UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Small Ruminant Update

Vol. 4 No. 3 Summer 2024

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Selection of the Ram/Buck

The ram/buck is a very important component of the herd/flock that often times is overlooked. The male can attribute 80-90% of herd/flock improvement, where he contributes 50% of the genetics to his offspring. Performance records and evaluation programs are a way to obtain fair comparisons amongst all animals being considered as replacements or for potential herd sires. Utilizing performance tested rams in your breeding program is essential to detect differences in growth, and for other traits that may be of value (i.e., parasite resistance).

Another selection tool that may be used to choose breeding stock is EBVs or "Estimated Breeding Values." An EBV is a numerical estimate for the genetic value of an animal. They are arguably the most accurate way to compare the genetics of livestock in different herds/flocks. If you are familiar with beef cattle and EPDs, EBVs are very similar. The EPD predicts the genetic merit of an animal's progeny, while the EBV predicts the genetic merit of the animal itself. An EBV is equal to twice the EPD. EBVs can be used to predict the performance of an animal's offspring. Establishing EBVs for use starts with data collection— this is done through the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP; nsip.org). EBVs are valuable to consider when selecting your next herd sire!

Don't forget the importance of the health and reproductive viability of the male prior to breeding season. It can be very costly and detrimental if your ram/buck goes bad during breeding season. The risk can be minimized by having a breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) performed 30-60 days prior to the start of breeding season.

Free-choice Minerals

Proper nutrition means that an animal is receiving the appropriate amount of all nutrients necessary for optimum production — water, feedstuffs and mineral supplementation.

What are free-choice minerals?

A mineral mix commonly used to provide mineral supplementation to grazing livestock. Typically the animal is a good self-regulator and they usually know how much to consume in order to balance the minerals in their body.

Not all mineral mixes are the same— what's the difference?

Truth is, there are many differences! Providing a complete mineral specifically for the livestock species you are feeding is key. This means only feed sheep mineral to sheep and goat mineral to goats.

Sometimes a producer may choose to feed a different type of mineral based on the production phase (i.e., breeding season versus lambing/kidding season). Some manufacturers market different mineral mixes depending on life stage. Using a complete mineral will ensure your livestock have access to micro and macronutrients as well as vitamins, which are essential.

Salt or mineral blocks?

The problem with these blocks is that they are mostly salt and they do not contain proper levels of other required trace minerals.

What is the recommendation?

Providing a loose trace mineral that is free-choice at all times. The decision of which specific product or brand to use may be dependent on your region. Reach out to your veterinarian, nutritionist or extension agent for assistance. Please be sure that the mineral is specific to the species you are feeding.

For more information contact us:
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springhillequine.com
Her practice provides veterinary care for dogs, cats, sheep, goats, donkeys, and horses. They provide ambulatory services to your farm/house or you can haul in to the clinic. They service Gainesville and North Central Florida.
Dr. Speziok is an alumni of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine (UFCVM) where she completed her DVM in 2022.
If you are in Dr. Speziok's practice region, please reach out. She is accepting new clients and looks forward to an opportunity to work with producers.

Better Herd Health, Less Medication

If you keep goats or sheep in Florida or elsewhere, you've hopefully heard of important parasite concepts like Targeted Selected Treatment (TST) and refugia. It's crucial to be specific about who, what, and when you're treating with dewormer medications. But did you know that those same concepts apply to antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, and other medication use as well? Remember, antibiotics treat only bacteria, not viruses or worms. Anti-inflammatories like banamine, dexamethasone, and meloxicam can help control fever and reduce pain, but they also have side effects.

Correlation between administering a medication and an animal's condition improving does not necessarily mean the disease was treated effectively, especially if a diagnosis was never made.

The normal rectal temperature range of a goat is 101.3-103.5°F and for a sheep is 100.9-103.8° F. Owning a digital rectal thermometer is essential, and these can be purchased at any local drugstore without needing to be labeled for animal use.

As a veterinarian, it is more challenging to diagnose and treat a patient that has been sick for days or weeks and received various drugs prior to the veterinarian seeing it. This is even harder without knowing if a fever was present throughout the illness, or only at the beginning. Although veterinary care can seem expensive, investing in a diagnostic workup at the start often leads to faster, better, and cheaper outcomes. Ruminants often do a great job of hiding mild illnesses until they become severe, so timely veterinary intervention is crucial.

