

Livestock Update

Beef - Horse - Poultry - Sheep - Swine

October 2015

This LIVESTOCK UPDATE contains timely subject matter on beef cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and related junior work. Use this material as you see fit for local newspapers, radio programs, newsletters, and for the formulation of recommendations.

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Scott P. Greiner, Extension Project Leader
Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences

Dates to Remember

BEEF

OCTOBER

30TH - Hokie Harvest Sale. Virginia Tech Animal Judging Pavilion Blacksburg, VA.

Contact: Dr. Dan Eversole, phone: (540) 231-4738 or email: deversol@vt.edu

DECEMBER

12 - Virginia BCIA Culpeper Senior Bulls Sale. Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises located on Route 29 just south of Culpeper, VA.

Contact: For video clips as well as catalogs and detailed information on the bulls visit the website www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu, or phone Virginia BCIA at 540-231-9159 or Glenmary Farm at 540-672-7396.

HORSE

SHEEP

NOVEMBER

6 -7 Sheep Management Basics Workshop. Virginia Tech Copenhaver Sheep Center Blacksburg, VA

Contact: Dr. Scott P. Greiner, phone: (540) 231-9159 or email: sgreiner@vt.edu

DECEMBER

5 - 2015 Virginia Sheep Producers' Association Fall Bred Ewe & Doe Sale. Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA.

Contact: Information on the 2016 test and sale may be attained from Scott Greiner, Extension Sheep Specialist, Virginia Tech, phone 540-231-9159, email sgreiner@vt.edu, or visit the VT Sheep Extension website <http://www.apsc.vt.edu/extension/sheep/index.html>

October Herd Advisor

Scott P. Greiner & Mark A. McCann
Extension Beef Specialists, Virginia Tech

October usually marks the transition from the mild portion of our fall season to cooler weather and shorter days. Frost usually occurs sometime in the month depending on your location. The shorter days and cooler nights signal that cool-season forage growth will be declining soon. Diligent grazing management through the use of strip grazing is a good way to stretch this precious commodity. Moving the fence as frequently as possible will allow more efficient utilization. Be careful not to allow access to too much area at one time. If you are unsure if your forage allowance is adequate, you can provide an average or poorer quality bale of hay for the cattle to access. If the cattle are eating a great deal of hay, then you probably need to expand your forage allowance. Stockpiled forages are an important ingredient in minimizing hay needs. Managing them carefully will allow for maximum grazing while minimizing dependence on stored feeds.

October also signals the peak month of calf marketing. Sellers should focus on preconditioning and grouping calves to increase market price. Those purchasing calves for stocker programs or potential herd replacements should focus on receiving health and nutrition programs. At the current investment cost of calves, mass medication should be considered for comingled auction barn calves while farm fresh calves do not usually carry the same level of risk. For both sets of calves, receiving nutrition programs should utilize excellent quality grass hay in addition to a highly palatable concentrate that is formulated for their nutrient needs.

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Finalize plans for marketing of calf crop. Coordinate and time weaning, vaccination program, and weaning-time management in concert with marketing plans. Calculate break-evens on various marketing options and consider risk management strategies.
- Schedule and conduct pregnancy diagnosis with veterinarian. Plan a marketing strategy for open cows.
- Evaluate winter feed and forage supplies and options, including forage tests to determine nutritional content of hay on hand.

Nutrition and Forages

- Body Condition Score cows at weaning and separate thin cows
- Use palatable feeds and high quality hay to background calves.
- Continue stockpiling tall fescue
- Continue to manage first-calf heifers separately; give them the best forage. Thin mature cows could be added to this group.
- Continue to feed high Se trace mineral salt. A forage analysis can reveal what other minerals should be supplemented.
- As warm season pastures approach dormancy continue to use grazing management to manage residue.
- Store your high quality hay in the dry.

Herd Health

- In consultation with your veterinarian, finalize vaccination and preconditioning protocol for calf crop.

Reproduction

- Schedule pregnancy check of cow herd with veterinarian.
- Cull open, old and thin cows and cows with problem udders, eyes and soundness issues.

Genetics

- Collect 205-day weights on calf crop at appropriate time (AHIR age range 120-280 days), along with cow weights, hip heights and body condition scores (cow mature size data taken within 45 days of calf weaning measure).
- Identify replacement heifers. Utilize available tools including genetics, dam performance, individual performance, and phenotype. Restrict replacement heifer pool to those born in defined calving season.

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Calving season is in full swing. Check cows frequently during calving season- optimal interval is to observe calving females every four hours (heifers more frequently if possible). Address calving difficulties early.
- Tag, tattoo, record birth weight, calving ease score, teat/udder score and mothering ability of dam. Keep accurate records at birth.
- Monitor young calves for scours. Prevent scours by keeping calving area clean and well drained. Moving 2-3 day old pairs out of calving area to separate pasture (reduce commingling of newborn calves with older calves) help reduce exposure to scours.
- Evaluate winter feed and forage supplies and options, including forage tests to determine nutritional content of hay on hand.
- Initiate plans and schedule for breeding season.

