

# Sheep & Goat e-News



**U of A**  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
University of Arkansas System



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Welcome to the latest issue of the Sheep & Goat e-News provided by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. We strive to bring you the most current sheep and goat information. Feel free to forward this to fellow producers and professionals.

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## Winter Feeding of Sheep and Goats: General Rules of Thumb for Gestating and Lactating Females



Photo: GrassFood.me

Knowing the nutritional requirements of females during the various stages of production allows producers to ensure females are performing at optimal levels. Since females are typically in late gestation and/or lactating during the winter months, when their nutritional needs are the highest, it is even more important to ensure the females are obtaining the proper roughages and/or concentrates in their diets. Below are some general rules of thumb to consider for your females during the various stages of production. [Read More](#)

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## Dangers to Pregnancy in Sheep and Goats



Photo courtesy of jbolles, Flickr

Sheep and goats share noninfectious causes of abortion such as nutritional deficiencies that lead to pregnancy toxemia and reactions to pharmaceutical drugs. However, infectious causes of abortion can be species-specific. The important infectious causes of abortion in Arkansas include Chlamydiosis, Toxoplasmosis,

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Campylobacteriosis, Leptospirosis, and Q fever. The following article explores the different causes of abortion, how to prevent them, and how to treat them. [Read More](#)

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## Preparing for Lambing/Kidding

### Season



Lambing and kidding season tend to be one of the most stressful times of the production year for producers. Planning for lambing and kidding season actually begins before the breeding season. Look forward to your lambing and kidding season and ask yourself a few key questions. [Read More](#)

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## Frost-Seeding Legumes in Pastures and Hay Fields

Adding legumes to grass pastures and hay fields offers many benefits to forage system sustainability. Legumes in grass pastures improve animal performance, increase nutritional quality of hay and pasture, extend grazing seasons, and reduce the need for nitrogen fertilizer. In a 2011 survey, over 40% of Arkansas producers reported having added clover to pastures within the past five years and over 25% planted clover in fescue pastures to reduce fescue toxicity in their livestock. [Read More](#)



## Strategic Hay Feeding to Improve

### Soil Fertility



Increased cost of fertilizer and fuel has made it difficult for livestock producers to maintain adequate soil fertility needed for optimum production in pastures and hay fields. Strategic hay feeding may aid in improving soil fertility. The average nutrient content of a 4' x 5' round bale of bermudagrass hay is 16 lbs N, 5 lbs P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 18 lbs K<sub>2</sub>O. At current commercial fertilizer prices, the bale has a fertilizer value of \$22.16. [Read More](#)

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## Tips for Working with a Veterinarian



Photo: Grace Rathert

Sheep and goat producers frequently comment that it is difficult to find a veterinarian who is willing and able to help with health care for their animals. Producers also remark that profits are slim and paying for a veterinarian is just too expensive. It is true that many health-care tasks can and should be done by the producer. However, veterinarians have specialized knowledge and are trained to investigate, diagnose, and treat illness. Also, many medications are not legal to use UNLESS you have a valid relationship with a veterinarian. [Read More](#)

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## **300 Days Grazing Program - Part II**

### **"It's About Time"**

The Arkansas 300 Days Grazing Program was very successful in helping producers improve livestock system management.



Recommended practices to reduce feeding expenses were verified through over 150 demonstrations and more than \$300,000 documented savings. However, as with any new educational approach, the program has met opposition from some producers who are convinced that it just won't work.

[Read More](#)

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## **[Sheep and Goat Producer Survey](#)**

To help us better understand your operational needs, please take 10-15 minutes to complete this survey. The survey is anonymous. The results will help us better serve sheep and goat producers of Arkansas.



## **Scrapie: Eradicate It Newsletter from ASI**

This newsletter is produced by the American Sheep Industry (ASI) in an effort to eradicate scrapie in the United States.

[Read More](#)

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## **Sheep and Lamb Predator and Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2015**

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) has published the report Sheep and Lamb Predator and Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2015. This report provides a breakdown of sheep and lamb death losses by producer-attributed causes in 2014. Where possible, the 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2009 death losses are provided for comparison. This report takes the place of the National Agricultural Statistics Service Sheep and Goat Death Loss report for 2015. [Read More](#)

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