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Proper Storage & Handling of Livestock Medications

Proper storage of vaccines and antibiotics is of critical importance. Inappropriately stored/handled medications may degrade and be ineffective when you need them. What are some of the key components?

Temperature. Storage at too high or too low temperatures can cause chemical decomposition, shorten the shelf life of the product, and change the viscosity of the product, thus altering product absorption and efficacy. Typically product labels state an ideal storage temperature. This is especially critical for vaccines, if they are frozen or kept at too high of temperatures, this may result in the vaccine becoming ineffective.

Light. Many livestock products are light-sensitive. Light exposure for some products can cause color change and decomposition of the product, leading to lack of efficacy. Read the label! An example: tetracycline antibiotics, packaged in brown glass bottles to shield from light—they should be stored in a dark place to maintain effectiveness.

Expiration dates. Expiration dates can be found on the box, label or container that the product came in. However, if the product was not stored properly, the shelf life and potency of the product may come into question. It is important to verify expiration dates prior to purchasing and administering products.

Disposal. Proper disposal of products is important for the safety of humans, animals, and the environment. Contact your veterinarian to determine proper methods.

Scrapie FAQs

What is scrapie?

Scrapie is a chronic, fatal disease of sheep and goats that affects the nervous system. It is more common in sheep. There is no treatment/cure. If an animal is infected, it can take up to two years post-infection for symptoms to appear.

How is it spread?

It is spread from mother to offspring through the placenta and its fluids.

Does it affect humans?

There is no evidence that people can contract scrapie, however it is recommended

that meat from scrapie-positive animals are not used for human consumption.

What are the signs of scrapie?

Early symptoms include muscle tremors and a wobbly gait. Other nervous system conditions can also cause these signs. Goats differ from sheep in that the classical sign of intense itching and rubbing is not as common. Scrapie can be diagnosed by a veterinarian. Producers can contact the USDA to arrange for sampling of any adult animals that have died on the farm.

Is scrapie common in the USA?

Scrapie is uncommon in the US. The federal government (USDA) has a scrapie eradication program in place.

What are the rules in Florida?

Florida is considered a scrapie-compliant state, adopting the National Scrapie Eradication Program guidelines. Florida requires sheep/goats of any age moving off the farm to be officially identified.

What is considered official ID?

There are 3 ways to officially identify animals under the scrapie program: tags, tattoos, microchip. USDA tags are provided for free to producers—contact the USDA to enroll in the program (**1-866-873-2824**). Registered animals may be identified with registration tattoos in lieu of official ear tag, as long as the tattoo is the herd ID assigned by USDA.

More information, visit: aphis.usda.gov/



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His practice provides ambulatory livestock veterinary services in Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, and Wakulla counties in north Florida.

Dr. Grau is an alumni of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine (UFCVM) where he completed his DVM in 2021 and graduated with a Certificate in Food Animal Medicine.

He also completed a one-year specialty internship at UFCVM in Food Animal Reproduction and Medicine.

If you are in Dr. Grau's practice region, please reach out to him to schedule an appointment. He is accepting new clients and looks forward to an opportunity to work with producers.



Neonatal Fluids – What should you be doing?

Perhaps the most important aspect of neonatal health is maintaining adequate hydration in both healthy and sick babies. Although a healthy baby may be able to maintain its hydration status by nursing from the dam, a sick or rejected baby will have a more difficult time doing so. When this happens, it is up to the owner to help the baby maintain an appropriate hydration status while also ensuring their nutrition requirements are met. Knowing what to feed and when is essential to their wellbeing.

We can separate the oral fluids we supplement into two categories: milk and electrolytes. Milk obtained from the dam, given that she is healthy, is the best quality oral fluid supplementation we can provide neonates. It contains the essential nutrients that neonates need to grow in a form that is easy for them to digest. Electrolytes provide an incomplete source of vitamins, minerals, and energy which can greatly aid in resuscitative efforts, but will not sustain a baby long term. The question is – when, and how, do you use them? ***It depends!*** Healthy pre-weaned babies should be fed milk to match their nutritional requirements. The specific requirements are species, age, health status, and geographically dependent. It is important to remember that sick animals, such as those that have diarrhea, still need to be fed milk to continue providing them with more than just electrolytes. You can discuss those requirements with your veterinarian to ensure that the babies are receiving the adequate amount of milk. Electrolytes help restore the mineral and vitamin deficiencies seen in these animals and are very useful when kids are not nursing normally, however they will not meet the nutritional requirements. It is not uncommon to use a water bucket to provide electrolytes to young animals, in addition to their normal allocation of fresh water. Often, goat or sheep milk is not readily available to producers when babies need it. It is okay to use whole, pasteurized, cow milk to feed to small ruminants, however the dissolved solids are more diluted in cow milk so larger volumes need to be given. Work with your veterinarian to determine adequate volumes for your specific needs. Timing of supplementation is essential, and it is better to supplement with oral fluids sooner rather than later. A neonate will decompensate very quickly when dehydrated due to diarrhea but will also respond well to treatment if there is no underlying problem.