Nutrition and Forages

- Evaluate growth of yearling heifers with goal of reaching 60-65% of mature weight by breeding. Depending on forage quality, supplementation maybe needed to meet weight gain target.
- Offer high magnesium mineral. Generally, fall calving cows are not as predisposed to grass tetany, This year's cool, wet conditions increases the risk.
- Reserve high quality hay and stockpiled pasture areas for cows post-calving. Use strip grazing as a tool to increase the efficiency of utilization of cool season pastures by cows post-calving.
- Use grazing management to control the residue of warm season pastures as they approach dormancy.
- Store your high quality hay in the dry.

Herd Health

- Ensure colostrum intake first few hours of life in newborn calves. Supplement if necessary. Newborn calves need 10% of body weight in colostrum first 24 hours of life.
- Provide selenium and vitamin A & D injections to newborn calves
- Castrate commercial calves at birth
- Monitor calves closely for scours and pneumonia, have treatment supplies on hand.
- Consult with your veterinarian concerning pre-breeding vaccination schedule for cow herd and yearling heifers. Plan early to allow 30-day vaccination window prior to breeding season.

Reproduction

- Reproductive tract score and measure pelvic area on yearling replacement heifers.
- Plan AI and synchronization program to be used during breeding season. Schedule AI technician, order supplies and semen.
- Schedule and conduct breeding soundness exams on herd sires, including annual vaccinations. Do so prior to fall/early winter bull sales to allow time to secure replacements as necessary.

Genetics

- Collect yearling performance data (weight, height, scrotal, ultrasound) in seedstock herds.
- Evaluate bull battery and begin planning for the breeding season by evaluating herd genetic goals and selection criteria for both AI and natural service sires. Establish herd strengths and weaknesses from genetic standpoint, and benchmark EPD criteria accordingly. Make plans for bull-buying season.

21st HOKIE HARVEST SALE

Sharing the Harvest

Friday Evening, **OCTOBER 30, 2015**

ANIMAL JUDGING PAVILION • VIRGINIA TECH

SALE TIME 6:30 PM • BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA



12- Service Age Bulls • Angus • Simmental • Hereford
Performance • Ultrasound • BSE



Lot 12



Lot 13



Lot 16



Lot 23



11 - Purebred Females • Angus • Simmental
Spring Pair Splits • Fall Pairs



Lot 1



Lot 2



Lot 4



Lot 10



7 - Spring Calving Commercial Bred Heifers • 13 - Spring Calving Young Commercial Cows

SALE BOOK ON THE WEB AT www.brubakersales.com
BID ONLINE AT www.cowbuyer.com

Dr. Dan Eversole
540/231-4738
deversol@vt.edu

Chad Joines
540/557-7263
cjoines@vt.edu

For catalog requests, contact:
Brittany Heath
bheath12@vt.edu

BRUBAKER Ken Brubaker
Sales & Marketing LLC 540/908-5799
ken@brubakersales.com

2015 VIRGINIA TECH SHEEP MANAGEMENT BASICS WORKSHOP

Virginia Tech Copenhaver Sheep Center
Blacksburg, VA

Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7
(10 AM Friday through 3 PM Saturday)

This workshop is designed for individuals with a limited amount of experience in the care and management of sheep. Special emphasis will be placed on the management practices required during and around the time of lambing. Participants will get hands-on experience with a group of ewes that will be lambing during the two-day workshop.

Topics areas to be covered include:

*Facilities and Handling, Newborn Lamb Management, Flock Health, Nutrition & Feeding Management
Reproductive Management, Basic Record Keeping & Selection*

This workshop is limited to a maximum of 25 participants. The cost is \$40 per person. The first 25 preregistrants will be enrolled. First-time participants will be given preference. To preregister for the workshop, utilize the form below. Detailed information will follow receipt of registration (including lodging block details).

This workshop is sponsored by:



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



*Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital, family, or veteran status, or any other basis protected by law.
An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.*

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Scott Greiner at 540-231-9159/800-828-1120 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

Cut Along Dotted Line and Return by October 10, 2015 (enrollment limited)

Make check payable to Virginia Sheep Producers Association

**Mail form to Dr. Scott Greiner, Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech,
366 Litton Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061**

phone 540-231-9159, fax 540-231-3010, email sgreiner@vt.edu

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Virginia Tech Sheep Management Basics Workshop, November 6-7, 2015

Annual Virginia Fall Bred Ewe Sale to be Held December 5

The 2015 Virginia Sheep Producer's Association Fall Bred Ewe & Doe Sale will be held Saturday, December 5 at 1:00 PM at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg. Yearling ewes and does, ewe lambs and doe kids, along with mature ewes and does will be sold. All yearling and mature ewes and does will be sold as guaranteed pregnant. Breeds offered will include Suffolk, Hampshire, Dorset, and crossbreds (including wether dams). All does will be registered meat goats or meat goat crossbreds. For a sale catalog or more information visit the VSPA website <http://www.vasheepproducers.com/> .

