

THE BLEAT

A UGA Extension Newsletter for Middle Georgia Sheep and Goat Producers



IN TWO SHAKES OF A LAMB'S TAIL...

By Caitlin Jackson

*County Extension Coordinator/ANR Agent
Monroe County*

This issue marks the two year anniversary of The BLEAT! Time has certainly flown by hasn't it? In the last two years we have distributed eight issues to over 2,000 individuals, received a national award, and survived a global pandemic! While the last two years may not have been kind to the sheep industry with low prices and international trade issues, I can't help but think that we are moving forward. More and more consumers are demanding local food and fiber and that leads to great marketability for our Georgia Grown lamb and goat products. There has also been increased demand for breeding stock and that is a great indicator that flocks are growing.

The next two years will be here in two shakes of a lamb's tail. Our goal is to continue to provide you with non-biased and research based information to make the best management decisions for your flock.

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GRASSES, FORBS, AND BROWSE... OH MY!

by Brooklyne Wassel

You've heard it once, and you will probably hear it a million more times, "Pasture management is vital to the health of your livestock." That's great, but where do you start? Normally I will say, it all starts with a soil test. That is true, but it makes a dangerous assumption. Pulling a soil test will help get a snapshot of soil health, liming and fertilizer needs, but when filling out the all important little brown bag, you have to state the crop you are growing. What do you write? *Pasture*? That word means so much that when you get down to it, it doesn't mean a whole lot any more. We have to be more specific and understand that "pasture" is a catch-all term. You have to know your individual system and what makes up your pasture. That's really where it all starts.



GRASSES

Grasses have round or flat stems. Leaves grow along the entire length of the stem. When viewed from the top, leaves grow in two directions.



FORBS

Forbs are non-woody plant material that are not grasses, such as broadleaf plants. Examples of forbs include: turnips, kale, and chicory.



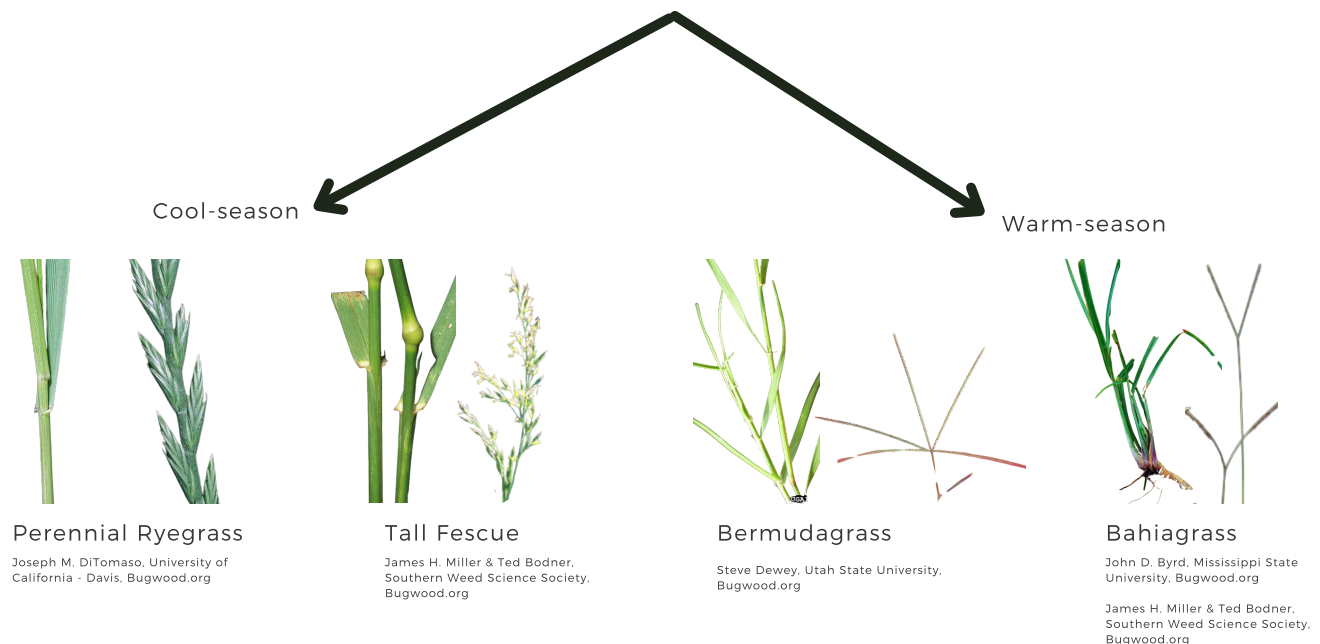
BROWSE

Woody plant material makes up a classification known as browse. Browse can include: black locust, honeysuckle, privet, and briars.

GRASSES, FORBS, AND BROWSE... OH MY! continued

Start to make some mental categories for your pasture. Take a pasture walk and evaluate what is growing this season. Make sure what is available is meeting the needs of your animals. Is your pasture system setting the animals up for success by meeting nutrient needs and even grazing/browsing preference?

