

MISSION:
"SUPPORTING,
PROTECTING AND
PROMOTING
NEBRASKA'S SHEEP
AND GOAT
PRODUCERS"



Newsletter

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

MAY/JUNE 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Goat AI Clinic
 - ◆ Producer Spotlight
 - ◆ Kid Grafting
 - ◆ Secure Sheep & Wool Plan
 - ◆ Increasing Wool Value
 - ◆ Beginning Shepherd

It is that time of
year again!

Renew your
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for 2021 now!!

If you have ques-
tions please con-
tact a board mem-
ber or Email
Melissa at
ne.sheep.goat@g
mail.com

Goat AI Clinic

NS&GP GOAT AI CLINIC

SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2021
LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
NORTH PLATTE, NE

DAY 1

9:00 – 5:00

CLASS
ROOM
LEARNING

Day 2

9:00 – 3:00

Hands on
training

Lunch is
included
with cost of
clinic for
both days

Bio-Genics, Ltd. is a leader in the artificial
insemination process and semen collection.

They are based out of Bloomington, IL and have
been doing clinics for many years. They boast a
wide array of breeds to choose semen from,
both dairy and meat goat breeds.

\$100 Deposit to secure a
spot

Total cost for class \$300

AI KITS WILL NOT BE
PROVIDED

CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO
14 WITH MEMBERS OF
NS&GP & NDGA HAVING
FIRST OPTION TO
ATTEND

DEADLINE TO REGISTER
AUGUST 1, 2021



TO REQUEST
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MELISSA NICHOLSON
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308-386-8378



Producer Spotlight

Sara Nichols

My husband Brandyn and I own and operate Forty Creek Acres in Eddyville Nebraska with our three children: Karsyn, Kollyn, and Keeley. My love and passion for agriculture and goats has long running roots starting during my childhood. I grew up on a mixed livestock operation North of Bartley, Nebraska. Aside from horses and cattle my parents had a herd of mixed commercial dairy goats and then around the year 2000, they added a few Boer goats to the herd. From my earliest memories I have always loved goats and desired the opportunity to start my own herd. That opportunity came to be seized in 2017 when I had the opportunity to buy a small acreage near our home. At first it was just to house a few horses, but it didn't take long to decide to add goats to the mix. The first five goats I obtained may have been more pets than production livestock, but the herd has grown substantially in size and quality since the initial five. Today Forty Creek Acres consists of 29 registered American Alpine dairy goats



(including this year's kid crop), 1 registered Lamanha dairy goat, and 15 commercial Boer goats. We also have two lovable livestock guardian dogs and two guard llamas that stand watch and protect the herd.

After years of raising livestock and working as a veterinary technician, I believe that nutrition is a top priority when it comes to raising goats. If you do not give them the proper feed and minerals that they require, they will not thrive and reach their genetic potential. Goats are, in fact, fairly picky when it comes to what they eat. They are not the tin can chewing goats that they are all portrayed to be. For anyone who decides to get goats, they should do their homework first. If goats are not managed well, it can and will be devastating.

Milking wise, you have to stick to a strict routine, or you will have production issues and have the chance of introducing mastitis to the animal, which is an inflammation of the udder typically due to a bacterial infection. Every morning at 6:15 and evening at 7:30 I'm down milking 8 head. I'm currently getting 5 gallons a day and am anticipating a large increase after all the babies are pulled off their moms at weaning. All the milk that I get goes to the one bottle baby Boer goat and my children's two bucket calves. On the subject of goat milk, I have recently experimented with creating goat's milk soap. After one batch, I am sure to make another and would also like to try my hand at making a variety of goat cheeses.

At the end of day, I work hard to ensure there



is an opportunity for the next generation. All three of our children are involved in the daily operations from helping me milk twice a day to feeding the bottle babies and everything in between. My oldest son has shown both the Alpines and Boers in 4-H and has done exceptionally well. My middle son is anxious to join his brother in the show ring this year and my youngest is excited to get to show goats next year when she is old enough. I am thrilled by my kids' passion and love for goats and that they are getting the opportunity to learn valuable lessons about overall animal health and husbandry.

