenge. Nonetheless, relatively low-cost, easy "fixes" as described below can be readily implemented on every farm.

Repair water trough leaks

The concentration of feces is likely to be



high around water troughs as animals will defecate when coming to drink water. In addition, forage will grow well around leaky water troughs due to the additional moisture.

The combination of moisture and a high concentration of feces will most likely result in an area highly contaminated by gastrointestinal tract larvae waiting to be ingested when the lush forage is consumed by the goats or sheep. Such a scenario may potentially affect the entire herd or flock even when gastrointestinal tract larvae concentrations are low in the rest of the pasture.

Fence off moist areas

Low-lying wet areas, marshes, and stream banks will favor the growth of lush forage and the survival of gas-

(Continued on page 8)

Sheep And Goats For Vegetative Management



- ◆ Sheep could soon replace lawn mowers in Paris' parks. The city of Paris is experimenting with using sheep as a replacement for lawnmowers. Ultimately, it may result in some of the French capital's most famous parks and open spaces being tended by sheep rather than mechanical means.
- ◆ Sheep are being used to maintain unkept lawns at vacant houses in Indianapolis.
- ◆ Goats are being used to cut back on kudzu, a pesky vine that is a big time problem in Mt. Holly, North Carolina.
- ◆ Wineries are cutting back on their use of pesticides and herbicides by using sheep to graze their way through the vineyards. Because of their small stature, Baby Doll Southdowns, are often chosen for the job.
- ◆ An 80-acre site in Cambridge (UK) has been designed for a dual use: solar power and sheep grazing. Sheep will graze among the 55,000 solar panels.
- ◆ The Sierra Nevada Brewery in Chico, California, is using sheep to graze cover crops, rye, vetch, and naturally-occurring clover that grows in the adjacent fields that the restaurant uses to produce hops and vegetables.
- ◆ The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation (Canada) is using goats to graze at two gravel pits near Kamloops. The goats are 30 percent cheaper per hectare than traditional control methods.
- ◆ This marks the 13th year in which sheep have grazed in Chino Hills (California), as part of the city's open space and weed abatement program to protect residents in the event of brush or wild fire. The city has saved over \$227,000 during the program's history.
- ◆ Since 2008, the Polk County Conservation District (Iowa) has been using goats to restore native habitats for rare, native species.
- ◆ O'Hare International Airport (Chicago) is using a herd of goats (and sheep) to help manage vegetation. O'Hare is not the first airport to employ animals for grazing. Seattle-Tacoma, Hartsfield-Jackson (Atlanta), and San Francisco International have all used small ruminants for vegetation control.
- ◆ For the second straight year, goats were used to clear out kudzu, English ivy, privet, and other alien plant invaders alongside a stream on the edge of the University of Georgia campus. Previously, goats ate unwanted weeds in the Public Health Garden on the campus of the University of Maryland.
- ◆ For many years, goats have been used to control the spread of phragmites and other invasive plants in the swamps where endangered bog turtles live. Prescribed grazing with goats, sheep, and cattle has helped restore habitat in many states, including Maryland.

Hydroponic Fodder As A Feed Source For Sheep And Goats

Although the methods of hydroponic fodder production date back to the 1930's, there is renewed interest in hydroponic fodder as a feedstuff for sheep, goats, and other livestock.

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil. It offers numerous advantages over conventional crop cultivation. Fodder (livestock feed) can be grown hydroponically much the same as vegetables, flowers, and other plants. Hydroponic fodder systems are usually used to sprout cereal grains or legumes. Barley is the most commonly-grown feed.

A hydroponic fodder system consists of a framework of shelves on which metal or plastic trays are stacked. A layer of seeds is spread over the base of the trays



and the seeds are supplied with moisture and sometimes nutrients via drip or spray irrigation. The seeds will usually sprout within 24 hours and in 5 to 8 days produce a 6 to 8 inch high grass mat that can be fed to livestock.

