Virginia Cooperative Extension
Animal & Poultry Sciences
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Livestock Update

Beef - Horse - Poultry - Sheep - Swine

January 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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Dates to Remember

BEEF

FEBRUARY

25 Virginia Stocker Cattle Summit to Focus on Forage Management for Optimal Animal Gain Weyers Cave Community Center from 9 AM-3 PM, Weyers Cave, VA. ***Contact:*** John Benner at benner89@vt.edu

SHEEP

JANUARY

10 Shepherd's Symposium. Augusta County Government Center. Verona. ***Contact***: Scott Greiner (540) 231-9159; email: sgreiner@vt.edu

SWINE

JANUARY

29 48th Annual Virginia Pork Industry Conference. Workforce Development Center. Campus of Paul D. Camp Community College, Franklin, VA. ***Contact:*** Mark Estienne (757) 657-6450, Ext. 408; email: mestienn@vt.edu

January Herd Management Advisor

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

January typically means that winter feeding has become part of the daily farm chores. Pick one of the month's milder days and think ahead to the warmer and greener days of spring. Winter soil sampling allows plans to be formulated for addressing identified nutrient needs in pastures and hay fields. Likewise, it is time to make plans for frost seeding clover in February. The addition of clover to pastures is an economical management practice that easily pays its way. Clover addition to tall fescue pastures results in improved diet quality and dilution of the toxins associated with endophyte infected fescue. Clover is also valued for its nitrogen fixing abilities. During the past decade of high fertilizer costs, the financial benefit of this low-cost method of adding nitrogen to pastures has increased at the same pace as nitrogen. Be sure check with you local extension office for variety and planting tips.

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Prepare for calving season by checking inventory and securing necessary supplies (ob equipment, tube feeder, colostrum supplement, ear tags, animal health products, calving book, etc.). Review calving assistance procedures.
- Move pregnant heifers and early calving cows to calving area about 2 weeks before due date
- Check cows frequently during calving season. Optimal interval is to check calving females is every 4 hours.
- Utilize calving area that is clean and well drained. Reduce exposure to scours by moving 2-3 day old pairs out of calving area to separate paddock (reduce commingling of newborn calves with older calves).
- Identify calves promptly at birth. Record birth weight, calving ease score, teat/udder score, and mothering ability of cow.

Nutrition and Forages

- Evaluate the body condition of cows that you identified as thin and gauge if nutrition management changes are having an impact.
- As fetus size and fetal growth rate increase, cow nutrition requirements increase proportionately. If low to average hay is being fed, supplementation may be warranted.
- Continue strip grazing accumulated fescue growth as needed.
- Continue to manage first-calf heifers separately; give them the best forage. Thin mature cows could be added to this group.
- Feed lower-quality hay to dry cows, saving the best hay for calving season
- Continue to feed high Se trace mineral salt. A forage/hay analysis can reveal what other minerals should be supplemented.
- Post-calving, nutrient requirements will increase, be prepared to supplement forages based on their nutrient content.

- Be mindful that harsh environmental conditions (cold, wind, ice, mud) will increase nutrient needs.

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.

Genetics

- Make plans for spring bull-buying season. Evaluate current herd bulls for progeny performance and soundness. Establish herd genetic goals, and selection criteria for AI sires and new herd bulls.
- Schedule ultrasound technician, and collect yearling performance data (weight, height, scrotal, ultrasound) in seedstock herds.

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Calving records should be complete and up to date.
- Monitor calves for scours.
- Continue breeding season.

Nutrition and Forages

- As the breeding season continues, remember that maintaining or gaining weight has a major impact on pregnancy rate. As available forage becomes scarcer and of lower quality, be prepared to supplement as needed.
- Offer high magnesium mineral. Generally, fall calving cows are not as predisposed to grass tetany. As cows transition from grazing to hay or silage, hi-mag minerals can be discontinued.
- Use strip grazing as a tool to increase the efficiency of utilization of cool season pastures by cows post-calving.
- Be mindful that harsh environmental conditions (cold, wind, ice, mud) will increase nutrient needs of all cattle.

Herd Health

- Monitor calves closely for health issues, particularly scours and respiratory disease.
- Consult with veterinarian concerning vaccination protocol for calf crop.
- Evaluate lice control program and consult your veterinarian for recommendations.

Reproduction

- Remove bulls from replacement heifers after 45 day breeding season
- Make plans to pregnancy check heifers as soon as possible after bull removal. This will allow options in marketing open heifers.
- Manage bulls properly during the breeding season. Observe frequently to confirm breeding activity and soundness, and monitor cows for repeat estrus. Avoid commingling mature and young bulls, as older bulls will be dominant. As rule of thumb, yearling bulls should be exposed to number of cows equal to their age in months (ie. 18 month old bull with ~18 cows).

