

Livestock 360°

Southeastern New York Cooperative Extension Livestock News



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In this Issue

Of Local Interest (2)

What actually is USDA inspected meat?

Dairy and Beef (3)

Multi-Species Grazing can Improve Utilization of Pastures

Swine (4)

Baby Pig Management-Birth to Weaning

Sheep and Goats (6)

Parasites are on the horizon

Equine (7)

Introducing Horses to Spring Growing Pastures

Poultry (9)

Management Requirement Checklist for Meat Bird Flocks

Upcoming and of Note (11)

Progressive Ulster Graziers

The Back Page (12)

Contacts

Transparency

Christian Malsatzki, Ag. Program Leader Ulster County CCE

I had to kill a mouse this past week that wasn't killed by the trap it was caught in. I deplore the taking of a life for no reason; the mouse was just being a mouse. I had tried to catch it in a no kill trap for over a month so I could take it to a park and release it, but it just wouldn't take the bait to get in, and had been causing nightly damage to my dry goods and stealing cotton swabs the entire time (I was okay with the cotton swab theft). I was left with the choice to either live with it and the results that came from that, or try the traditional trap. I chose the latter in light of eating food that a mouse had crawled all through and perhaps opening the door to even more mice to share my food with.



Photo Credit: Jason Detzel

The results of my decision got me to think about farm transparency though. In the effort of showing transparency on our farms, we supply people with the lives our animals live, the care we give them, and even pictures and names for them if we are so inclined. In our effort to offer these animals this sort of life, so others can feel justified in consuming them, do those same people ever take into consideration the emotional bond that those who raised the animal formed with it?

I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every person that not only invests all of their time and physical effort into their operation, but their emotional as well. I cannot speak for every individual out there, but I can speak for myself; it does matter that I know that the beef I am about to eat came from a cow that had a good life, was able to be "Sally" the cow while she lived, and was able to do the things that Sally liked before she gave her life to make another person happy. Without this transparency from your operations, I couldn't eat meat anymore. So know that the work you do, the time you take, and the emotional effort you put forth makes a difference to not only your animals, but to at least one of those that partake in the end result of your physical and emotional labor.



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2 Of Local Interest

What Actually is USDA Inspected Meat?

Part 1- The USDA Slaughter Process

Mackenzie Waro, Harvest NY Livestock Processing and Marketing Specialist

Over the past year, many producers have asked me what is the difference between USDA inspected meat, and 'custom' meat. If producers are not sure what the difference is, than how is the end consumer supposed to know? It is the job of the producer to know about the differences in meat slaughter and processing, in order to educate our local and global consumers.

The United States Department of Agriculture division on Food Safety and Inspection Services (USDA FSIS) is tasked with the regulations of meat slaughter and processing, as well as the safety of the product. There are 37 USDA inspected slaughter houses throughout New York State. Each house has a USDA inspector, along with a USDA vet. The inspector is present for every kill and every slaughter. If an inspector is not present for the slaughter, the animal cannot be stamped as USDA. Every carcass is inspected for safety standards. The carcass may be swabbed for bacteria, antibiotic residue, and is searched for any questionable issues (such as cancer cells). Every animal is inspected 'Ante Mortem' which means the animal is inspected alive and must be healthy before being slaughtered.

The USDA inspectors are also tasked with making sure the plant is following their HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points), and SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) which include sanitary and good management practices. This is to insure that all the meat coming out of that inspected plant is at the highest form of food safe for the end consumer. If a carcass looks suspicious in any way, the USDA Vet will ask for the carcass to be removed, segregated and disposed of. If the vet agrees that the carcass needs to be condemned, the carcass will not enter the food supply. Because of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE/Mad Cow), cattle that look, or are, 30 months of age and older will have their spinal cord removed at time of slaughter. As a producer, it is important to have your birth records on your animals. If you do not have those birth records and the USDA inspector says your beef cattle is 30 months or more, but they are only 24 months, who do you think will win the fight? The USDA inspector and vet will. Birth records must accompany the animal at time of slaughter. You want to get the most money for your animals; by having the birth record if the animal is under 30 months will save the meat from the entire spinal column.

According to the FSIS website, "if the establishment fails to maintain sanitation, does not follow its HACCP plan or violates other regulations, FSIS inspection program personnel will issue a citation to the establishment in the form of a noncompliance record to document the noncompliance. If necessary, they could also take regulatory control action." This means that parts, if not all of the plant can be shut down. The USDA plant must follow their HACCP plans, and agree and abide by all FSIS regulations.