Fodder sprouts are tender and young, the equivalent of fresh green grass. As such, they are highly palatable and nutritious to all types and classes of livestock. On a dry matter equivalency, hydroponic fodder compares favorably with other nutritious feedstuffs.

The downside to hydroponic fodder is its high moisture content. The dry matter content of hydroponic fodder is only 12 to 15 percent, compared to almost 90 percent in unsprouted grain and hay. Because of its low dry matter content, the cost of nutrients in hydro-

ponic fodder is usually considerably more expensive than other feedstuffs.

Nutritional requirements of livestock are based on dry matter intake (DMI). If fed to livestock at a rate of 2 percent of their body weight (a common recommendation), hydroponic fodder will only meet a fraction of most animals' nutritional requirements, especially the high-producing ones. Thus, the fodder, while excellent feed, is only a nutritional supplement and an expensive one at that.

Proponents of hydroponic fodder systems make many claims about hydroponic fodder as a superior livestock feed, but few of the claims have been substantiated or proven to be repeatable in experiments. While two studies with sheep and goats gave conflicting results, research with small ruminants is generally lacking.

Hydroponic fodder is not likely to become a major source of feed for commercial livestock, but could have application under specific circumstances: dry and drought-prone areas, limited land availability, high alternative feed costs, small farms, organic farms, and non-ruminants.

Read full article on hydroponic fodder as a feed source for sheep, goats, and other livestock (including nutritional and economic comparisons) at www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/hydrofodder.html.

Save the date!

Biennial Lambing & Kidding School

Saturday, December 7, 2013

WMREC - Keedysville, MD



Featuring Dr. Mara Mullinix

Educational tracks for youth and adults

Ideal for beginners; suitable for the more experienced

Research From Around The World



- ◆ University of California-Davis researchers used milk from transgenic goats to treat bacterial infections in the gastrointestinal tracts of young pigs. This is the first step towards using genetically-modified goat milk to treat human diarrheal infections in third world countries. (1)
- ◆ Higher temperatures caused by global warming could cause goat populations to skyrocket, say scientists, who studied a feral goat population off the coast of Scotland. (2)
- ◆ A farmer in the UK has been breeding sheep with an extra pair of teats. According to the farmer, measured milk output shows that the milk produced by the two extra teats can equal the volume of one of the main teats. (3)
- ◆ New Zealand researchers are hanging “boxes” off the back ends of sheep to measure methane levels in sheep grazing native shrubs. (4)
- ◆ Researchers at South Dakota University determined that the yearly transmission of *Haemonchus contortus* in a cold climate is predominately through drug-resistant, tissue-dwelling, fourth-stage juveniles, not from overwintering of free-living juveniles. (5)
- ◆ New Zealand researchers highlighted the importance of dam nutrition during early pregnancy; it can affect the lactation performance of ewe offspring and weaning weights of grand offspring. (5)
- ◆ Canadian researchers found that shade (cloth) had no effect on average daily gain, but improved meat quality traits and certain stress parameters in grazing sheep reared under high ambient temperatures. (5)
- ◆ Italian researchers obtained conflicting results when they investigated the effects of partial substitution of the diet with hydroponic fodder. Dairy sheep had improved milk production and welfare (lower cortisol levels), whereas the green fodder had no effect on the performance and welfare of dairy goats. (6)
- ◆ In Australia, ewes fed a diet high in omega (n-6) fatty acids had a higher proportion of female offspring (58.2 vs. 43.5%) compared to ewes fed a low n-6 diet. (7)
- ◆ Italian researchers prevented floppy kid syndrome by separating newborn kids from their dams and feeding them bovine colostrum, followed by cow’s milk (8).

