

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact: Adaven Rohling
Diversified Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent, Wildcat Extension District
adaven@ksu.edu, (620) 331-2690

Warmer Weather = Increased Parasite Problems

Spring is off to an unusually warm start for southeast Kansas. While I have enjoyed the warmer days, they have unfortunately given parasites the opportunity to cause problems for sheep and goats slightly earlier than normal. This means that it is extremely important to monitor your herds for signs of internal parasites.

To monitor your herd, routinely check their body condition and FAMACHA scores to identify which animals need treatment for internal parasites. Animals that have a low body condition score (are skinny) and/or a high FAMACHA score (inner eyelid color is light pink to white) are animals that are showing symptoms of internal parasites and need to be treated. Along with keeping an eye out for other signs of internal parasites, such as diarrhea and bottle jaw. Remember, treat only animals that show signs of internal parasites, and use the correct dosage of dewormer to help slow the development of parasite resistance. Parasites are opportunistic and will take advantage of animals' stress, which weakens their immune systems, to expand their populations. Because of this, make sure to keep an extra close eye on lambs and kids that are experiencing more "stress" due to weaning.

Not sure what the correct dewormer dosage is? The American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control has dewormer dosage charts for both sheep and goats. These charts are available at www.wormx.info/deworming.

If you would like more information about body condition scoring sheep and goats and/or FAMACHA scoring, please contact Adaven Rohling, Diversified Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent, Wildcat District, at 620-331-2690 or adaven@ksu.edu.

###

K-State Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the wellbeing of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county extension offices statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan. For more information, visit www.ksre.ksu.edu. K-State Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.