You should start to notice the base of your system first. Grasses make up the base of most systems and encompass what most people think of when they hear the word pasture. This group provides a baseline nutrient value to most systems due to coverage, perennial nature and ability to be maintained. Grasses in Georgia pastures do vary, and not all were created equal, so you will need to do a deeper dive. Determine the time of year it is actively growing to first distinguish whether it is a cool-season or warm-season species. If it is finishing up right now and producing seed heads, it is very likely a cool-season grass such as Tall Fescue. If it is starting to actively grow, it could be a warm-season perennial such as bahia or bermudagrass.

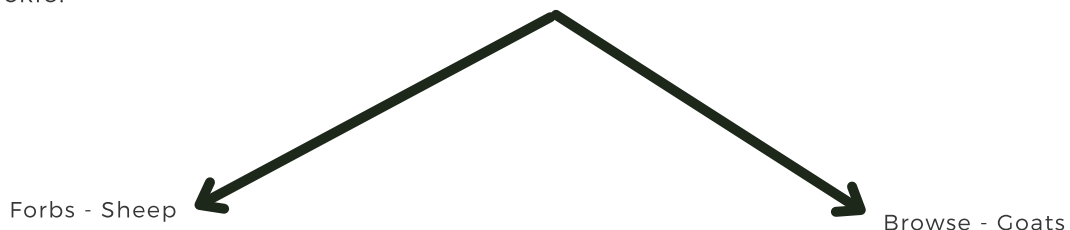


Once you have determined the grass species in your system, start to evaluate the "outliers" or those plants which do not fit neatly into the grasses category. These plants could be along the fence line, providing a buffer between streams and pasture or even claiming a less managed portion of the property. Are they broadleaf weeds such as thistle or buttercup, or are they actually forbs or browse? Forbs might not be present unless purposefully planted, but once established, they are often a favorite and preferentially chosen by sheep. This family of plants is often described as pasture herbs. Let's be honest, who doesn't want a little extra flavor in their daily diet? However, if you have goats, they are looking for the browse part of the pasture system equation.



GRASSES, FORBS, AND BROWSE... OH MY! continued

Browse can be why some get into goats in the first place, but it is not always a sustainable plan. What happens when the browse runs out? Are you really going to plant privet to have as a food source? Probably not, but you can look at rotating pastures to help with regrowth while also controlling spread. Keep a close eye on preferential browse to be sure goats, and sheep, do not cause soil erosion issues or completely defoliate the plants. Careful rotational grazing can allow for ample browse without the need to mow rogue pear tree saplings or plant honeysuckle.



Chicory

Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

David Cappaert, Bugwood.org



Cowpea

Michasia Dowdy, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



Privet

James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, Bugwood.org



Honeysuckle

Dan Clark, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

You have walked the pasture and categorized plants. How does your system measure up? Do you have a quality forage making up the base of your nutrition? Do you have forbs for your sheep? Do you have browse for your goats? Do you have a sustainable pasture management plan to keep these species in place, or are you planning to move your animals to new pastures to meet their needs? Yes, those are a lot of questions, but they are important ones. If your system isn't meeting these basic requirements, start to work with a professional to get a game plan. Now that you know what is in place and what is missing, use that infamous brown soil bag, and work towards a system that provides your animals quality nutrition, and they will reward you in return.

In the next issue of *The Bleat*, we will dive deeper into recommended forbs and browse for those who wish to add more variety to their system.





WEANING LAMBS & KIDS

Dr. Niki Whitley, Extension Specialist
Fort Valley State University



Weaning is the process of removing the offspring from the dam, or for bottle fed young, removing milk from their diet.

Although most people think of weaning in terms of age, making sure that lambs or kids are eating solid food and are 2.5 to 3 times their birth weight is critical prior to weaning.

If weaning by age, 60 to 90 days old is the typical age for small ruminants, though weaning can occur as early as 14 days or dams (mothers) can be allowed to naturally wean their offspring, which is usually at around four months of age, but can be up to six months of age. Weaning later than 90 days of age, especially during the breeding season, should be carefully considered if male offspring are not castrated to avoid possible inbreeding.

Weaning early (prior to 90 days of age) may be a consideration when feeding the dams to maintain body condition/body weight is a struggle,

when greater efficiency of gain is of interest (winter weaning, show animals, fast growing meat breed animals) or if females are being prepared for earlier return to breeding. Though weaning at 30-45 days of age is typical for bottle-fed lambs and kids, care should be taken if trying to wean from dams at this time of peak milk production since it could be difficult to dry up the dams so there is a greater risk of mastitis (udder infections).

To prepare for weaning, high-energy feeds such as grain-based feeds/feed pellets and lush pasture should be removed from the dams' diets and they should be changed to a low-quality hay or forage. This should happen at least two weeks prior to weaning and should continue until the udder shrinks and milk production has ceased which is typically around two to four weeks, depending on production level/stage of lactation at weaning.





