

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



Newsletter

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

MAR / APRIL 2022

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Husker Research
- ◆ Upcoming Clinics
- ◆ Proper Handling of Vaccine
- ◆ Tips on Orphan lambs and kids
- ◆ 500 years of Wool in America

Be on the look out
for some upcoming
programs!!!

Mid-Plains Fiber Fair

June 4—Beginning
Shepherd

July 22—23 —
Ultrasound Clinic

Sept 3—State Fair
Tasting

September 24-25—
Sheep and Goat
Extravaganza
4S and NS&GP
conference

Husker researcher building database to help farmers breed hardier sheep

Lincoln, Neb. —Genetic analysis is an increasingly important and common tool in guiding animal breeding. With the use of genomic information, a growing number of desired traits for livestock that boost herd health and producer profitability are being incorporated into breeding programs. Considerable gaps exist in genetic data collection for the sheep industry, however, and a new research project led by a faculty member in the University of Nebraska—Lincoln's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources aims to build a needed inventory of such data.

The project, funded by a \$650,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will develop a database of traits for robustness and climatic resilience. Researchers will assemble current and additional genetic data, as well as performance records, for several major U.S. sheep breeds: Katahdin, Polypay, Rambouillet and Suffolk.

Ron Lewis, professor of animal breeding and genomics in the Department of Animal Science, is the project director.

The sheep industry contributes nearly \$6 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Lewis noted that nationally, sheep farms outnumber dairy cattle, pig and broiler enterprises. Distinctive breed-types of sheep are dispersed across a wide range of climates and management systems.

"Breeding robust animals that perform well under these conditions is paramount to the industry's sustainability," said Lewis, who serves as the technical adviser to the National Sheep Improvement Program, providing genetic evaluation service for sheep and goat producers across the United States.

Lewis' research in animal genetics intertwines theory, simulation and field studies in sheep, beef and poultry. He works closely with other researchers in North America, the United Kingdom and Australia.

This NIFA-funded project involves experienced sheep breeders in various U.S. climatic regions, with research done at Nebraska, Purdue University and three of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service centers. Co-investigators include Brad Freking and Tom Murphy of the USDA's Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska.



Continued on page 5

BEGINNING SHEPHERD PROGRAM

Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers Association and Nebraska Extension are excited to present our 2nd annual Beginning Shepherd program geared towards new and seasoned sheep and goat producer's education. This program will be held June 4th at the Gage County Extension meeting room in Beatrice, NE. The day will be packed full of speakers discussing the topics of Herd Management, Grazing, Wool Quality, Carcass evaluation and Genetics. The day will start at 8:30 a.m. with registration and conclude around 4 p.m. You will be treated to a wonderful lamb lunch and also have handout to take home with you.



The cost of the clinic is \$35 for non-members, \$25 for members of the Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers plus \$10 for each additional person from the same farm, \$15 for students and \$15 for on-line participants. To pre-register contact Melissa Nicholson at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com or call 308-386-8378

2022 Ultrasound Clinic

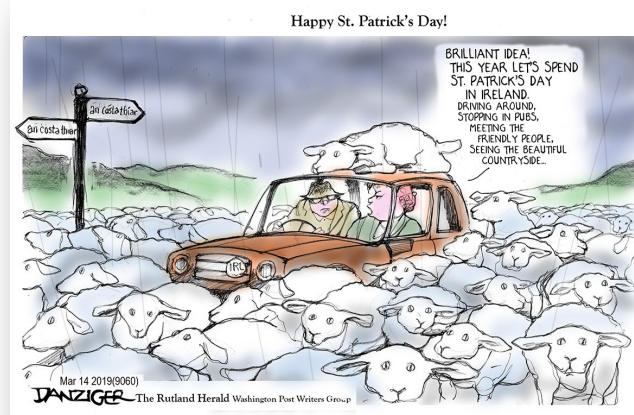
The Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers are excited to announce that we will be hosting an Ultrasound Clinic in Scottsbluff, NE this summer on July 22nd & July 23rd. We will be having ReproScan Ultrasound Technologies conducting a hands-on clinic for producers. This clinic will be a two-day, introductory course to the basics of small ruminant ultrasound. The clinic will begin on the afternoon of July 22nd with a lecture and then hands on training to follow the morning of July 23rd.

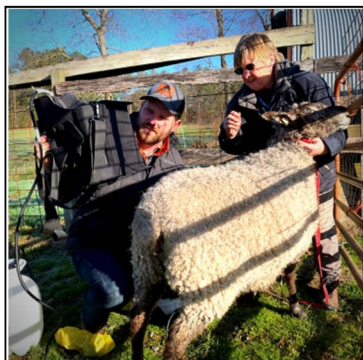
ReproScan was started in 2008 by veterinarians with the goal of providing portable, durable, functional, and affordable ultrasound equipment to veterinarians and progressive livestock operations. ReproScan's contributions to the development of veterinary ultrasound include introducing the first convex rectal probe for extension arm ultrasound and improvements to wireless sunlight friendly monitors. Since 2008, ReproScan has successfully introduced 8 portable ultrasound units and several viewing devices to the marketplace. ReproScan looks forward to an exciting future in the ever-changing and challenging field of veterinary ultrasound equipment.

This clinic will be limited to 15 participants with only one producer per operation. Deadline to register is June 24, 2022. For more information contact Melissa Nicholson at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com.

