

THE BLEAT

A UGA Extension Newsletter for Middle Georgia Sheep and Goat Producers



We Want To Hear From EWE!

*Written by: Hailey Partain
Upson/Lamar ANR Agent*

As I travel across the state presenting over small ruminant topics, I meet more and more folks interested in many different aspect of sheep and goat production.

The purpose of this newsletter is to get information out there that is revelant for the small ruminant farmer, but it is to also cover topics that may not be cover very often in our state.

This is your chance to let us know what you want to read about, learn about, take classes over, etc. If you have any suggestions, please email them to hpartain@uga.edu.

As extension professionals, we are here to serve you. We want to make sure that we are covering what you are interested in!

IN THIS ISSUE

**BULL/RAM/BUCK
MANAGEMENT**

**WHEN TO SPRAY PRE-
EMERGENT HERBICIDES?**

**10 KEYS TO ENSURE
SUCCESSFUL WINTER
GRAZING**

**PASTURE PLANNING FOR
WINTER FORAGES**

**GEORGIA NATIONAL
FAIR SMALL RUMINANT
SCHEDULE**

**SUNBELT AG EXPO
SMALL RUMINANT
TOPICS**

RECIPES: LAMB

RECIPES: GOAT



BULL/RAM/BUCK MANAGEMENT

Written by Shanna Reynolds | ANR Agent | Oglethorpe County

In most animal breeding operations, the sires are considered especially valuable. Rightly so, as they will influence 50% of the genetic base in next year's calf, kid, or lamb crop. Even as the most expensive animal standing on the farm property, the breeding males can often be overlooked or neglected in comparison to the main herd of females. As we move into breeding season, refresh yourself on some best management practices and tips to ensure a successful year for your buck or ram.

- Bucks and rams should be separated from does by 3 months of age to avoid unwanted pregnancies. Like all livestock, their living quarters should be well ventilated and hygienic.
- Ensure proper nutrition and assess body condition throughout the year. Young bucks will need extra nutritional support to allow for their growing frame. Bucks should start breeding season in a moderately fleshy overall body condition. Thin bucks may not have the stamina needed and overweight animals could lack the vigor needed to breed a large number of females. Feeding high levels of grain can lead to problems like rumen acidosis or urinary calculi so take precautions when supplementation is needed. Introduce grain slowly over several days and balance calcium to phosphorus ratios with plenty of grass hay.
- Handle males when they're young. Frequent interaction with humans and learning things like leading or restraint at a young age will make your contact safer and less stressful as they mature into callus adults.
- Maintain vaccinations, feet trimming, and parasite management as you would with other animals in the herd. Don't forget about an annual CD&T vaccine booster.
- Decide how many breeding males you will need. A mature buck or ram can service as many as 40 females in a season, but a yearling buck shouldn't be expected to breed any more than 10. The individual libido of the animal and the mating system (pasture breeding vs hand breeding for example) will also influence the capacity one sire has for breeding.
- At lastly but possibly most important, have a breeding soundness exam performed by a veterinarian 60-90 days before breeding begins. Particularly if you are relying on any one male to breed a large percentage of your herd, you need to ensure semen quality and breeding ability. A BSE includes a physical examination, and examination of reproductive organs, and a semen analysis. It is a snapshot of a buck or ram's current fertility and is not a "once and done" recommendation. An updated exam should be done every year. Once animals with sub-par fertility are identified, you may be able to treat the source of infertility and test again before the breeding period begins. The cost of a BSE exam is minuscule compared to potential losses from open females.

WHEN TO SPRAY PRE-EMERGENT HERBICIDES?

by Hailey Partain | ANR Agent | Upson/Lamar Counties

Lately the extension offices have been receiving many questions on when to spray pre-emergent herbicides to prevent weed establishment in the spring. One of the biggest weeds we are having an issue with this year, and really for the past couple years is Foxtail.

Timing of chemical application is crucial to weed management in pastures, hayfields, etc. There are many herbicides listed in the UGA Pesticide Handbook, but not all are sprayed at the same time.

Some are labeled as pre-emergent, others as post-emergent, and some as both.

Two popular pre-emergent herbicides that extend annual weed control are Prowl H2O and Rezilon, if sprayed at the proper time and the appropriate amount.

For Prowl H2O the first application should be in late February at 2.1 quarts per acre. Then following up with a second application after the first cutting at the same rate.