All goat and sheep owners should strive to have a relationship with a primary veterinarian for routine herd wellness checks. This not only establishes a legal Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR), which is required to make diagnoses and dispense medications (including antibiotics), but also gives the veterinarian insight into the herd's health status and an easier time diagnosing sickness in individuals from that herd. Regular wellness checks by a veterinarian can identify potential issues before they become major disease outbreaks. For individual animals, having a record of their health and a history of prior exams helps provide a comparison to "their" normal condition.

Keeping your own health records for each animal is also important. If you already keep records for deworming and FAMACHA, adding treatment logs is beneficial and simple. Record treatments given and their responses, so that if you present that animal to your veterinarian, you have a clear history. For instance, if your goat has a fever (as proven by digital rectal temperature above 103.5°F) and you administer an anti-inflammatory, note the medication, dose, administration method, time, and response. Like deworming protocols, it is inappropriate to change or administer medications without a reason. A record of medications administered is also required for food animals as meat and milk withdrawals must be followed.

Producer's Corner—Knowledge Exchange

Are you a producer? Have something to share?!

If you are a small ruminant producer and have a topic area of interest that you believe would be beneficial to share with other producers—please let us know! We are looking to feature one producer in each newsletter issue!

We believe knowledge exchanged between producers of their practical experiences is valuable and we want to provide a space to facilitate that. We would ask that you provide a few paragraphs to be shared in the newsletter on your chosen topic. The content and grammar will be reviewed by our UF Small Ruminant Extension team, and edits will be made as needed prior to publishing.

If you're interested, please contact us via email at bn.diehl@ufl.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and its Potential Impact on FL Livestock

By: Jonael Bosques
UF/IFAS Extension Agent,
Hardee County

The production of food and fiber is an extremely risky endeavor. Farmers and ranchers are at the mercy of the elements. Mark Twain said it best: "Farming is simply gambling with dirt". Taking calculated risks and preventive measures can significantly impact what we do when feeding the world. Today we will be discussing an emerging issue that can affect livestock producers in Florida: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

This emerging disease, also known as bird flu has been around the block since the early 1900s. Strains of bird flu have been observed for decades. The latest wave of this disease is known as HPAI, which primarily affects birds. Recent outbreaks have shown its ability to infect mammals, including dairy and beef cattle as well as goats.

Florida's Livestock and HPAI

Our state is a net exporter of live cattle and home to hundreds of developing ranchettes with sheep and goats living in close proximity to poultry and wild birds. Our cow-calf operations produce the steers and heifers that feed stockyards in other states to supply the nation with beef products. Dairy operations (bovine and goat-based) are comprised of animals that complete their life on the farm or near the one where they were born. Some operations that rely on feeding facilities where wild birds can be attracted by easy access to food, and come in contact with livestock. This fact can increase the chances of inoculation (spread) with the virus H5N1. The potential risk of an outbreak in our state is low compared to other areas, but proper management practices should be implemented to promote biosecurity in all farms regardless of their size. Outbreaks in the poultry industry are more likely than in ruminant operations. Florida has very few poultry operations. The commercial poultry operations in Florida rely on strict biosecurity procedures to prevent bird flu outbreaks from happening. The potential risk of an outbreak rests on backyard poultry flocks that come in contact with wild birds. ***Regardless of the risk, be vigilant.***

There are signs to watch out for when it comes to infected animals with HPAI. While uncommon, HPAI infection in cattle can cause: decreased milk production, loss of appetite, respiratory distress, lethargy, sudden death.

Some biosecurity measures for preventing HPAI: 1.) **Minimize contact with wild birds**—limit access to ponds or areas frequented by wild birds. 2.) **Proper disposal of carcasses**—wear gloves and disinfect after handling dead birds. 3.) **Restrict movement of people and equipment**—minimize unnecessary traffic around confined areas. 4.) **Rodent control**—eliminate potential carriers that can introduce the virus. 5.) **Biosecurity training for personnel**—educate employees and family members on recognizing the signs of HPAI and proper hygiene protocols. ***There is transmission risk to humans.*** The risk of HPAI transmission from infected livestock or birds to humans is **low**. However, it's imperative to exercise caution when dealing with sick animals. Wash hands thoroughly. Cook meat to proper internal temperatures. Pasteurization eliminates live virus, including HPAI. ***Contact us for more information!***

Market Report Update

The reported data below is compiled by the USDA—Livestock Auction.