LAMB PROVIDED BY
Bluff Valley Farm
FARM-RAISED NATURAL MEATS
Produced without hormones or antibiotics

Ken & Mary Grace Thiltges Family
 65922 711 Road • Rulo, Nebraska 68431
 Phone: 402-245-5460
 e-mail: kmgthiltg@sentco.net
"Taste the Difference"





NS&GP Ultrasound Clinic

July 22nd - North Platte NRD Office

100547 Airport Rd. Scottsbluff, NE

July 23rd - Diamond S Stock Farms

290370 County Road K

Minatare, NE

Friday July 22nd - Registration and Classroom

Instruction 3:00 - 6:00

Dinner - 6:00

Saturday July 23rd - Hands-on learning

6:30 am-12

Class Room and Hands on Instruction from



Limited to 15 participants NS&GP

Members - \$150

Non-members - \$250.00

Deposit - \$75 to hold spot

Deadline to Register June 24



Motel: Super 8 308-635-1600

Fairfield Inn 308-633-3500

Quality Inn 308-632-7510

Hampton Inn 308-635-5200

For More Information

Website:

nebraskasheepandgoat.org

Facebook: [@nebraskasheepgoat](https://www.facebook.com/nebraskasheepgoat)

E-mail ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

or call 308-386-8378

Mid-Plains Fiber Fair

The Mid-Plains Fiber Fair will be hosting their 5th annual fiber fair on April 23-24th in York, NE. This is the only fiber fair in Nebraska. The Mid-Plains Fiber Fair seeks to bring together fiber artists of all skill levels for a wonderful weekend of classes, fellowship, and fun!

They have a great weekend planned with demonstrations, kids activities, vendors, great classes, and a fiber arts circle! Classes will include beginning spinning, felting, basket weaving, loom weaving, and wool grading and more! To register for classes go to their website or click on this link. [Classes Mid-Plains Fiber Fair \(midplainsfiberfair.com\)](https://midplainsfiberfair.com)

**Mid-Plains
Fiber Fair**
York County Fairgrounds
April 23-24, 2022



The Vendor Hall will be open 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and Sunday.

York, Nebraska, is right on I-80 and Highway 81, placing it at the central crossroads of America. A moderate-sized city, York has a beautiful, clean fairgrounds, several hotels, and many restaurants. We hope you come join us for the fifth annual Mid-Plains Fiber Fair!

Free admission and parking. No pets allowed.

Goat Tips From Marvin Shurley

Here is a list of things I've learned—some to do and some not to do.

- * Don't forget to latch the gate when you walk out of the pen. Then wire it shut! Bailing wire is the most goat proof-gate latch I have found.
- * If there is a water faucet in your goat pen, either cover it or take the handle off of it, as sooner or later your goats will turn on the water when you're not around. How far are they open the faucet depends on how long before you find it; it's always enough water to flood their pen, though, usually deepest right around the feeder so they won't walk through it to eat.
- * A piece of 2-inch diameter pipe under 3 inches long anywhere a goat walks will sooner or later wind up as a hoof ornament. While it seems the goats can get these on easily enough, they can be tough to remove; PVC pipe is easier to get off than steel pipe. I have done both. A hacksaw and an assistant are both usually necessary.
- * Gate hinges seem to make a good trap for kid goat hooves when they are jumping and playing. And any V-shaped opening in the goats' area will make a nice trap for any age goat; which part of the body gets caught is decided only by the goat's determination.
- * A 6-inch square opening in wire mesh makes a very effective head gate for adult goats and 4-inch openings work well for kid goats. If you can get all four of the goat's feet off the ground you can get their heads out more easily.
- * Goats love to chew on electrical wires and size or voltage doesn't matter to the goat. They like 460-volt wire as much as they like 12-volt wire. Any extension cord or exposed wires on or around your house, barn, pens, trailers or equipment are considered fair game by your goats. Even if the goat doesn't get hurt doing this it is aggravating when you go to use your equipment and don't have lights or power.
- * Much like your pen fence, gates to your barn or door to your feed door is seen as an obstacle to overcome by your goats. They will sooner or later get in and make a mess of it or on everything in it and maybe even chew up a few wires for good measure while they are inside.
- * Much along the same line, your buck goats will get in with the girls when you don't want them to. Regardless of what type of enclosure you have them in they will let you know just how goat-proof your fences really are by going under, through or over them. And while he is in there that one buck you thought was too young to breed? Well, his kids look pretty good also.
- * Clean, fresh water for your stock is the most important mineral you can give your goats...
- * Goats do a lot better in hot and dry than in wet and cold weather, even though dark colored goats are over fed can suffer heat stroke.

Husker Continued

By the end of the project, our reference populations in each of the four breeds involved in the study should have more than 3,000 animals with genomic information," Lewis said. "This will be complemented by performance data on these animals and their relatives."

That data should improve producers' understanding of several key traits affecting the robustness and profitability of sheep enterprises, with genomic-enhanced estimated breeding values, or GEBV, generated to help them evaluate those traits. Given that GEBV are more accurate, producers can make better selection decisions that increase the profit potential for their operations.

Because the new study will build sizable reference populations,

"we should be in good shape to provide reliable GEBV in these breeds," Lewis said. "We are already doing so in one of them," the Katahdin breed.

By integrating genetic data sets, the researchers will be able to comprehensively evaluate traits of robustness, including lamb survival, ewe longevity, gastrointestinal parasitism and udder health. To analyze climatic resilience, the project will record changes in body weights and condition scores across seasons, resilience to environmental challenges, and hair shedding in the Katahdin breed.

The project ultimately aims to provide training to the next generation of scientists with interest in sheep breeding and boost the industry's long-term competitiveness and advancement.



Wool Program Additions

The American Sheep Industry Association is excited to announce several new additions to the American Wool Assurance program.

