

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



Newsletter

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

JULY/AUG 2022

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Sheep & Goat Extravaganza
- ◆ Ultrasound clinic
- ◆ Recognizing Pneumonia
- ◆ Getting your lambs and kids started in the feedlot

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

Registration dead-
line for both semi-
nars is September
16th

2022 Sheep & Goat Extravaganza

The NS&GP and 4S Goat Expo will be holding their annual events on September 24 & 25th in North Platte, NE. On day one of the event the 4S will be have featured speaker Susan Hobbey out of California speaking on Saturday along with several other speakers. NS&GP will be holding several demonstrations and hands on events on Saturday. On Saturday night NS&GP will hold their Annual meeting and Dinner while 4S will have their sale goat show. On Sunday the NS&GP has a full morning of speakers lined up for you featuring Lisa Surber, Colorado Lamb Processors, Livestock Marketing Information Center and Diamond S Livestock.

We are also looking for producers interested in displaying their breeds in our Breed Showcase. All you need to do is bring your sheep or goats and feed. Pens will be provided. Check for the showcase is Friday from 3-9 or Saturday morning by 9 am. If interested contact Melissa at 308-386-8378.

Please find the registration forms for both events in this newsletter or call 308-386-8378 for more information. Deadline to register is September 16th.

**We look forward to you joining us for the
Fall Conference!
Register Today!!!!**



2022 Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers

Annual Conference

September 24-25, 2022

Location: Lincoln County Fair Grounds
5015 Rodeo Rd
North Platte, NE 69101

Friday: 3:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Breed showcase check in

Saturday:

- 9:00 am Registration: Lincoln County Fairgrounds—Show arena
- 9:15 am Welcome: Rebecca Fletcher, President Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers Assoc.
- 9:30 am Rob Zelinsky, Hubbard Feed—Herd Health and Nutrition
- 10:15 am Jesse Fulton, UNL—QA and Working Facilities
- 11:00 am Heather Richards, DVM, Stockman's Vet Clinic—Vaccination and Drug Protocols
- 11:45 am Lunch - On your own or purchase ticket for 4S Meal
- 1:00 pm George Mann, NS&GP Board Member & Producer—Wool Production and Handling
- 1:30—2:30 pm Sheep, Goat and Wool Judging—
- 2:30 pm Lisa Surber, PhD— LM Livestock Services LLC—Wool Testing
- 3:00 pm Producer Panel
- 5:00 pm Annual Meeting followed by Lamb Dinner

Sunday, September 25th

- 8:30 am Lisa Surber, PhD.—LM Livestock Services LLC
- 9:30 am Colorado Lamb Processors—Spence Rules
- 10:30 am Livestock Marketing Information Center—Tyler Cozzesns, PhD.—Marketing in a Drought
- 11:30 am Diamond S Livestock—Accelerated Lambing
- 12:30 pm Lunch—included with registration
- 1:00 pm 4S Goat Expo Sale—Visit with producers and presenters.

There will be a food truck available Saturday and Sunday for those wishing to eat on your own.

To Register visit our website nebraskasheepandgoat.org or
contact Melissa Nicholson at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com
or 308-386-8378



2022 NSGP Annual Conference

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION —

Mail to: P.O. Box 1066

NAME: _____

Chadron, NE 69337

ADDRESS: _____

Due By September 18th

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

REGISTRATION FEES (Include handouts, dinner Saturday night and lunch Sunday)

\$35.00 for members, \$45.00 for non-members \$_____ (one packet per family)

\$10.00 for each additional family member (spouse & children only) \$ _____

\$15.00 for 4-H, FFA and Students (includes packet without parent) \$ _____

\$15.00 for Virtual with Handouts \$ _____

\$10.00 for 4S lunch Saturday per person \$ _____

TOTAL Number Attending: _____ TOTAL Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to: "Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers Association"

Hotel Information

Super 8
220 W Eugene Ave
North Platte, NE
308-532-4224
(Call For Special Pricing for Sheep & Goat weekend)

North Platte Inn and Suites
1209 S Dewey St.
North Platte, NE 69101
308-532-0130

Quality Inn
2901 S Jeffers St.
North Platte, Ne 69101
308-532-6144
Or

Lincoln County Fairgrounds
308-534-8191
20 electric and water hookup campsites





4S Goat Expo

2022

Lincoln County Fairgrounds
5015 West Highway 30
North Platte, Nebraska

with direct air service from Denver, Colorado



Weigh-In: Friday: 3:00—9:00 pm
Saturday: Before 8:00 am

September 24 - **Seminar 10:00 - 4:00 pm**

Show of sale goats 5:00 PM

September 25 - **ABGA AND COMMERCIAL GOAT**
SHOW 8:00 am Sale at 1:00 pm

Featured Speakers: Sue Hobby

Information will follow on Facebook and our Website.