Visit the website:
mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/livestock_auction_dashboard

Market report dates:

07/08/2024 to 07/13/2024

Sheep Overview

Wtd Average Price (per cwt)

Feeder Sheep/lambs	$229.26
Slaughter Sheep/lambs	$187.45

Goat Overview

Wtd Average Price (per cwt)

Feeder Goats	$247.39
Slaughter Goats	$228.52

Local Price Trend Report— Ocala Livestock Market in Ocala, FL

Market report date: 06/21/2024

Sheep (low to high range)

Young ewes	$ 40—70.00
Young rams	$ 65–115.00
Old ewes	$75—125.00
Mature rams	$225—280.00

Goats (low to high range)

Small does	$30—100.00
Small bucks	$40—135.00
Medium does	$50—135.00
Medium bucks	$50—165.00
Large does	$—
Large bucks	$150—220.00

Boer –Type Goats

Does	$180—270.00
Bucks	$390–410.00

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The Hidden Threat: Toxic Weeds for Small Ruminants

By: Ashley Stonecipher
UF/IFAS Extension Agent,
Volusia County

As a small ruminant owner, ensuring the health and well-being of your animals is a top priority. While providing nutritious feed and clean water are essential, there's another, often overlooked danger found in pastures and grazing areas: toxic weeds. These plants can pose serious health risks to sheep and goats if ingested, potentially leading to illness or even fatalities. In this blog, we'll explore the issue of toxic weeds, examples of common toxic weeds in Florida, and crucial steps you can take to protect your animals.

Identifying Toxic Weeds

Toxic weeds come in various forms and can grow in almost any environment where small ruminants graze.

Some common examples include:

1.) Nightshade (*Solanum* spp.): All parts of the plants are toxic. The plant contains a toxic compound called solanine. The leaves and berries are the most toxic part of the plant. The symptoms include gastrointestinal problems, weakness, hallucinations, and it may even cause death if enough is eaten.

2.) Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*): The entire plant is poisonous, and depending on the quantity of plant consumed, it can even cause death in rare cases. All parts of the plant contain alkaloids, such as saponins, oxalates, and phytolacine, which are toxic. The greatest concentrations can be found in the roots and berries.

3.) Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*): Found in many regions, bracken fern contains toxins that can lead to thiamine (vitamin B1) deficiency in sheep and goats, causing weight loss, neurological issues, and even death.

Effects on Small Ruminants

The impact of toxic weeds on small ruminants can vary depending on the plant and the amount consumed.

Clinical signs observed may include:

-Digestive Issues: diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

-Neurological Signs: Muscle tremors, convulsions, and in severe cases, paralysis.

-**Liver & Kidney Damage:** Some toxic weeds can cause organ failure over time.

Preventative Measures

Prevention is key when it comes to protecting your small ruminants from toxic weeds:

1.) Pasture Management: Regularly inspect pastures and grazing areas for any signs of toxic weeds. Promptly remove any identified plants before they spread.

2.) Education: Familiarize yourself with common toxic weeds in your region. Local agricultural extension offices or veterinarians can provide valuable resources and guidance.

3.) Feed Quality: Ensure your animals have access to high-quality forage and supplemental feed. A well-balanced diet can help mitigate the temptation to consume toxic plants out of hunger.

4.) Grazing Rotation: Implementing a controlled grazing rotation can prevent overgrazing and reduce the likelihood of animals resorting to consuming unfamiliar or potentially toxic plants.

5.) Consultation: If you suspect your animals have ingested a toxic plant or are exhibiting unusual symptoms, consult with a veterinarian immediately. Early diagnosis and treatment can greatly improve the chances of recovery.

Conclusion

While toxic weeds pose a serious threat to small ruminants, awareness and proactive management are effective tools in safeguarding your flock or herd. By familiarizing yourself with common toxic plants in your area, implementing preventive measures, and maintaining vigilant pasture management, you can create a safe and healthy environment for your animals to thrive.