2015 Virginia Performance Tested Ram Lamb & Replacement Ewe Lamb Sale Results

The 40th Annual Virginia Performance Tested Ram Lamb Sale was held at the Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station at the Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley AREC near Steeles Tavern on Saturday, August 29. A total of 49 rams sold for an average price of \$483. Top-selling ram was a winter Suffolk consigned by High Road Sheep of Covington, VA which sold for \$1500. Replacement ewe lambs were sold immediately following the rams. A total of 45 ewe lambs sold for an average price of \$323. Ashley's Club Lambs of Lyndhurst, VA consigned the top-selling ewe lamb which brought \$700. Detailed sale results were as follows:

Breed Group	No.	Avg.
Winter Suffolk	16	\$461
Fall Suffolk	3	\$583
Fall Dorsets	12	\$477
Winter Dorsets	6	\$458
Winter Hampshire	2	\$450
Fall Katahdin		
Winter Katahdins	4	\$619
Fall White Dorper	1	\$625
Winter White Dorper		
Winter NC Cheviot	1	\$425
Winter Crossbred	4	\$413
Total Rams	49	\$483
Commercial Ewe Lambs	45	\$323

The Virginia Ram Lamb Performance Test and Replacement Ewe Lamb Sale is sponsored by the Virginia Sheep Producer's Association.

Information on the 2016 test and sale may be attained from Scott Greiner, Extension Sheep Specialist, Virginia Tech, phone 540-231-9159, email sgreiner@vt.edu, or visit the VT Sheep Extension website <http://www.apsc.vt.edu/extension/sheep/index.html>

2015 CULPEPER SENIOR BULL SALE

Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, Beef
Virginia Tech

The 58th annual sale of the Virginia BCIA Culpeper Senior bulls will feature approximately 60 fall-born yearling bulls on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 12:00 noon at the Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises located on Route 29 just south of Culpeper, Virginia. These 60 fall-born bulls represent the top end of the Angus, Simmental, SimmAngus, Gelbvieh, and Gelbvieh Balancer bulls currently being developed.

The majority of the bulls selling are sired by trait-leading, highly proven AI bulls of each breed. All bulls selling meet minimum genetic requirements (EPDs) to sire calves for the VQA Purple Tag Feeder Calf Program. Bulls have been screened for reproductive and structural soundness, and sell with the BCIA enhanced guarantee for soundness and fertility. Complete performance information will be available on all bulls, including growth, maternal, and carcass EPDs, detailed test performance information, and ultrasound data. Many of the bulls will sell with genomically-enhanced EPDs, and all SimmAngus bulls will be genotyped for homozygous black status.

Again this year, we will feature video clips of each of the bulls available for sale. These video clips provide buyers a good opportunity to preview the bulls prior to sale day, and can be found on the BCIA website www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu. The sale will be available via the internet allowing producers to view and purchase bulls over the internet with live streaming video in conjunction with the sale.

For video clips as well as catalogs and detailed information on the bulls visit the website www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu, or phone Virginia BCIA at 540-231-9159 or Glenmary Farm at 540-672-7396.

2015-2016 Flock Winter Feeding Strategies

Mark A. McCann, Extension Animal Scientist, Virginia Tech

After a generally kind summer, it is time to glance ahead. Hay supplies are average to above in most parts of the Commonwealth. Quality is quite varied with some excellent quality if showers were dodged and pretty of rained on hay was also made. As usual there is plenty of hay that is a combination of first and second cutting. These are not new issues but the management practice of testing hay will allow you to feed the most appropriate hay at the right time. The good news is that the corn crop looks good and feed has trended down over the past 30 days, supplements and commodity feed should also be affordable. Shifts in management need to be considered in an effort to adapt to a different scenario for the upcoming winter. I have listed a few of the most important possibilities for consideration--- note many of these are not new but maybe modified versus previous winters.

1) Evaluate your marketing plan as compared to your production costs and labor. Does it fit better to winter lamb with a higher feed cost or would spring lambing be a possible strategy to lower feed costs. You can delay ram turn-in to a date that would insure that lactating ewes can take advantage of the spring flush of growth during lactation and require minimum supplementation. Under grazing conditions, forage can meet a ewe's energy and protein requirement except during lactation. Spring lambing flocks can take advantage of new pasture growth which is very digestible and high in protein. Generally, this will meet the nutrient needs of ewes nursing singles. Ewes nursing twins will respond to low levels (1-1.5lb/d) of energy supplementation.