Sources: (1) UC-Davis News and Information; (2) Planet Earth Online; (3) Farmers Weekly; (4) ABC Rural; (5) Journal of Animal Science; (6) Italian Journal of Animal Science; (7) Animal Production Science; and (8) Small Ruminant Journal

Scenes From 2013 Maryland Wool Pool



Scrapie Update



In its March 2013 report, USDA APHIS reported that the percent of cull sheep (adjusted for face color) found positive for scrapie (at slaughter) was only 0.006 percent at the end of FY2012. This is a decrease of 96 percent since slaughter surveillance began in 2003. Also in 2012, 8 new infected or source flocks in states were identified, a 47 percent reduction compared to FY2011. Two source flocks and one infected flock have been identified in FY2013, as of March 31.

Since regulatory slaughter surveillance began in 2003, samples from 373,529 animals have been collected. There have been 455 confirmed cases of classical scrapie and 8 cases of Nor98-like scrapie. In FY2013 and as of March 31, 18,845 samples have been collected, 2,581 of which were from goats. Two blackfaced sheep have tested positive for scrapie in FY2013.

Another important aspect of the National Scrapie Eradication Program is on farm surveillance. In FY2013 and as of March 31, 531 sheep and 255 goats have been tested on farm for scrapie. As a result of a trace-forward investigation, one blackfaced sheep was confirmed positive for scrapie. One meat-type goat, submitted as a clinical suspect, also tested positive for scrapie. The goat was in Maryland.

As of March 31, there were 1,182 flocks enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program. Of those, 518 are certified as scrapie-free. The Scrapie Flock Certification Program is a means of identifying scrapie-free breeding stock. However, changes to the program (effective June 3, 2013) are likely to reduce the number of flocks participating.

Scrapie has been diagnosed predominately in sheep and predominantly in blackface sheep. Since FY2002, the number of confirmed cases of scrapie in goats is only 32.

The goal of the National Scrapie Eradication Program is to eliminate scrapie by 2017 and document the absence of scrapie for the following 7 years, thereby giving the United States recognition as a scrapie-free country.

Source: National Scrapie Eradication Program, March 2013 Monthly Report, Fiscal Year 2013.

Revisions To Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program

USDA APHIS is eliminating the Complete Monitored and Certified categories of the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP). Approximately ninety-four percent of current program participants are in the Complete Monitored category. Forty-nine percent of enrolled flocks are certified scrapie-free.

Producers who are currently enrolled in the Complete Monitored or Certified categories will have the option of enrolling in the (revised) Select or Export categories or withdrawing from the program. Flock owners must notify their area APHIS office by October 31, 2013, in writing, if they wish to remain in the program.

The Select category does not require an annual inspection, but a specified number of animals must be submitted for scrapie testing. The Select category does not provide a pathway to certification and there is no status date for a flock. In the Export category, an annual inspection is required and all clinical suspects and found dead animals must be submitted for testing. Certification is possible after 7 years of participation.

With dwindling budgets, USDA-APHIS provided the following reasons (in the Federal Register) for why the Complete Monitored and Certified categories of the SFCP are being eliminated: 1) Participating flocks represent only about 1 percent of sheep in the U.S.; 2) Participation in the SFCP has declined by about 25 percent since 2007; 3) The Complete Monitored category does not efficiently detect scrapie cases; and 4) More sheep producers are using genotyping to reduce their risk of scrapie.

Source: SFCP 2013, An Overview of the Revised Program, USDA, APHIS. May 3, 2013.

Eighty-One Bucks In 2013 Maryland Pasture Test

Eighty-one meat goat bucklings are participating in the 2013 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test at the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center in Keedysville, Maryland. It is the 8th year of the performance test.



Twenty-two producers from 11 states consigned goats (mostly Kiko) to this year's test. One hundred and six bucks were originally nominated, but consignments were reduced to 85 to make sure the carrying capacity of the pasture is not exceeded, as 15 additional bucks will graze alongside the test bucks, as part of the pen vs. pasture study.