Ranch Groups are now available to help growers become AWA Ranch Group Certified. Ranch Groups allow growers to:

1. Reap the benefits of achieving a fully certified status
2. Decrease auditing costs by only a portion of the members being audited every four years
3. Pool wool to create larger lots of certified wool.

Go online for more information and to form a Ranch Group.

American Wool Assurance (AWA) Ranch Groups are designed to assist ranch's in creating larger lots of AWA certified wool and in decreasing auditing costs.

Ranch Groups Will:

1. Designate a manager for the group. The manager will communicate with members of the group, arrange evaluation and audits and will ensure the group has met requirements.
2. Keep a list of their ranch group members. Submit this list to info@americanwoolassurance.org annually by Jan. 1
3. All members must be a Level 1 accredited and complete 2nd party audits every other year.
4. A portion (square root) of the member ranches must complete 3rd party audits every 4 years

5. Members in good standing will be certified as "AWA Ranch Group Certified"

The AWA guide is available to help you understand more about the program, its standards and what is needed for a second-party evaluation or third-party audit.

A reminder: before you shear and have your wool clip ready, you might want to become accredited in AWA Level 1. To do so, simply complete these AWA and SSQA learning courses in Member home section of the website.

[American Sheep Industry | Quality Assurance Programs \(sheepusa.org\)](https://sheepusa.org)

**Producing Consumer
Products From Sheep:**

**The Sheep Safety and Quality
Assurance Program**



Proper Handling of Livestock Vaccines

By Melanie Barkley, Penn State Extension

However, healthy animals don't just happen, they take time and care. One step to keeping animals healthy involves vaccination them to protect against disease. In order to accomplish good protection against disease, it is important to handle vaccines properly.

To protect your animals against infectious diseases, it is important to vaccinate not only at the right time, but with the right product. Properly handling the vaccine from the time it is purchased to the time it is given to the animals will ensure the best immunity. When buying vaccines, purchase from a reputable source who will deliver a high-quality vaccine. Most vaccines should be stored in a refrigerator. Heat can make the vaccines ineffective, so they should not be allowed to warm up to room temperature at any time. Also, be sure that the vaccines do not freeze. This could also make them ineffective.

If you buy vaccines that need mixed, use only the rehydrating solution packaged with the vaccine. Determine how many animals you need to vaccinate and only mix enough to vaccinate that number. Any leftover vaccine should be thrown away as it loses its effectiveness during storage. For some vaccines, this could be as quickly as one to two hours after it has been rehydrated. So, only mix what you will use in a very short period of time.

Generally, there are two types of vaccines: modified live and killed. Modified live vaccines have been treated so that the disease viruses will not cause the disease, but will allow the animal to produce immunity to the disease. This occurs when the virus reproduces in the animal's body and the animal's immune system then develops antibodies. These vaccines are generally not safe to give pregnant animals because the vaccine mimics an infection.

Killed vaccines are made from viruses or bacteria that are no longer active. This type of vaccine stimulates the animal's body to produce antibodies which prevent the animal from getting the disease if the animal is exposed. These vaccines can be given to pregnant animals.

Follow label directions for how to give the injections. Some products call for subcutaneous (SQ) injections which are given under the skin. Other products should be given in the muscle (IM). If you have a choice it is better to give the injection SQ as this will minimize any damage to muscle tissue. The best area to give the injection is in the neck or in front of the shoulder.

In addition to the injection site, look for the timing of the vaccinations. Be sure to follow directions for age at administration and if another vaccination needs to be given at a later time period. Younger animals tend to need a second injection two to four weeks later. Then, annual boosters are recommended using a single dose. If the animals receiving the injection will be used for meat, make sure you check the withdrawal times. Most withdrawal times are 21 to 28 days after the injection.

Handling vaccines properly will help to ensure that the product will produce immunity against specific diseases within your sheep and goats. And, will help keep those lambs and kids bouncing happily across your pastures.

Winter Management Tips for Goats

By
Michael Metzger, Michigan State University

Winter can be a stressful time for livestock. As owners, we need to help to reduce that stress by providing proper care, feeding and management practices. Adjusting management practices will help to ensure that goats under your care will thrive through the cold winter months.

Goats do not require elaborate housing during the winter months. The most important issues regarding housing is to block the harsh, cold north wind and to keep the animals dry. Goats that are properly cared for will have a thick coat of hair helping them to survive the winter with minimal housing. A three-sided structure with the opening facing the south provides protection from the cold wind and yet allow plenty of ventilation to keep moisture down in the barn or shed. Make sure there is plenty of clean, dry bedding available. Goats kidding in the cold weather will require more shelter because young kids will not be able to maintain their body temperature outside. A heat lamp may be required in these situations but should only be used with extreme caution because of the risk of barn fires or animals chewing electric cords.

Feeding and watering goats in the winter requires a little more planning than during the warmer summer months. Goats should have access to fresh water at all times. This may require changing water a couple of times a day to remove the ice or some other types of heated waterer. Use caution with any type of electrical device with goats as they may chew the cord. During the winter, goats need more energy to help maintain body temperature. They will also need roughage which can be supplied in grass, alfalfa, or mixed hay. Alfalfa hay can be a great source of both energy and protein, although care should be taken when feeding bucks and wethers because of urinary calculi. Salt and minerals should also be available.

Lice are more prevalent on goats during the winter months. They can be irritating to the goat and in some cases, heavy infestations can cause anemia, poor coat and/or skin quality. Michigan State University Extension recommends working with your veterinarian to develop a treatment plan for your goat herd to control lice and other parasites.