Tell Your American Lamb Story Through ALB's Video Contest

Would you like to be a Lambassador and help tell the story of American Lamb?

The American Lamb Board (ALB) is giving lamb producers the opportunity to tell their personal American Lamb story through a video contest. Three winners will be chosen, each receiving a \$500 gift certificate to Premier 1 Supplies, donated by Premier 1, as well as being promoted through ALB's social media channels as a Lambassador.

American consumers are hungry for information and insight into the producers of their food. They want to meet the farmers and ranchers putting American Lamb in the supermarket and on the restaurant table. Furthermore, they are interested in farm and ranch activities shared in an authentic format. The *Industry Storytelling Video Contest* enables producers to share their stories with consumers, letting them see the people behind the product, and the hard work and dedication to quality that goes into American Lamb. Winning videos will be used by ALB in its online and social media communications to consumers, such as YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and its website AmericanLamb.com.

Videos will be judged in three categories, with one winner from

each:

Animal Care – Videos in this category will highlight the producer's practices in caring for and protecting their sheep.

Care of Land – Videos will show how producers practice sustainability and care for the land under their stewardship.

Flocks and Family – These videos will highlight the producer's family, showing how both the whole family, and individual family members, contribute to producing American Lamb, and how raising sheep has enriched their lives.

Videos should be 5 to 7 minutes in length. A horizontal orientation is preferred. They can be narrated or include natural background sound.

Entries can be [submitted online](#) to ALB, along with contact information. Questions can be directed to rae@americanlamb.com. The contest runs through May 31.

The American Lamb Board is funded by the American Lamb Checkoff and is charged with building awareness and expanding demand for American Lamb and strengthening its position in the marketplace, thereby increasing the potential long-range economic growth of all industry sectors.

Beginning Shepherd Clinic

There is no “one-size fits all” approach to becoming a shepherd, was a sentiment that was echoed through the Beginning Shepherd Program, which the NS&GP held on May 1 in Pierce, NE. The itinerary featured speakers on various subjects including; basic sheep care, feeding the flock, grazing the flock within a “fled”, basics on wool, health issues with sheep, and a shearing/hoof trimming demonstration. Local area producers also spoke about their operations and answered questions from participants.

Many of the speakers were hoping to increase interest in raising sheep either as your only livestock or in addition to what you currently have. Martey Stewart, who hails from Wayne, NE and is a local 4H judge and has raised sheep many years, gave a very informative presentation on choosing your first flock. He also briefly touched on what different breeds of sheep are used for whether they be for meat, dairy, show, or wool. He also gave a live demonstration of banding a lamb's tail and the proper way to give a vaccination.

Rhonda McClure, a renowned wool producers and wool artist from Wahoo, NE, spoke on the history behind wool and sheep production. Participants learned ways in which to use your wool that is produced and ways to care for the wool while still on the sheep. She also brought fabulous examples of fleeces and wool products.

Ivan Rush, who is a part of the NS&GP board, presented the basics of how to feed your flock. Being a sheep producer and nutritionist for many years, helped him demonstrate the way to formulate a good ration for the flock. He also addressed the many issues behind expensive feeds and how to use different feed components to make a basic feeding formulation. Also, to go along with feed rations, Randy Saner; Lincoln County Nebraska Extension Educator, described ways to graze your flock. He gave excellent examples of rotational grazing and grazing your flock with a cow herd in order to maximize the grass area you have. He also showed how by doing the “flerd” method or grazing one can bring in income for the family.

Health issues within the flock was tackled by Rachel Gibbs, she is grad student who has also raised sheep for many years with her family. She covered the basic flock ailments; foot rot, clostridial diseases, pneumonia, tetanus etc. But she

touched on the less common issues such as Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) and zoonotic diseases.