For Rezilon the first application should be in late February at 3.5 Fluid Ounces per acre. Then following up with a second application after the first cutting at the same rate.

Herbicide recommendations are updated yearly in the Pesticide Manual that can be accessed virtually, or a hard copy is always located at your county extension office.

If you have a question on a specific herbicide, or on what to spray, contact your local Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Agent.



UGA PESTICIDE HANDBOOK

<https://extension.uga.edu/programs-services/integrated-pest-management/publications/handbooks.html>



10 KEYS TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL WINTER GRAZING

Dr. Lisa Baxter | University of Georgia Extension

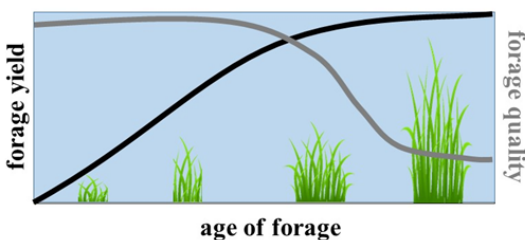


Table 1. Recommended Seeding Rates

Species	Grown Alone	Mixture
	-----lbs PLS/ac-----	
Ryegrass	25-30	15-25
Oats	90-120	60-90
Wheat	90-120	60-90
Rye	90-120	60-90
Arrowleaf	6-8	5-6
Crimson	20-30	10-15



Figure 1. Graze or harvest at the point where the lines cross to optimize yield and quality.



Producers across many parts of the Southeast will be facing a shortage in forage availability this winter. Much of the region has been in a prolonged drought since May, forcing producers to start feeding an already limited hay supply. Many summer annuals failed (or were not planted) unless irrigation was available and perennial pastures have been heavily overgrazed. With the anticipation of heavy rainfall from tropical storm systems, we should have the opportunity to plant cool season forages in this fall to make up part of the forage deficit.

There are several winter forage options available including small grains (i.e. rye, oat, and triticale), ryegrass, and annual clovers (i.e. crimson, arrowleaf, and berseem). Regardless of which forage is chosen, annual forages have several challenges. Most stands fail because of poor seed germination, poor stand establishment, weed invasion, or insect damage. Fortunately, each of these potential challenges can be prevented with a little planning and preparation.

1. Test your soils!

As a general rule, hayfields should be tested annually while

pastures should be tested every three years. Each sample should represent 5-15 acres with similar soil type, drainage, and management. A sample consists of 15-20 cores that are collected from random locations throughout the field. Be sure to avoid gateways, feeding areas, and tree lines as the nutrient concentration is generally greater in these areas and not representative of the entire field. Your local County Extension Agent can help you pull soil samples and submit them for analysis.

2. Follow soil test recommendations

Once you have your soil test report, it is important to work with you County Extension Agent to develop a fertilizer plan. Splitting nitrogen applications can help prevent nutrient losses and improve utilization. For instance, nitrogen applied to ryegrass at planting will generate 15 lbs of forage per unit of nitrogen fertilizer whereas nitrogen applied later in the season will produce up to 30 lbs of forage per unit of nitrogen. Phosphorus and potassium are also important, especially for legumes. Finally, don't forget the lime! Increasing soil pH will increase the availability of required nutrients for the forage, thereby making the fertilizer uptake more efficient.



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION

3.Prepare seedbed

Winter annual forages may be planted into a prepared seedbed or overseeded into dormant perennial warm-season grasses. To prepare a seedbed, plow/disc at least 2-4 weeks prior to planting. You can incorporate lime and fertilizer if needed. The soil either needs time to settle or it should be firmed with a cultipacker or roller. You can easily evaluate soil firmness with the “boot test”. When you walk across the field, your boot tracks should be well defined but no deeper than ¼” deep.

Overseeding into dormant pastures or hayfields is another option. Graze or mow the forage low (~2” high) before planting. Note that yields will be less with overseeding, but you can extend grazing on your perennial pastures and hayfields.

4.Choose an adapted species and variety

Annual ryegrass is the most productive winter annual grass, but it is sensitive to dry conditions at planting. Clovers are also sensitive because of their shallow planting depth. Small grains tend to germinate better in drier conditions.