USDA inspected red meat can be sold at farmer's markets, stores, shipped across state lines, and is regulated to the highest food safety standards. If you would like more information on USDA slaughter guidelines, please visit, <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/home>.



3 Dairy and Beef Multi-Species Grazing can Improve Utilization of Pastures

Authors: Jodie Pennington, Small Ruminant Educator,
Lincoln University, Newton County Extension Center.

Adapted by Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator, CCE Ulster
County

Multi-species grazing is the practice of using two or more livestock species together or separately on the same pasture-land in a specific growing season. With an understanding of the different grazing behaviors of each species, various combinations of animals can be used to more efficiently utilize the forages in a pasture. Different species of livestock prefer different forages and graze them to different heights. Cattle tend to be intermediate grazers. They graze grasses and legumes and bite with their mouth and tongue. Sheep and horses graze closer to the ground than cattle. Sheep and goats eat forbs (brushy plants with a fleshy stem) and leaves better than cattle or horses. Many weeds in a grass pasture are forbs. Cattle and horses tend to graze grasses better than small ruminants such as sheep and goats. Goats are browsers and prefer to graze/browse with their heads up. "Browse" are the tender shoots, twigs, and leaves of trees or shrubs that are acceptable for grazing. Goats browse like deer if given the opportunity. They will eat higher growing plants such as forbs and shrubs as well as high-growing grasses. With their mobile upper lip, goats can select individual leaves and strip bark off of woody plants. Their unique lip allows them to eat the parts of a plant that are highly nutritious while leaving behind the less digestible parts such as the thorns and branches of blackberries and multi-flora rose. Both goats and sheep will eat weeds although goats prefer browse more than sheep.



Photo Credit: USDA

Brush and weed management is the most noticeable benefit that producers see from multi-species grazing with cattle and small ruminants. Although research indicates that multi-species grazing can contribute to more efficient and uniform use of pastures, the results will vary with the type of pasture. Land that includes grasses, forbs, and browse are best utilized with multi-species grazing. Land that is uniformly in grass may best be utilized for cattle or horse production. Multi-species grazing can improve utilization of forages by less than 5% to more than 20%, depending primarily on the type of vegetation on the land and the mix of animals used.

In past times, cattle and sheep have usually been the combination used for multi-species grazing. This practice, in part, was due to greater multi-species grazing in western states where there is greater diversity of plant species and elevation of land than in eastern states. However, with the increase in popularity of goats, they now are often used with multi-species grazing. Horses also may work well with goats in a multi-species grazing scheme.

Varying terrain also lends itself to multi-species grazing. If the terrain is steep and rough, goats and sheep are superior to cattle for handling the terrain. They also eat more forbs and browse than cattle as sheep and goats are well adapted to grazing rough borders around an otherwise relatively level pasture. Cattle prefer to graze grass and prefer more gently sloping land. It is the combination of grasses, forbs, and browse that provides for the more efficient use of multiple species for grazing, sometimes increasing meat production per acre by over 20%.

Although there are individual preferences, data do not define if forages are utilized more efficiently if small ruminants graze before or after cattle. Some prefer to graze small ruminants before cattle so that the sheep and goats are less likely to be exposed to larvae from internal parasites on taller-growing plants. Cattle and small ruminants also may be grazed at the same time. Usually small ruminants are used to eat weeds and browse that cattle do not eat in a multi-species regime. Concerns with multi-species grazing involving cattle and small ruminants include predator control and fencing for the goats or sheep. Labor also can be an issue since the species may be grazing at different times. In such cases, additional labor is needed to move the livestock from field to field.

Adapted from Michigan State University Extension. *Understanding Calf Scours for Cow- Calf Producers* (2014)

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/understanding_calf_scours_for_cow_calf_producers_part_1

Baby Pig Management-Birth to Weening

Authors: Duane E. Reese, University of Nebraska Thomas G. Hartsock, University of Maryland; W. E. Morgan Morrow, North Carolina State University

Adapted by Henry Bignell, Livestock Educator, Albany County

Good care and management in the farrowing quarters has a major influence on the number of liveborn piglets that are weaned and on how well they perform in later stages of production. According to a 1995 survey of swine management practices in the United States, the average number of preweaning piglet deaths per litter on farms was .88 or 9.4% of those born alive. The two leading causes of preweaning deaths were laid on (48.7%) and starvation (20.5%). Other surveys have shown that over 50% of the deaths occur in the first two to three days of life.