Topics Covered: Meat Goat Health

Productive Profitable Boer Goat Management

Meat Goat Nutrition & Management

Headquarter Motel: Super 8 (308) 532-4224



2021 Champion Buck

!!! Added Attractions !!!

- * Commercial Vendors
- * Door Prizes & Goat Raffle
- * Meat Goat Breeders Display



2021 Champion Doe

Website: <http://www.4sgoatexpo.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/4S-Goat-Expo-673122839426170/?fref=ts>
E-mail s4goatexpo@yahoo.com or rsaner2@unl.edu

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

2022 4S GOAT EXPO

MEAT GOAT SEMINAR REGISTRATION
DUE September 16th*
NAME: _____

*After September 16th we will not be able to include you in the Sale Catalog.

ADDRESS: _____

(Catalog limited to 100 lots for sale)

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP: _____ **PHONE:** _____

Mail to: 348 W State Farm Rd.
E-MAIL: _____

North Platte NE 69101
REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR \$35 Plus Meal Ticket
PRE-REGISTRATION FEES (Include lunch and breaks)

\$25.00 for one person \$_____ (one packet per family)

\$10.00 for each additional family member (spouse & children only) \$_____

Meal Tickets #_____ X \$10.00 = _____

\$15.00 for 4-H or FFA members (includes packet without parent) \$_____

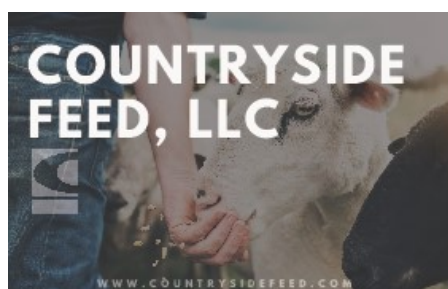
TOTAL Number Attending: _____ TOTAL Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please make check payable to: "University of Nebraska—Lincoln" (Seminar/Registration Fees only)

2022 Ultrasound Clinic

The Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers were excited to host the 1st Ultrasound Clinic in Scottsbluff, NE this summer on July 22nd & July 23rd. We had 12 producers join us in Scottsbluff for the two day event. Producers learned the proper procedure to ultrasound for pregnancy thanks to ReproScan. The first night consisted of classroom instruction then early Saturday morning producers met at Diamond S Livestock and were able to practice ultrasound ewes in different stages of pregnancy. Each producer that attended had the opportunity to ultrasound several ewes to get a good picture of what to look for when ultrasounding.

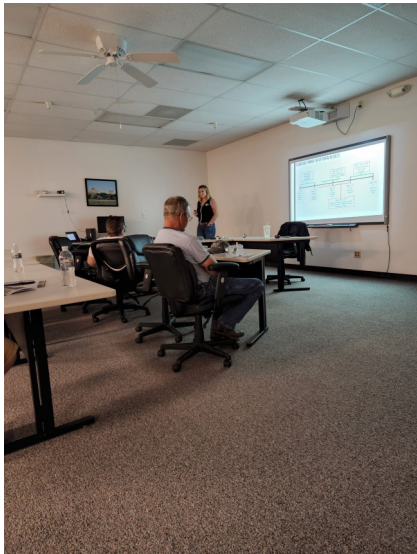
We want to thank Ellie and her helpers from ReproScan for conducting such a wonderful educational experience for our producers that attended. We also want to thank Diamond S Livestock, Scott Schaneman and his family for hosting and allowing producers to learn on their sheep.



STATE OF THE ART FEED MILLING IN THE
HEART OF THE USA

BEEF | DAIRY | SWINE | SHEEP | GOATS |
POULTRY | EQUINE | PET





President Tibit

It's official summer has come and is heading out the door. Back to school time is always busy for everyone. Even when I didn't have children to get out the door, I felt extremely rushed by the hustle and bustle of the change of seasons. Summer this year was long and hot and unpredictable. Events in our current economy, country, and world have led it to be a roller coaster ride.

I've been thinking about this column, to you producers for awhile now, and it's going to sound disheartening and maybe a little redundant too. But here we are, August 2022 looking down the barrel of some tough times. Now don't get me wrong, I'm an optimist and I believe that there light at the end of the tunnel.