"Creep feeding or creep grazing should be continued for the lambs or kids even when feeding for the dams is reduced because this will reduce stress at weaning"

Some producers will limit water intake for dams at weaning, especially in the first 24 hours, though this is not recommended in hot weather. If pressure on the udder needs to be released, the producer can milk the ewe or doe, but full removal of the milk will only encourage continued production and should be avoided. The dams should be observed for red, swollen or painful udders that could indicate mastitis that should be treated, especially the first few days after weaning.

Creep feeding or creep grazing should be continued for the lambs or kids even when feeding for the dams is reduced because this will reduce stress at weaning. In addition, offspring should be vaccinated prior to weaning (both first and booster shots) and at weaning, dams should be removed while offspring remain in the same pastures and in their same contemporary group. These practices also help to reduce stress at weaning.

There is not a lot of research on soft weaning techniques such as fence-line weaning (dams and offspring can see each other for a couple of weeks) or use of weaning nose rings in small ruminants, but some producers feel these methods are less stressful for animals. Some choose late weaning as a more natural, less stressful weaning method. This is more common in pasture-based operations with less prolific breeds or those breeds with lower genetic growth rates.

For more information, contact your local county extension office (extension.uga.edu/county-offices.html) or Dr. Niki Whitley at whitleyn@fvsu.edu or 478-391-4840.

References:

- Weaning primer. Susan Schoenian. Available at www.sheepandgoat.com
- Weaning practices limit stress to ewes and lambs. Melanie Barkley. Available at: <https://extension.psu.edu/weaning-practices-limit-stress-to-ewes-and-lambs>



Work Smarter, Not Harder: Planning a Small Ruminant Handling System

BY SHANNA REYNOLDS
OGLETHORPE COUNTY

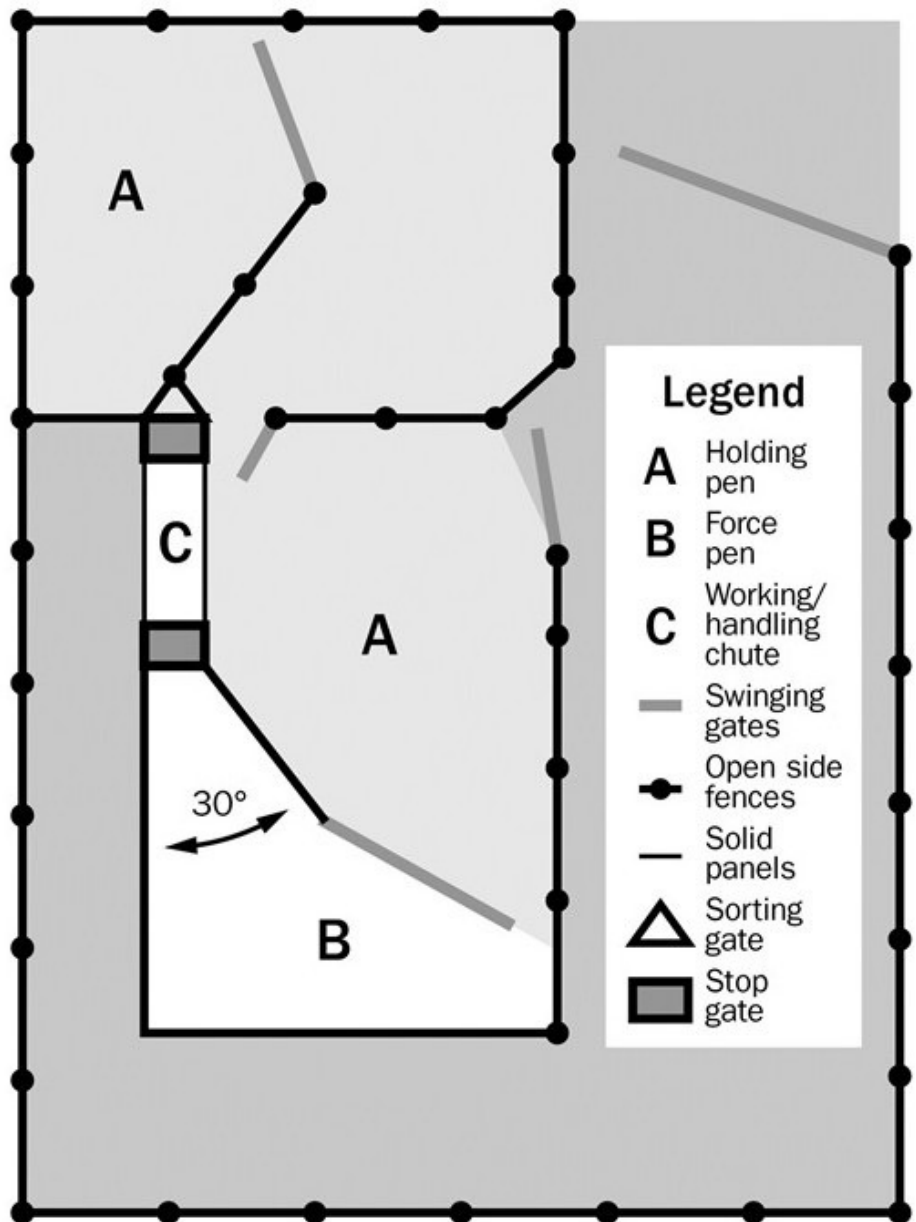
At our house, nothing brings out the worst in our personalities like working goats as a family. Tasks like sorting, weighing, and hoof work are physically demanding work and can be exhausting for all involved. Don't get me wrong, we would still rather farm than anything else in the world. If you've ever worked livestock as a family, you can probably relate. It just seems working with animals on a hot day makes us each forget our religion a bit.