While on test, the bucks will be managed as a single group of pasture. They will be rotationally grazed among 6 paddocks, composed of various warm and cool season grasses. They will not receive an supple-

mental feed, except for free choice minerals. While on test, they will be evaluated for growth, parasite resistance, and parasite resilience. They will also be scanned to determine their rib eye area and be evaluated for reproductive soundness and structural correctness. The bucks will be handled bi-weekly to collect data and fecal samples.

The test officially started on June 13 and will end on September 5. Bucks meeting Gold, Silver, or Bronze standards of performance will be eligible to sell for breeding at the 1st Annual Mid-Atlantic Small Ruminant Extravaganza, to be held Saturday, September 21 at the Old Dominion Agricultural Complex in Chatham, Virginia. The sale will include offerings of does by consigners in the test. The Extravaganza will include a Master Meat Goat Certification Training.

You can follow the progress of the test by visiting the blog at <http://mdgoatstest.blogspot.com>. To learn more about Mid-Atlantic Small Ruminant Extravaganza, go to <http://pmg.epd.com>.

Violative Drug Residues In Goats

The United States National Residue Program for meat, poultry, and egg products is a chemical testing program implemented by the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. In 2010, the most recent published report, goats accounted for violations at higher rates than any other livestock class.

Six of 337 goats exhibited levels of drugs in violation of approved use in the domestic scheduled sampling plan. At 1.78 percent, the violation test rate for goats was 3.7 times higher than any other class of livestock. Avermectins (Ivermectin) and milbemycins (Cydectin®), also known as dewormers or anthelmintics, were the drug classes responsible for all six violations.

These related drugs are used to treat parasite infections in livestock. Goats tested specifically for anthelmintics had violation level residues of 1.6 percent and 3.21 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively. The suspected cause for the extraordinarily high rate of



violations can be attributed to the fact that there are only two drugs currently approved for use in goats (morantel and fenbendazole) and therefore parasites affecting goats are becoming resistant to these drugs.

Goat producers should only use prescribed or FDA-approved over-the-counter drugs by the recommendation of their veterinarian. In instances that veterinarians prescribe doses of deworming products above label specifications, withdrawal times need to be extended accordingly.

Veterinarians and producers can find current information on anthelmintic resistance and parasite control at the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control website (www.acsrpc.org).

Source: Michigan State University Extension

Pen vs. Pasture: Which Is Better?

This is the third year in which pen-fed goats will be compared to pasture-raised goats. The purpose of the study is to compare the performance, health, and carcass characteristics of goats fed in two different production systems.

Fifteen pen-fed goats will be kept in a 16 x 16 foot pen with an 8 x 12 foot three-sided shelter and environmental enrichment. They will be hand-fed grain (whole barley) once per day, the amount they can clean up in 20 minutes. Four-foot poly (plastic) feeders will be hung on the side of the fence and removed after the goats have finishing eating. Hay will be fed in two 4-foot galvanized hay racks. Hay will be offered free choice.



Fifteen pasture-raised goats will graze alongside the bucks in the 2013 Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test. Other than free choice minerals, they will not receive any supplemental feed.

After a 13-day acclimation period, the goats will consume their respective diets for 84 days, after which time they will be humanely harvested to collect carcass data.

In this year's study, all of the bucks came from the same farm. All Kikos: their genetics and management (prior to the test) is similar. In previous years, there was too much variation among

the goats in the treatment groups, which may have skewed the results.

New Lamb/Goat Processor In Western Maryland

Simply Natural is the name of a new company that will be processing sheep, lambs, goats, and cattle at an abattoir formerly known as Woodlawn Country Meats in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Simply Natural plans to sell certified-Halal meat products to consumers, restaurants, and retail establishments in the Washington DC Metropolitan area. Customers will be able to order meat online and have it delivered to their homes or businesses. The company will also provide custom slaughter services and facilitate custom slaughter of sheep and goats during various religious observances.

Simply Natural is interested in purchasing naturally-raised sheep, lambs, goats, and cattle from local producers. In the future, the company also hopes to purchase and process locally-raised poultry.