Several publications that are out there in our industries would have believe there is a lot of light and may wash over the challenges we are facing. I'm not here to do that but we as an association are here to help find solutions, look at possibilities in a new way, and help educate producers where we can.

Here's our challenges (briefly) lamb and goat prices are down, feed costs are up, drought, and hay (depending on where you are) is high priced/non existent. We also have issues in the kill plants and feedlots.

Ok, so what do we do? Well, from watching the markets people are panicking. Some of the livestock auctions are seeing record numbers flow through at each sale. And I understand that feeling. If you don't the feed or money to feed them, they need to be sold. Could we have done something different on your specific farm so that panic sale never happened?

Once again, I'm going to say, we all need to know what our input costs are on our own farms. And yes volatile markets and mother nature can never be quantified easily or quickly, but I think we all can agree that if you plan for the worst; you will rarely be disappointed. Having a plan in place for times such as these is important. One of the best tools we have is the Budget Spreadsheet for sheep and it can work for goats too, which was created here at UNL by Nebraska Extension Specialist. You can input all of your expenses and give your farms Financials a "check up". Here is the link <https://cap.unl.edu/sheepandgoats>

There are other states who have also created similar spreadsheets but if you know your "break even" point the ability to make an informed decision becomes much easier. Also, staying up to date with the prices at the livestock market is a fantastic way to keep a pulse on what the market is doing. I would say as well, if you have the ability to go to a different market that is maybe not your first choice, but has better pricing (make sure the gas/yard ingredients costs still work within your budget) do it. Try and online livestock auction website to list animals, direct to consumer marketing, craigslist, Facebook, and even contract buying can help in your endeavor to find outlets. The association had resources to help guide you to finding an outlet for your product.

I would also suggest trying alternative feed options, many feed stores can put you in touch with a nutritionist who can help formulate a different ration. Hay can also be purchase online, at hay auctions, and sometimes the farmer down the road will help you the most because they are in your area and understand.

One thing though, I will say we have to know our farms financial input costs. As far as the feedlots and kill plants, they can only do what they can. Many are backed up because their large buyers aren't buying. This year is going to test us all. Try and remember that all livestock go through a cyclical pattern of highs and lows. And I'm hopeful we will be on the upswing again!

Create a tasty appetizer with this whipped goat cheese topping

Whipped Goat Cheese with New Orleans Savory Praline Sause

For the cheese:

10.5 ounces goat cheese

1/4 cup Greek Yogurt (non-flavored)

1 T. honey

In a food processor, combine the goat cheese, Greek yogurt, and honey. Blend until the mixture becomes whipped and silky. (at first, it will be very crumbly, but keep processing and it will come together and get fluffy.) Place the whipped goat cheese mixture onto a serving dish and set aside.

For the praline topping:

1 cup pecans, chopped coarsely

1/4 cup butter

2 T. brown sugar

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/2 tsp. brown mustard

In a saucepan, combine the butter, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce, and mustard. Cook, on medium/low heat for 4-5 minutes until the sugar is dissolved. Remove from the heat and stir in pecans. Cool before spooning over whipped cream cheese mixture.

Serve with toasted baguettes slices or pita bread.

Recognizing and Preventing Pneumonia and Pleurisy

When held in dry dusty and crowded conditions, sheep are especially vulnerable to pneumonia and cough which leads to pleurisy. Pneumonia is inflammation of the lungs while pleurisy refers to inflammation of the membranes that surround the lungs. Outbreaks are most common in weaning lambs during a hot summer. The severity of signs can vary greatly. Some affected sheep will not show any respiratory signs, only a reduction in weight gain. Others can develop nasal discharge, coughing, increased respiratory effort, lethargy and loss of appetite. The condition can cause economic loss because of weight and condition loss, and can progress to death.

Outbreaks of pneumonia are spurred by environmental, animal and pathogen factors, according to a factsheet by Agriculture Victoria in Australia.

The factors include the following:

- Environmental factors include dusty conditions, hot weather and excessive crowding

- Animal factors include inadequate nutrition, concurrent disease (e.g. internal parasites) and stress. These all impact the animal's immune system making them more susceptible to pneumonia
- Pathogen factors refer to the bacteria and viruses that cause the disease. There are numerous pathogens that can be involved and can be either primary or secondary. Primary pathogens like *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* initiate a mild pneumonia with no signs or mild signs. This then makes the sheep more susceptible to a secondary bacteria infection which leads to severe disease. In some cases, parasitic infection from lung worms can also play a role.
- In addition, poor drenching technique can lead to aspiration pneumonia.