Goat and sheep handling is essential for efficient production. Animals need to be dewormed, vaccinated, sorted, and have hooves trimmed to increase profitability. Good husbandry results in productive animals. Many producers may start out with a "make-do" pen situation when they are forced to handle their goats or sheep, but I wouldn't let that inconvenience linger on. In addition to making work unpleasant, not having a convenient restraint method can lead to essential management tasks being delayed or forgotten. Most producers will only build a handling facility once in their lifetime, so pre-planning is crucial. A well thought out and constructed handling system will reduce stress to both you and your animals. It will allow you to carry out necessary jobs in a more humane manner with less risk of injury to your animals or yourself. And, if your experience working animals as a family is similar to mine, it may occasionally save someone from hurt feelings.

The first step in planning a handling system is to make a list of the jobs you will need to accomplish. In most situations, the same set up will work for sheep or goats. You will also want to consider behaviors of sheep and goats. Generally speaking, livestock prefer to move toward light rather than entering a dark building. Sheep and goats have natural herding instincts and fear separation from the rest of the flock. They like to follow another animal in front of them and they are easily distracted by sudden movements or noises.

Each sheep or goat handling facility will look vastly different based primarily on the size of your operation. It can be simple or elaborate, as long as animals move through the system in an efficient manner. For small producers, a pen where animals can be confined and easily caught may be sufficient. For larger flocks, you will likely require a more sophisticated system. Here are some components to consider including in a small ruminant handling system:

- Crowding/Gathering Pen- This area will serve as a storage area for animals waiting to be forced through the working system. Allocate around 4-5 square feet per animal in holding pens for sheep or goats.
- Sorting or Cutting Gates- Can be placed in areas where animals will move from one phase of the system to the next. Appropriately placed cut gates can keep animals pointed forward and prevent back flow.
- Forcing area- This is where animals are forced into the treatment areas of the system. Consider funnels or sweep tubs to move livestock through.
- Raceway (chute) – Treatment area of the handling system. Chutes can include a foot bath, scale, and elevated platforms. Also consider a head gate, cradle, or turntable to restrain animals at the end of the chute.



If you can feed them in your gathering pen, the herd will get use to going in. It will be easier to catch animals when the time comes to work them. Pens should be no larger than necessary for the size of your operation and gates should be easy to operate. Check all surfaces for splinters and other obstructions. As you plan your handling system, be sure it's centrally located for convenient loading access and in an area that drains water away. A huge bonus to your animals and your farm help (aka family in my case) would be that it's also located in the shade.

SCRAPIE

By Paula Burke
Carroll County



As a sheep or goat producer, you need to be aware of the fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system called Scrapie. Scrapie is in the same class of diseases such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) in cattle and chronic wasting disease in elk and deer.

Scrapie was first diagnosed in the United States in 1947 and there is no cure or treatment for the disease. Ninety percent of cases occur in black-faced sheep, but scrapie can infect all breeds of sheep and goats equally.

Transmission of the disease occurs primarily when offspring of an infected female are exposed to birth fluids, placenta, or bedding soiled by birth fluids.

Contaminated dirt lambing pens can be a source of infection as the prion can bind to soil and remain infective for years. It is best to lamb/kid on concrete that can be disinfected or in a pasture rather than concentrated lambing/kidding pens used over and over. Bucks and rams can contract the disease but cannot spread Scrapie.

Symptoms of Scrapie may be confused with pregnancy toxemia, lice, mites, brain abscesses or tumors, trauma, pneumonia, toxins, rabies, and pseudorabies. Consult your veterinarian if you are concerned and to determine the health issue of your animal.

Since there is no cure or treatment for Scrapie, one tool producers have is genotyping. Genotyping is a DNA test identifying the genes controlling Scrapie susceptibility or resistance. A simple, inexpensive blood or tissue test will identify genetic resistance to Scrapie in sheep or goats. Each parent contributes one copy of the gene to its offspring. In sheep, QQ is highly susceptible. QR is less susceptible. RR is resistant. Producers therefore want to select parents that are RR or QR. Rams will always sire a RR or QR offspring, therefore genotyping rams is most cost effective. Goats have different amino acids than sheep therefore the letters are different for goats. Goat genotyping is a very new discovery and is still being investigated. The letters for goats are K (lysine) and S (serine).