For more information, contact Simply Natural at (202) 656-6328 or visit their web site at www.simplynaturalmeat.com. The web site is currently under construction.



More Information On Sheep & Goats, Can Be Accessed At:

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/>

<http://www.sheep101.info/>

<http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com>

<http://www.acsrpc.org>

<http://mdgoatstest.blogspot.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/MDSsmallRuminant>

<https://twitter.com/MDSsheepGoat>

Decreasing Parasite Loads (continued from page 1)

trointestinal tract larvae, and thus will likely be highly contaminated.

Avoid grassy pens

Pens used for sorting small ruminants and to protect them from theft and predation will contain a high concentration of feces. Following a few days of rain, forage will grow readily due to the high concentration of nutrients and, at the same time, gastrointestinal tract larvae will hatch and will soon be ready to be ingested by the penned animals grazing the forage.



Separate animals into groups

Different classes of animals vary in their nutritional requirements and their susceptibility to gastrointestinal parasites and their effects. Therefore, goats or sheep should be separated into distinct groups to be managed separately according to their specific nutritional requirements and susceptibility to gastrointestinal parasites.

As healthy, well-nourished animals can resist gastrointestinal tract infection better, match the nutritional requirements of the animal groups to the pasture resources of your farm. The animals with the highest nutritional requirements are young, weanlings, and late pregnant and lactating animals. These same animals are most susceptible to gastrointestinal tract parasite infection.

Subdivide your pastures

Divide pastures into sub-paddocks using temporary electric fences and always move animals before the pasture becomes shorter than 3 inches. In a grazing program consisting of only one pasture, all animals (most susceptible and less susceptible) will be exposed to the same load of gastrointestinal parasite larvae and will keep re-infecting themselves.

Other benefits of pasture subdivision include the ability to strictly ration pasture feed according to animal nutritional requirements and the need to provide recovery periods for pasture plants. In addition, pasture rest is an effective tool to decrease gastrointestinal par-

asite larvae on pasture. The length of pasture will vary with climate, season, and rainfall. A good rule of thumb is at least 3 months of rest.

Decrease stocking rates

The primary cause of internal parasitism is overstocking, therefore it is important to match animal numbers to pasture size and amount of forage.

Graze multiple species of livestock

Use cattle or horses to graze pastures after goats or sheep. The benefits are three-fold: (1) Cattle or horses will act as vacuum-cleaners and will ingest many gastrointestinal tract parasite larvae that goats and sheep share; in turn, these larvae will die in gastrointestinal tract of the cattle or horses; (2) Goats and sheep will be able to select and graze the pasture of the highest quality to meet their nutritional requirements; and (3) Goats, sheep, cattle and horses differ in the types of forage they prefer, thus leading to a better pasture utilization.

Keep recently purchased goats or sheep off pasture

Do not add anthelmintic-resistant worm larvae to your pastures. Recently purchased goats or sheep should first be quarantined on a dry dirt or concrete pen and dewormed aggressively using multiple dewormers before being grazed with the rest of the herd or flock.

Keep good records and cull aggressively

Recording the health status of animals through the use of FAMACHA© scores and deworming frequency will allow producers to readily find out which animals are re-infecting their pastures and therefore the rest of their herd or flock.

As a general rule, 20% of animals will shed approximately 80% of gastrointestinal parasite eggs. Culling those worm-susceptible animals is the most important factor that can be used to increase herd or flock resistance and reduce pasture contamination.

Source: Timely Topics, American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control. Reprinted with permission of author.

DE Is Not Effective For Parasite Control

Diatomaceous earth (DE), the skeletal remains of single-cell algae, is often touted as an effective and alternative anthelmintic for sheep, goats, and other livestock. However, there is a lack of scientific evidence to support its use.