Genetics

- Make plans for spring bull-buying season. Evaluate current herd bulls for progeny performance and soundness. Establish herd genetic goals, and selection criteria for AI sires and new herd bulls.

Selection for Marbling in a Cowherd

What Else Comes Along For The Ride?

Jason K. Smith and Scott P. Greiner
Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

One of the major factors that has led to a shift in the U.S. beef industry from its roots as a commodity-based market to its current state as a quality-based, value-added market has been the ability of cattlemen to identify and select for animals of superior carcass merit. This shift has provided the industry with the ability to ensure a remarkable degree of reliability in product quality and the consumer satisfaction that ensues. Following the turn of the century, the push for improvements in USDA carcass quality grade and overall consumer acceptance led to a strong desire amongst cattlemen to place at least some degree of emphasis on selection for marbling.

As a result, a large number of producers have selected for cowherds that possess an abundance of marbling potential. Until recently, little was known about the existence of relationships between marbling and maternal traits, leading many producers to question if intensive selection for marbling and quality grade will affect cowherd productivity. In order to address these concerns, a comprehensive literature review was conducted to summarize and interpret the results of research that has evaluated genetic and phenotypic relationships between marbling and factors affecting maternal productivity. In addition, the Fall 2013 Angus Sire Evaluation Report was analyzed to evaluate the presence of existing relationships between marbling and maternally relevant EPDs and dollar value ($Value) indices for Angus sires, due to their popularity and widespread use in commercial operations.

Based on the results of this review, our interpretation of existing reports suggests that selection for marbling will not negatively impact many traits that are considered important for maternal productivity; including scrotal circumference, age at puberty, heifer pregnancy, calving interval, or mature weight. Interestingly, there currently appears to be favorable relationships between marbling and the birth weight and calving ease EPDs, as well as the $W index within Angus sires. Additionally, these efforts identified the existence of relationships between marbling and the milk EPD, the $EN index, and the mature height EPD within the Angus breed. This direct correlation appears to be much higher amongst the most heavily used Angus sires (based upon number of registered daughters with progeny weaning weight records).

It is important to note that a relationship does not affirm causation, as simultaneous selection pressure for more than one trait can create potentially unfavorable relationships. Such a scenario could help to explain some of the negative perceptions associated with selection for elevations in marbling, even within balanced-trait selection. Additionally, these results suggest that many of these perceptions could be the result of elevations in milk that have been simultaneously bred into certain high marbling Angus sires, rather than a direct result of selection for marbling, as level of milk production can impact maternal nutrient requirements, body condition and reproductive success.

Research conducted in Hungarian and German Angus cattle has identified the existence of a genetic link between marbling and milk yield of Angus cattle, through the existence of a single nucleotide polymorphism of the gene that controls the final step in fat synthesis. The existence of this polymorphism, however, has yet to be evaluated within U.S. cattle populations, making the origin of this relationship difficult to determine. Additional genomic analysis and applied research of U.S. beef cattle populations is necessary in order to more effectively characterize these relationships, as well as to identify their origin.

Nonetheless, the impact of these relationships will remain largely dependent upon individual production scenarios, both in terms of selection pressure for marbling, and feed resource availability to support its related traits. As such, cattlemen are encouraged to remain cognizant of these relationships when making selection decisions, and as always, practice multiple trait selection that allows progeny to be matched to a producer's respective management strategy.

To view the full version of the review article, visit
http://www.cabpartners.com/news/research.php

2014 Culpeper Senior BCIA Bull Sale Results

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Beef Specialist, Virginia Tech

The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association hosted the 57th Annual Culpeper Senior Bull Sale on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises near Culpeper, Virginia. Sixty fall-born bulls representing the top end of the 97 bulls tested sold for an average price of $4915. The sale included 54 Angus bulls which averaged $4946, 5 SimAngus bulls at $5080, and 1 Braunvieh Beef Builder at $2400.

The high-selling bull was Angus Lot 8, consigned by Soldiers' Hill Angus of Warrenton, Virginia and sold to Quaker Hill Farms, LLC of Louisa, Virginia for $12,000. This September 2013 son of Connealy Right Answer 746 had a test YW ratio of 116, along with +10 CED EPD, -0.6 BW EPD, +112 YW EPD. The high sale order index and high station index Angus bull, also consigned by Soldiers' Hill Angus, commanded $10,000 from Frank Hoover, Jr. of Edinburg, Virginia. The SAV Final Answer 0035 son posted a test YW of 1315, ratio 123, and a test ADG of 4.24, ratio 122, giving him a station index of 123 and placing him at the top of the test. In addition, this September 2013 born bull had EPDs of +11 CED, +63 WW, and +110 YW.