There are several precautions producers can take to minimize the risk of getting Scrapie in their flock or herd:

- Close the flock or herd to female additions. Scrapie is transmitted primarily by females during lambing, so keeping the disease out of the ewes and does is essential.
- Genetic resistance. An RR ram has a high genetic resistance to Scrapie and will make all his offspring resistant or less susceptible to Scrapie.
- Lambing/kidding management. Remove placentas and bedding soiled by birth fluids from birthing areas right away and thoroughly clean the birthing area between lambing.
- Flock/herd additions. Purchase ewes that have been tested at an official genotyping laboratory and have the QR or RR genotype or buy sheep and goats from flocks that have reached the export certified free level of the National Scrapie Flock Certification Program and quarantine all new animals that are brought into the flock to observe for any signs of Scrapie.

To monitor and eradicate the disease, the National Scrapie Eradication Program, through USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, began in 2001 and requires participation by all sheep and goat producers.

The program is an Industry, State and Federal partnership managed by the USDA and State Agriculture Departments. Because Scrapie is transmitted most often during lambing it is essential to trace an infected sheep/goat back to its herd of birth. The use of Scrapie ear tags by producers is the foundation of the eradication effort. All sheep and goat producers are required to place Scrapie ear tags in sheep/goat when they leave their birth herds.

The USDA will provide up to 100 plastic Scrapie tags at no charge to first time Scrapie tag customers. To find out if you are eligible for the free tags or to get a flock ID assigned to your flock so you can buy official tags, call 866-USDA-TAG (873-2824).



Clinical signs of Scrapie include:

- ***Intense rubbing that results in wool loss***
- ***Weight loss despite a healthy appetite***
- ***Increased sensitivity to noise/motion***
- ***High-stepping gait of the forelimbs***
- ***Bunny-hop movement of the rear limbs***
- ***Swaying of the back end***
- ***Loss of coordination***
- ***Biting at legs or side***
- ***Behavioral changes***
- ***Wool pulling***
- ***Tremors***
- ***Lip smacking***
- ***Weakness (may be unable to stand), and***
- ***Death***

**Also visit the Georgia Department of Agriculture's website related to scrapie at
<http://agr.georgia.gov/scrapie.aspx>.**

There is an order form on the site for Georgia producers.



Who needs a Scrapie tag?

All sheep, except wethers, moving intrastate for the purpose of change of ownership, including loan, lease or given away, must be identified with official USDA identification.

All goats, except wethers, commingled with sheep and moved intrastate for the purpose of change of ownership, including loan, lease or given away, must be identified with official USDA identification.

Record keeping is very important and must be kept for 5 years after the animal is sold or dies because the incubation period of Scrapie can be as long as 5 years.

Information to record includes: official id number; breed, sex, species; date official ID applied; date animal was acquired or year of birth; name and address of previous owner; date sold; name and address of buyer.

If any signs of Scrapie are noticed in a sheep or goat that continue for several weeks or if a mature sheep or goat dies after showing signs, it is important for you to contact your veterinarian. If the animal does have Scrapie, it needs to be reported the state veterinarian at the Georgia Department of Agriculture Animal Health office at 404-656-3667. The animal health official will determine if the animal should be further examined and possibly tested for Scrapie (at no cost to you the producer). Scrapie testing can be performed on tissue collected from a living or dead sheep or goat.

Let's all do our part to eradicate Scrapie by knowing what the signs are and tagging your sheep and goats as a routine management task.





WHY SHEAR?

From the American Society of Animal Science Board of Directors and contributed by Georgia Sheep & Woolgrowers Association

There is no such thing as humane wool when it is left on the sheep.

As long as there are sheep, shearing must be practiced for the health and hygiene of each individual animal. Unlike other animals, most sheep are unable to shed. If a sheep goes too long without being shorn, a number of problems occur:

- The excess wool impedes the ability of sheep to regulate their body temperatures. This can cause sheep to become overheated and die.
- Urine, feces, and other materials become trapped in the wool, attracting flies, maggots, and other pests. This causes irritation, infections and endangers the health of the animal.
- Sheep with large amounts of wool can become immobilized by physical obstacles in their path and are more susceptible to predator attacks



TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL SHEARING



1. Pen sheep up before the shearers arrive. The shearer's job is not sheep catcher.
2. If rain is in the forecast, pen sheep up the day before. Wet sheep do not shear well. It's bad for the equipment and the wool quality.
3. Do not feed sheep until after shearing. The ASI Sheep Care Guide recommends no food or water for at least 6 hours before shearing.
4. If you shear pregnant ewes, do not shear them after their fourth month of pregnancy.
5. Plan to assist with the process: bring sheep to the shearing area, sweep the floor between sheep, sort and bag your wool, etc.
6. Provide electricity and a clean, smooth area for shearing.
7. If you have hair sheep, separate them. Hair cannot be dyed or processed like wool. Hair contamination can cause an entire wool bag to be thrown out.
8. Do not tell your sheep buddies to bring their sheep, too, unless you have cleared it first with the shearer. Shearers plan based on the number of sheep to be sheared.
9. Take care of the shearers! Good lighting, bottled water, and an accurate count of sheep to be sheared goes a long way. Tips are welcome.