Consider mixing multiple forage species to improve forage quality or extend the winter grazing season. Annual clovers can increase the crude protein and digestibility of the forage when mixed with ryegrass or small grains. Mixing ryegrass with an early-maturing small grains (such as rye) can provide grazing from November until April depending on planting date and growing conditions. Yield in these mixtures will not be

additive, but the average of the two species in the mixture. The growing season will be as long as the season for both forages though.

An updated list of recommended species and varieties can be found online through Georgia Forages or the UGA Statewide Variety Testing Websites.

5.Buy certified seed

Buying certified seed helps reduce invasion of noxious weeds and ensures a quality product. Certified seed should have a blue tag.

6.Get your seed drill ready before its time to plant

Start by cleaning out all of the hoppers as you never know what may have been left in there (old seed, tools, etc.). Spiders are notorious for building webs inside of seed drills since they are often stored for months in between uses. Use compressed air to clean out all of the seed cups and drop tubes. Make sure all of the coulters, discs, and press wheels are in working order.

Many producers may not own or have access to a seed drill. Broadcasting is an option, but will increase seed costs and likely result in lower yields. Remember, seed to soil contact is crucial for germination! All seeds need to be covered by the soil to promote germination.

7.Calibrate

Do not rely on settings listed on the seed drill for planting rates! They can get you close but are often not accurate. The manufacture of the drill should have a manual for calibration. We also have a new Extension Bulletin (#1510) titled “Preparing and Calibrating a No-Till or Conventional

Drill for Establishing Forage or Cover Crops” that is available online and explains the calibration process in detail.

Seeding rates are listed in Table 1. If you are using a drill, use the low end of the range. If you are broadcasting, use the high end of the range.

8.Check your planting depth

Planting too deep is the major cause of establishment failure! Legumes should be planted no deeper than ¼” while many small grains can be planted at ½ - 1” deep. Planting depth is related to seed size and nutrients that the seed has available for the germination process. As a general rule, the coulters on the seed drill should cut above twice the depth of the seed size.

9.Manage insects and weeds

Scout early and often for insects and weeds. Your local County Extension Agent can help you identify forage pests. Control options may be found in the Georgia Pest Control Handbook or on the Georgia Forages Website for insect or weed control in temporary winter grazing systems.

10.Carefully manage your grazing and harvesting

As with summer forages, the quality of the forage is highly dependent on the stage of growth. Don’t graze too early though as cattle can pull immature plants out of the ground in sandy soils. Aim to graze the forages while they are still vegetative to maximize both yield and quality (Figure 1).

Also, be cautious of your grazing or harvest height! For many winter annuals, once the seedhead is removed, the plant stops growing. Leave at least a 3-4” residual stubble height on these winter forages if you are expecting regrowth.

PASTURE PLANNING FOR WINTER FORAGES

Dr. Rocky Lemus | Mississippi State University Extension

Winter Forage Species

A good winter forage supply can sustain livestock for up to 5 months. Planting at the best time and using the right seeding rates are important to a successful forage program. Soil texture, pH, water-holding capacity, and grazing pressure can also affect seed germination, establishment, and persistence. Healthy stands of cool-season grass/legume mixtures can help extend winter grazing until enough summer forage is available. For example, you can seed arrowleaf, berseem, and crimson clovers in the fall with annual ryegrass or small grains. Producers often plant annual ryegrass and/or small grains with crimson clover because of cost and availability, but arrowleaf and berseem are better choices. In north and central Mississippi, you can seed white clover with tall fescue. Brassicas like kale, forage rape, turnips, and swedes can help extend the grazing season. To a limited extent, chicory can, also.

They are high-quality, high-yielding, and fast-growing forage crops that are suitable for livestock grazing during the early winter and spring. Brassicas usually work well in an early- to late-fall grazing program. Both aboveground (stems and leaves) and belowground (bulbs) parts can be grazed and can provide excellent forage quality. Plant brassicas no-till or in a tilled seed bed. Allow 6 to 8 inches between rows. Plant to a depth of ¼ to ½ inch. Brassicas are not adapted to poorly drained soils and prefer soils with a pH between 5.3 and 6.8 and medium levels of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Apply 50 to 75 pounds of nitrogen (N) per acre at or within 3 days of planting. Brassicas are ready to graze 90 to 120 days after planting. Use a rotational or strip grazing system. Kale has a greater cold tolerance than do other brassicas and can be used in the northern part of Mississippi. It should be planted in plant chicory from September to October in a prepared seed bed or grass sod.