Finally, the indoor portion of the program was wrapped up with a producers Q&A panel. This panel comprised of 3 area producers each spoke briefly about their flock and operation and answered questions. One particular question of interest was how does each producer run their farms vaccination schedule, what kind of sheep do we have, what does our wormer schedules look like, and what do we think is the biggest issue facing American lamb producers. Their answers were right on point; getting more Americans to buy/eat American produced lamb, finding more outlets for our wool, getting more people, especially the youth, to take up sheep raising, and to have more educational programs for individuals interested in shepherding.

Michael Littlefield sheared a sheep for the participants to see and understand how the wool comes off and the best way to collect the wool if you are wanting to sell it. Rebecca Fletcher also demonstrated how to trim hooves in order to help correct any hoof issues and keep a sheep's feet healthy so you will have productive animal for many years.

There was also a lamb lunch prepared which was sponsored by our gracious partner, J.E. Meuret Grain of Pierce, NE. We hope to have more of these events in the future in order to promote the growth sheep production in the state.




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Considerations for Increasing Wool Value

Although the wool market varies from year to year, it continually rewards those who emphasize high-quality production. Efforts to increase the value of a wool clip can be made through regular management practices and proper wool clip preparation at shearing. Improving yield and bale uniformity positively influences the price received for that clip and subsequently the economic return for producers.

Wool Contaminants

Part of increasing quality is decreasing contaminants. This can be done through management throughout the year or skirting during shearing. The major three wool contaminants are: polypropylene twine, vegetable matter, and hair/medullated fibers or black fibers.

Polypropylene twine is difficult to card out and has the potential to show up in the final product. Twine is commonly used to secure gates and panels but limiting its use and making sure that it is picked up can reduce its potential of contaminating a clip. Additionally, wool should be packaged in new packs or burlap sacks. Putting small wool clips in polypropylene feed sacks can increase contamination, especially if the bag starts to shred.

High levels of vegetable matter can decrease yield and take extra time to remove during the manufacturing process. Although technology during the scouring stage (acid wash) removes excess vegetable matter, it may not be implemented by all mills. Management changes, like feeding closer to the ground, chopping forages or using straw bedding can help reduce vegetable matter. Removing high hay-chaff areas, such as the poll, crow's nest (where neck and shoulder meet) and belly, from the main wool clip during shearing can also increase value.

Medullated fibers and hair are hollow fibers coarser than wool fibers. They do not accept dye and can compromise final products. Sorting out caps and bellies during shearing may reduce these unwanted fibers. Being mindful of shearing order is also important. Always shear wool breeds first, followed by black face or coarser breeds. If an operation includes hair sheep, they should always be kept separate, if possible, from the wool breeds.

Skirting and Classing

Skirting is the process of removing inferior portions of a fleece. Typically, this is done by the producer or wool classer during shearing. A light skirting may be Bellies Out Untied (BOU). Bellies and caps are the first parts of the sheep shorn, so removal is quick and easy. In comparison, a full-table skirt includes throwing the fleece onto a slatted table to remove bellies, locks/tags, second cuts and any other inferior wool. Fleece should always be rolled cut-side out. Although both preparation methods improve wool quality, higher prices are usually given when fleeces are prepared with a full-table skirt.

Classing wool creates more uniform bales by grouping similar fleeces based primarily on length, strength and fiber diameter. Wool classers visually group fleeces into finer-than-average, average, and coarser-than-average, or the AA, A and A-1 lines. The degree to which fleeces are sorted and the number of lines is based on producer preferences. Lines are often determined based on current wool prices and the number of fleeces that fall outside the average. Ram, lamb and short stapled/tender fleeces are also commonly sorted from the main, or A line. Although classing improves consistency within bales, forming full bales is more cost-efficient than greater fragmentation of classing lines and creation of smaller lots. Trained personnel are required

for classing, and some shearing crews have certified classers. However, Level-1 classing certification can be obtained by producers to class their own fleeces by attending wool classing school.