A successful caretaker understands that newborn piglets have certain physical characteristics which make them very reliant on proper management and care. Piglets are born without any antibody protection, their bodies contain fat energy for about one day of life, and they cannot regulate internal body temperature well until they are a few days old. Thus, anything that may lead to a reduction in milk production or consumption, such as chilling or exposure to disease organisms, compromises the health and well-being of newborn piglets.



Photo Credit: Jason Detzel

Prevent Chilling

The farrowing quarters need to provide two different microclimates: a cool one for the sow (60-65 °F) and a hot one for the newborn piglets (85-95 °F the first few days, then decreased to the 70-80 °F range). To achieve this goal, maintain a room temperature at approximately 65-70 °F and provide zone heating for the litter. Closely monitor the sow and litter's responses to the zone heating to ensure their thermal needs are met. If the amount of heat provided by the zone heaters is excessive, piglets will move away from the heat source. This not only wastes power but can cause the sow to become too warm and increase piglet mortality. The thermal needs of piglets are met if they are lying in a prone position gently touching each other. If they are piled, attention should be given to providing more heat.

Colostrum Intake

The first milk, colostrum, is rich in disease-preventing immunoglobulins; the very first colostrum is the richest and best, because the quality of colostrum declines over time. Getting a good dose of colostrum, especially from the piglet's dam, is probably the single most important factor related to a piglet's survival and long-term health. Strong, early-born piglets get to the udder hours before their later-born litter mates and go from teat to teat taking the best colostrum.

Weighing

Pork producers who use birth weights as part of their management system can incorporate the weighing into the piglet processing routine. Most piglets are not weighed at birth, but if they are, this should be done first, followed by the rest of the processing. Some producers weigh each piglet and record the sex and weight. Others place the entire litter on the scales and record total litter weight.

Records

We recommend pork producers use production records to identify strengths and weaknesses in the operation. If problems are experienced in the farrowing quarters, these problems will continue to propagate if accurate records are not kept. It is important to realize that reproductive traits are heritable. Record keeping allows superior sows to be identified and retained on the farm. This will lead to successive improvements in lactational performance which should lead to fewer problems in the farrowing quarters. In addition, accurate records provide an

important view of the animal caretaker's job performance. Records help management identify people who are doing a good job (which may be rewarded) and they help identify weak areas that the caretaker can work to improve.

Records kept in the farrowing quarters include: birth date, number of piglets born alive and dead, date and cause of death of piglets, pedigree information, number of piglets weaned, and piglet (or litter) weaning weight. Remarks on anything unusual or wrong with the piglet should be noted as well. In addition, many producers are recording feed intake during lactation. Medications given to animals should be recorded to ensure treatment protocols and withdrawal periods are followed.

Have cards, clipboards, or other recording devices near each farrowing crate or pen. Having the opportunity to record information the moment it is collected or observed ensures accuracy. Always have a pencil or pen in your pocket and also with the equipment used to process piglets. Record data in ink whenever possible and practical. This makes the forms easier to read and ink also withstands the environment of the farrowing quarters better. Also, record data in legible handwriting and make it a habit to write your initials beside the entry if more than one person routinely works in the farrowing quarters.

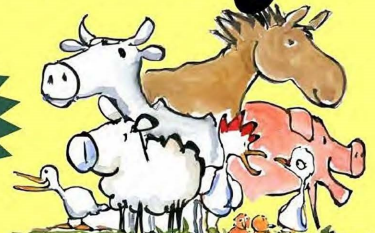
Preventing Piglets' Exposure to Diseases

Preventing piglets from encountering disease agents (primary prevention) involves five basic areas: (1) source and handling of primary and replacement breeding stock, (2) rules governing movement of people, vehicles, materials, and pigs, (3) layout of the farm, (4) location of a new farm, and (5) cleaning the farrowing quarters and the sow.

We recommend producers divert more resources to primary and secondary prevention techniques. Less emphasis should be placed on the less effective and more costly approach of using drugs and biologics to treat sick piglets. How much to divert and the response to expect will depend on the current status of the herd. A record program that can store the necessary information and allow data retrieval in a usable format is the basis of an effective health program.

For Full article- <http://articles.extension.org/pages/27050/baby-pig-management-birth-to-weaning>

Animal Fun Day



Want to learn more about animals and have fun while doing it? Come and enjoy Animal Fun Day!