But what about milk replacer? A high-quality milk replacer is a great tool for feeding neonates when dam milk is not available. However, it does pose a challenge if not used properly. Currently, small ruminant milk replacers are of bovine origin, and therefore must be carefully mixed according to the label. Unless clearly written on the product label, do not mix milk replacer with electrolytes. Doing so will change the osmolality (dissolved particle concentration), which will cause delayed emptying of the abomasum. This means that the milk you are feeding will go bad and cause abomasitis and possible bloat. With anything that we give these animals, we not only have to think about what we are trying to accomplish, but how we go about it. It is imperative that adequate time is left between feedings with either milk or electrolytes to avoid bloat. In short, neonatal kids and lambs require milk in sufficient amounts to thrive. Speak with your veterinarian to develop protocols regarding lamb and kid fluid supplementation for your farm's specific needs. When in doubt of hydration status, supplement with oral fluids.

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!

Pregnancy Toxemia (Ketosis) in Ewes & Does

By: Kari Hancock, DVM

UFCVM Large Animal Medicine

Resident

Disease Occurrence

Pregnancy Toxemia, also known as keto-sis or twin-kid/lamb disease, is a serious condition of ewes and does that occurs during the last 4 – 6 weeks of pregnancy. The final growth stage of the fetus, and start of lactation during this time, cause a profound increase in energy demands. Some ewes and does are unable to compensate for this increase and enter a negative energy balance (ketosis). This is especially true for pregnancies with multiple kids or lambs, where energy demands are significantly increased more than lone pregnancies. Other contributing factors include stressful events, such as transportation or weather changes, and decline in nutrition. Even brief periods of withholding feed for transportation, or decreased appetite due to systemic disease, can lead to declines in energy balance and onset of pregnancy toxemia.

Prevention

Several methods of prevention can be implemented to reduce the occurrence of disease. Providing adequate and well-balanced nutrition, especially in the late stages of pregnancy, is an excellent way to support the increasing energy demands that ewes and does experience. On average an increase of 50% more feed is required for single lamb/kid pregnancies, whereas a 75% increase in feed is required for twin pregnancies. Slow introduction of grains (to avoid rapid pH changes in the rumen) over time can help to manage the need for increased energy without a sudden increase in the volume of feed intake as demand increases. Providing energy-dense forages as part of the diet is also important, to maintain healthy rumen function.

Another method of prevention is based on identifying which does or ewes are at an increased risk of pregnancy toxemia.

Performing fetal counts (usually via ultrasound at 40-90 days of gestation) helps identify which animals are at increased risk. For those dams with multiple fetuses, higher energy feeding, and more intense monitoring and management practices can then be implemented when entering late-stage gestation. Additionally, keep records of which ewes/does have previously experienced pregnancy toxemia as they may be more susceptible with future pregnancies. Ewes/Does should ideally be kept in medium body condition throughout the duration of pregnancy. Over-conditioning can increase susceptibility to stressors in late-stage pregnancy, predispose ewe/does to metabolic dysregulation and lead to abdominal fat stores that limit how much feed the rumen can hold. Monitor ewes and does during the first half of pregnancy to ensure they can maintain (or reduce to) medium condition when metabolic demand is lower.

Signs of Disease

Be on the lookout for early signs of pregnancy toxemia as ewes and does reach late-stage gestation.

Common symptoms first noted include:

1. Decreased appetite
2. Poor or rough hair coat
3. Grinding of the teeth or other signs of discomfort
4. Sudden decrease in milk production (in animals currently milking)
5. Decreased energy, weakness or walking unsteadily
6. Disorientation, changes in vision or blindness

Any of these symptoms may occur in combination or alone, with other abnormalities possible as well. If any of these symptoms are noted, or if you become concerned at any time, do not hesitate to reach out to your local veterinarian for evaluation.

General Recommendations

Early intervention is key for improving outcomes and survival in cases of pregnancy toxemia. Always consult your veterinarian with concerns of pregnancy toxemia or when signs of underlying illness are noted. Your veterinarian may initially recommend administering glucose or electrolyte solutions, but medi-

cal evaluation is always the best course of action.