Keeping a herd of goats, or even a couple of animals as companions, can be a rewarding experience. With a little pre-planning we can help our animals not only survive, but thrive the cold winter months.

Upcoming Events for 2022

March 8 - Small Ruminant Webinar Series: Parasite Management for Small Ruminants in Grazing Systems - Online - extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research

March 18-20 - Moffat County Sheep Shearing School Beginner Course - Craig, Colo. - Megan at megan.stetson@colostate.edu or 970-826-3402

March 21-22 - Moffat County Sheep Shearing School Advanced Course - Craig, Colo. - Megan at megan.stetson@colostate.edu or 970-826-3402

April 2 - Frederick County Sheep Breeders and Maryland Sheep Breeders Association Shepherd's Farm Market - Frederick (Md.) Fairgrounds - www.fredericksheepbreeders.com

April 12 - Small Ruminant Webinar Series: Bridging the Gap Between Meat Goat Hobby and Commercial Meat Goat Business - Online - extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research

April 21-23 - Shepherd's Cross Shearing School - Claremore, Okla. - www.shepherdscross.com

April 22-23 - Tennessee Sheep Producers Association Shearing School - Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. - www.tennesseesheep.org

April 23 - Washington State Sheep Producers Lambing School - Feustel Farms in Lamont, Wash. - www.wssp.org

April 24 & 25—Mid-Plains Fiber Fair—York, NE Mid-www.midplainsfiberfair.com

May 10 - Small Ruminant Webinar Series: All About Arlington (Wis.) Sheep Unit - Online - extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research

June 4—NS&GP Beginning Shepherd Clinic Gage County Extension Office—Beatrice, NE email ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

June 6-11 - Columbia Sheep Breeders of America National Show and Sale - Archer Event Center in Cheyenne, Wyo. - www.columbiasheep.org

June 11 - Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins Field Day - Roxboro, N.C. - www.easternalliancekatahdins.com

July 8-9 - 101st Idaho State Ram Sale - Twin Falls County Fairgrounds in Twin Falls, Idaho - www.idahowoolgrowers.org

July 18-20 - U.S. Targhee Sheep Association National Show and Sale - Big Timber, Mont. - www.ustargheesheep.org

July 22-23—NS&GP Ultrasound Clinic—Scottsbluff, NE early membership registration till June 24

Sept. 24-25—NS&GP Annual Conference—North Platte, NE—ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

Sept. 24-25, 2022—4S Goat Expo—North Platte, NE—s4goatexpo@yahoo.com or 4sgoatexpo.net

November 19, 2022—Nebraska Make It With Wool contest—Lexington High School—Lexington, NE—Public Style show at 1:00 pm CT

Time to RENEW for 2022
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

Sheep Shearing School

March 18th–22nd




Moffat County Sheep Shearing Schools

At the Moffat County Fairgrounds
Craig, CO



MOFFAT COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

What you will learn:

- Hands on instructed experience shearing sheep
- Shearing trouble-shooting
- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Beginner and advanced courses

To register, email megan.stetson@colostate.edu or call 970-826-3402

Place your Business card here for no charge. Email to ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

NEBRASKA EXTENSION IN LINCOLN, LOGAN & MCPHERSON COUNTIES

Home Lincoln/Logan/McPherson 4-H Educational Programs Food, Nutrition & Health Nebraska Extension Nebraska Extension Sheep and Goat

Nebraska Extension Sheep and Goat

Welcome To Nebraska Extension Sheep and Goat!



New Extension Website for all things sheep and goat!
[Nebraska Extension Sheep and Goat | Nebraska Extension \(unl.edu\)](https://nebraskasheepandgoat.org/)

Sheep Industry 'riding high'

Brexit-related trade changes could deliver U.K. sheep to American market

By Chad Smith

The Midwest sheep industry is enjoying high demand that brings good prices. However, there may be a few dark clouds on the financial horizon. As the U.S. and the United Kingdom work on reaching a trade deal post Brexit, discussion out of Washington, D.C. might involve bringing in more lamb from the U.K., which American sheep producers aren't excited about.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been writing a scrapie rule on sheep and lamb imports since 2016. Scrapie is the lamb and sheep equivalent of BSE or "mad cow" disease in cattle. American sheep producers would like to see more emphasis on opening international markets before importing more sheep.

"Over the last several administrations, including Obama, Trump and Biden, we've asked USDA to prioritize export opportunities for U.S. lamb before they finalize this rule to bring additional import pressure into our market," said Chase Adams, the senior policy and information director with the American Sheep Industry (ASI). "We're still locked out of several markets as a casualty of BSE in 2003."

During the last days of the Trump administration, USDA sent the final scrapie rule on to the White House's Office of Management to Budget to continue the rulemaking process. The Biden administration then prioritized the discussion when President Joe Biden met with U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The U.K. has sheep it would like to send into the American market, and the rule, which is already in the Federal Register went into effect Jan. 3, 2022. "In response, the ASI and its affiliates introduced legislation in both the House and Senate that would require USDA to do a study on the impacts of the revised rule before it's allowed to take effect," Adams said. "The last economic impact study got conducted in 2016, but we're pointing out that the world was different place five years ago."

"The U.K. annually exports 80,000 to 100,000 metric tons of lamb," he added. "Most of their exports went into the European Union, but with the Brexit situation, the U.K.'s access to that market is a big unknown right now."

Adams says the best way to slow this process down is with the legislation introduced in both chambers of Congress. While the rule does take effect this year, imports won't be shipped into the U.S. right away. Both countries have to negotiate trade rules and inspection processes.