Pricing Wool

Some buyers heavily discount for excessive amounts of any type of contamination, as described above. Skirting and classing fleeces on the shearing floor and management decisions prior to shearing to minimize contamination is likely to return additional profits for the producer.

Furthermore, significant price-per-pound differences are often seen between low-20 micron ($\leq 23 \mu\text{m}$) and mid-to-upper-20 micron ($\geq 24 \mu\text{m}$) wools. For example, a 22-micron fleece with a clean price of \$3.50 per pound and a 57% yield will have a greasy price of \$2 per pound. Whereas a 24-micron fleece valued at \$3 per pound with the same yield would be worth \$1.71 per pound. That is a 29 cents-per-pound difference by increasing just two microns. Pricing is also heavily determined by yield. Wool buyers may lower prices for lower yields due to the additional processing required by the mill to scour low-yielding wool.

Calculating Wool Price

Wool prices are reported as clean wool price but rewarded on a greasy basis. Here is how to calculate the price of raw wool:

Micron: 22 μm

Yield: 57%

Staple Length: 82.55 mm (3.25 in)

- Clean wool price: \$3.50/lb.
- Greasy Price (Clean price \times yield): $\$3.50 \times 0.57 = \$2/\text{lb.}$
- *10–15 cents may be charged for a handling fee: $\$2 - \$0.10 = \$1.90/\text{lb.}$

*Additional discounts may be given based on strength, length and yield. Discounts vary among buyers.

Final Thoughts

Although finer wool receives higher prices, production goals should be specific to breed type. Not all breeds of wool sheep are genetically fine woolled ($< 23 \mu\text{m}$). Coarser wools are more desirable for hand-spinning, yarn, and outer layers due to their increased strength and durability. Additionally, breeding for fineness can decrease yield and weight, so individual goals must be evaluated to achieve target micron and clean wool yield/weight for the breed in production. However, regardless of breed or micron, mitigating contaminants and inferior wool fibers in a clip will increase its overall value.

For more information on wool clip preparation, wool classing certification, and other topics related to the American Wool Industry visit the [American Sheep Industry Association website](#).

By Jaelyn Quintana

Extension Field Specialist I - Sheep

Additional Authors: Kelly Froehlich, Heidi Carroll

Breed Spotlight

Rambouillet

Mature Body Weight	Ram 200-300 Lb.
	Ewe 140-180 Lb.
Average Fiber Diameter	Micron 24-19
	Spinning Count 70-60
Grease Fleece Weight	Ewe 10-15 lb
Yield	45-55%
Staple Length	2 ½ - 4"



Developed from the Spanish Merino in France and Germany, the Rambouillet is the foundation of most Western U.S. range flocks. White-faced with wool on the legs, the Rambouillet is largest of the fine wool breeds, rugged, adaptable to a wide variety of arid range conditions, has a well-developed flocking instinct and is long lived. The breed also has an extended breeding season and produces a high-quality fine-wool fleece.

The history of the Rambouillet sheep is a fascinating one that began more than two centuries ago. The Rambouillet breed originated with Spain's famed Merino flocks, which were known from the earliest times as producers of the world's finest wool. The Spanish government was so protective of their Merino flocks that any exportation was forbidden.

This policy changed in 1786, however, when the King of Spain granted a request from the government of France and sent 359 carefully selected rams and ewes to help improve the native French stock. The sheep were sent to the Rambouillet farm near Paris where, according to government records, they have been bred since 1801.

Other Merino sheep were introduced into Germany during the last quarter of the 18th century, and German breeders made extensive use of Rambouillet sires as the sheep's fame spread throughout Europe. That is why many present day American Rambouillets can trace their ancestry back to either German von Homeyer flocks or the flocks of Rambouillet, France.

