

The North Dakota Sheep Industry

No. 47

Newsletter

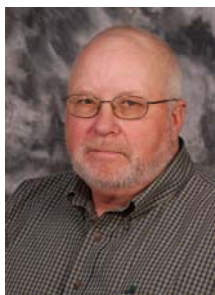
www.ndlwpa.com

April/May 2007

A joint publication brought to you by the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association and the NDSU Extension Service

President's Message

I hope everyone had a good lambing season; the weather cooperated for the most part, until late spring anyway. According to the last ASI report, lamb prices are trending a bit higher than last year, that is good news if we can catch some rains and get the grass growing. In our area, feed prices have remained fairly constant, so it looks like there is still a little profit margin in feeding lambs or selling them early.



Included in this issue is an article addressing Wyoming's latest ruling on importation of breeding sheep. Basically, anything brought in for breeding purposes, must be QR or RR. This will have an impact on anyone desiring to sell breeding stock into Wyoming. It sounds as though there are other states that may follow suit.

In August, the NDWLPA is sponsoring a ram and ewe lamb sale at NDSU. The rams will be required to be RR and the ewes at least QR at codon 171. We are hoping that this will make the sale somewhat unique as well as serve the Eastern part of North Dakota better. If anyone is interested in entering animals, please contact Justin. We are not trying to infer that everyone should purchase RR rams, for terminal crosses this is not as important, we are just trying to develop another event.

I hope everyone gets some much needed moisture in the near future and that summer brings prosperity and joy.

Lyle Warner
NDWLPA President

Editor's Note

As farmers and ranchers it's not always easy for you to find time in your day-to-day responsibilities to reflect on what you do and, more importantly, why you do it. Yet, you are continually faced with the need to make choices and to find ways to improve your operation. When faced with difficult sheep production decisions, remember that you can always contact me (231-7993), another member of the Department of Animal & Range Sciences (231-7644), or Christopher Schauer and David Pearson at HREC (467-4323). You are our customers, and it is our responsibility to identify and satisfy your needs.

I would also like to encourage your membership in the North Dakota Lamb & Wool Producers Association. The NDWLPA is the only state-wide organization that represents your needs and concerns as sheep producers. Annual membership is only \$20 and you can become a member of the American Sheep Industry Association for an additional fee. Membership applications can be downloaded from the internet at www.ndlwpa.com.

Justin Luther, Ph.D.
NDSU Extension Sheep Specialist

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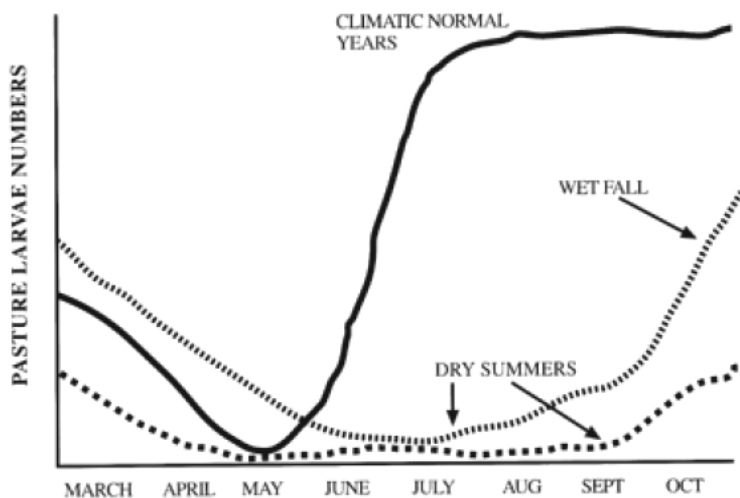
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New Management Techniques for Controlling the Same Old Worm

Justin S. Luther, Ph.D.
Extension Sheep Specialist

Internal parasites continue to be the primary animal health concern in most U.S. sheep operations. As dewormer resistance increases it becomes evident that no single approach will counteract the lack of new and highly effective dewormers. As a result, integrated management techniques for controlling internal parasites need to be adopted by sheep producers.

The barber pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) causes the majority of internal parasite problems in the U.S. Signs of infection may include anemia, bottle jaw, and death. This parasite has a short life cycle of about 4 weeks and flourishes in warm, wet conditions. Although summer drought conditions reduce parasite prevalence, a wet fall will increase pasture larvae numbers (see figure below). Sheep will pick up infective larvae while consuming grass or shorter forages. The larvae will then develop into adults and reside in the abomasum, or true stomach of the sheep. Each adult worm will consume 0.05 ml of blood per day, which can lead to a 10% loss in total blood volume in



severely infected sheep. Eggs are laid in the abomasum and secreted through the feces. The barber pole worm life cycle resumes when eggs are hatched and reach the infective stage on pasture.

When controlling the barber pole worm, the goal is not to create parasite-free animals. It is normal for sheep to carry some internal parasites. Rather, the goal is to prevent disease and production losses caused by severe infestations. Internal parasite control must begin with good management practices. Make sure watering and feeding facilities are kept clean, always isolate and deworm sheep that are new to your operation, and do not overstock confinement pens and pastures. Sheep in optimal body condition (score 3 on a scale from 1 to 5) are better able to combat barber pole worm infestations. In addition, protein supplementation during late gestation has been shown to increase the immune response to internal parasites during spring lambing, which is when ewes are most susceptible. Multi-species grazing has also been shown to be beneficial. Many of the internal parasites that infect sheep do not infect cattle and thus, cattle can safely be used to reduce pasture larvae numbers or "vacuum" pastures prior to grazing with sheep.