What makes it more frustrating for the industry is that things are in a good place right now, Adams said. Producers are getting very good prices during this second busiest marketing time of the year, behind only Easter.

Closer to home, Rebecca Fletcher, president of the Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers Association, said they are definitely "riding a high" in the industry. The demand is high, and COVID-19 might have something to do with that in a positive way, she said.

"During COVID-19, when our restaurant business slowed way down, the consumer stepped up their purchases at the grocery store or from friends who might be raising lamb," Fletcher said. "Some of the recent price reporting has prices up 30 cents on the dollar. Feeder lambs are up too," she added. "Even ewes that are no longer producers are bringing a good price when they're sold. People are buying mutton again, and we expect to see good prices into 2022." Prices have been so good for feeder lambs, carcass, and slaughter lambs, but producers might not have a lot of replacement lambs going into next year. If you're one of the producers breeding replacement ewe lambs, Fletcher says the market should be very good there too.

"If you're a new face and thinking of getting into the sheep industry, it's probably a great time to do it," she added with a laugh.

South Dakota suffered a horrible drought in 2021, and a large number of producers had to sell their livestock.

"They didn't know how they were going to feed or water them," Fletcher said.

Kelly Froehlich is an assistant professor and South Dakota State University Extension Specialist in small ruminant production. She's seen the challenges firsthand in the Rushmore State. Despite the challenges of extreme drought, she says those producers who got through it successfully are seeing prices that make it worth the struggle.

"Right now, the lamb market is pretty much on fire," she said from her office in Brookings before the Christmas holiday. "As we speak, feeder and slaughter lambs are up around 30% higher than on-average from year to year. The wholesale side of the industry is up 58%."

One factor driving those prices higher is the increasing demand combined with historically low freezer inventory. Most of the demand for lamb is on the domestic front, Froehlich said. That high demand means the U.S. has to import quite a bit of lamb.

"Some of the demand might be coming from COVID-19 lockdowns ended, and those prices have stayed high pretty much throughout 2021."

Goats need vaccines, too

By Susan Schoenian

Vaccines have been in the news a lot. As with human health, they are a vital part of animal health. Vaccines help prevent some important diseases and lessen the effect of others. Vaccinations are routine on most U.S. sheep and goat farms.

There are numerous diseases for which sheep and goats can be vaccinated, but there is only one universally recommended vaccine, and that is for clostridial diseases.

Clostridial diseases are a group of diseases caused by bacteria that are present in the environment or gut of the animal. The clostridial diseases that most commonly affect sheep and goats are the enterotoxaemia (Clostridium prefringens type C and D, "overeating disease") and tetanus.

Other diseases that sheep and goats can be vaccinated for include caseous lymphadenitis, E. coli, foot rot, mastitis pneumonia, rabies, abortion and sore mouth.

Not all of these vaccines are approved for both sheep and goats. The mastitis vaccine is new, and it is only approved for dairy and meat goats. Most of the rest of the vaccines are approved only for sheep. The foot rot vaccine is not readily available.

Some vaccines should not be used unless the disease is already present on the farm, such as foot rot, CL and sore mouth. It is best to discuss your vaccination program with your veterinarian or another health professional.

Tips for Artificial Rearing of Lambs/Kids.

In many sheep flocks there are orphaned lambs and many prolific ewes have too many lambs for the milking ability of the natural mother. Artificial rearing should only be considered when the option to foster is impossible.

Choosing Lambs

In a system where prolific ewes have produced too many lambs for each lamb to receive enough milk or removed from its dam entirely. The preference is to foster; but this may be impossible. Typically, if a ewe has too many lambs a system must be developed to determine which lamb (s) is/are removed. The best rule of thumb is to remove the most different one, with size and gender (in order) being the determining factors. For example:

- ◆ In a set of female triplets, if two are small and one is big: remove the largest one.
- ◆ In a set of quadruplets, two are male and two are female, one male is tiny: remove him. If the ewe is only capable of raising two: remove both males.

It is however advised for many individuals interested in generating replacement females to avoid removing the ewe lambs, as comparison must then be made within the flock on lambs that have had unequal growth opportunities. By the same reasoning, a potential ram should also not be artificially reared.

Feeding System

There are a wide variety of techniques for feeding orphan lambs varying from a nipple on a bottle for only a few lambs, to large, commercially available feeders. These measure and mix the milk replacer on a regular basis. The choice of system will depend on the number of lambs to be reared, individual circumstances and preferences. Regardless of which system is chosen, sanitation is critical.

Limit Feeding

For small numbers of lambs, the most practical option is feeding a set amount of milk 2 or 3 times per day. Although labor intensive, this does allow for reduced cost of the milk feeding period and a fairly rapid transition to solid feed and easy early weaning. Either bottles fitted with nipples, or nipple pails can be used. What is important is that there is one nipple for each lamb, so that all have an equal opportunity to consume their allotted amount of milk.

Colostrum

The single most important aspect of any rearing system is the proper administration of colostrum. Ideally, a lamb should receive 1 ounce per pound of bodyweight of its own mother's colostrum, within 1 hour of birth. Additionally, 3 ounces per pound spread over three more feedings within the first 24 hrs. of life should be provided. This is to promote passive protection of the lamb until its own immune system is functioning.

500 Years of Wool in North America

By Kyle Partain

It all started innocently enough. A text from Montana producer John Helle to ASI Deputy Director Rita Samuelson informed us that 2021 was the 500th year of sheep in North America. The source? A postcard issued in 1971 celebrating 450 years of wool growers inhabiting the continent. The postcard claims Hernando Cortes introduced sheep to Panama in 1521, with sheep raising spreading both north and south from there.