Mature ewes will have a fleece weigh of 8 to 18 pounds with a yield of 35 to 55 percent.

Alpine Goats

The French-Alpine is a breed of goat that originated in the Alps. The goats of Alpine breed that were brought to the United States from France where they had been selected for much greater uniformity, size, and production that was true of the goats that were taken from Switzerland to France.

Size and production rather than color pattern have been stressed in the development of the French-Alpine. No distinct color has been established, and it may range from pure white through shades of fawn, gray, brown, black, red, bluff, piebald, or various shadings or combinations of these colors. Both sexes are generally short haired, but bucks usually have a roach of long hair along the spine. The beard of males is also quite pronounced. The ears in the Alpine should be a medium size, fine textured, and preferably erect.

The French-Alpine is a larger and more rangy goat and more variable in size than are the Swiss breeds. Mature females should stand not less than 30 inches at the withers and should weigh not less than 135 pounds. Males should stand from 34 to 40 inches at the withers and should weigh not less than 170 pounds. French-Alpine females are excellent milkers and usually have large, well-shaped udders with well-placed teats of desirable shape.

The French-alpine is also referred to as the Alpine Dairy goat and registration papers for this dairy goat use both designations and they are synonymous. These are hardy, adaptable animals that thrive in any climate while maintaining good health and excellent production. The face is straight. A roman nose, Toggenburg color and markings, or all-white is discriminated against.



Upcoming Events for 2021

May 11 - Sheep Genetics USA: Improving Genetic Tools to Enhance Profitability Webinar - Online - Register at www.register.gotowebinar.com/register/1855429584679709452
 May 15 - Small Ruminant Animal Husbandry & Herd Health Class - Claremore, Okla. - www.shepherdscross.com
 May 20 - Livestock Guardian Dogs and the Law Webinar - Online - agrilife.zoom.us/j/92152755922
 May 22 - Mid-States Hair Sheep Cooperative Small Ruminant Field Day - Bull Tackle Feed Co. in Lexington, Neb. - www.midstatescoop.com
 June 10-11 - Rocky Mountain Katahdin Association Annual Meeting - Dubois, Idaho - mkatahdins@gmail.com
 July 7-10 - Pipestone Lamb and Wool Sheep for Profit School - Pipestone, Minn. - www.mnwest.edu/programs-courses/training-management/lamb-and-wool/sheep-for-profit
 July 15-17 - U.S. Targhee Sheep Association National Show & Sale - Redfield, S.D. - www.ustargheesheep.org
 July 21-22 - Colorado Wool Growers Convention - Online - www.coloradosheep.org
 Aug. 20 - 48th Annual Sheep and Goat Field Day - Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center in San Angelo, Texas - agrilife.org/agrilifesheepandgoat/
 Aug. 20-21 - Texas Sheep and Goat Expo - San Angelo (Texas) Fairgrounds - agrilife.org/agrilifesheepandgoat/
 Sept. 15 - Montana Ewe Sale - Miles City, Mont. - www.mtsheep.org
 Sept. 16 - Montana Ram Sale - Miles City, Mont. - www.mtsheep.org
 Sept. 16-17—76th Annual Newell Ram Show & Sale—Newell, SD entries due June 30, 2021 go to www.newellramsale.com for more information.
Sept. 18-19, 2021— NS&GP Goat AI Clinic - North Platte, NE— ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com for registration form.
Sept 25-26, 2021—4S Goat Expo—North Platte, NE—s4goatexpo@yahoo.com or 4sgoatexpo.net
 Oct. 6-10 - Trailing of the Sheep Festival - Wood River Valley, Idaho - www.trailingofthesheep.org
October 16-17, 2021—NS&GP Annual Conference and Meeting - Norfolk, NE—ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com for updates
 Nov. 5-6 - Ozark Fiber Fling - Steelville, Mo. - www.ozarkfiberfling.com

Renew your memberships to the NEBRASKA SHEEP AND GOAT PRODUCERS!! You can go to the website

<https://nebraskasheepandgoat.org/> Or email us at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

The Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers Association newsletter is the only statewide publication serving exclusively sheep and goat producers. If you have livestock, products, or a service to sell, this is how you get it to the audience you're trying to reach.