North Carolina (1)

In 2009, a study was conducted at North Carolina A&T State University to determine the effect of DE on goats naturally-infected with internal parasites (primarily *Haemonchus contortus*, *Eimeria*, and *Trichostrongylus* spp.). Twenty Spanish and Spanish x Boer does (avg. 88 lb.) were randomly assigned to four treatment groups.

For eight days the goats were treated with DE at different concentrations: Group 1, 1.77 g DE; Group 2, 3.54 g DE; and Group 3, 5.31 g DE. The DE was mixed with 150 ml of sterile water and administered as a drench. Goats in Group 4 were drenched with sterile water and served as untreated controls.

Body weights, fecal egg counts, packed cell volume, and white and red blood cell counts were measured weekly for six weeks. Over the course of the study, increases in fecal egg counts were observed. Packed cell volumes decreased in all groups. All groups exhibited increases in WBC and decreases in RBC counts. An anthelmintic effect of DE was not observed.

United Kingdom (2)

In 2005, British researchers carried out two experiments to assess the efficacy of diatomaceous earth (DE) as an alternative to anthelmintics in grazing ruminants (cattle and sheep). Animals treated with anthelmintics and groups of untreated animals were included for comparison.

In the first study, 18 yearling cattle were assigned to three treatment groups: 1) control group - no treatment; 2) treatment with an anthelmintic drench prior to turnout; and 3) a daily supplement of DE (2% of daily DM intake).



The duration of the study was 10 weeks.

There were no significant differences between treatment groups for live weight gain. In week 7, cattle in the control (untreated) group had

higher fecal egg counts than the drench or DE groups; however, for all other weeks, fecal egg counts did not differ between the three groups.



In the second study, 45 single-bearing pregnant ewes were assigned to three treatment groups: 1) control - no treatment; 2) treatment with an anthelmintic prior to turnout (with lamb); and 3) daily supplement of DE post-lambing. The duration of the study was 8 weeks.

There were no significant differences in fecal egg counts between treatment groups prior to or post-lambing. Ewes in the DE group had heavier post-lambing live weights than ewes in the drench group, but not the control group. By 10 weeks of age, lambs from DE ewes were significantly heavier than lambs from ewes in the drench group, but there was no statistical difference between lambs in the DE and control groups.

The results of these studies were consistent with other published and unpublished studies: 1) DE does not have an effect on parasite loads as measured by eggs per gram of feces; and 2) DE does not reduce anemia as measured by packed cell volume.

Iowa

Two trials were conducted in Iowa in 1994 and 1995 to assess the efficacy of DE as a natural anthelmintic. In the first trial, 24 weanling lambs were assigned to four treatment groups: 1) uninfected controls - no treatment; 2) infected controls - no treatment; 3) DE fed and lambs pastured in uninfected paddock; and 4) DE fed and lambs pastured in infected paddock. All of the lambs were fed 1.1 lbs. of concentrate daily. In the treated groups, DE comprised 5 percent of the concentrate ration. Samples and measurements were taken at 3 week intervals. The second trial was expanded to 32 lambs and DE was included as 10 percent of the concentrate ration.

In the first trial, DE failed to demonstrate value, as no death losses were experienced and weight gains were not statistically significant between the groups. There were no differences in hemoglobin or packed cell volume. While fecal egg counts were numerically different

(Continued on page 11)

Three Sisters Win Jr. Sheep & Wool Skillathon

Sixty-eight youth competed in the Junior Sheep & Wool Skillathon at the 2013 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival (61 competed in 2012).

Participants included 19 juniors (age 8-10), 20 intermediates (age 11-13), and 29 seniors (age 14-18) and represented five states: Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Maryland counties with competitors included Baltimore, Calvert, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington.

In a remarkable feat, three sisters from Frederick County won first place in each age category. Kallan Latham was the first place junior. Kallan scored perfect 50's on feeds, breeds, equipment, you be the vet, and how much does stuff cost? The first place intermediate was Brietta Latham. Brietta scored perfect 50's on feeds, fleece judging, and wool and was the only intermediate to score above 30 in each station.