Resources

Common Poisonous Weed and Invasive Plant Species in Florida Residential Landscapes: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP631

Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/WG006

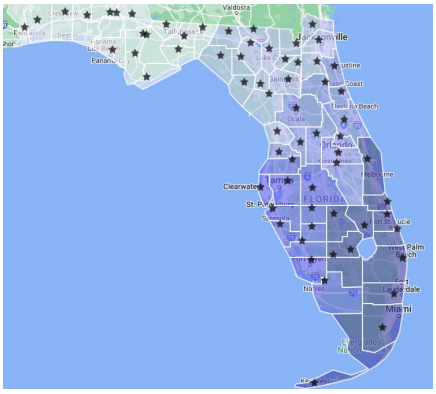
Common Pokeweed: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG254

Who is your local County Extension Agent?

UF/IFAS Extension has offices in all 67 counties in Florida!

You can find your local County Extension office by visiting:

sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/find-your-local-office



Why utilize county extension?

County extension agents aim to educate audiences of all ages, meeting you where you are—classroom, home, field, or forest! The needs and issues in each county are not the same, therefore, there are agents in each county that can identify with the needs of their producers.

Why not just rely on the internet?

The difference is—you can interact with and speak to an Extension Agent directly. They have real-life experience that is relevant to your situation.

Does extension just involve livestock?

No—extension has evolved tremendously. It also includes home horticulture, environmental & coastal issues, health & nutrition, energy use, community development, and so much more!

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Heat Stress and its Impacts on Small Ruminants

Animals can undergo numerous kinds of stressors. Some examples of stressors include: physical, nutritional, physiological, etc.

What is heat stress?
Heat stress results when physiological stress is experienced due to excessive heat, typically secondary to the environment they are in. The body is unable to void the heat appropriately which may result in negative consequences.
Heat index (temperature + humidity) is typically a more accurate measure of heat stress than temperature alone.

How does heat stress affect the body?
The primary signs include hyperthermia (rise in body temperature), increased respiration rate, lower feed intake, altered water, protein, and energy metabolism.
If the physiological conditions are not corrected, overall health may be affected causing immune suppression and even death.

Do some individuals tolerate heat better than others?
Yes! Hair sheep tend to tolerate heat better than wool sheep. Fat-tailed sheep are typically fairly heat tolerant. Goats are usually more heat tolerant than sheep. Individuals with horns typically dissipate heat more effectively than polled individuals. Young animals are more susceptible to heat stress as compared to older individuals, the exception being geriatric individuals who are also more sensitive.
Nutritional status plays a role in an animal's response to heat. Animals with poor nutritional status (and compromised immune system) are likely to be more susceptible to environmental extremes.
Obese animals are more susceptible to heat stress.
Sheep/goats tend to be more heat tolerant compared to cows.

When will an animal experience heat stress?
In most scenarios, sheep and goats will experience heat stress when the temperature humidity index (THI) is over a specific threshold.
THI Moderate: 82 to <84^{O}F
THI Severe: 84 to <86^{O}F
THI Extreme: ≥86^{O}F
*Refer to Table 1 below.
Source: 'Heat Stress in Small Ruminants', South Dakota State University Extension (2024).

How might heat stress influence productivity?
Extreme heat/humidity can have substantial impacts on production. Sudden, extreme heat can result in significant effects due to the animals not having ample time to adjust to their environment.
Prolonged heat can influence reproductive capabilities and negatively impact breeding. Rams/bucks experiencing heat stress may lack libido. It is recommended for rams to be sheared at least 6 weeks prior to the start of breeding season. If the ram's scrotum is wooly, it too should be shorn. If a ram/buck is negatively impacted by heat stress, it may take 60-90 days for him to produce semen that is capable of fertilization again. This reinforces the importance of having a breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) performed on your ram/buck by your veterinarian prior to the breeding season. Extreme temperatures can also impact embryo survival and fetal growth/development.

Heat stress can impact an animal's immune system, which may result in lower natural immunity. This can cause them to be more susceptible to disease. Pneumonia is not uncommon in extremely hot weather as a result. Animals will commonly have a lower tolerance for parasites during times of extreme heat as well.