Interested in learning more? Contact Melissa Nicholson at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com or 308-386-8378.

New digital sheep, goat course available

By Susan Himes, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

May 2, 2021

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has launched a new digital education course, Sheep and Goat Ranching 101 available at agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/product?catalog=ANSC-035. The series of 12 videos cost \$25 and allows participants to learn at their own pace.

"This online course is for people new to the sheep and goat industry," said Reid Redden, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension sheep and goat specialist and director of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Service Center at San Angelo. "This course covers the basics of what people need to know, everything from how much animals typically cost to the type of facilities you'll need to have to raise sheep and goats."

This online course is geared toward beginners and taught by AgriLife Extension specialists, agents, and graduate students. Using instructional videos, the experts walk viewers through the first steps to getting an operation started. They also provide viewers with the basic knowledge needed to maintain an operation.

Redden said the course provides essential information for small farms or ranches with less than 100 acres, new landowners or

managers, and retirees moving back to the homestead who may be thinking of raising small ruminants.

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Doe Code of Honor

---Author Unknown

The doe's secret code of honor is as old as goats themselves and is the species' best kept secret. No doe shall ever kid before its time. (Its time being determined by the following factors):

1. No kid shall be born until total chaos has been reached by all involved. Your owner's house must be a wreck, their family hungry and desperate for clean clothes and their social life nonexistent.
2. "Midwives" must reach the babbling fool status before you kid out. Bloodshot eyes, tangled hair and the inability to form a sentence mean the time is getting close.
3. For every bell, beeper, camera or whistle they attach to you, kidding must be delayed by a least one day for each item. If they use an audio monitor, one good yell per hour will keep things interesting.
4. If you hear the words "She's nowhere near ready. She'll be fine while we're away for the weekend," Wait until they load the car, then begin pushing!
5. Owner stress must be at an all-time high! If you are in the care of someone else, 10 to 15 phone calls a day is a sign you're getting close.
6. When you hear the words "I can't take it anymore!" wait at least three more days.
7. You must keep this waiting game interesting. False alarms are mandatory! Little teasers such as looking at your stomach, pushing your food around in the bucket, and then walking away from it, and nesting, are always good for a rise. Be creative and find new things to do to keep the adrenaline pumping in those who wait.
8. The honor of all goats is now in your hands. Use this time to avenge all of your barn mates. Think about your friend who had to wear that silly costume in front of those people. Hang onto that baby for another day. Oh, they made him do tricks, too! Three more days seems fair. Late feedings, the dreaded diet, bad haircuts, those awful wormings can also be avenged at this time.
9. If you have fulfilled all of the above and are still not sure when to have the kids, listen to the weather forecast on the radio that has been so generously provided by those who wait. Severe storm warning is what you're waiting for. In the heart of the storm jump into action! The power could go out and you could have the last laugh. You have a good chance of those who wait missing the whole thing while searching for a flashlight that works!
10. Make the most of your interrupted nights. Beg for food each time someone comes into the barn to check you. Your barn mates will love you as the extra goodies fail their way too.

Remember, this code of honor was designed to remind man of how truly special goats are. Do your best to reward those who wait with a beautiful doeling to carry on the Doe Code of Honor for the next generation of those who wait----

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Scrapie

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among a number of diseases classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Infected flocks that contain a high percentage of susceptible animals can experience significant production losses. Over a period of several years the number of infected animals increases, and the age at onset of clinical signs decreases making these flocks economically unviable. Female animals sold from infected flocks spread scrapie to other flocks. The presence of scrapie in the United States also prevents the export of breeding stock, semen, and embryos to many other countries. TSEs are the subject of increased attention and concern because of the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, the link between BSE and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in people, and feline spongiform encephalopathy (FSE) in cats in Europe. This increased concern has led to the following:

- Packers and producers have had difficulty finding options for disposal of sheep offal and dead sheep causing packers and producers to incur significant increases in disposal costs,
- Other countries have expressed concerns and have indicated that they may prohibit or restrict certain ruminant products because the United States has scrapie, and
- Domestic and international markets for U.S. sheep-derived meat and bone meal have been adversely affected.