The first place senior was Aislinn Latham. Aislinn scored a perfect 50 in breeds and was the only senior to score above 30 in each station. Among non-state team members, Aislinn place first in last year's skillathon.

The second place junior was Chet Boden from Virginia. Chet placed first last year. Elizabeth Miller from Montgomery County placed third in the junior division. The second place intermediate was Rebecca Herriotts from Howard County. Evan Lineweaver from Virginia was the third place intermediate.

Andy Bauer from Howard County was the second place senior. Andy won the Maryland State 4-H Livestock Skillathon in March. The third place senior was Ashley Braun from Charles county.

The first place junior team was one of the Virginia teams whose members included Chet Boden, Cyle DeHaven, Riley Ashby, and Haley Seabright. Frederick County (Maryland) had the second place junior team. Team members included Kallan Latham, Jessica Martin, Karianna Strickhouser, and Kiandra Strickhouser.

The first place intermediate team was Frederick County (Maryland). Team members included Laura Dutton, Brietta Latham, Ray Martin IV, and Benjamin Sanville. The second place intermediate team was one of the



2013 Skillathon winners (L-R): sisters Kallan (Jr), Brietta (Int), and Aislinn Latham (Sr)

Virginia teams whose members included Mackenzie Ashby, Caleb Boden, and Evan Lineweaver. The first place senior team was Charles County. Team members included Ashley Braun, Johnny Hancock, Caitlyn Olejnik, and Emily Solis. The second place team was Howard County, whose members included Andy Bauer, Audrey Bennett, Dean Bennett, and Maggie Goodmuth.

This year, a wool award was provided to the individual with the highest cumulative score in the two wool stations: fleece judging and wool ID. The Junior Wool Winner was Kaisy Knott from Frederick County. The intermediate winner was Brietta Latham from Frederick County. Brietta has a perfect score of 100. Logan Stoltman. Logan Stoltman from New York had the top senior wool score (95).

The Junior Sheep & Wool Skillathon is a program of the University of Maryland Extension Small Ruminant Program which provided plaques to the winner in each age division.

The Maryland Sheep Breeders Association provides ribbons and premiums to the top 10 individuals in each age category. They provide festival t-shirts to members of the top three teams in each age category. This year, MSBA also provided awards for the top placers in the two wool stations.

It takes a lot of volunteers to run a skillathon. Special thanks is extended to everyone who helped with this year's event. Next year's Junior Sheep & Wool Skillathon will be held on Sunday, May 4 at the 41st Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival.

Featured Breed: Suffolk

The Suffolk breed of sheep originated in England and was the result of crossing Southdown rams onto Norfolk Horned ewes. The breed derives its meatiness and wool quality from the Southdown and its size from the Norfolk Horn. The Norfolk Horn, now rare, was a wild and hardy breed that traveled great distances for food.



(sheep on left, US Suffolk)

The Suffolk is one of the largest breeds of sheep in the United States. Mature rams range in weight from 250 to 350 lbs. Ewe weights vary from 180 to 250 pounds. Suffolk sheep are an attractive breed with distinct markings: bare, black heads and legs and long, pendulous ears.

Suffolk ewes are prolific and good producers of milk. They produce a medium wool fleece that ranges in weight from 5 to 8 pounds and should be free from black fibers. Suffolk wool is suitable for hand spinning. Some Suffolk sheep have bare bellies. Suffolks are one of the easier breeds to shear.

The first Suffolk sheep were brought to the United States in 1888. Today, the breed is the most popular pure breed of sheep in the U.S. In fact, at one time, there were almost three times as many Suffolk sheep registered as any other breed. Along with Hampshire, the Suffolk is

the most popular breed for 4-H club lamb projects.