PREVENTION

Prevention should be focused on managing environmental and animal risk factors.

Key points to consider include:

HANDLING/TRANSPORT

- Practice low-stress handling

- Avoid handling and transporting sheep in hot, dry conditions

NUTRITION/HEALTH

- Ensure nutrition and access to water is optimized.
- Ensure major animal health issues such as intestinal worms are managed.
- Ensure suitable shade is available.

DUST MANAGEMENT

- Hose down dusty yards and laneways before moving stock.
- Consider impact of stocking rate on dust levels when containment feeding
- Avoid dusty feed.

DRENCHING TECHNIQUE

- Do not lift head above horizontal and do not drench while sheep reclining.

BIOSECURITY

- Take care in introducing new sheep that could be carriers of respiratory pathogens.

CLINICAL CASES OF PNEUMONIA MAY BE TREATED WITH CONSULTATION FROM A VETERINARIAN.

Source: Sheep & Goat July 2022

Are You Prepared for an FMD Outbreak?

What if there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease on our country's doorstep? This is the case for sheep producers in Australia who are nervously watching the outbreak in Indonesia. South Africa's wool industry is experiencing the dire consequences of not being able to export to China due to an FMD outbreak earlier this year.

If FMD came knocking on the United States' door, would it be able to walk right into your flock or are you taking steps to protect your sheep?

The American Sheep Industry Association values preparedness, which is why it developed the Secure Sheep and Wool Plan with enhanced biosecurity tools and more. At the beginning of an FMD outbreak, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends a 72-hour national movement standstill for all cloven-hoofed livestock and their products. After this time, movement controls will continue in the areas around infected animals, throughout a state or even a region. Restarting movement will require a special permit. The permit will be issued by regulatory officials after a producer meets certain requirements.

How prepared are you to meet those requirements so your business can continue?

The SSWS Plan was developed to help producers protect their flocks from FMD and voluntarily prepare before an FMD outbreak, rather than during the chaos of an outbreak. The plan provides guidance for producers who have sheep with no evidence of FMD infection to meet movement permit requirements.

ASI supports several efforts to protect America's sheep producers from foreign animal and plant diseases and pests, which is why it developed the SSWS Plan. As the association monitors the situation in the southern hemisphere, now is a good time to learn how to protect your flock and business in the event of an FMD outbreak.

[Click Here](#) to learn more and access valuable SSWS Plan resources.

Wool Scrubbing Pads, Sponges Offer Market for Coarse Wool

There's no arguing the environmental benefits of using wool for scrubbing pads and sponges, but the upside for producers is that these products can be made from coarse wool—providing another market for wools that tend to have fewer end uses.

Three domestic companies have developed such products, the latest of which is The Brickle Group's Woolen Mills in Rhode Island.

"We've been recycling wool fibers for 75 years, and now that the conscientiousness of most of the population is looking at reducing waste and preventing contamination of our oceans, Sam (Brickle) said we should look at making a scouring pad out of wool," said Max Brickle, president of Northwest Woolen Mills. "It's 100 percent recycled fiber that is biodegradable and anti-bacterial. Scrub pads are a great way to use wool."

The company is looking for a private label partner to market and sell its scrubbing pads. Samples went out to several potential partners this spring. "We're not really looking to start this product at the grassroots level," Brickle said. "But we believe it's a great product and that there will be some companies out there who will partner with us to get it on store shelves around the U.S."

Learn more at NorthwestWoolen.com

Marie Hoff of Full Circle Wool developed a line of wool sponges that she has launched on a grassroots basis. She offers wool products ranging from socks to yarn to dryer balls and coasters, and has seen great interest in the sponges. "I first developed them in 2013 or 2014, and it's been a great way to market coarse wool," she said. "Nationwide, it's an issue finding markets for that wool, but coarse wool is such a great fiber to work with. I'm not sure why it isn't used and developed even more than it already is."

Hoff got the idea for a wool sponge while working with a traditional kitchen sponge that just didn't live up to her standards. "It was just gross and stinky, so I started out using one of my wool coasters as a sponge." She now offers a standard sponge in addition to extra-thick and extra-firm versions, and all of them have been great sellers. Consumers also appreciate the longevity of the sponges, which can last half the year or more.

As concerns continue to grow about microplastics and how they are finding their way into the world's oceans, all-natural and biodegradable wool sponges offer consumers the opportunity to remove one possible pollutant from their household. "And when you're done with it, it's compostable" Hoff added. "I'm excited to see that others are developing wool sponges. Wool is just so under-utilized."