FICTION

"Sheep don't need to be sheared. The wool industry wants consumers to believe that sheep need to be sheared. They don't. Left alone, these gentle animals would produce just enough wool to protect themselves from extreme temperatures." Quote from PETA Prime 04/07/2021

FACT

For thousands of years, sheep have been selectively bred to produce wool. These thick woolen coats do not shed. While there are sheep breeds – often known as 'hair sheep' – that do not need to be sheared, most sheep breeds require regular shearing in order to maintain health. Left alone, these gentle, wooly animals would suffer needlessly from excess wool.

FICTION

Wool is worthless.

FACT

It can feel that way! The price of raw wool has plummeted over the years. There are many reasons: international competition (some might say unfair trade practices), continued use of synthetics (and damaging microplastics) in clothing, loss of price supports, variable wool quality in some areas, and now, a backlog of raw wool due to Covid restrictions in 2020. However... good quality fleeces can still command a good price on the internet and at the upcoming fiber shows and fairs. Many states (including Georgia) participate in a Wool Pool, where wool from many producers is pooled together and sold to a bidder. There is growing demand for wool insulation for green building. And wool mulch has been proven to decrease weeds and increase yields.



SHEARING FICTION VS FACT

FICTION

Shearing is harmful to sheep.

FACT

Shearing is not harmful to the sheep. A skilled shearer can quickly and efficiently remove the sheep's wool without harm or undue distress. Minor nicks and cuts can occur on occasion. Sadly, there are cases where sheep were seriously injured or mistreated during the shearing process. When these cases have been brought to light, the feedback has been swift, and actions taken to prevent future recurrences.

The American Sheep Industry (ASI) provides Animal Care and Welfare guidelines and educational resources for shearing:
www.sheepusa.org/researcheducation-animalcarewelfare

The fact is, shearing itself is not harmful or painful to sheep.

P.S.

Hair sheep producers – the shepherds raising Katahdins, Dorpers, Barbados, etc. – do not have to worry about finding shearers or markets for wool. There's something good to be said about that, too!



A FOUR PART SERIES ON HARVEST METHODS

BY HAILEY PARTAIN | UPSON/LAMAR COUNTIES

There are four ways approved by Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to render an animal unconscious. Regulations for all of these ways can be found on the GDA website under; Code of Federal Regulations, 9 CFR, Chapter III, Part 313.

The second option is § 313.5 Mechanical; captive bolt.

§ 313.15 Mechanical; captive bolt.

The slaughtering of sheep, swine, goats, calves, cattle, horses, mules, and other equines by using captive bolt stunners and the handling in connection therewith, in compliance with the provisions contained in this section, are hereby designated and approved as humane methods of slaughtering and handling of such animals under the Act.

(a) Application of stunners, required effect; handling.

(1) The captive bolt stunners shall be applied to the livestock in accordance with this section so as to produce immediate unconsciousness in the animals before they are shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut. The animals shall be stunned in such a manner that they will be rendered unconscious with a minimum of excitement and discomfort.

(2) The driving of the animals to the stunning area shall be done with a minimum of excitement and discomfort to the animals. Delivery of calm animals to the stunning areas is essential since accurate placement of stunning equipment is difficult on nervous or injured animals. Among other things, this requires that, in driving animals to the stunning areas, electrical equipment be used as little as possible and with the lowest effective voltage.

(3) Immediately after the stunning blow is delivered the animals shall be in a state of complete unconsciousness and remain in this condition throughout shackling, sticking and bleeding.

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(1) General requirements for stunning facilities; operator.

(i) Acceptable captive bolt stunning instruments may be either skull penetrating or nonpenetrating. The latter type is also described as a concussion or mushroom type stunner. Penetrating instruments on detonation deliver bolts of varying diameters and lengths through the skull and into the brain. Unconsciousness is produced immediately by physical brain destruction and a combination of changes in intracranial pressure and acceleration concussion. Nonpenetrating or mushroom stunners on detonation deliver a bolt with a flattened circular head against the external surface of the animal's head over the brain. Diameter of the striking surface of the stunner may vary as conditions require. Unconsciousness is produced immediately by a combination of acceleration concussion and changes in intracranial pressures. A combination instrument utilizing both penetrating and nonpenetrating principles is acceptable. Energizing of instruments may be accomplished by detonation of measured charges of gunpowder or accurately controlled compressed air. Captive bolts shall be of such size and design that, when properly positioned and activated, immediate unconsciousness is produced.

(ii) To assure uniform unconsciousness with every blow, compressed air devices must be equipped to deliver the necessary constant air pressure and must have accurate, constantly operating air pressure gauges. Gauges must be easily read and conveniently located for use by the stunning operator and the inspector. For purposes of protecting employees, inspectors, and others, it is desirable that any stunning device be equipped with safety features to prevent injuries from accidental discharge. Stunning instruments must be maintained in good repair.