The breeder group award was presented to Locust Hill Farm, LLC of Middleburg, Virginia. These September 2013 bulls posted an average ADG of 4.33, ratio of 125, average YW of 1164, ratio of 109, and average station index of 114. This set of bulls was led by Lot 97 and was sold to ICW Farms, LLC of Luray, Virginia for $5000. This KCF Bennett Performer son posted a test YW ratio of 110 and test ADG ratio of 135, along with strong EPDs of +58 WW, +103 YW, and +0.68 RE. Lot 96 commanded $5000 Patricia Brumback of New Market, Virginia. This SAV Net Worth 4200 son posted a test ADG of 4.82, ratio 139, making him the top ADG bull of the test. He also had a test YW ratio of 107 and a MB EPD of +0.66. The final lot of this group was a Whitestone Black Arrow Z101 son that sold to Phillip Bundy of Lebanon, Virginia for $6,000. This September-born bull posted strong EPDs of +61 WW EPD, +102 YW EPD, along with test ratios of 113 and 112 for YW and ADG, respectively.

The strong Angus offering also included Lot 71, consigned by Legacy at Pine Hill Farm of Forest, VA, which sold to Palo Alto Farm of Mineral, Virginia for $10,000. This high growth son of Sydgen CC&7 had a WW EPD of +58, and YW EPD +104, test YW ratio of 122 and test ADG ratio of 113, in addition to scanning a 13.4 RE, ratio 118. Lot 12, a GAR Prophet son bred by Monomoy Farm of Warrenton, VA sold to Mt. Rush Farm of Buckingham, VA for $8250. This bull posted strong maternal EPDs of +13 CEM and +28 Milk, along with strong growth EPDs of +69 WW, +124 YW, and carcass values of +1.14 MB EPD, +111.71 $B. Edgewood Angus of Williamsburg, Virginia bred Lots 64 and 65, which commanded $7750 each from Mark Givens of Newport, VA and East Belmont, LLC of Keswick, VA, respectively. Lot 64 is a son of GAR Progress and had EPD ratios in the top 1% of the Angus breed for CED at +14 and MB at +1.31. Lot 65 is a Plattemere Weigh Up K360 son and posted strong maternal and growth EPDs of +13 CED, +64 WW, +118 YW, +14 CEM, +27 Milk, and +111.61 $B.

The strong group of SimAngus bulls was led by Lots 405 and 406 consigned by Reasor Simmentals of Rural Retreat, Virginia. These two homozygous black GW Premium Beef 021 TS sons sold for $6500 each to Charles Wise of Bridgewater, VA. Lot 405 scanned a 120 ratio for RE at 14.93, in addition to a +14.4 CED EPD, -1.6 BW EPD, and a test YW ratio of 112. Lot 406 also scanned a 120 RE at 14.89, along with the highest SimAngus test YW ratios of 113, +17.1 CED EPD, +13.9 DOC EPD, +0.63 RE EPD, and a +82.9 TI index. Lot 404, consigned by Quaker Hill Farms, LLC of Louisa, VA. Lot 404, a homozygous black son of GAR Daybreak M5721 commanded $4500. This September 2013 bull posted a test ADG ratio of 123, and EPDs of -1.9 BW, +103.9 YW. Lot 402, also consigned by Quaker Hill Farms, LLC sold for $4200. This AAR Ten X 7008 SA son, had strong growth and carcass EPDs of +127.6 YW, +1.04 MB, and +0.86 RE, along with index values of 162.9 and 93.1 for API and TI, respectively.

All bulls in the test and sale were consigned by members of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Bulls were tested at the Culpeper bull test station operated by Glenmary Farm, owned by Tom and Kim Nixon of Rapidan, Virginia. The sale was managed by Virginia BCIA and the Virginia Cattlemen's Association, and the auctioneer was Mike Jones. Additional details on the Virginia BCIA Bull program can be found at http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu .

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
www.ext.vt.edu

2015 Virginia Stocker Cattle Summit to Focus on Forage Management for Optimal Animal Gain

Virginia Cooperative Extension will host a beef stocker program on February 25, 2015 at the Weyers Cave Community Center from 9 AM—3 PM. The program will explore differences in stocker systems in Virginia and the southeast and provide strategies for optimizing forage production and animal performance.

Keynote speakers include:

- Dr. Matt Poore, Ruminant Livestock Specialist (North Carolina State University)
- Dr. Tom Griggs, West Virginia University
- Dr. John Currin, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
- Mike Carpenter, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The program will conclude with a discussion panel focusing on risk management for stocker operators. Panel members include Rodney Leech, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, Joe Guthrie, Virginia Tech, and Jonah Bowles, Senior Market Analyst for the Virginia Farm Bureau.