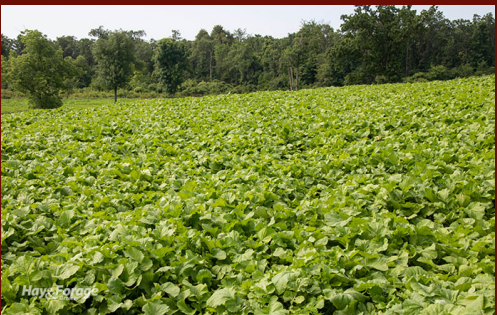
November–December
grasses: annual ryegrass
alternate forages: brassicas, chicory

December–January
grasses: small grains (oats, rye, wheat),
annual ryegrass, stockpiled tall fescue
alternate forage: brassicas

February–March
grasses: small grains, annual ryegrass,
stockpiled tall fescue
legumes (clovers): crimson clover

March–April
grasses: small grains, annual ryegrass,
tall fescue
legumes (clovers): arrowleaf, berseem,
crimson, red, and white clover
alternate forage: chicory*

April–May
grasses: annual ryegrass, tall fescue
legumes (clovers): arrowleaf, berseem,
red, and white clover
alternate forage: chicory*



Use a rate of 3 to 4 lb/ac at ¼- to ½-inch deep. For mixtures, use 2 to 3 lb of chicory with two-thirds of the usual seeding rate of the other forage. Chicory is often mixed with cool-season legumes because of their nitrogen-fixing capabilities. Apply 35 lb/ac of a nitrogen fertilizer at planting to stimulate establishment. If you seed chicory in a legume mixture, you can reduce the nitrogen application at seeding to 15 to 20 lb/ac. Chicory has a high nitrogen (N) requirement; apply at least 100 to 150 lb N/ac/yr to an established stand at rates of 50 lb N/ac in early spring, early summer, and early fall. Never apply more than 200 lb N/ac/yr. Two cultivars adapted to Mississippi are Puna and Oasis.

Soil Fertility

Soil Fertility Winter forages require several specific nutrients for adequate growth. The availability of these nutrients in the soil is affected by rainfall, materials in the soil, and cropping history. A soil test is the only reliable way to know which nutrients you need and in what amounts you need them. Collect soil samples at least 6 months before planting. Get at least one soil core per acre to produce a composite sample for the field (see MSU Extension Information Sheet 346 Soil Testing for the Farmer). Sample to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.

Avoid low land, sloping areas, and feeding areas, where unusual soil conditions might affect the analysis. Contact a local Extension agent to get soil-sampling instructions, soil sample boxes, and information sheets. The first priority for establishing a winter pasture is to adjust soil pH, which is a measure of soil acidity. Apply lime if soil pH is below 5.5. Add lime at least 4 to 8 weeks before planting. It's best to apply lime 6 or more months before you need the pH to increase. You can use dolomitic or calcitic lime; apply it according to soil test recommendations. If you need to add 4 or more tons of lime per acre, split it into two applications. Annual grasses in a mixture with annual legumes cannot get enough N from the legumes in the fall to meet nutrient requirements. But high N applications can reduce nitrogen fixation in legumes. Most annual clovers do not give enough N to the companion grasses until they begin to die and decay in the spring. Therefore, you need to apply N to clover/ryegrass mixtures. Research indicates that N rates up to 30–50 lb/acre will benefit the early growth of all legumes without severely damaging nodulation and nitrogen fixation. Don't apply N to annual grass/legume mixtures in spring.

To make nitrogen, legumes need to associate with the rhizobia bacteria. If it is not present in the soil, you need to inoculate the legume with the right type of inoculant to ensure proper nodulation. Legumes that grow in response to N do not have effective nodulation. If the soil test recommends that you apply more than 50 to 60 lb N/ ac (200 lb 34-0-0), incorporate N into the seedbed before planting. Fertilizer applications are usually either broadcast or incorporated before planting. Soil tests do not provide information on nitrogen needs. A general rule is to apply 1 pound of nitrogen per acre per grazing day. Limit single applications of N to no more than 60 lb/acre to reduce the likelihood of nitrate toxicity. You can broadcast phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) and incorporate them with a disk. If you broadcast P fertilizer, increase the application rate by 50 percent. Potassium (potash) is usually broadcast at planting or incorporated into the seed bed before seeding. Boron (B) is usually required for legume production. Use potash with boron added (0-0- 60+B) for legumes, especially on sandy soils.