Saturday
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at the Education Center & 4-H Park
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Thursday, May 18, 2017



All proceeds support the 4-H Youth Development Program

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Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00am
Shotgun Start
2:00pm
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6 Small Ruminants Parasites are on the horizon

Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator, CCE Ulster County

| Check Point | Observation | Possibilities |
|----------------|---|--|
| 1. EYE | Anemia 1-5 (FAMACHA® card) | Barber pole worm (<i>Haemonchus</i>) Liver fluke Hook worms Other worms and causes |
| 2. BACK | Body condition score 1-5 (BCS card) | Brown stomach worm (<i>Teladorsagia</i>) Bankrupt worm (<i>Trichostrongylus</i>) Nodular worm Other worms and causes |
| 3. TAIL | Fecal soiling (1-5) Dag score card | Brown stomach worm (<i>Teladorsagia</i>) Bankrupt worm (<i>Trichostrongylus</i>) Coccidia (<i>Eimeria</i>) Nodular worm (<i>Oesophagostomum</i>) Other worms and causes |
| 4. JAW | Soft swelling "Bottle jaw" 1-5 | Barber pole worm (<i>Haemonchus</i>) Coccidia (<i>Eimeria</i>) Liver fluke Hook worms Other worms and causes |
| 5. NOSE | Discharge 1-5 | Nasal botfly Lungworms Pneumonia Other causes |
| 5. COAT | Coat condition 1-3 | Barber pole worm (<i>Haemonchus</i>) Brown stomach worm (<i>Teladorsagia</i>) Bankrupt worm (<i>Trichostrongylus</i>) Coccidia (<i>Eimeria</i>) External parasites Other causes |

Some of you may not be familiar with the 5-point check when examining small ruminants. In order to curb the rapid increase in parasite resistance in our small ruminant populations it is important to complete visual examinations of your animals in order to decide who, and more importantly, who not to deworm. Below is a chart that explains the steps in the five point check. This check is a companion to FAMACHA in that it can help identify animals that are affected by parasites other than the barber pole worm and it can help producers when deciding whether to worm an animal with a FAMACHA score of 3. The farthest right column of the table lists other possible parasites that the points can indicate depending on the findings. If you are unfamiliar with the FAMACHA system I encourage you to attend our [upcoming small ruminant parasite classes in May](#).

The first point is the eye check. This step is the FAMACHA step and it will be most helpful in identifying animals who are being affected by the barber pole worm. There are some limitations to utilizing this procedure by itself in that it will not alert producers to other types of worms that may be causing damage to your stock, and it can be subjective when it comes to animals that are in the middle of the rating system, meaning it may or may not be prudent to deworm these animals. It is important to remember that the point of these procedures is to use less dewormers to prevent resistance in our dwindling arsenal of effective drugs.

The second point is to check the body condition score of your small ruminants. This is obviously different for sheep and goats but the general procedure is the same. You are going to examine and touch different parts of the animal to estimate the amount of fat and muscle cover the animal is carrying. This is obviously directly related to the animal's health as an animal that is eating and not putting on weight is sick. Like FAMACHA there are guide cards that can help you to score your animals.

the third point is to examine the tail of the animal for scouring. This is referred to as dag scoring in sheep because dag is dried fecal matter on the tale of the sheep. Goats, with their thinner hair coats will show signs of runny manure that will run down their hind quarters. As with the other components, there is a scoring chart for this as well.

(Continued on page 11)

Introducing Horses to Spring Growing Pastures

Originally posted by the Penn State Livestock Team April 2014

Adapted by Rachel Moody, Livestock Educator, CCE Orange County

Horse owners are anticipating the joy of realizing that the long harsh winter is gradually changing into the pleasures of spring.

Changes in Pasture Growth

Along with the warmer temperatures, changes occur to the condition of the pastures where grasses turn to a greener appearance and will contain healthy nutritional value for the grazing horse. It won't be long until the sound of lawnmowers will be abundant and farmers will be processing the first cutting of hay.

During the winter months and times of inclement weather, domestic horses are often confined in areas where they cannot access natural forage on a day to day basis.

Most horse owners that have pastures for their horses tend to restrict the horse in winter from the pasture to protect the pasture from the damage a horse can inflict.