As you might imagine, researching such historical claims isn't an easy task, even in this modern age. I turned to two sources that seemed fairly trustworthy in my efforts: Sheep & Mann by M.L. Ryder and former ASI staffer Paul Rodgers. The first source is such an extensively written history of the sheep industry around the world that one would assume Ryder wasn't simply making stuff up for 850 pages. The second is a man I've often turned to for historical assessments in my six-plus years at ASI. I can, however, dispel the rumor that Rodgers was there to greet the first sheep upon their arrival in the Americas.

"During (Columbus') second voyage (1493-96), he collected sheep and other livestock from the Canary Islands and these were almost certainly the first Old World farm animals to enter the Americas," Ryder wrote in Sheep & Mann. Spanish Conquistador Cortes is mentioned later, but Ryder does somewhat support the theory that it was Cortes who popularized sheep flocks in the Americas.

"The conquest of the Aztec population of Mexico by Cortes in 1519-21 was stimulated by a demand for grazing land that could not be fulfilled in the West Indian Islands," Ryder wrote. "During the next decade, many Churro sheep were introduced from Hispaniola, but little attention was given to livestock until Cortes settled in the Oaxaca Valley in 1530."

Abruptly pulled from retirement to weigh in, Rodgers said, "There are reports in history of sheep being in America at least 100 years prior to Cortes, however, documentation is not currently available."

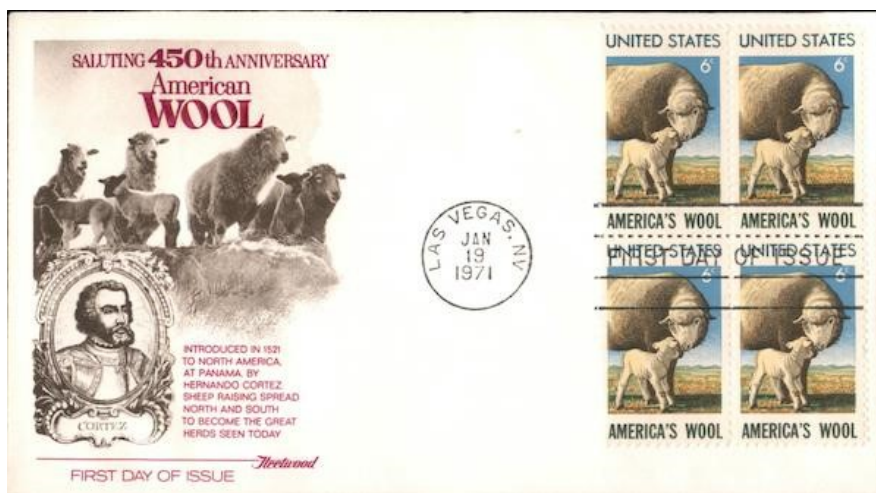
Regardless of the historical accuracy of statements on the Cortes postcard, the National Wool Growers Association celebrated the 450th milestone in style in 1971. Just a month before the annual convention, the U.S. Postal Service issued an America's Wool stamp (seen below on the aforementioned postcard). Convention organizers—at the urging of USPS Regional Director George Saunders—set about creating an eight-foot, live version of the stamp at the annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Joe Chellimi of exhibit Masters in Las Vegas took on the role of creating the massive stamp. He used piano wire to form a barrier across the front of the stamp that would keep the sheep in place. A.Z. Joy—a county agent in Ely, Nev.—took on the tall task of finding a ewe and lamb at a time of year when lambs were often difficult to procure in the area. Eventually, he found his way to Mike Drakulich whose ewe, Bubbles, was scheduled to lamb two weeks before convention.

Jo and his son, Bret, brought the ewe and lamb to Las Vegas for the big event. Bret even appeared on the cover of the Nation Wool Growers February 1971 issue alongside the live stamp and Miss Wool of America Gail Heinzman.

I should also point out that it was National Wool Grower Associate Editor Gladys Mike who really took the idea by the fleece and ran with it, according to an article that appeared in the February 1971 issue. The event occurred two years (and one day) before I was born, so I can't personally speak to the authenticity of Mike's involvement any more than I can which European explorer first introduced sheep to North America. But Saunders certainly gave her plenty of credit for the live stamp.

"I am sure you share our appreciation, also, that it was the courage and confidence of Miss Gladys Mike that sustained us in our early decisions to create the 'living stamp' and which resulted in the contacts with Mr. Joy, which produced the ewe and lamb," Saunders said at the time. "Miss Mike's dedication to the interests of the wool industry and the postal service is its own best tribute."



Domestication of goats was a slow process

From Popular Science and Published in Goat Rancher

Every domestic animal presents a mystery of how it came to be. Sometime in the distant past, an animal—whether wolf, wild ox, jungle fowl, or boar—started to trot down a road that ended with reliance on, or even trust in, human beings.

In Asikli Hoyuk, a Stone-Age town in the highlands of central Turkey, a team of archaeologists, writing in the journal PNAS, have pieced together what that process looked like for sheep and goats, some of the earliest herded livestock.

The village, one of many experimenting with raising animals, contains 1,000 years of bones, dung, and settlement all in the same place allowing archaeologists to assemble a time-lapse of domestication.

"The puzzle comes together," says Mary Stiner a zoo archaeologist at the University of Arizona, and the first author on the new study, "and you get to see the big picture."