MSU Publication References:
<https://extension.msstate.edu/site/default/files/publications/publications/p2463.pdf>



Georgia National Fair Small Ruminant Schedule

Thursday, October 6

- Jr. Market Goat Weigh-in 2pm-6pm.....Swine/Sheep/Goat Barn #1

Friday, October 7

- Jr. Market Goat Showmanship 8am.....New South Arena
- Jr. Market Goat Show (wethers) 2pm.....New South Arena
- Jr. Breeding Ewes Check-in 4pm-7pm.....Swine/Sheep/Goat Barn #2
- Jr. Market Lamb Weigh-in 4pm-7pm.....Swine/Sheep/Goat Barn #2

Saturday, October 8

- Jr. Market Goat Show (Does) 8am.....New South Arena
- Jr. Breeding Ewe Showmanship/Show 8am.....Swine/Sheep/Goat Barn #2
- Jr. Market Lamb 1st Year Exhibitor Show 12pm.....Swine/Sheep/Goat Barn #2
- Jr. Market Lamb Showmanship 2pm.....New South Arena

Sunday, October 9

- Jr. Market Lamb Show 9am.....New South Arena

Tuesday, October 11

- Open Dairy Goat Show 9am.....Swine/Sheep/Goat Barn #2
- Open Boer Goat Show 9am.....New South Arena

More information can be found at:

<https://www.georgianationalfair.com/p/livestock>



SunBelt Ag Expo Small Ruminant Topics

Sheep and Goat Seminars

North End of Block F-8

Each Day Oct 18-20, 2022

Seminar Schedule

9:00 a.m. Goat Milking Demonstration

9:30 a.m. Meats/Marketing

- Local Hospitals as a market for lamb/goat meat (plus beef and pork); demonstrations of meat cuts
- Samples of lamb and/or goat food products
- Animal welfare and/or food safety certifications for marketing meat and products

10:45 a.m. Selecting/Evaluating Goats/Hair
Sheep for Meat Production

- Hands on demonstrations: body condition scoring, physical evaluation, using teeth for aging, and more!

11:30 a.m. Shearing Demonstration
(EXCLUDING THURSDAY)

1:00 p.m. Internal Parasite Control
Alternatives

- Sericea lespedeza (legume forage)
- Bioworma©, D. flagrans worm trapping fungus
- Copper Oxide Wire Particles (for goats and sheep)

1:45 p.m. Mandatory Scrapie tag
identification information

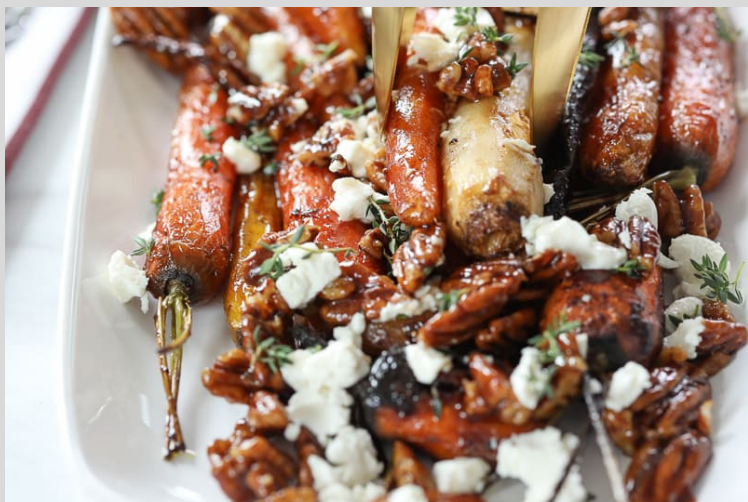
2:00 p.m. Nutrition / Forages

3:00 p.m. Goat Milking Demonstration

More information can be found at:

<https://sunbeltexpo.com/schedule-of-events/>





ROASTED CARROTS WITH CANDIED PECAN AND GOAT CHEESE

Source: www.inspiredbycharm.com

Ingredients

- 2 pounds carrots - peeled
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter - cut into pats
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 4 ounces goat cheese - crumbled
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves to garnish
- Candied Pecans:
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - 3 tablespoons maple syrup
 - 1 tablespoon brown sugar
 - 1 cup roughly chopped pecan halves
 - 1/4 teaspoon flaked sea salt
- Place in the oven and bake for 50-60 minutes or until the carrots are just fork tender. During baking, turn the carrots 3 or 4 times.
- While the carrots are roasting, prepare the candied pecans by melting the butter in a small pan on low heat. Once the butter is melted, add the maple syrup, brown sugar, and pecans. Stir about 2 minutes until the mixture thickens.
- Remove the candied pecans from the heat and stir in the flaked sea salt. Set aside.
- Once the carrots are cooked, put them in a serving dish. Sprinkle them evenly with the candied pecans and goat cheese. Finish the dish with a sprinkle of fresh thyme leaves.