Suffolk lambs grow faster than any other breed of sheep and yield heavy, high cutability carcasses. For this reason, the Suffolk is the most popular terminal sire breed in the U.S. The breed's primary role is to cross with ewes of other breeds to produce crossbred market lambs. Crossbred Suffolk ewes are also popular for commercial lamb production.

The Suffolk has made contributions to several other sheep breeds. In the U.S., the Suffolk was crossed with the St. Croix to create the Katahdin, a popular breed of hair sheep. The Australians created a White Suffolk, a similar breed, but with a white face and legs. The Aussies also developed the South Suffolk, a fixed cross between the Suffolk and Southdown.

Though body type varies, Suffolk sheep are found throughout the world's sheep producing countries. In England and Europe, they are stout and heavy muscled. In the U.S., a larger framed sheep is preferred.



(Suffolk sheep in France)

DE is Not Effective For Parasite Control

(continued from page 9)

between the controls and DE groups, no statistical difference was found. The results of the second trial were similar. No statistical differences were detected in weight gain, blood values, or fecal egg counts.

References

- (1) The Effects of Diatomaceous Earth on Parasite Infected Goats. Bulletin of the Georgian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. 2009.
- (2) The Inclusion of Diatomaceous Earth in the Diet of Grazing Ruminants and its Effect on Gastrointestinal Parasite Burdens. International Society of Organic Agricultural Research. 2005 Conference.

Calendar Of Events

August 1

Twilight Goat Meeting at WMREC

Western Maryland Research & Education Center, Keedysville, Maryland

Info: Susan Schoenian at sschoen@umd.edu or (301) 432-2767 x343

August 3

Performance Tested Ram and Meat Goat Buck Sale

Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center, PA Furnace, PA
Info: Greg Hubbard at (814) 238-2527 or g Hubbard@pa.gov

August 24

VA Tech Sheep Field Day and Performance

Tested Ram Sale

Shenandoah Valley Research & Education Center, Steele's Tavern, VA

Info: Dr. Scott Greiner at (540) 231-9159

Calendar Of Events (continued from page

September 6-7

ASI Wool Handling School @ West Virginia Fiber Festival
WVU Reedsville Farm Arena, Reedsville, West Virginia
Info: Martha McGrath at Martha@CoopworthSheep.com or (304) 358-2239

September 21

Mid-Atlantic Small Ruminant Extravaganza,
featuring "Elite Buck" and Doe Sale
Old Dominion Agricultural Complex, Chatham, Virginia
Info: John Smith at jstrider01@netscape.com or
<http://pmg-epd.com>

VA Tech Sheep Field Day and Performance
Tested Ram Sale
Southwest AREC, Glade Spring, VA
Info: Dr. Scott Greiner at (540) 231-9159 or
Lee Wright at (276) 944-2200

October 26

Maryland Sheep Industry Day and MSBA annual banquet
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland
Info: Kelly Cole at kc137f@yahoo.com

December 7

Biennial Lambing & Kidding School
Western MD Research and Education Center
Info: Susan Schoenian at sschoen@umd.edu or (301) 432-2767 x343

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

Wild & Woolly, is published quarterly by the University of Maryland Extension. It is written and edited by Susan Schoenian, Sheep and Goat Specialist, at the Western Maryland Research & Education Center (WMREC), 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD, tel. (301) 432-2767 x343 or 315, fax (301) 432-4089; e-mail: sschoen@umd.edu or Pamela Thomas, Administrative Assistant, pthomas@umd.edu. The cost of receiving the newsletter by mail is \$10 per year, payable to the University of Maryland. The newsletter can be accessed for free on the Internet at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/index.html>. Subscribers to the newsletter listserv will receive an e-mail message when a new newsletter has been posted to the web. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to listserv@listserv.umd.edu. In the body of the message, type subscribe sheepgoatnews.

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 University of Maryland Extension is implied.

Articles and photographs may be reprinted with permission.

University of Maryland Extension
Western Maryland Research & Education Center
18330 Keedysville Rd
Keedysville MD 21756