The combination of all of these factors has led to the decision to develop a strong scrapie eradication program in the United States.

Clinical Signs

Signs of scrapie vary widely among individual animals and develop very slowly. Due to damage to nerve cells, affected animals usually show behavioral changes, tremor (especially of head and neck), rubbing, and locomotor incoordination that progresses to recumbency and death.

Early signs include subtle changes in behavior or temperament. These changes may be followed by scratching and rubbing against fixed objects, apparently to relieve itching. Other signs are loss of coordination, weakness, weight loss despite retention of appetite, biting of feet and limbs, lip smacking, and gait abnormalities, including high-stepping of the forelegs, hopping like a rabbit, and swaying of the back end.

An infected animal may appear normal if left undisturbed at rest. However, when stimulated by a sudden noise, excessive movement, or the stress of handling, the animal may tremble or fall down in a convulsive-like state.

Several other problems can cause clinical signs similar to scrapie in sheep, including the diseases ovine progressive pneumonia, listeriosis, and rabies; the presence of external parasites (lice and mites); pregnancy toxemia; and toxins.

On the farm, veterinarians diagnose scrapie based on the appearance of its signs combined with knowledge of the animal's history. Scrapie can be diagnosed in the live animal by biopsy of the lymphoid tissues on the inside of the third eyelid. This test is used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

How to Graft a Dogie Kid onto a Doe

By Coni Ross

Certain situations call for grafting a newborn kid onto a doe instead of making the kid a bottle baby. They include multiple births when the doe is not going to be able to rear all of the kids, the death of a doe when the kid needs another mother, and the case where a doe's kid has died and she needs a kid to raise.

There are several methods that will work:

1. Graft a kid to a doe that is kidding: Put the kid in the stall with the doe after she has the first kid. Make sure you do not let her see you do it. Smear the kid with the birth fluids. Make sure the kid fills up on the doe's colostrum so that the scent comes through. Keep them penned together for at least two to three days to be sure bonding and recognition has taken place. Take the yellow colostrum feces from the natural kid on day two, or as soon as you see it, and smear it on the head, back bottom under the tail, and belly of the grafted. The grafted may have a confusing scent from its dam's colostrum. The maternal instinct is very strong at this time.

2. Graft a kid to a doe who has lost her kid: skin the dead kid. Leave the tail on, and the genital area. Cut off legs, and put the adoptive kid's legs through the holes, make sure the kid fills up on the doe's colostrum. It may

be necessary to blind fold the doe until the colostrum comes through the digestive tract, if her own kid was several days old. If there was colostrum feces on the tail of the dead kid, use it to help with the bonding..

3. Graft a kid to a doe who has lost her kid by putting them both in a dark room: If that doe has no other company, she cannot hear or see another goat or animal, and you put the kid (let it nurse until it looks like it will pop so the colostrum will come through faster) with the doe in the dark room. The room needs to be at least 95-99% dark. Put feed hay and water close to the door, and leave alone. Make sure the kid has nursed again before dark. Have had does take a kid overnight like this. There are goat eating monsters in the dark, and not only is that kid her only company (goats are herd animals) but the maternal instinct is most stimulated when she must concentrate on the sounds, and scents of that kid. I have also let the Border collie peek through the door, so that the doe feels the kid is threatened. It speeds the acceptance process. The longest I have ever had this take is 48 hours.