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
- Then line a baking sheet with foil. Place the carrots in a single layer on the baking sheet. Sprinkle with the brown sugar and evenly distribute the pats of butter. Also, sprinkle with salt, pepper, and cinnamon.

JAMAICAN CURRY GOAT

Source: www.cheflaskitchen.com

Ingredients

- 3 pounds Goat meat cut into bite-size
- 1 teaspoon salt or add to taste
- 2 teaspoons bouillon powder
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoon curry powder
- 6 Pimento berries all spice
- 1 medium onion diced
- 1 teaspoon ginger grated
- 2 bell peppers I used green and red – diced
- 4 stalks thyme
- 1 scotch bonnet pepper or habanero
- 5 cloves garlic
- 2 spring onions
- 4 tablespoons cooking oil divided into two
- 2 large potatoes
- 4.5 cups chicken stock/water

Directions

1. Wash the goat meat in water and vinegar or lime and drain the excess water. I like to repeat this about two to three times.
2. Season the meat with salt, bouillon powder, black pepper, allspice, and 1 tablespoon of curry powder in a large bowl. Mix well.
3. Throw in the diced onion, grated ginger, bell pepper, thyme, scotch bonnet, minced garlic, spring onion, and 2 tablespoons of oil. Mix well and leave to marinate overnight or for at least 2 hours.
4. Add 2 tablespoons of oil into the pan on medium heat. Add 1 tablespoon of curry powder and cook until fragrant – about a minute. Be sure not to burn the curry powder.
5. Carefully remove the goat meat from the marinade. Drop into the oil, one at a time, and let it sear on all sides. You can do this in batches if you have a small pan.
6. Stir in the stock and marinade, cover, and leave to cook for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until the meat is tender.
7. Add the potatoes and cook for another 20 to 30 minutes or till the potatoes become tender. Adjust the seasoning if necessary.
8. Serve over rice and peas or white rice.



By: Tawnie Graham of Kroll's Korner

SLOW COOKER LAMB CHILI

Ingredients

- 1 lb Ground lamb
- 2 Tbsp. garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. Olive oil
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 15 oz. can diced tomatoes, no salt
- 1 cup medium salsa (thick and chunky)
- 1/2 bottle red wine (save the other half to drink!)
- 4 Tbsp. taco sauce (2 Tbsp. green, 2 red)
- 1/2 cup Chili Seasoning (see notes)
- 1 15 oz can Cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15 oz can Dark Red Kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15 oz can Pinto Beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15 oz can Black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15 oz can Yellow corn

Directions

1. In a large frying pan, brown ground lamb with fresh garlic, onions and olive oil over medium-high heat. Once cooked, pour into bottom of slow cooker (crock pot does not need to be turned on yet).
1. Pour all remaining ingredients onto the meat/onion mixture into the crockpot. Stir all ingredients together and set crockpot on low for 4-6 hours. Stir occasionally. Enjoy with cheddar cheese and sliced jalapeños on top.

Nutrition Facts

*Serving: 1cup | Calories: 240kcal | Carbohydrates: 27.2g
Protein: 15.3g | Fat: 5.2g | Sodium: 549mg*





CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

COUNTY AGENTS

HAILEY PARTAIN

Lamar/Upson Counties

CONTACT

E-mail: hpartain@uga.edu

Office: 706-647-8989

SHANNA REYNOLDS

Oglethorpe County

CONTACT

E-mail: shanna.reynolds@uga.edu

Office: 706-743-8341

EXTENSION SPECIALISTS

DR. LISA BAXTER

University of Georgia
Extension, Department of
Crop and Soil Sciences

DR. ROCKY LEMUS

Mississippi State University
Extension, Department of
Plant and Soil Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION

FVSU
extension
Knowledge for Inspiring Lives!