Learn more at FullCircleWool.com

Echoview Fiber Mill in North Carolina offers a wool dish sponge in large and small sizes that is sold in packs of two. "When you first start using the wool sponge it will naturally felt up into a smaller size and shape, but it will not shrink indefinitely," according to the company's website shop.

Learn more at EchoviewNC.com

2022 MAKE IT WITH WOOL CONTEST

Andrea Nisley

Enter the Make It With Wool Contest!

The object of the contest is to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns; to encourage personal creations in sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning, and weaving of wool fabrics and yarns; and to recognize creative skills.

The 2022 State Make It With Wool Contest will be November 19 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington, NE beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to the public Fashion Show at 1:00 p.m.

The divisions determined by age as of January 1, 2022 (national rule), are as follows: Preteen – age 12 and under, Junior – age 13 to 16, Senior – age 17 to 24, Adult – age 25 and over, and Made For Others.

For more information, contact the Nebraska State Director: Andrea Nisley, P.O. Box 757, Lexington NE 68850 (phone 308-324-5501) anisley1@unl.edu or the District Directors. District Directors include, District I – Doris Rush of Scottsbluff, 308-635-0156 and Rosalene Tollman of Marsland, 308-665-2415; District II – Crystal Fangmeier of Hebron, 402-768-4183; and District III – Beth Andrews of Hampton, 402-725-3302.

The entry form, state brochure and national wool contest guidelines are posted on Dawson County Extension's website: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dawson/>. Entry forms, fees, wool samples and wool testing fees are due October 15, 2022 to Andrea Nisley. The fabrics/yarns used for the wool contest must be 100% wool or wool blend (minimum 60% wool or specialty wool fiber) for each fashion fabric or yarn used. Specialty wool fibers include alpaca, angora, camel, cashmere, llama, mohair, and vicuna.

More information is available on the National Make It With Wool website: www.makeitwithwool.com.

Earlier this year, the 2021 state contest winners Karla Herrarte of Lexington and Aretta Brennemann of Curtis competed at the 2022 National Contest in San Diego, California. The National Make It With Wool Contest also has a Fashion/Apparel Design Competition for college students who are currently enrolled in a college-level fashion or apparel design program. Entry deadline is November 1st for the Fashion/Apparel Design Competition. Information, criteria, how to enter and deadline information is given



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Homemade Greek Gyros with Tzatziki Sauce

Ingredients:

1 medium size onion, roughly chopped	2 tsp Kosher salt
1 lb ground beef	1/2 tsp ground black pepper
1 lb ground lamb	To Serve
2 large cloves of garlic	Tzatziki Sause
1 Tbsp dried marjoram	Lettuce
1 Tbsp dried ground rosemary	Sliced tomatoes
	Sliced sweet onion



Run the onion in a food processor for about 15 seconds. Place the onion in the center of a kitchen towel and squeeze out the juice and return to the food processor. Add the meat, garlic, spices, salt and pepper to the onion, and process. Do so until it looks like a fine paste, about a minute. Place the mixture in a loaf pan and press evenly.

Bake in a water bath (place loaf pan inside another pan filled with water) at 325°F (165°C) for about an hour or more until temperature reaches 165-170°F (75°C.) Remove from the oven, drain fat, and place on a cooling rack.

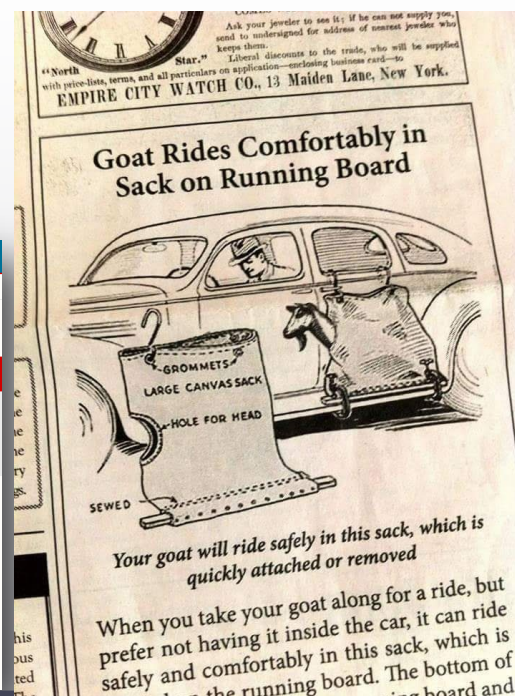
Cover meat with aluminum foil and a heavy weight (Alton suggests a brick) for about 15 minutes until internal temperature is 175°F (79°C) (I found the times are not quite accurate, and I didn't know if the brick actually had an effect, but I think the important part is getting the meat to the correct temperature.) Place meat on a cutting board and slice as thinly as possible with an electric knife (using anything else would be much more difficult.) I added the following step myself as I think it mimics the rotisserie a bit more. Add a few slices to a nonstick frying pan (very little or no oil) and heat gently until the meat browns a little. In another pan, heat the pita bread.