Tips for managing heat stress in sheep & goats

- Provide constant access to clean, cool water. On average, a sheep/goat will drink 1-2 gallons of water per day. Individuals who are lactating will consume more.
- Wooly animals should be sheared prior to hot weather arriving. They should not be sheared in the face of extreme heat. Thick fleece can aid in insulating against high temperatures.
- Avoid grazing livestock in the heat of the day. Provide ample amount of shade for all animals in pasture.
- Provide nutrient-dense diets during periods of high heat/humidity.
- Monitor animals for signs of distress. If the animal is panting, has rapid breathing, weakness, an inability to stand or a rectal temperature >105^{O}F, this may become an emergency situation. Consult with your veterinarian.

TABLE 1. SHEEP AND GOAT TEMPERATURE HUMIDITY INDEX (THI)

Temp. °F	Relative Humidity (%)															
	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95
50°F	54	53	53	53	53	52	52	52	52	52	51	51	51	51	50	50
55°F	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	55	55	55	55	55	55
60°F	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
65°F	62	62	62	62	63	63	63	63	63	64	64	64	64	64	65	65
70°F	65	65	65	66	66	66	67	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	69	70
75°F	68	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75
80°F	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	79
85°F	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82[a]	83[a]	84[b]	84[b]
90°F	76	77	78	79	79	80	81	82[a]	83[a]	84[b]	85[b]	86[c]	86[c]	87[c]	88[c]	89[c]
95°F	79	80	81	82	83	84[b]	85[b]	86[b]	87[c]	88[c]	89[c]	90[c]	91[c]	92[c]	93[c]	94[c]
100°F	82[a]	83[a]	84[b]	85[b]	86[b]	87[c]	88[c]	90[c]	91[c]	92[c]	93[c]	94[c]	95[c]	97[c]	98[c]	99[c]

THI Levels: [a]Moderate (yellow) 82 to < 84°F; [b]Severe (orange) 84 to < 86°F; [c]Extreme (red) >86°F

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RECIPE CORNER

Ground Lamb Jalapeno Poppers

1lb ground Lamb (add oil, if needed)
1 red onion (finely minced)
1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
2 tablespoon cilantro

Cream-cheese filling:

4-ounce cream cheese
1 cup cheddar cheese (shredded)
2 scallions (chopped)
1/4 cup cilantro
1/8 teaspoon salt and pepper
1/4 teaspoon chili powder

Jalapenos:

10 large jalapenos, sliced in half length-wise (remove seeds)
1 cup cheddar cheese

Directions: Prepare lamb mixture. Cook onions til soft, season the lamb with the spices mix, add it to the onions. Turn off heat, finish with cilantro—set aside. In a bowl, mix cream cheese filling ingredients. Pre-heat oven (400F). Put jalapenos on baking sheet, cut side up. Fill with cream cheese, lamb, top with cheddar cheese. Bake 16-20 min. Enjoy!

Follow Us on Social Media!

UF Small Ruminant Extension

@UF_SMALLRUMINANTEXTENSION

Announcements

1st annual UF Buck Test

The test is ongoing. Data from bucks on-test can be found on our website. The sale will be held online via Willoughby Livestock Sales on September 20-21, 2024. Sale bucks can be viewed at SRSC.

Visit our website: animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/buck-test/

Contact Us:

Clay Whitehead, jacobcwhitehead@ufl.edu, (904) 796-0441
Dr. Brittany Diehl, bn.diehl@ufl.edu, (352) 294-4319

4th annual UF Ram Test

The test is ongoing. Data from rams on-test can be found on our website. The sale will be held online via Willoughby Livestock Sales on September 20-21, 2024. Sale rams can be viewed at SRSC.

Visit our website: animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/ramtest/

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UF/IFAS Small Ruminant Short Course

Dates: September 20-21, 2024

Come join us for our 3rd annual conference and trade show in Gainesville, FL— a tremendous opportunity to be educated and to network with industry professionals and producers.

UF Ram & Buck Test Sales will also take place during this event!

Contact Us:

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Around the State...

Early bird registration is OPEN!

Don't delay, early bird rates end on August 1!

Sydell will be at the 2024 UF Small Ruminant Short Course on September 20-21, 2024 in Gainesville! Please contact them directly (1-800-842-1369 or Sydell.com) to place an order and to have <u>FREE DELIVERY</u> to the trade show!

