

April 26 , 2025

Laura H. Bennett

FAMACHA TRAINING

*Overview of Best Management
Practices*



UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Relationship with a Veterinarian!



This could take some searching.

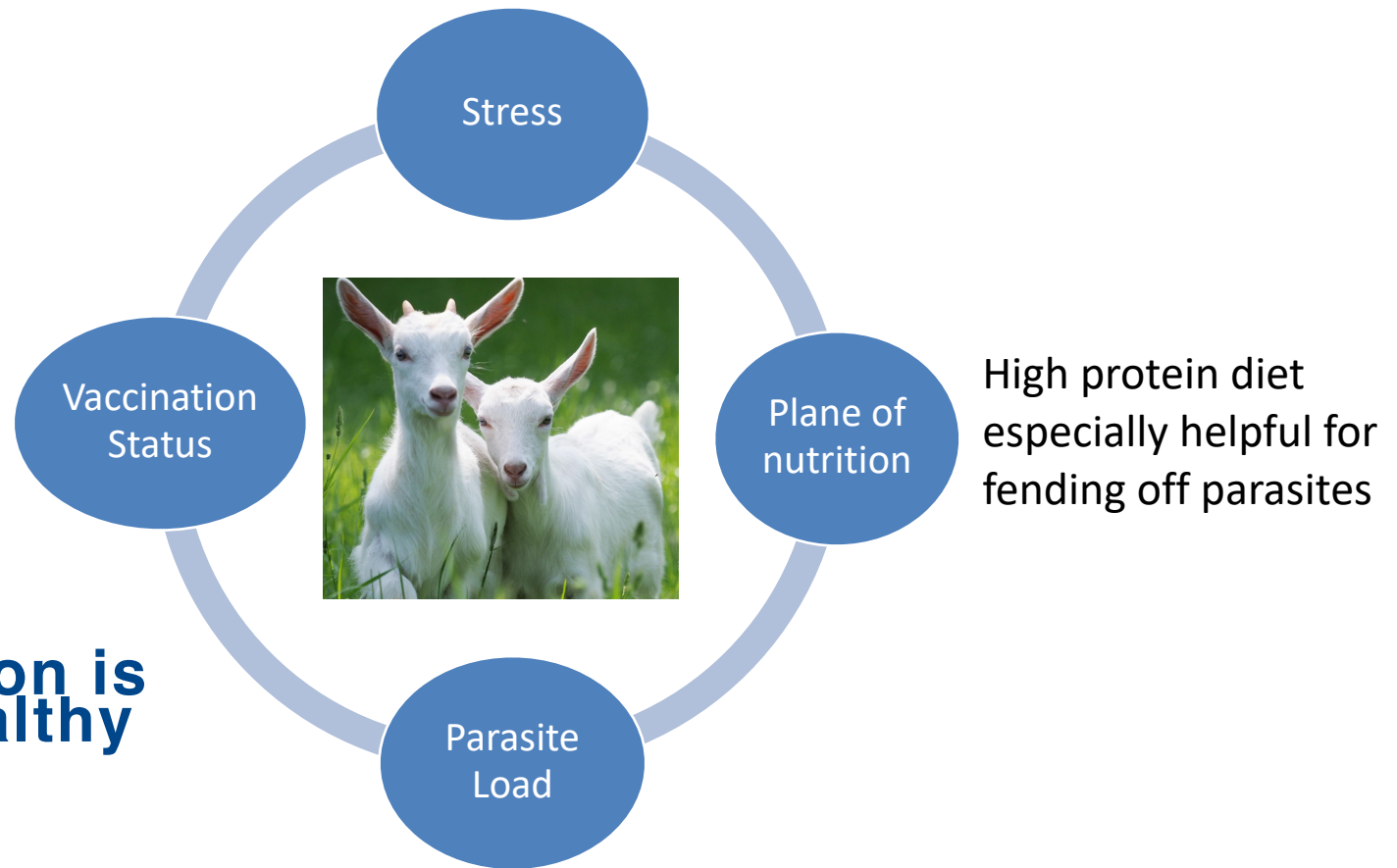
Do not wait for an emergency.

They ultimately determine your health plan.