Finally, place the meat on one half of the pita, topped with tzatziki sauce, lettuce, tomatoes, and onion. You could also put a little Greek dressing on the tomatoes too (extra virgin olive oil, vinegar, salt, oregano.)

Serve Homemade Greek Gyros with rice pilaf or a Greek salad, and enjoy!

Upcoming Events for 2022

Aug. 19 - California Wool Growers Association Convention - Carson Valley Inn in Minden, Nev. - www.californiawoolgrowers.org
 Aug. 19-20 - 49th Annual Sheep & Goat Field Day and Texas Sheep & Goat Expo - San Angelo, Texas - <https://agrilife.org/agrilifesheepandgoat/>
 Aug. 20-21 - Beginning Shepherding & Pasture Management Workshop - Bellingham, Wash. - www.lydiasflock.com
 Aug. 27 - Montana Columbia Breeders Association Show and Sale - Fergus County Fairgrounds in Lewistown, Mont. - www.mtcolumbiasheep.org
 Aug. 27 - 47th Annual Virginia Performance Tested Ram Lamb & Ewe Lamb Sale and Sheep Field Day - Raphine, Va. - www.vasheepproducers.com
 Aug. 27 - Sheep, Goats & Small Ruminants Animal Husbandry & Herd Health Class - Shepherd's Cross in Claremore, Okla. - www.shepherdscross.com
 Sept. 6 - Virginia Tech 23rd Annual NSIP Production Sale - Blacksburg, Va. - www.apsc.vt.edu/facilities0/copenhaversheepcenter.html
 Sept. 9-11 - Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival - Jefferson County Fair Park in Jefferson, Wis. - www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com
 Sept. 10 - Rafter 7 Merino Ram & Ewe Sale - Eureka County Fairgrounds in Eureka, Nev. - Gary McCuin at gmccuin@unr.edu or 775-237-6134.
 Sept. 13 - 94th Annual Wyoming State Ram Sale - Wyoming State Fairgrounds in Douglas, Wyo. - www.wyowool.com
 Sept. 14-15 - Montana Ram and Ewe Sales - Eastern Montana Fairgrounds in Miles City, Mont. - www.mtsheep.org
 Sept. 15-16 - Newell Ram Show and Sale - Newell, S.D. - www.newellramsale.com
 Sept. 16-17 - University of Florida Small Ruminant Short Course - Gainesville, Fla. - www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/small-ruminant-short-course
 Sept. 17 - Hoosier Sheep Symposium - Shipshewana, Ind. - www.indianasheep.com
 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
 Sept. 30-Oct. 1 - South Dakota Sheep Growers Association Annual Convention - Ramkota in Pierre, S.D. - www.sdsheepgrowers.org
November 19, 2022—Nebraska Make It With Wool contest—Lexington High School—Lexington, NE—Public Style show at 1:00 pm CT
 Jan. 18-21, 2023 - ASI Annual Convention - Fort Worth, Texas - www.sheepusa.org



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

Get Sheep and Goats Started on Feed Faster at the Feedlot

It's off to the races as soon as newly weaned sheep and goats arrive at the feedlot. But any bumps in the road—big or small—during those first few days can put animals behind.

"The biggest challenge feedlot operations face is getting sheep and goats started on feed," says Clay Elliott, PH.D., and small animal ruminant nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition. "If we can get them eating right away and address any health issues, we can see a faster finish with more efficient growth and more pounds at market time."

Slowly ramp up energy

"The most important thing is getting newly arrived sheep and goats started on feed quickly, without disrupting their rumens and causing acidosis," says Elliott. "The number one reason they could get acidotic is by eating too much high energy ration to start with."

If you're seeing problems with acidosis (indicated by diarrhea and loss of appetite), work with your nutritionist to adjust your receiving ration. Start with low-energy, high-roughage diet with 80-90% forage for 7-10 days. Gradually increase energy diet that can maximize growth and get them to market weight as rapidly as possible.