People first moved into the village 10,400 years ago and set up seasonal homes on the banks of a river. The relationship with goats and sheep grew out of hunting. At first, the residents of Asikli Hoyuk raised the animals for only a few months—most of the bones from this period are of adolescent animals, killed on the transition to adulthood. The puzzle is why people would have raised young animals at all. "We aren't expect people to imagine an outcome" - like a herd of managed animals—"that was beyond any experience people would have had," Stiner points out.

"It isn't about turning them into docile domesticated animals," she says. "It's about live storage, probably to get through the next winter."

Later, by about 8,000 BC, the residents of the village lived there full-time. They began to keep bigger herds, and traces of dung became big piles. A few of those animals started to reproduce, as growing numbers of miscarried sheep and goat skeletons in the settlement show. Those unborn skeletons are also evidence of another kind: a steep learning curve for successfully raising livestock. Other research has found that these early captive animals suffered from joint problems, and the high rate of miscarriages suggests that the goats and sheep weren't getting the food they needed.

But over a thousand years, the villagers seem to have figured out the skills they needed to keep the animals alive, and even breed them.

Henry Hampshire Show Lambs Presents

2022 Show Goat & Lamb Clinic/Camp

May 28th, 2022

Webster County Fairgrounds

Registration - 8:00 a.m.

Start Time- 9:00 a.m.

\$10/youth

Join us for a day of fun and learn tips and skills from lamb instructor Colby Collins from Grand Island, Nebraska and goat instructor Lee Dana from Clay Center, Nebraska. This will be a hands-on clinic and would love for you to bring your own sheep and goats from home! This is open to 4-H and FFA members from all counties.

**Door Prizes will be awarded*

**Pop and water will be available*

**Bring your own lunch*

**Restrooms available on grounds*

For more information, please contact:

Dallas Henry
269-953-4609



MALINE SEED & FENCE
GOTHENBURG - 308-529-0781



Order NOW!



Panels

- Kidding Pen Panels
- Bow Gates
- Head Gate Panels
- Hay Feeder Panels
- Basket Feeder

Bunks

- Funnel Feeder
- A-Frame Feeder

Wire

- Fixed Knot
- S Knot
- Hinge Joint



NEBRASKA'S GOAT & SHEEP EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS



Extra Savings

Full & half
truckloads
of posts direct
to the ranch

MALINE SEED & FENCE
77865 Road 414
Gothenburg, NE 69138
malineseeds@gmail.com

YOUR NEBRASKA RANCH STORE

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.MALINESEEDANDFENCE.COM

Don't Let Drought Woes Follow You into 2022

Drought was nearly a constant state of being last year, starting in late 2020 and persisting throughout 2021. In fact, 52% of the Western United States experienced extreme or exceptional drought as late as mid-October 2021. While we certainly felt the effects of drought in the year behind us, there's plenty sheep and goat producers can do to top drought's lingering impact in the new year.

"Offsetting the impacts of drought is really a simple fix," says Clay Elliott, Ph.D. and small ruminant nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition. "It's a matter of knowing what to look out for and giving your flock or herd a little bit of extra care."

Here are four potential drought impacts to watch out for and what you can do to reduce their effects:

WEANING WEIGHTS

With drought impacting pasture quality and forage availability in 2021, many ewes and does were thin going into breeding season. "Ewes and does not in proper body condition during breeding may have had issues in terms of conception on first service," says Elliott. "Looking ahead to spring, we're likely going to see more lambs and kids born later that we're used to."

Later-born lambs and kids need to play catch-up to reach weaning weights on par with the rest of the flock or herd. Implementing a creep feeding program is helpful to give lambs and kids the extra boost of protein, fat and trace mineral they need for quick, efficient growth.

CORRECT CONDITION

If ewes and does are still under conditioned during gestation, it could impact the development of the growing lambs and kids. Nutrition plays a critical role in fetal programming, or the "prenatal programming" lambs and kids experience in utero that will impact their health for their entire lifespan. Providing ewes and does with adequate nutrition during gestation can help ensure growing babies are properly developed and moms are ready to support lambs and kids after they're born.

"It's imperative that once lambs and kids are on the ground, they get quality colostrum from mom," says Elliott. "But, if ewes and does are nutritionally deprived during gestation, you could see an exponential effect on those babies due to lack of quality colostrum." Use a body condition score chart for sheep and goats to identify if extra nutrition, such as a mineral or protein supplement is needed.

FORAGE FINANCIALS

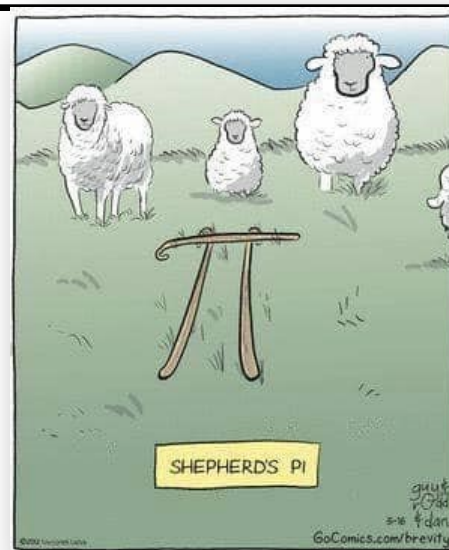
According to the National Drought Mitigation center, the percentage of alfalfa hay acreage affected by drought in 2021 was the largest in the past decade. These poor growing conditions will have a domino effect into 2022. Not only will most of the forage quality below, but the cost of purchasing high-quality hay is also currently off the charts and will likely remain high.

"Supplementing low-quality hay with a high-fat block product will help keep ewes and does in good condition without having to sacrifice financially to buy high-quality hay," says Elliot. "It's a win-win situation."