One of the latest tools for battling the prolific barber pole worm is FAMACHA®, which is named after its inventor, Francois Malan, a South African livestock parasitologist concerned with the problems of parasite control in his country's large sheep industry. The FAMACHA® eyelid color chart classifies sheep into five categories based on the degree of anemia: 1=red, non-anemic; 2=red-pink, non-anemic; 3=pink, mildly anemic; 4=pink-white, anemic; 5=white, severely anemic. In general, sheep with a score of 1 or 2 should not be dewormed, whereas sheep with a score of 4 or 5 should be dewormed. Using this system avoids unnecessary treatment of sheep with low-level infestations, thereby preventing dewormer resistance in an internal parasite population. Furthermore, culling of severely anemic sheep (FAMACHA® score 5) will improve overall worm control in your flock. Recent research has shown that 20% of the flock sheds about 80% of the barber pole worm eggs. Long term use of the FAMACHA® system can also be used by breeders as a genetic selection tool to

identify individuals within a breed that are resistant to severe infestations.

Sheep producers must also adopt "smart drenching" techniques when using chemical dewormers. Drench should always be administered in the back of the mouth and not over the tongue. Always give the proper dose to a sheep and never underdose. If you are deworming a large group of sheep that are relatively consistent in weight, determine the dose for the heaviest animal and use it for all. This will prevent underdosing. When possible, sheep should be fasted (but not removed from water) for 12 to 24 hours before deworming. It is recommended to deworm your flock 2 to 4 weeks before lambing and/or before going to pasture. Arrested larvae will mature when spring lambing occurs, and the ewe is the primary source of infection to her lambs. More recently, it has been recommended to use the same type or brand name of dewormer for an extended period (2 to 3 years) and then make the switch to another dewormer when it becomes necessary. This will prevent internal parasite populations from becoming resistant to a variety of dewormers, and should leave the sheep producer with a suitable / effective alternative.

If you would like to learn more about new management techniques for controlling internal parasites or if you would be interested in attending a FAMACHA© training course contact your Extension Sheep Specialist (701-231-7993).

North Dakota Sheep Industry Announcements

The State Board of Animal Health was recently notified by APHIS that genotyping is not a priority item for scrapie funds distributed through cooperative agreements for the year 2007. At this time it is not known whether we will be allowed to reimburse producers for genotyping expenses. We hope to receive approval for

our work plan shortly. When an agreement is finalized, producers will be notified. Please contact Dr. Beth Carlson @ 701-328-2655 if you have any questions.

Tom Olson has approximately one mile of woven wire fence with steel posts that he will give to anyone that takes it down. The location is Gate Twp Eddy County. Interested parties can call Tom's cell phone @ 701-269-9322.

If you would like to place a relevant announcement in the next issue please email it to Justin.Luther@ndsu.edu by June 25th.

Upcoming Research to Maximize Dried Distillers' Grains in Finishing Lamb Diets

**Michele Stamm, MS
Southwest Feeders Coordinator
NDSU Hettinger Research Extension
Center**

The National Corn Growers Association predicts more than 10 million tons of distillers' grains (DGS) will be produced in the 2006-2007 production year, resulting in more DGS being available as a livestock feed than any previous year. Dried distillers grains are an excellent source of energy and protein for sheep and beef cattle; however, DGS are high in potassium, phosphorus, and sulfur which requires care when feeding at higher concentrations in sheep diets. Previous research conducted at the Hettinger Research Extension Center (HREC), found that 22.5% DGS inclusion level in lamb finishing diets increased lamb performance and had no negative effect on lamb carcass traits when compared to a corn based diet. Currently, limited research exists on the maximum amount of DGS that can be used in finishing diets. Due to high grain prices, sheep producers are looking for more economical alternatives to replace these grains. In addition, questions remain on how much DGS can be incorporated into lamb diets without

causing sulfur toxicity and/or polioencephalomalacia (PEM). This spring, the HREC Southwest Feeders feedlot will evaluate DGS feeding at levels greater than 22.5% inclusion in finishing diets and its subsequent impacts on feedlot lamb health, finishing performance, and carcass

characteristics. Look for future updates in upcoming issues of the North Dakota Sheep Industry Newsletter! If you would like more information on feeding dried distillers' grains to sheep contact Michele Stamm or Christopher Schauer (701-567-4323).

Mark Your Calendar for North Dakota's Top Ram Sales!

Fargo Ram Sale

shepherd Arena, NDSU

**40 Rams
All RR**



**80 Purebred
Ewe Lambs**

**August 4th, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CDT
Educational Program @ 11:00 a.m.**

Hettinger Ram Sale

Adams County Fair Barn

**200 Rams
QR & RR**



32nd Annual

September 19th, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. MDT

For more information contact: Justin Luther, Sale Manager (701-231-7993)

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