**Why this
training?**



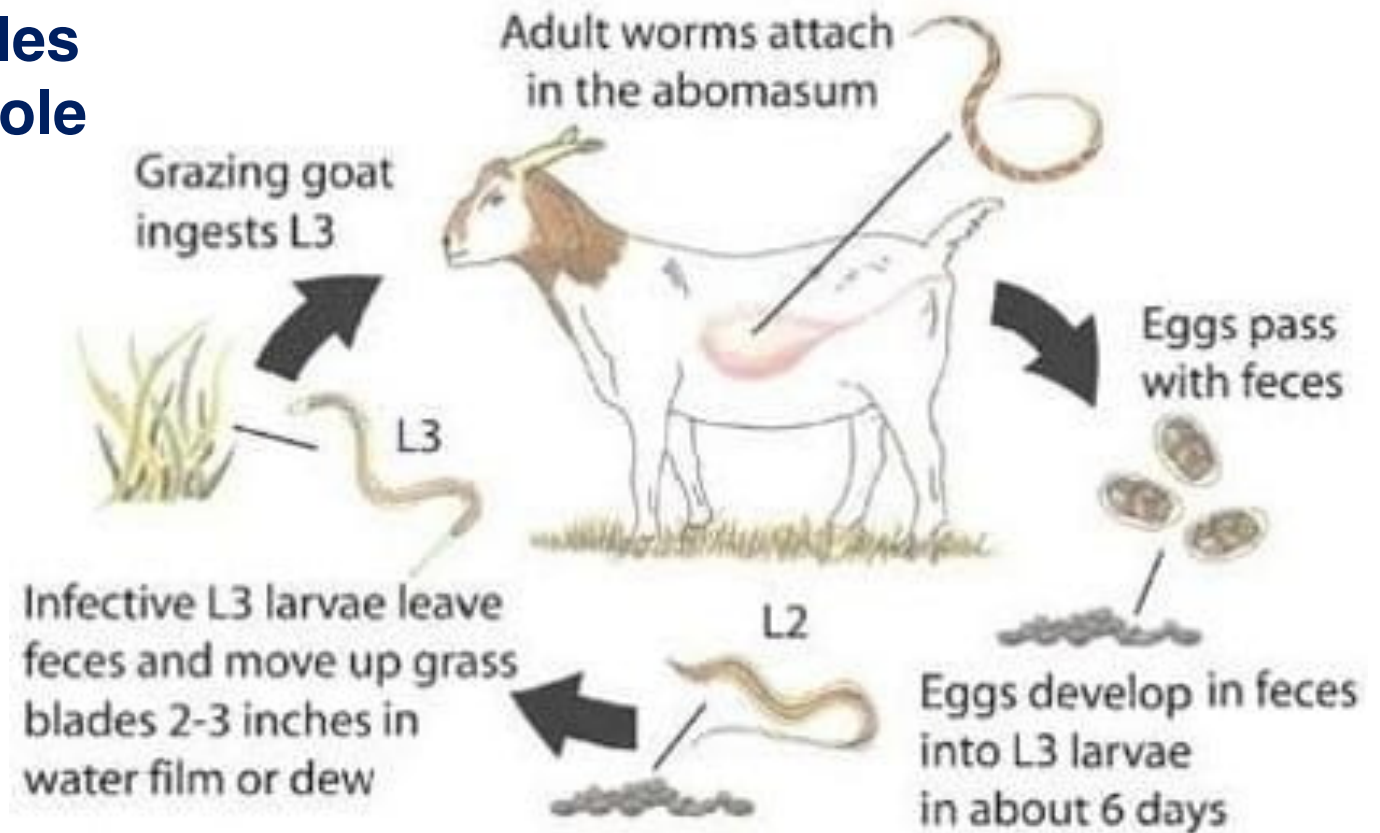
State of Nutrition + Parasites + Vaccination Status