MISSING MINERALS

"Ewes and does are likely already deficient in vitamins and minerals due to eating drought impacted pasture much of last year," says Elliott. "And, this deficiency will continue as forages grown during the drought will also lack proper levels of vitamins and minerals." Feeding free-choice mineral with 90% or greater bioavailability is recommended year-round to keep a consistent level of nutrition and proactively mitigate impacts from drought or other unexpected challenges. If you aren't already, start feeding a mineral high in calcium and other trace minerals now to support growing lambs and kids during gestation.

Taking small steps now to offset the impacts of drought in your flock or herd will go a long way to a successful year ahead.



Studying the Mutual Benefits of Sheep, Shade Trees

If there was ever an animal who might appreciate a good shade tree, surely it is the sheep. Soon, the researchers will begin conducting research on the effect of trees on sheep pastures, investigating how the trees might benefit both the animals and the pastures themselves.

As part of a strategy to make livestock operations overall more resilient, as well as “future-proof” the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture’s Fayetteville Research station several researchers with the Department of Animal Science are establishing shade trees on the station’s 25-acre grazing pasture north of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville campus.

Dirk Philipp, associate professor of animal science for the Division of Agriculture, said his department maintains a herd of about 30 sheep for research and public education purposes.

This fall, he and his fellow researchers will be establishing about 20 paddocks, each of which are between one-half acre and an acre. The department received funding for the project through an existing cooperative agreement with USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa.

Philipp and his team selected five tree species for the experiment with the cooperation of the University of Missouri, including swamp white oak, sycamore, red mulberry, red maple and bald cypress. Philipp said the decision to plant the trees was, in part, to study the effect of shade on the grasses—and the sheep that graze them—while circumventing the need to build expensive structures.

“With the establishment of the sheep research paddocks, we needed some kind of shade,” Philipp said. “Half of the trees have been planted already while the remaining one will be planted during the coming weeks.” In each paddock, two trees will be planted on either end at defined distances from each other and the fence to maintain open grazing. “With likely hotter and drier summers in the future, providing animals with their health and well-being,” Philipp said. “Long term, we expect a host of other positive side effects and opportunities.”

Those opportunities include possible research on nutrient cycling between pastures and woody species, the study of grazing and resting behavior driven by shade and teaching extension opportunities on selection of shade tree species and their care, Philipp said.

Trees were also randomized for each paddock to ensure that sheep production data can be obtained statistically without interference from tree size and canopy effects, he said.

Sticky Lamb Ribs

Ingredients:

1 kg (2 pounds) Lamb ribs (Ask your butcher to separate the lamb ribs so they cook faster)

2 tbsp Honey.

4 tbsp Soy sauce.

2 garlic cloves crushed

1-2 tbsp Gochujang. (If you can't find gochujang, any chili paste can be substituted)

2 tbsp Brown sugar.

2 tbsp Rice vinegar. White vinegar can be substituted

salt to taste

Prep Time: 10 Minutes

Cook time: 1 Hour

Servings: 4



DIRECTIONS

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C/350°F and line a large baking sheet with baking/parchment paper. Combine all the glaze ingredients and mix well. Taste for seasoning and adjust. You want the glaze to be sweet and spicy but be balanced with salt (from the soy) and acid (from the vinegar). Place the ribs on the prepared baking sheet and spoon over half of the glaze.

Place the ribs in the oven and allow to bake for 20-25 minutes then brush with the remaining glaze every 10 minutes. After 40 minutes, increase the temperature to 220°C/430°F and allow the ribs to caramelize. Remove from the oven when the ribs are sticky and caramelized and serve.

Membership Application 2022



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? _____



Submit Form & Payments

Mail this completed form and a check
(payable to Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers):
Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers
Attn: Melissa Nicholson
PO Box 1066
Chadron, NE 69337

Submit Membership Application Online

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



PO Box 1066
Chadron, NE 69337



www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org
ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

Tel: Rebecca Fletcher, President - (402)851-0285
Email: Fletchers@thesouthernwindfarm.com

Newsletter:

Melissa Nicholson Newsletter and
Communications Secretary (Chadron)

- (308)386-8378 ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

Website:

www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org

**“Supporting, Protecting and Promoting
Nebraska’s Sheep and Goat Producers
since 1979”**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- * **Rebecca Fletcher, President Eastern (Pierce)**
Fletchers@thesouthernwindfarm.com
 - * **Daniel Stehlik, Vice President Central (Curtis)**
dstehlik2@unl.edu
 - * **Michael Littlefield, Treasurer Eastern (Surprise)**
michaelrlittlefield@yahoo.com
 - * **Connie Moore, Western (Chadron)**
crmoor4@gmail.com
 - * **Al Weeder, Eastern (Columbus)**
weedera@hotmail.com
 - * **George Mann, Central (Hayes Center)**
gimann47@gmail.com
 - * **Scott Schaneman (Scottsbluff)**
sschaneman@npnrd.org
 - * **John Wagner (Phillips)**
mobydick51@msn.com
 - * **Sara Nichols (Eddysville)**
Sara.nichols@hotmail.com
- Educational Committee**
- * **Randy Saner, UNL (North Platte)**
rsaner2@unl.edu
 - * **Kelly Bruns, UNL (North Platte)**
kelly.bruns@unl.edu
 - * **Ivan Rush, Scottsbluff**
lrush1@unl.edu
 - * **Ron Lewis, UNL (Lincoln)**
ron.lewis@unl.edu
 - * **Brian Cox (Kearney)**
Brian.cox@unl.edu