2) Stockpile tall fescue. Fertilizing limited acreage (40-70 lb N/acre) and accumulating forage growth is a management practice that works. The amount of accumulated growth will be dependent on fall moisture. Strip/limited grazing is the most efficient method to utilize the accumulated growth. Smaller strips and more frequent moves will improve efficiency. We provide access to a round bale of average hay to insure that we do not reduce forage intake. An increase in hay consumption is our signal that we need to move to the next strip. The quality of this accumulated growth diminishes only slightly over the course of the winter. A common question is "Can I stockpile unfertilized pasture?" The answer is yes, but quantity and protein content will not be as great as fertilized pastures

3) Test your hay. This is an annual suggestion; however there is a large variation in hay quality beyond forage variety and cutting. Fertilization and harvest conditions have a significant impact on hay quality. Visual evaluation and comparison can detect gross differences between hays, but do little to estimate nutrient content. Only through forage testing can the nutrition content be estimated and a feeding program devised. Efficient, economical and effective supplementation programs depend on an accurate forage test. Economically you do not want to overfeed and from a production perspective you cannot afford to underfeed. Those hays which were harvested late and contained both old and new growth are particularly hard to evaluate without an analysis. Additionally, the hay nutrient analysis can determine if protein or energy maybe the most limiting nutrient. As potential hays are evaluated, the following tables are helpful in comparing hay nutrient content to a stage of production for the ewe and potential feedstuffs that fulfill deficiencies. Table 1 contains the CP (crude protein) and TDN (total digestible nutrient) requirements of a 180lb ewe across different stages of production. Table 2 provides a potential supplement strategy based on hay quality and production stage.

4) Lastly, the identification of high quality hay can allow decisions to be made regarding storage of the hay if options are available. If limited shelter is available, clearly the best hay needs to be in the dry. If summer's moisture pattern continues into the fall and winter, weather damage and loss on unsheltered hay will be greater than past years. Sheep are very adept at selecting what they consume. What they sort and leave from a roll of hay is a good indication of what is low quality or undesirable.

Table 1 TDN and CP Requirements of 180lb ewe

Stage of Production	TDN Lb/d	CP, Lb/d	Voluntary DM Intake lb/d	Percent TDN*	Percent CP*
Maintenance	1.6	.27	2.9	55.0	9.3
Early Pregnancy	1.8	.31	3.3	55.0	9.4
Late Gestation	2.9	.49	4.4	65.5	11.1
Early Lactation	4.3	.96	6.6	65.5	14.5

* Percentage of the Dry Matter

Table 2 contains the amount of energy and protein supplementation needed to balance hay of varying qualities for 180lb ewes across stage of production. Corn and soybean are used as standard supplements but other feeds can be substituted. In today's environment of high input costs and slim margins, having the facts on hay quality can improve the accuracy and cost effectiveness of nutrition and management decisions.

Forage Analysis		Early ² Gestation		Late ³ Gestation		Early ⁴ Lactation		Late ⁵ Lactation	
CP % of DM	TDN % of DM	Lbs SBM	Lbs Corn	Lbs SBM	Lbs Corn	Lbs SBM	Lbs Corn	Lbs SBM	Lbs Corn
11.2 & over	56 & over	-	-	-	.75	.5	2.5	.3	1.5
9.5 - 11.1	56 & over	-	-	.15	.75	.8	2.5	.45	1.5
	53 - 56	-	-	.15	.85	.8	2.7	.45	1.65
	50 - 53	-	-	.15	1.0	.8	2.9	.45	1.80
8.2 - 9.5	54 - 56	-	-	.25	.8	1.0	2.5	.55	1.5
	51 - 54	-	.2	.25	1.0	1.0	2.75	.55	1.75
	50 & under	-	.4	.25	1.2	1.0	3.0	.55	2.0
7.3 - 8.2	53 - 55	.1	-	.4	.8	1.1	2.5	.6	1.5
	51 - 53	.1	.2	.4	1.0	1.1	2.75	.6	1.75
	50 & under	.1	.4	.4	1.2	1.1	3.0	.6	2.0
Under 7.3	Under 48	.2 - .3	.5 - 1.0	.4 - .5	1 - 1.5	1.2 - 1.5	2.5 - 3.5	.7 - .8	2.0 - 3.0

¹ Recommendations are made on basis of 44 % soybean meal and ground shelled corn. Other supplements can be used to deliver the same amount of energy and protein.

² Dry ewes in the first 15 weeks

³ Last 4 weeks of pregnancy (200% lambing rate expected).

⁴ First 6-8 weeks of lactation suckling twins

⁵ Last 4- 6 weeks suckling twins.

** Note 1.5lbs of corn gluten feed can replace 1.0 lb corn and .5 lb soybean meal.