"Most animals haven't been exposed to any kind of supplemental diet other than forage before coming to the feedlot" says Maggie Amburgey, small ruminant technical specialist with Purina Animal Nutrition. "Taking the time to get their rumen right from the beginning will pay off with more efficient growth later on."

Water, Hay...and more water

Lambs and kids entering the feedlot don't know how to eat large quantities yet, and if the ration is too high in energy, they may not eat at all.

"If animals are without feed long enough, their rumens can begin to shut down, and you could see high death loss," says Amburgey.

One foolproof way to encourage eating is by providing hay and fresh, clean water immediately when animals arrive. Consuming hay will encourage animals to start searching for water, which in turn will encourage more feed intake.

To further support hydration ensure multiple water sources are available and add an electrolyte to the water for the first several days.

Stop coccidiosis in its tracks

"Animals arriving at the feedlot are at risk for the perfect storm of conditions that encourage coccidiosis," says Amburgey. "The most common time for a coccidiosis outbreak is shortly after weaning. Compound that with the stress of transportation, warm temperatures and a new environment at the feedlot, and an outbreak is likely to happen,"

Heading off coccidiosis before you see any visible symptoms is critical. Once symptoms show, the damage to the digestive tract is already done, resulting in reduced feed consumption, feed conversion and growth performance. And most cases of coccidiosis are subclinical, with animals never showing outward signs of disease.

"Adding a coccidiostat like Bovatec for sheep, Rumensin for goats or Deccox for both along with proper sanitation, is your first line of defense" says Elliott. "If animals break with coccidiosis, work with your veterinarian to treat immediately and follow with B Vitamins, a probiotic and lots of roughage to help reactive the rumen."

Support High-Risk Lambs and Kids

While most feedlots opt for a commodity blend ration consider using a pre-made ration can support faster growth and help address health issues, which can add more value at market and help offset the higher feed cost.

"Pre-made receiving rations can be top-dressed on hay or mixed with commodity feeds to get lambs and kids started quicker" says Elliott. "And pre-made rations are usually pelleted to prevent sorting, which is especially important with medicated feeds where it's critical for animals to eat a full portion to get the right dosage."

A pre-made receiving ration can be fed for up to a month and slowly phased out as a more concentrated grain ration is introduced.

Fall Conference Silent Auction

We will be holding a Silent Auction September 24th and 25th at the Fall Conference for this creep panel that was donated by Al Weeder. Bidding will start Saturday morning and the winning bid will be determined at 12:00 pm Sunday. So get your registrations in for the conference to bid on this great panel.

All proceeds from the panel will go to help fund more educational programs for the association.



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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3BWYGB8>

This year at the Conference we will be having a Hall of Breeds. If you would like to showcase your flock or herd please contact Melissa Nicholson at 308-386-8378 or Connie Moore at crmoor4@gmail.com

There is no charge and pens are provided. Please let us know as soon as possible so we can reserve your space!



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Honey Grilled Shoulder of Cabrito

Ingredients:

1/3 cup honey	1 shoulder off goat - boned, rolled, and tied (3 ½ to 4 pounds)
½ cup dry white wine	2 tablespoons grated lemon peel
½ cup finely chopped onions	2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon salt	¼ teaspoon ground pepper
½ cup finely chopped fresh mint	or

Directions:

- For the marinade: Mix the soy sauce, curry powder, garlic, basil, crushed pepper, oregano and black pepper in a large bowl. Add the goat to the bowl and marinate overnight.
- For the curry: Remove the goat from the marinade. Heat the oil in a large pan and add the goat. Turn the heat to medium and sear the goat until brown, about 15 minutes. Add the coconut milk and 4 cups water. Cover and cook, about 2 hours.
- Add the onions, bell peppers, carrots, green onions and bay leaves and simmer, about 1 hour. Serve with rice or rice and peas.



Drought and high feed prices call for some tough decisions

By Gregory Meiss

Do you think feed prices will come down soon? Is there anything I could feed my livestock to reduce costs? These are two of the most often asked questions in the livestock industry right now as many producers are feeling the strain of drought, shortages and the ever-increasing costs of production. Is there anything a producer can do to help themselves right now?

Just a few nights ago this very conversation was being had at our farm. As we finished up chores and spent some time looking through the livestock, my wife and I started to converse about the most effective pathway forward. Feed prices have increased around 17% in the last few months and we have many more goats in the feedlot than normal following a heavy buck percentage in the last two groups we kidded.

With the meat prices being so high to date, it has made good sense to feed out all the buck kids so long as they were making money every day we fed them. Now, as the market softens due to the rising number of herd sellouts and increased cull rates, that profitability margin has decreased for the goats we and many other producers will sell in the months to come.