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SMALL RUMINANT SHORT COURSE

September 20-21, 2024

Straughn Professional Development Center
Gainesville, Florida

Sponsorship Opportunities

Why Become a Sponsor?

Never will there be a better time to reach Florida small ruminant producers and interested parties. Producers, extension specialists, researchers, students, and allied industry members will be in attendance at this in-person educational event. The program will include lectures on parasite control, herd health programming, marketing, management, and more. We have multiple guest speakers bringing a variety of expertise. Research updates will be provided by UF/IFAS Small Ruminant Faculty and Staff. The event will be held in conjunction with the 2024 University of Florida Ram Test and Buck Test Sale.

Sponsorship Levels

Dinner Sponsor (1 Opportunity)	$1,500	INCLUDES: • 6 Registrations • Organization logo displayed on table tents during educational programming on Friday and event website • Organization mention in programming • Table at reception & trade show • Opportunity to put one item in the goodie bags • Single logo table tents during dinner service • Opportunity to speak at dinner
Lunch Sponsor (2 Opportunities)	$1,250	INCLUDES: • 5 Registrations • Organization logo displayed on table tents during educational programming on Friday and event website • Organization mention in programming • Table at reception & trade show • Opportunity to put one item in the goodie bags • Single logo table tents during lunch service
Refreshment Sponsor (3 Opportunities)	$800	INCLUDES: • 4 Registrations • Organization logo displayed on table tents during educational programming on Friday and event website • Organization mention in programming • Table at reception & trade show • Opportunity to put one item in the goodie bags • Single logo table tents during refreshment service
Gold	$550	INCLUDES: • 3 Registrations • Organization logo displayed on table tents during educational programming on Friday and event website • Organization mention in programming • Table at reception & trade show • Opportunity to put one item in the goodie bags
Silver	$350	INCLUDES: • 2 Registrations • Organization logo displayed on event website • Organization mention in programming • Table at reception & trade show • Opportunity to put one item in the goodie bags
Exhibitor	$200	INCLUDES: • 1 Registration • Organization logo displayed on event website • Organization mention in programming • Table at reception & trade show

To pay and register for the event, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/SRSCSponsor

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Want To Become A Sponsor?

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Thursday, September 19

Pre-conference Seminars, Various Locations

Pre-conference seminars are hands-on workshops aimed at providing in-depth exposure to specific topics, delivering practical knowledge and application, while connecting producers and specialists.

Pre-conference seminars will have a maximum capacity of 15 participants each. Pre-registration is required.

Transportation to each location is the attendee's responsibility, there will not be transportation provided. Meals are on your own on Thursday, September 19th.

Cost per session: $50/person

Option 1: Small Ruminant Carcass Evaluation & Processing

Instructor: Kyle Mendes, University of Florida
Description: Participants will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on instructional activities related to small ruminant meat carcass evaluation and processing.
Location: UF Meat Processing Center, 2250 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611
Time: 9:30-11:00 AM EST

Option 2: Small Ruminant Pasture Management and Rotational Grazing

Instructor: Dr. Marcelo Wallau, University of Florida
Dr. Rocky Lemus, Mississippi State University
Description: Participants will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on instructional activities related to small ruminant forage production and management.
Location: UF Beef Research Unit, 9800 North County Road 225, Gainesville, FL 32609
Time: 12:30-2:30 PM EST

Option 3: Small Ruminant Veterinary Techniques

Instructor: Dr. Alejandro Grau, Grau Veterinary Services
Description: Participants will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on instructional activities related to small ruminant venipuncture, needle size and length determinants, injection techniques, orogastric tube placement, hoof trimming, FAMACHA scoring, and body condition scoring.
Location: UF Sheep Unit, 2108 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32608
Time: 3:30-5:30 PM EST