Horses are destructive on wet pastures often ripping with their teeth the forage by the roots or causing extensive damage to the sod, by churning and forming rivets with their hoofs. A horse owner who wishes to provide the supplement a pasture can provide to the horse's diet must take a concentrated effort in maintaining a healthy pasture year round. These owners often have sacrifice or dry-lot areas for the horse's daily exercise and turn out during inclement weather and long months of winter. Early in spring, grasses are striving to grow and must have two to three weeks to develop a length of stem that will assist growth in the following growing season. Horses should not graze on these early plants until the grass is at least 4 to 6 inches in height.

Benefits of Pastures

A problem can occur with the acclimation of horses to forage when spring arrives and the horses are introduced to a diet of green grasses. Horses are a grazing/browsing animals that prefer to supply the nutrients and fiber needed in their system by eating natural pasture forage. A good healthy well-maintained pasture might provide all the necessary forage a horse needs in its diet. The issue for the horse owner is the challenge of controlling the amount of consumption of the green grass when returning the horse to grazing. When the horse's metabolism is not accustomed to the lush forage dramatic side effects can occur.

Digestive System

The horse's digestive system does not adjust to changes rapidly or easily.

Horses fed erratically in both amounts and types of digestible items tend to develop problems that can occur in the consequence of colic or founder.

A horse not use to eating apples can develop colic if suddenly a bag of apples is consumed. Innocent people think they are giving the horse a treat when they feed them large amounts of carrots or throw the fresh lawn clippings over the fence for the horse to chomp on; when actually they could be causing a harmful chain reaction.

Introduce Slowly One method of gradually introducing the horse to grass is to begin with small controlled periods of grazing of 15 minutes a day for a few days. Increase in the following days an additional ten minutes each turn out until the horse has adjusted to a 3 or 4 hour period of grazing time. Then maintain this 4 hour period of grazing for a two week period before giving the horse total turn-out on the pasture. This will enable the horse's digestive system to accept the digestion of the fresh grass. Even with the most careful management of horse forage consumption upsets effects can occur.

Continue Pasture Management

Throughout the growing season, manage pasture growth by allowing grasses to reach at least a 6 inch height before allowing grazing. Sub-dividing pastures allows for rotational grazing with each pasture able to have a rest (



period. Remove horses from pastures when grass height is 4 inches or lower and move to a new pasture. Grasses need approximately 21 days to regain a height of 6 - 8 inches. Since horses graze sporadically often parts of the pasture may have higher grass heights. Mowing consistently, during the growing season, will assist in maintaining a desirable grass height and discourage weed growth and reproduction. Do not mow below 6 inches - set mower decks higher than in traditional lawn-type mowing levels.

Penn State Livestock Team April (2014) <http://extension.psu.edu/animals/equine/news/2014/introducing-horses-to-spring-growing-pastures>

Rice Poultry Fund Grant Awarded to Ulster County

Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator, CCE Ulster County

Ulster County is very pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant courtesy of the Animal Science Education and Equipment Resource Awards (Rice Poultry Fund). This resource award scholarships was offered to county extension associations in New York State that engage 4-H poultry project youth in direct programming. In order for applications to be considered, county associations must “team up” with at least two counties working together to provide materials/programming to youth working with poultry. In order to meet this requirement Ulster County livestock program has partnered with Sullivan and Orange Counties to offer a workshop on hatching poultry. Each County will host a clinic this summer where the process of hatching your own poultry will be taught and demonstrated. After the class, the materials will be available for each county to hatch out their own batch of poultry. This is a great way for people of all ages and experience to learn how you can hatch eggs at home. We are especially excited because the Ulster class and hatch out will coincide with the Ulster County Fair meaning we will be able to showcase and teach the general public about the hatching process. If you are interested in attending the class please register on the events page website of the [Ulster, Orange](#), or [Sullivan County](#) websites.



9 Poultry Management Requirement Checklist for Meat Bird Flocks

Originally posted by Phillip J. Clauer, Poultry Extension Specialist, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 2009

Adapted by Michelle Lipari, Livestock Educator, CCE Sullivan County



Best Breeds To Raise:

Meat-type crosses (Rock-Cornish) or commercial hybrid broilers are the most the efficient birds available. Purebred poultry most commonly raised for meat are Cornish, Plymouth Rocks and White Jersey Giants. Purebreds are less efficient and take up to 14 weeks to develop a desirable carcass. When considering birds for meat production, select birds with light colored plumage. Dark feathered birds are less desirable because of their dark pin feathers left after slaughtering.

