Lambing & Kidding

Dr. Alison Crane, KSU Sheep and Goat Specialist
Rachael Boyle, Phillips-Rooks Extension District Agent
Alyssa Rippe-May, Twin Creeks Extension District Agent
Nutrition

• Rations need to be balanced for energy, protein, minerals and vitamins
  – Energy required in greatest quantity
  – Energy usually most limiting nutrient

• Water is the most important nutrient

• Roughage (long fiber) is critical to good nutrition and rumen health
Vitamins & Minerals

• Dietary requirements for Vitamins A, D, and E

• Major minerals:
  – Calcium, Phosphorus, Salt, and Magnesium

• Trace minerals:
  – Selenium, Iodine, Copper, Molybdenum, and Manganese
Vaccinations

• Can vaccinate sheep and goats for
  – Clostridial diseases
  – Soremouth
  – Abortion
  – Caseous lymphadenitis
  – Footrot
  – Bacterial pneumonia
  – Rabies
  – Others
Vaccinations

• Universally recommended vaccine for sheep and goats is Overeating disease and tetanus (CD-T)
  – Overeating disease Type C affects lambs and kids under one month of age
  – Overeating disease Type D affects lambs and kids over one month of age
  – Tetanus affects sheep and goats of any age
    • Higher risk at time of docking, castrating, and disbudding
Vaccinations

• Recommended CD-T vaccination protocol
  – Vaccinate ewes and does 4-6 weeks prior to lambing/kidding, if have never been vaccinated requires two doses 4 weeks apart prior to parturition
  – Vaccinate lambs/kids approximately 6-8 and 10-12 weeks of age; earlier vaccinations may not be as effective
  – Vaccinate bucks, rams, and wethers annually
Internal Parasites

- Immunity is comprised at parturition and becomes primary source of infection for lambs/kids grazing summer pastures.
Barn Preparation

- Clean, dry, and well-ventilated with easy access to feed and water
- Drop area or pen
- Jugs (pens): 1 per 7-10 ewes/does
- Nursery pens for small numbers
- Mixing pens for larger numbers
- Creep area
- Bottle lamb/kid pen
Outside or Pasture Lambing/Kidding

- Clean, well-drained soils
- Break from wind
- Shade and shelter
- Easy observation and access
- Plan for inclement weather, mothering issues, and predators
Organize Supplies Ahead of Time

- Vaccines
- Colostrum
- Disinfectant
- Docking, castrating, and/or disbudding equipment
- Ear tags and tagging equipment
- Feeding tuber
- Feeding bottles and nipples
- Lamb/kid pullers
- Medications
- Needles – 18 to 20 gauge and ½ or ¾ inch

- Syringes
- OB gloves and lubricant
- Prolapse harness and/or retainer
- Quick ID (spray or crayon marker)
- Record keeping notebook or device
- Scale and sling for weighing and/or carrying
- Scissors/scalpel blade
- Thermometer
- Towels/rags
Why lambing/kidding jugs?

• Bonding between ewe/doe and lamb(s)/kid(s)
  – Especially important more first-time moms and multiple births
• Individual feeder and water
• Observation of ewe/doe and lamb(s)/kid(s)
Importance of Colostrum

• Should be ingested within first few hours of birth; require 10% of body weight in colostrum (10 lb. newborn requires 16 oz. of colostrum, split into several feedings)

• Must consume during first 18-24 hours to receive benefit
Colostrum Sources

• Best Sources
  – Dam of the lamb/kid
  – Older female in the same flock or herd
  – Land O’Lakes colostrum replacer which contains immunoglobulins (igG)
  – Fresh or frozen colostrum from other farms
    • Risk of some diseases

• Less Desirable Sources
  – Colostrum supplements
  – Homemade colostrum
  – Lamb/kid milk replacer
  – Multi-species milk replacer
Tubing a Lamb Video

- https://www.facebook.com/RileyCountyExtension/videos/884294585716357
Dystocia Issues

• Failure to transition from stage I to stage II labor or little to no progress after 30 minutes of stage II labor

• Ringwomb, Narrow pelvis, Fetal malpresentation, Fetal oversize, Simultaneous presentation of twins, Uterine torsion, Fetal monsters
Kid/Lamb Stimulation & Revival
Questions?