**Good Nutrition is
basis for healthy
goats**

Parasite lifecycle

- Round worms
- Strongyles
- Barberpole





Florida's Hot & Humid environment

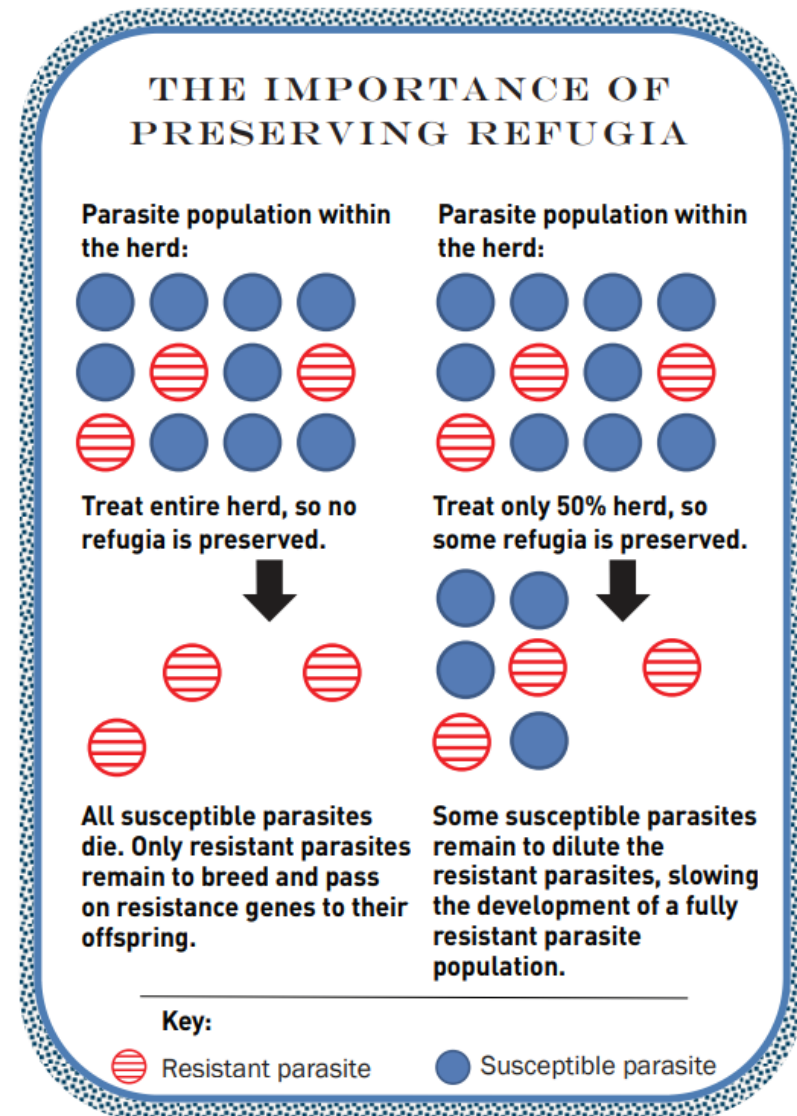
- Year-round parasite issues
- Attempt to control, not eliminate

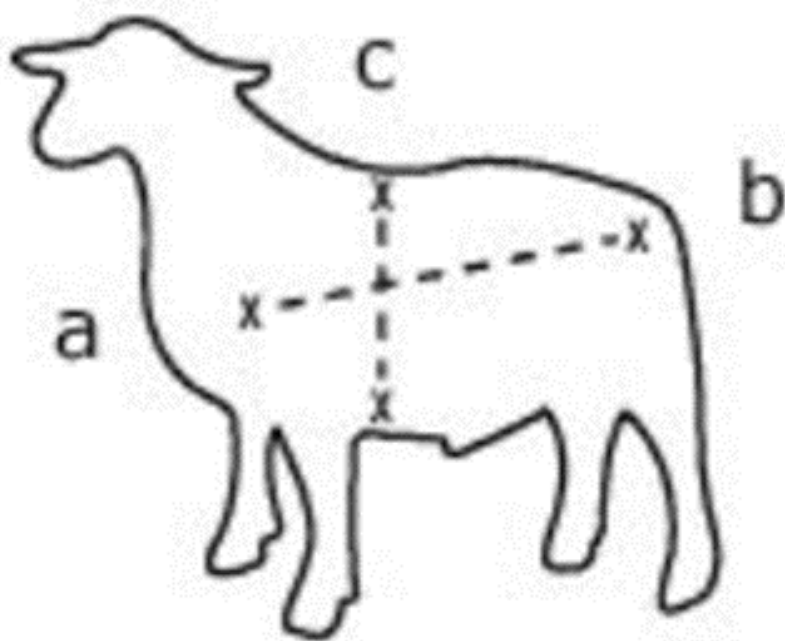
Causes of parasite resistance:

- **Frequent use**
- **Whole flock**
- **Calendar-based**
- **Treat and move to clean pasture**
- **Rotating dewormers**
- **Using injectable or pour-ons**
- **Continuing to use a 100% resistant product**
- **Underdosing**

Refugia

- Targeted Selective Treatment
- Only administer dewormers to “those who would benefit most”
- “Refugia” are the worms who have not been exposed to products
- Also, identify animals that need to be culled





**Estimating
body weight**

When using a combination treatment:

- **Don't mix the wormers together – give sequentially**
- **Use the 5-point check**
- **Give a full dose of each dewormer**

The 5-Point Check

Use appraisal to determine treatment

Slow-down and eliminate parasite resistance

Are they showing signs that the parasites are affecting health?