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Friday, September 20

Location: Straughn Professional Development Center

	7:30 - 8:30	Registration
	8:30 - 8:45	Welcome - *Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, UF/IFAS Extension Associate Dean* - *Dr. Brittany Diehl, UF College of Veterinary Medicine*
	8:45-9:30	Starting a Small Ruminant Enterprise – Selection and Production - *Dr. Joan Burke, USDA-ARS*
	9:30-10:15	Sustainable Small Ruminant Grazing Systems - *Dr. Rocky Lemus, Mississippi State University*
Research Updates	10:15-10:35	Refreshment Break
Research Updates	10:35-10:55	Can choline feeding during the breeding period improve the performance of sheep and the resultant lambs? - *Masroor Sagheer, University of Florida*
Research Updates	10:55-11:15	The interplay between host genetics and microbiota for enhanced resilience in sheep - *Dr. Fernanda Rezende, University of Florida* - *Andres Alvarado, University of Florida*
	11:15-12:00	Small Ruminant Meat Selection, Grading & Marketing - *Kyle Mendes, University of Florida*
	12:00-1:00	Lunch
	1:00-2:00	Integrated Management of Small Ruminant GI Parasitism - *Dr. Joan Burke, USDA-ARS*
	2:00-3:00	Common Health Challenges in Small Ruminants - *Dr. Katelyn Menacho, Oak Hammock Large Animal Veterinary Services*
	3:00-3:20	Refreshment Break
	3:20-4:15	Small Ruminant Nutritional Requirements: Vitamins and Minerals - *Dr. Diwakar Vyas, University of Florida*
	4:15-5:00	**Travel to UF/IFAS Horse Teaching Unit (HTU) 1934 SW 63rd Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32608**
	5:00-6:00	Cocktail Hour and Trade Show UF Ram Test & Buck Test Sale animals available for viewing
	6:00	Dinner

UF | IFAS Extension
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Saturday, September 21

Location: UF/IFAS Horse Teaching Unit

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Welcome - *Dr. John Arthington, UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences Chair*
9:15-10:00	Ram & Buck Test Data Overview - *Dr. Brittany Diehl, UF College of Veterinary Medicine* - *Clay Whitehead, UF Animal Sciences*
10:00-12:00	Short Rotations & Trade Show UF Ram Test & Buck Test Sale animals available for viewing Business Planning & Financial Opportunities for Small Ruminant Operations - *Laura Bennett, UF/IFAS Extension Pasco, Sumter, Hernando Counties* - *Allie Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County* Fecal Egg Counts - *Kevin Korus, UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County* Pasture Management - *Paulette Tomlinson, UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County* - *Lizzie Whitehead, UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County* Pasture Weed Identification & Herbicide Application - *Mark Mauldin, UF/IFAS Extension Washington County* Lamb Cooking Demonstration - *Kyle Mendes, UF Animal Sciences* Small Ruminant Digestive System - *Alicia Halbritter, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County* Small Ruminant Nutrition - *Cassidy Dossin, UF/IFAS Extension Clay County* Soil Sampling - *Stephen Jennewein, UF/IFAS Extension Duval County* Tips & Tricks for Small Ruminant Transport - *Erin Jones, UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County* Toxic Plants to Small Ruminants - *Ashley Stonecipher, UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County*
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:15	**Travel to UF/IFAS Sheep Unit** **2108 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32608**
1:15	FAMACHA Training - Advanced Registration Required - *UF/IFAS North Florida Livestock Agents Group (NFLAG)*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2024 UF Ram & Buck Test Sale

When? Opens September 20 at 11am EST and closes September 21 at 11am EST

Where? Willoughby Livestock Sales (online)

Who can bid? ANYONE from ANYWHERE!

Rams and bucks being sold will be available for in-person viewing on Friday evening, September 20, 2024 (6pm EST) and Saturday morning, September 21, 2024 (8am EST) during the UF Small Ruminant Short Course at the UF/IFAS Horse Teaching Unit.

To qualify for the sale, rams & bucks must achieve an index greater than 90 for both Fecal Egg Count (FEC) Ratio and Growth Index on-test.

All rams & bucks enrolled in the sale were NOT dewormed during the test period.

Sale order is determined by test performance with those rams/bucks who performed the best, highest FEC ratio and Growth Index being sold first.

All rams and bucks being sold have achieved a 'Satisfactory' Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) which is performed within 30-days of sale by a licensed UFCVM veterinarian.

UFCVM veterinarians will be on-site to provide an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for interstate or intrastate travel to the purchaser's facility after the sale.

Questions—Contact Us!

Clay Whitehead, (904) 796-0441
Dr. Brittany Diehl, (352) 294-4319