Floor Space:

At least 1.5 square feet per bird, however, 2 square feet recommended.

Litter:

Wet and compacted litter is of special concern with meat-type birds. These conditions cause breast sores and leg weaknesses and give the carcasses an undesirable appearance. Never brood chicks on slippery surfaces. Meat birds need traction and leg support. Pine shavings or straw work best.

Feed:

Feed a completely balanced ration. For fryers and broilers, feed a starter mash or crumble pellets containing 20-23% protein until slaughtered. For roasters, feed a 20% protein starter for the first 6 weeks then switch to a 18% protein grower feed. Many people just "dilute" the starter by feeding 90% starter mash with 10% corn from 6 to 10 weeks and feeding 80% starter mash and 20% corn after 10 weeks of age.

Feeders:

Three (3) inches of feeder space per bird. The lip of the feeder should be level with the birds back height to prevent feed wastage. Only fill trough feeder 1/3 or 1/2 full to prevent wastage. Keep feed in front of birds at all times.

Waterers:

At least 6 gallons of water per 100 birds daily. Clean the waterers and provide fresh water daily. Place the waterers so that the lip is level with the birds back. One inch (1") of water space/bird.

Lights:

Constant light is recommended. Provide one 25-40 watt bulb per 100 sq. feet.

Roosts:

Do not use roosts for meat-type chickens. Roosts cause breast blisters, crooked keels, bruises and lameness in heavy meat birds.

Nests:

Do not use nests. Birds should be slaughtered before they reach production age. Meat-type birds make poor layers. If you raise dual purpose birds, put nests in place after you slaughter the culls and males.

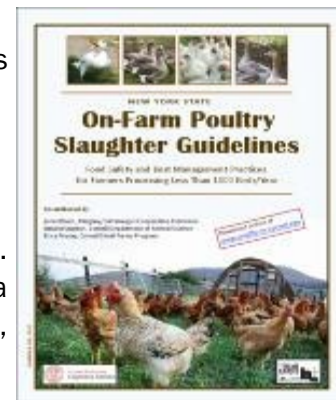
(Continued on page 10)

Yards:

Not necessary, but if desired, confine the birds to an exercise area which provides between 5 and 10 sq. feet per bird.

When To Slaughter:

Two (2) to three (3) lbs. fryers should be slaughtered at 4 to 5 weeks of age, 4 to 5 2lb. broilers slaughtered at 6 to 9 weeks of age and roasters at 9 to 14 weeks of age. Remember, as the birds get older and larger they become less efficient and they eat a larger amount of feed for each pound of weight gained. Older birds produce more fat, so slaughter the birds as close to the desired weight as possible.



Click link to view the guidelines



Virginia Cooperative Poultry Team April (2014) https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/2902/2902-1083/2902-1083_pdf.pdf

(multi species grazing continued)

Some type of predator control program is essential with sheep and goats as they are more susceptible to feral or local dogs and coyotes than cattle. Cattle may serve as a deterrent to the roaming canines but extra precautions are usually needed. Livestock guardian animals are most commonly used to protect the small ruminants from predators. Dogs such as the Great Pyrenees or the Anatolian Shepherd are most used as guardians, but donkeys, mules, mustangs, and llamas are also used. If a guardian animal does not protect the herd, it should be replaced.

Usually more exterior fencing is needed to keep unwanted canines away from small ruminants as well as to keep the small ruminants in the field compared to cattle. Goats require a little more extensive fencing than sheep to keep them confined but even more extensive fencing is required to keep the coyotes out of the field where the sheep and goats are grazing. Reinforcing existing fencing with electric fencing is usually the most economical method.

As with all livestock, there may be personality conflicts with mixed species of animals. If this occurs, the least desirable animals involved in the conflict are best culled from the herd. Another problem with grazing of multiple species is the feeding of minerals. Usually goats and cattle can use the same mineral unless there appears to be a health concern. However, sheep do not tolerate as high a level of copper as do goats and cattle if the animals are being co-mingled. Multi-species grazing can have additional benefits other than greater pounds of meat per acre. Because gastrointestinal parasites from goats or sheep cannot survive in the stomach of cattle and vice versa, multi-species grazing may decrease internal parasite loads. The decreased level of parasites should result in fewer treatments for worms which could slow resistance of parasites to conventional dewormers, an increasing problem with small ruminants. In a field infected with a high load of larvae from sheep and goat parasites, cattle should be grazed first to pick up the larvae of parasites, and then goats or sheep could graze with less danger of parasite infestation. In other situations, producers may prefer to have small ruminants graze before cattle as most of the larvae of internal parasites are located on plants within 4 inches of the ground.