#1 EYE

Every 2-3 weeks

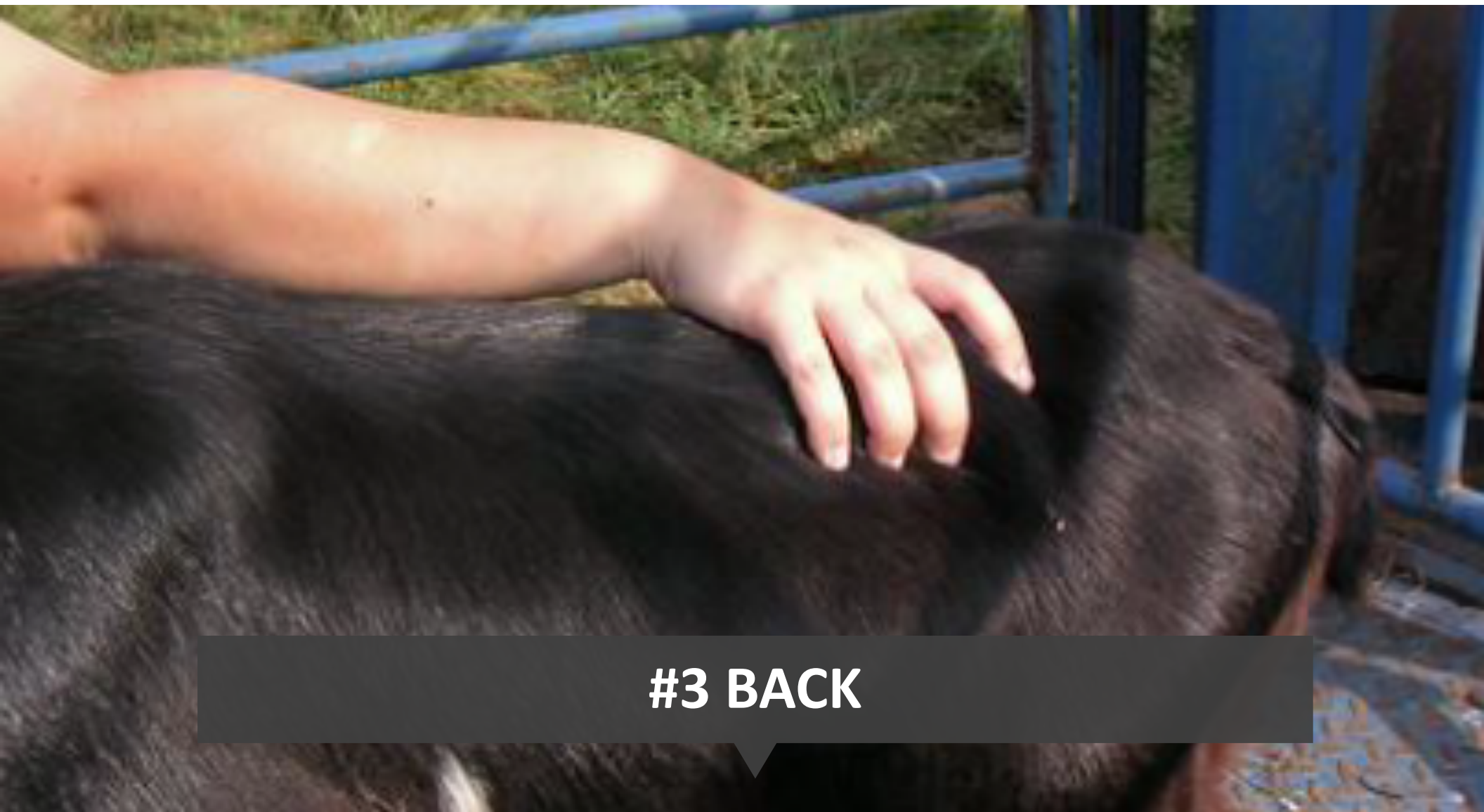
Other causes of anemia?

#2 JAW

Edema

**Treat even if FAMACHA
score is “good”**





#3 BACK

#4 TAIL

Scours
Fecal Soiling



#5 Hair Coat

Should be even, full, & lustrous



Grazers vs. Browsers

- Cattle (and sheep) are grazers – pasture grass
- Goats are browsers (and grazers) – variety
- Most “infective” stage of parasites < 2 inches



Rotational grazing and/or grazing plan

- 3-4 days for egg development & 2 months for pasture to be free of parasites
- Therefore, move every 3 days and don't return for 2 months
- Or, have a minimum grazing height
- Plant annuals with some height
- Compost manure before spreading
- Night penning