Should we sell the whole group now and cut the feed bill or continue forward with the hope the market stays? Nobody knows for certain but there are things we can do as producers to make such a decision easier.

One such answer is to calculate the profitability per animal or per group instead of looking at the farm as one organism. Although this can take more time, it very easily can be the quickest way of identifying what animals are adding to or taking away from your bottom line.

This was the case in our feedlot goats. The average buck in our feedlot is gaining 1/2 lb per day with liveweight bringing \$3 per lb. at the local meat buyer. They eat approximately 2 lbs. of grain (\$0.68) and 1/4 lb. of hay (0.01) per head per day costing us a total of \$0.69 per goat per day.

Our feed lot goats are generating a profitability of \$0.81 above feed costs every day we continue to feed them to market weight (1/2 lb. daily gain x \$3 - \$0.69 = \$0.81). At that profitability, we felt it makes more sense to continue to feed them than to cut the group early.

In a counter example, one could look at their breeding stock. Does that consistently produce less kids, wean smaller kids or take more feed or forage to maintain are more likely to be found unprofitable in the face of rising inputs. Looking at each doe individually on profitability will quickly identify a producer's high earners and low earners. If forced to downsize, this will assist producers in selecting the best animals with which to move forward.

Will feed prices come down soon? Possibly for a short window but the long-term outlook is grim. Today as I am writing this (mid-July), corn and soybeans are down almost the limit. As more money is pulled out of the commodity market by investors, there follows a drop in the overall price of commodities such as corn and soybeans.

In the short term, this may provide at the very least a plateau in the steady rise of grain supplements. This could provide opportunities for producers to lock in some ingredients or feeds for a period of time to create some momentary stability in the pricing.

Is there anything a producer can do to reduce costs? As we move our view a bit further out however, the market looks far less promising. With the sheer number of acres currently listed in drought conditions and the 2022 crop far from harvest, there is still a great deal of uncertainty in the commodity prices nearing the end of summer and into harvest itself.

The drought is and will continue to impact far more than grain prices. Hay prices are on the rise and expected to move higher. When forage is short, grain supplementation or herd reductions

become necessary.

Let's for a minute assume as producers that 50% of herds in drought zones will be forced to reduce the herd size. What remains will likely require grain supplementation due to the limited forage. With this in mind, producers may need to consider simplified grain rations for the breeding herd in particular.

This is a grain supplement designed solely to meet the protein, energy and part of the fiber needs of the goats to which it will be fed. The vitamin and mineral needs must be met separately through a good free choice mineral when feeding a simplified diet.

Traditionally, grain supplements are designed to provide all the vitamin, mineral, protein, and energy supplementation needed per day in a desirable and complete grain. With the rising costs of all inputs however, simplifying the grain supplements with your feed mill and feeding the mineral separately may be a great way to reduce feed costs and replace some forage each day. One such ration for a ton of feed might look like this:

Cracked Corn	400.00
Soyhull pellets	861.00
Gluten Pellets	600.00
Ammonium Chloride	14.00
Calcium Carbonate	45.00
Molasses	80.00
Total	2000.00

This diet is not by any means the best diet one could offer and is meant as an example only! Although the above diet is balanced,

Each producer should work with their nutritionist to make sure it meets their operation's individual needs.

When considering creep feeder feeds or grower feeds, I would not recommend simplified diets due to the risks of reduced gains and impacts on early intakes. However, simplified diets are a great option to save money when supplementing the breeding herd.

There are risks involved in simplifying a diet to this degree though. One such risk is the possibility that some goats may not eat the free choice mineral as often or as much as they should. When the mineral isn't consumed regularly, mineral deficiencies can develop quickly and impact productive performance heavily.

To feed a simplified diet effectively, greater care must be given to ward off deficiency risks. Simplified diets also can run a higher risk of sorting, which may open the herd to imbalanced nutrition simply through their selection.

With world instability increasing, drought spreading and the costs of feeding livestock ever increasing, producers are facing tough decisions in the coming months.

Many producers are feeling forced to reduce numbers or selling out entirely simply due to the difficulty finding forage and the affordability of feeding their livestock.

Although it looks like the future may hold difficult decisions for many, there is still money to be made. The goat industry will come through this stronger than ever before.

(Gregory Meiss raises Boer goats and is head nutritionist for his family's company, Meiss Feed and Supply, Sibley, IL. He can be contacted at 217-379-7985, through Facebook: Meiss Boer Goats or by email at gmeiss@meissfeedandsupply.com)



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