In summary, producers with cattle can obtain greater pounds of meat per acre and can reduce weeds and brush in a pasture when adding small ruminants for multi-species grazing. These benefits need to be compared to the additional labor and fencing requirements for the small ruminants as well as the costs of predator control for sheep and/or goats.

For Full article: <http://articles.extension.org/pages/64557/goat-pastures-multi-species-grazing-can-improve-utilization-of-pastures>

Progressive Ulster Graziers

Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator, CCE Ulster County

Ulster County is pleased to announce that the Progressive Ulster Graziers (PUG) group is gearing up for some events this summer. This group is focused on increasing knowledge and understanding of good grazing practices and works collaboratively with farmers, ranchers, and educators, to share ideas and techniques. Most of our events are offered for free or for a nominal fee to cover the costs of refreshments. The group is open to any and everyone who is interested in or currently grazing any type of stock. This program is also open to all experience levels or to those just interested in learning more about pasture and animal health. Our first meeting will be on May 16th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, where we will be screening some short films centered on rotational grazing. These short films are beautiful and showcase the benefits, details, and realities of rotating livestock in pasture-based systems. Between each of the short films there will be time for a discussion and Q&A about the films' content as it relates to grazing. This is a chance to meet some of your fellow producers and gain exposure to new techniques and ideas. It's a great opportunity for grass farmers from beginning to advanced levels. So keep up to date with the [Ulster Ag. Program events listing](#), or if you would like to be added to the PUG mailing list please [email Jason Detzel in Ulster County](#).



(Parasites continued)

The fourth point is to examine the animal for bottle jaw. Bottle jaw is the accumulation of fluid in the jaw of the animal and is a result of anemia. This is often a sign that the animal is infested with barber pole worms but it can also be caused by coccidiosis. Once you have seen an animal with this condition it is easy to spot on others. A good way to get to know this condition is to look online for pictures of goats or sheep afflicted with this and to physically touch your animals and feel for the any accumulated fluid.

The fifth point depends on what species you are examining. For sheep you are going to examine the nose of the animal for discharge. This can indicate numerous types of parasites but is a common symptom of nasal bots. For goats you are going to examine the coat of the animal. A healthy animal will have healthy coat with a good sheen to it. Poor coat condition is indicative of the overall health of the animal but may also indicate a nutritional or mineral deficiency.

These five points are a guide and ensure that you are doing the most important thing you can do for your animals, monitor and spend time with them. Not all of these points are going to indicate parasite issues as many of these symptoms can be produced by other issues such as old age, off or poorly mixed feed, environmental stressors, and physical stressors such as birthing. Keep this in mind when accessing your animals. The most effective way to test your animals is to complete a fecal analysis with samples and a microscope. If you are interested in learning how to do this procedure I encourage to take the small ruminant parasite course here in Ulster County. Once you complete the course you can take advantage of our monthly sampling lab for a nominal fee. For five dollars you can utilize the lab for one hour and complete as many samples as you like. These samples normally cost about 25 dollars per sample if completed by a veterinarian but we are happy to offer our producers this service for 5 dollars once they complete the required course and training. If you have any question please [email](#) or call.

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BBQ & Silent Auction 6:00PM
Auction starts at 7:00PM

For more information contact
Vanessa Merrill 845-344-1234
or vam29@cornell.edu

Sat. May 13, 2017
4-H Calf Sale

Contact Information

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County
2715 Route 44, Suite 1
Millbrook, NY 12545
(845) 677-8223
Jennifer Fimbel, Livestock Educator
jlf20@cornell.edu

Stephanie Radin, Agriculture Program Leader
sradin@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County
18 Seward Ave.
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 344-1234
Rachel Moody, Equine and Livestock and Dairy Educator
ram72@cornell.edu
Maire Ullrich, Agriculture Program Leader
mru2@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County
Extension Education Center
64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd.
Liberty, NY 12754
(845) 292-6180
Michelle Lipari, Livestock Educator mml249@cornell.edu
Melinda Meddaugh, Agriculture Program Leader
mm2592@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
232 Plaza Rd.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 340-3990
Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator
jbd222@cornell.edu
Elizabeth Higgins, Agriculture Program Leader
emh56@cornell.edu



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