Market Report Update

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

Visit the website:

[mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/
livestock_auction_dashboard](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/livestock_auction_dashboard)

Market report dates:

01/01/2024 to 01/05/2024

Sheep Overview

Wtd Average Price (per cwt)

Feeder Sheep/lambs	\$242.89
Slaughter Sheep/lambs	\$178.28

Goat Overview

Wtd Average Price (per cwt)

Feeder Goats	\$270.37
Slaughter Goats	\$253.61

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

Market report date: 01/05/2024

Sheep (low to high range)

Young ewes	\$ ---
Young rams	\$ ---
Old ewes	\$100—165.00
Mature rams	\$250—335.00

Goats (low to high range)

Small does	\$105—130.00
Small bucks	\$105—150.00
Medium does	\$110—125.00
Medium bucks	\$165—190.00
Large does	\$200—240.00
Large bucks	\$280—310.00

Boer –Type Goats

Does	\$ ---
Bucks	\$ ---



RECIPE CORNER

Grilled Lamb Loin Chops

- 2 lb of lamb loin chops
- 1 cup yogurt
- 2 large lemons, juice & zest
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 large fennel bulb, sliced
- 3/4 cup fresh herbs, chopped
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 tsp Aleppo pepper
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp sumac
- 1 tsp dried oregano

Directions: Pat the chops dry, season with salt/pepper. In a bowl, mix all other ingredients. Marinate chops for 1-2h in the refrigerator. Before grilling, bring to room temp. Grill to a minimum internal temp of 145F.

americanlamb.com/recipes

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UF Small Ruminant Extension



@UF_SMALLRUMINANTEXTENSION

Announcements

1st annual UF Buck Test

Pre-registration opens (online): March 18, 2024

Pre-registration due: May 6, 2024

Drop-off date: May 18, 2024 @ **1:30 – 4PM EST**

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) 294-4387

4th annual UF Ram Test

Pre-registration opens (online): March 18, 2024

Pre-registration due: May 6, 2024

Drop-off date: May 18, 2024 @ **7:30 - 10AM EST**

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

Contact Us:

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UF/IFAS Small Ruminant Short Course

Save the date: 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:

Dr. Brittany Diehl, bn.diehl@ufl.edu, (352) 294-4387

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SMALL RUMINANT SHORT COURSE

Ram Test | Buck Test

September 20-21, 2024
Gainesville, FL

Ram and buck tests are conducted from May-September with the online sale taking place during the UF/IFAS Small Ruminant Short Course

Learn more: <https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant>

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 **FREE DELIVERY** to the trade show!





2024 University of Florida Buck Test & Sale

We invite you to participate in the **2024 University of Florida Buck Test and Sale**. We are very excited to continue this unique program and to work with goat producers to quantify the desirable qualities of their bucks. We hope that this program will provide value to your operation.

This program is designed to standardize environmental conditions in order to evaluate individual buck performance, provide a source of high-quality performance tested bucks to producers, offer educational opportunities for the improvement of the industry, and facilitate networking among producers.

Important dates:

- May 6 Pre-registration deadline
- May 18 Bucks arrive at UF Sheep Unit
- June 6 84-day gain test begins
- August 29 84-day gain test ends
- Sept 20-21 Small Ruminant Short Course and UF Buck Test Sale

We encourage you to consider consigning your bucks to the **2024 UF Buck Test and Sale**. Please contact us for further information or to consign animals to this program.

Registered and commercial bucks will be eligible for the test and sale. Eligible bucks must be born between 12/15/23 - 3/1/24 and weaned by 5/1/24.

For full program details and registration visit our website.

<https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/buck-test/>

Program Coordinators

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Dr. Brittany Diehl
(352) 294-4387
bn.diehl@ufl.edu





2024 University of Florida Ram Test & Sale

We invite you to participate in the **2024 University of Florida Ram Test and Sale**. We are very excited to continue this unique program and to work with sheep producers to quantify the desirable qualities of their rams. We hope that this program will provide value to your operation.

This program is designed to standardize environmental conditions in order to evaluate individual ram performance, provide a source of high-quality performance tested rams to producers, offer educational opportunities for the improvement of the industry, and facilitate networking among producers.

Important dates:

- May 6 Pre-registration deadline
- May 18 Rams arrive at UF Sheep Unit
- May 30 84-day gain test begins
- August 22 84-day gain test ends
- Sept 20-21 Small Ruminant Short Course and UF Ram Test Sale

We encourage you to consider consigning your rams to the **2024 UF Ram Test and Sale**. Please contact us for further information or to consign animals to this program.

Registered and commercial rams will be eligible for the test and sale. Eligible rams must be born between 12/1/23 - 2/15/24 and weaned by 5/1/24.

For full program details and registration visit our website.

<https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/ramtest/>

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