Marinated, Grilled Goat Chops

8 goat chops
150 ml red wine
1 clove garlic

pepper
dried chili flakes

Prepare the marinade in a shallow bowl and add chops, cover and allow the marinade to work its magic.



There is no need to refrigerate. In fact, by leaving them out of the refrigerator the chops will come up to room temperature. Depending on how pink the cooked meat should turn out, cooking direct from the refrigerator can leave the central pink meat cold while the exterior is already cooked.

Perfectly grilled goat chops—just pink inside—will take about 4 minutes on each side assuming that your chop is about 1 inch in thickness.

If using an instant read thermometer looks for:

Medium Rare --- 145 F or 62.8 C

Medium – 160F or 71.1 C

Well Done – 170F or 76.7 C

Most importantly, when within a couple degrees of the desired core temperature, take chops off the heat and allow them to rest for five minutes, giving the meat chance to relax and re-absorb some of the juices that get squeezed out of the muscle as it contracts over the intense heat. The core temperature of the meat will rise a couple of degrees during this resting phase.

Secure Sheep and Wool Supply Plan – What Producers Need to Know

Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects sheep and other cloven-hoofed livestock. FMD does NOT affect people or food safety. Meat and milk are safe to eat. The U.S. has not had an FMD outbreak since 1929 but it can be found in more than 100 other countries. With global travel and trade, the risk of FMD introduction exists. If the U.S. gets FMD, controlling the spread will involve stopping animal and animal product movement. Once movements are restarted, producers will require special permits for animal movement.

The Secure Sheep and Wool Supply (SSWS) Plan was developed to support FMD control for infected farms and business continuity for uninfected farms. Resources are provided to help producers prepare BEFORE an FMD outbreak. Following the guidance will help producers with sheep that have no evidence of infection limit disease exposure, request a movement permit and maintain business continuity. Producers can prepare now by:

Having a National Premises Identification Number (PIN): <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/traceability/state-pin>.

Writing an operation-specific enhanced biosecurity plan

Keeping movement records of animals, people, equipment, and other items onto your operation

Developing contingency plans for their operation in the case of limited movement

Reviewing the Wool Handling and Movement guidance on the SSWS website

The SSWS Plan and resources were created by veterinarians at Iowa State University. Funding was provided by the American Sheep Industry Association and USDA. Explore the resources available to help you protect your animals and business available at securesheepwool.org.

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PO Box 1066
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Tel: Aaron Fintel, President - (308)760-1193

Email: openskiesfarms@gmail.com

Newsletter:

Melissa Nicholson - (308)386-8378

ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

Website:

www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org

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lrush1@unl.edu
 - * **Ron Lewis, UNL (Lincoln)**
ron.lewis@unl.edu
 - * **Melissa Nicholson, Newsletter and Communications Secretary (Chadron)**
ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

Membership Application 2021



Membership Level

- ☐ \$125 Gold, Business, and Corporate Membership
 ☐ \$45 Regular Membership (Family Household)
- ☐ \$20 Youth Membership (up to 18 years old)



Contact Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Website _____



Type of Operation (Circle all that apply)

Sheep Producer	Auction Market	Guard animal/herd dog provider
Goat Producer	Agribusiness	4-H/FFA member, Extension Educator
Sheep Feeder	Trucker	Shearer
Goat Feeder	Stock Buyer	Other _____



Interests (Circle all that apply)

Purebred flock/herd	Shearing	Pasture management/weed control
Commercial flock/herd	Feedlot	Sustainable farmer/rancher
Hobby Farm	Beginning farmer	Service Provider
Marketing	Specialty products	Other _____
Predator Control	Youth livestock shows	



What breed of sheep or goats do you raise? _____

Would you be interested in a Coop marketing? _____

If you raise wool sheep do you sell fleeces directly? _____

Would you be interested in direct sells? _____

Do you want to be listed in our breeder directory? _____



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 Attn: Melissa Nicholson
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You can also apply online at
www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org/become-a-member-2