(iii) The stunning area shall be so designed and constructed as to limit the free movements of animals sufficiently to allow



the operator to locate the stunning blow with a high degree of accuracy. All chutes, alleys, gates and restraining mechanisms between and including holding pens and stunning areas shall be free from pain-producing features such as exposed bolt ends, loose boards, splintered or broken planking, and protruding sharp metal of any kind. There shall be no unnecessary holes or other openings where feet or legs of animals may be injured. Overhead drop gates shall be suitably covered on the bottom edge to prevent injury on contact with animals. Roughened or cleated cement shall be used as flooring in chutes leading to stunning areas to reduce falls of animals. Chutes, alleys, and stunning areas shall be so designed that they will comfortably accommodate the kinds of animals to be stunned.

(iv) The stunning operation is an exacting procedure and requires a well-trained and experienced operator. He must be able to accurately place the stunning instrument to produce immediate unconsciousness. He must use the correct detonating charge with regard to kind, breed, size, age, and sex of the animal to produce the desired results.

Continued from page 15

(2) Special requirements and prohibitions.

(i) Choice of instrument and force required to produce immediate unconsciousness varies, depending on kind, breed, size, age, and sex of the animal. Young swine, lambs, and calves usually require less stunning force than mature animals of the same kind. Bulls, rams, and boars usually require skull penetration to produce immediate unconsciousness. Charges suitable for smaller kinds of livestock such as swine or for young animals are not acceptably interchanged for use on larger kinds or older livestock, respectively.

(ii) Captive bolt stunners that deliberately inject compressed air into the cranium at the end of the penetration cycle shall not be used to stun cattle.

All federal and state inspected facilities must follow these regulations and get evaluated periodically.



UGA Extension
Master Small Ruminant Producer

OCTOBER 2021 . UPSON COUNTY . 6 SESSIONS

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

SAFELY PREPARING A PICNIC

Nicole Walters, FACS Agent-Monroe County



The warmer weather calls us to spend more time outside. As COVID restrictions and occurrences begin to decrease, families still need to take into account food safety when preparing and packing meals on the go. Here are a few tips to keep you and your family safe from food borne illnesses as you grill, camp or picnic in the beautiful outdoors.

- **CLEAN-** Wash hands and surfaces often. Bacteria thrives in warm, moist areas. It is best to cut raw meat ahead of time to allow for proper clean up. While you are on the go, you may have limited access to clean, running water or soap. Doing as much preparation at home as possible will give you the ability to keep things clean and lessen the threat of harmful bacteria in your food. Pack damp paper towels and soap to help clean hands and surfaces in time of limited access.
- **SEPARATE** -Avoid Cross-Contamination. When packing the cooler for an outing, it is best to take one cooler for raw meats, poultry, fish and eggs, and a separate cooler for ready-to-eat foods. If only one cooler is used, it is essential to wrap raw meat and poultry very securely to prevent juices from coming in contact with ready-to-eat food. If serving a food that will be marinated, marinate it in the refrigerator before you leave home or in the cooler with ice, not out at room temperature or outdoors on the table. If some of the marinade is to be used as a sauce on the cooked food, take out that portion of the marinade and set it aside for later use. Do not put raw meat and poultry in it and then use the marinade on the cooked product. The only way to safely reuse it is to boil it first to destroy bacteria that may be in it. Use clean plates and utensils with the safely cooked food, not the ones with raw meat juices on them.
- **COOK-** to Proper Temperatures. Food is safely cooked when it reaches the safe internal temperature needed to kill harmful bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses. Take along a food thermometer. Meat and poultry cooked on a grill often browns very fast on the outside, so to be sure that they are cooked thoroughly, you need to check them with a food thermometer. Cook all meat and poultry to these safe minimum internal temperatures:
 - Cook all raw beef, pork, lamb and veal steaks, chops, and roasts 145 degrees F as measured with a food thermometer before removing meat from the heat source. For safety and quality, allow meat to rest for at least three minutes before carving or consuming. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook meat to higher temperatures.

- Cook all poultry to 165 degrees F as measured with a food thermometer. Check the internal temperature of whole poultry in the innermost part of the thigh and wing and the thickest part of the breast. All poultry should reach a minimum of 165 degrees F. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook poultry to higher temperatures such as 180 degrees F.
- Be sure to heat hot dogs to steaming hot, and reheat any leftover food to 165 degrees F as measured with a food thermometer. Be sure to clean the thermometer between uses. Cook meat and poultry completely at the picnic site. Partial cooking of food ahead of time allows bacteria to multiply to the point that subsequent cooking cannot destroy them.
- **CHILL**-Refrigerate Promptly. Holding food at the wrong temperature is a prime cause of foodborne illness. Never leave food in the "danger zone" between 40 degrees F and 140 degrees F for more than two hours or one hour in temperatures above 90 degrees F. Cold foods like luncheon meats, cooked meats, chicken, and potato or pasta salads should be kept in an insulated cooler with lots of ice or frozen gel packs. Keep the cooler in the coolest part of the car, and place in the shade or shelter, out of the sun, whenever possible. Chill cold drinks in a separate cooler so that the cooler with the perishable foods is not constantly being opened.

CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK and CHILL your way to a safe summer outing!

Article credit-Dr. Elizabeth Address (retired), UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences



CITRUS-MARINATED LAMB KABOBS

Serves 4-Prep Time:15 min.-Cook Time:15 min.

You'll need-

- 2 lbs lamb, cubed (1 inch x 1 inch)
(Chicken or steak could also be used)
- 4 tbsp ground coriander
- 4 cups fresh squeezed orange juice
- 1 chili pepper, seeds removed (jalapeno is great or use scotch bonnet for more heat)
- 4 oranges, peeled and sliced into thick wedges
- 4 bamboo skewers

To prepare kabobs-

- Rub the coriander into the lamb cubes. Add the chilis and orange juice. Marinate overnight.
- To grill-Set the grill to medium high heat. If using wooden skewers, pre-soak them in water to avoid burning.
- Remove the meat from marinade. Pour marinade into a pan and heat to a boil until it's a nice glaze.
- Assemble skewers by using a cube of meat and orange slice. Repeat meat and orange slices until skewer is full.
- Place on grill and cook to desired doneness.
(Recommended internal temperature of 145°F)
- When finished, arrange skewers on platter and serve with prepared glaze.

Recipe from Robert Irvine



2021-2022 GEORGIA JUNIOR NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW APPROVED RULEBOOK CHANGES



General Rules

- There will be no Livestock Banquet in 2022. State Staff will work towards continuing to recognize exhibitors and record book winners while potentially hosting a reception in appreciation of supporters and sponsors.
- Entry fees will be increased to \$30 for each species. For species with an additional animal entry fee, the fee will be \$35 for each additional entry. Details for each species are detailed below.
- Exhibitors' animals that are eliminated from the show due to weight requirements are not eligible to be shown in showmanship unless the animal is the only eligible animal in that species for that exhibitor. If the exhibitor has an eligible animal of the same species, the exhibitor is required to show the eligible animal in showmanship. This rule does not apply to exhibitors in the State Market Hog Show (See Rule 7 & 8 under Swine Rules), State Market Lamb Show, State Market Goat, and State Commercial Dairy Heifer Show.

Sheep

- Entry Fees:
 - Market Lamb \$30 per lamb for the first three lambs entered. Entry fees increase to \$35 per lamb for the 4th and 5th lamb entered. Exhibitors can enter up to five (5) lambs but will only be allowed to show three (3). An exhibitor can bring no more than three (3) lambs to the Georgia Junior National Market Lamb Show.
 - Breeding Ewes- Entry fees are \$30 per ewe. No more than four ewes per exhibitor may be entered in the entire show.
- Lamb Superintendents will work with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to determine the best course of action to address Club Lamb fungus at the Market Lamb and Breeding Ewe Shows.
- Breed shows will be provided for purebred ewes that have a minimum of seven (7) ewes at check in. Those breeds with less than seven (7) entries at check in will be shown in the "All Other Breeds" classes. Classes may be combined or divided based on the number of entries. A wool breed class will be provided if there are more than seven (7) entries.
- White/Speckle Face description: This includes white face breeds and their crosses with predominately white faces and dark speckles.
- Registered Ewe Classes reduced from six (6) to four (4):
 - Senior and Yearling Ewes (older than 14 months)
 - January/February Ewe Lambs (born in the previous calendar year)
 - March/April Ewe Lambs (born in the previous calendar year)
 - May and Younger Ewe Lambs (born in the previous calendar year)

Goats

- Entry Fees:
 - Market Goat- \$30 per goat for the first three goats entered. Entry fees increase to \$35 per goat for the 4th and 5th goat entered. Exhibitors can enter up to five (5) goats but will only be allowed to show three (3). An exhibitor can bring no more than three (3) goats to the Georgia Junior National Market Goat Show.
 - Breeding Does- \$30 per doe for the first three does entered. Entry fees increase to \$35 per doe for the 4th and 5th doe entered. Exhibitors can enter up to five (5) does but will only be allowed to show three (3). An exhibitor can bring no more than three (3) does to the Georgia Junior National Breeding Doe Show
- The selection of the Overall Top 5 may be made by selecting three (3) from each class and three (3) from each division to move on to the next level of recognition.
- New Showmanship Order for Market Goats and Breeding Does: Begin with 6th grade-12th grade; Master 4-H and Supreme FFA Showman; 1st grade-5th grade.
- Georgia Club Goat Producers Association will implement a selection of the Georgia Born and Bred Goats after the selection of the Overall Top 5 for Market Goats and Breeding Does.



ENTRIES FOR STATE MARKET LAMB AND MARKET GOAT SHOW

AUGUST 1ST

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION AGENT
OR FFA ADVISOR AS COUNTY DEADLINES
MAY BE EARLIER



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