Sunn Hemp

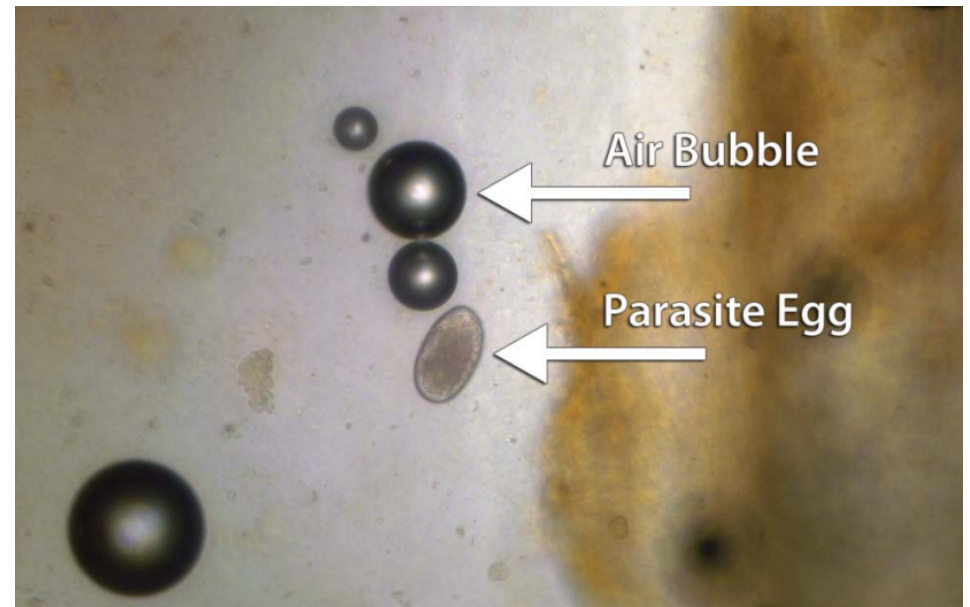
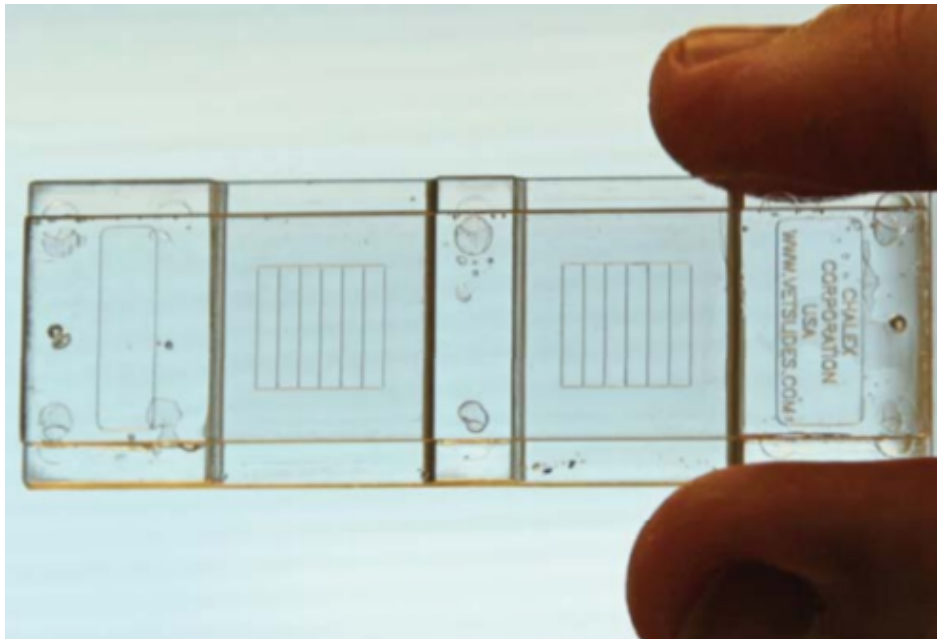
- Annual
- Legume
- Alkaloids inhibit parasites
- Prefers well-drained/dry soil
- Begin grazing at 1.5-3 feet tall
- Graze down to 1 foot
- Limit graze 1-3 hours per day

Keep it off the ground!



Fecal Egg Counts

- Labs charge minimal fee
- Purchase equipment yourself?





Biosecurity

- Not just for disease!
- Drylot
- During quarantine, deworm with multiple products
- Fecal egg count on day 7-14

Genetic Selection

Resistance

**Ability of the goat to
reduce # of parasites**

Resilience

**Ability of the goat to
tolerate parasites
Can have a high FEC**

Moderately heritable trait at 20-40%

Questions?

Laura H. Bennett
laurahbennett@ufl.edu

352-518-0156

Pasco and Sumter
Counties