Program registration costs of $10 will cover a catered lunch and program proceedings. Additional sponsorship for the program is provided by Farm Credit of the Virginias, Boehringer Ingelheim, VDACS Livestock Marketing Service, Merial and Zoetis. To provide an accurate head count for lunch ***please*** register by February 23 by calling the Augusta County Extension Office at 540-245-5750 or email John Benner at benner89@vt.edu. A downloadable brochure will be available under the "What's New" section of the Augusta Extension website http://offices.ext.vt.edu/augusta/ and on the VT APSC webpage www.vtbeef.apsc.vt.edu .

If you are a person with a disability and desire accommodations to participate in this program, please contact the Augusta County Extension Office at (540) 245-5750 (TDD 800-828-1120) during business hours to discuss accommodations within 5 days prior to the event.

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

2015 Virginia Stocker Cattle Summit

A conference for stocker cattle operators

February 25, 2015

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Weyers Cave Community Center

Weyers Cave, VA

About Our Guest Speakers:

Matt Poore, NCSU

Research and Extension projects have focused on ruminant nutrition, by-products and forage management

Thomas Griggs, WVU

Research has centered on forage and grassland management, with emphasis on plant-animal interactions in extended-season grazing systems.

Program Proceedings included with Registration

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

2015 Virginia Stocker Cattle Summit Registration Form:

To pre-register: Call the Augusta Co. Ext. Office at 540-245-5750, email John Benner at benner89@vt.edu or or mail this form with $10 check payable to "VCE-Augusta County" P.O. Box 590, Verona, VA 24482

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: _____

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Augusta Extension Office at (540-245-5750/TDD*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

This program, offered through support from *Farm Credit of the Virginias, Merial Animal Health, Zoetis, VA Dept . of Ag, Boehringer Ingelheim*, with additional assistance from Virginia Farm Bureau, will focus on various aspects of stocker cattle production systems in Virginia and the southeast. Some of these topics include: optimizing animal gain and pasture productivity; improving acclimation of cattle to new environments; ensuring cattle health and capitalizing on marketing opportunities while managing price risk.

Program Schedule

8:30 AM – Registration

9:00 AM – Nutrition Programs for Southeastern Stocker Cattle—***Dr. Matt Poore, North Carolina State University***

10:00 AM – Forage Budgeting: Optimal Forage Management for Stocker Operators—***Dr. Thomas Griggs, West Virginia University***

11:00 AM – Break/Visit with Sponsors

11:15 AM – Receiving Health Program for Stocker Calves and Upcoming Changes to Pharmaceutical Regulations—***Dr. John Currin, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine***

12:15 PM – Lunch

Questions? Call or email John Benner at 540-245-5750 or at benner89@vt.edu

Program Schedule

1:00 PM – Feeder Cattle Marketing Update ***—Mike Carpenter, John Beam, Richard Lloyd, VDACS***

1:30 PM – Discussion Panel: Purchasing Cattle and Managing Price Risk
Rodney Leech – Highland County Animal Science Extension Agent, VCE
Joe Guthrie – Advanced Instructor, Agriculture Technology, Virginia Tech
Jonah Bowles – Senior Agriculture Market Analyst, Virginia Farm Bureau

This program is made available through support by:

Boehringer Ingelheim
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
MERIAL
FARM CREDIT
zoetis

Sheep Update

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Sheep Specialist, Virginia Tech

2014 Virginia Fall Bred Ewe Sale Results

The 2014 Virginia Sheep Producer's Association Fall Bred Ewe & Doe Sale was held Saturday, December 6 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg. A total of 38 bred ewes sold for an average price of $714. Sale results by breed and age were as follows:

	Ewe Lambs		Yearling Ewes		Mature Ewes		All	
Wether Dams								
Crossbred	29	$688	5	$880	2	$475	36	$703
Dorset			1	$1200			1	1200
Suffolk	1	$650					1	$650
All Wether Dams	30	$687	6	$933	2	$475	38	$714

Winter Sheep Management Tips

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Sheep Specialist, Virginia Tech

4-6 Weeks Before Lambing

1. Provide supplemental energy (TDN) to ewes the last month of gestation. The majority of fetal growth occurs during the last 4-6 weeks of gestation. The increased energy requirement is often met by supplementing 1-2 pounds of grain ration per day in addition to hay. Provide calcium and selenium fortified trace mineral salt, or provide these mineral through a complete feed.
2. Supplementation of tetracycline pre-lambing has been shown to reduce the incidence of abortions. Consult with your veterinarian on a flock health management protocol.
3. Make sure there is plenty of feed trough space so that ewes do not crowd each other at feeding time.
4. Shear the wool from around the head, udder and dock of pregnant ewes. If covered facilities are available, shear the ewes completely. Sheared ewes are more likely to lamb inside, the inside of the barn stays drier because less moisture is carried in by the ewes, more ewes can be kept inside, and it creates a cleaner environment for the lambs and the shepherd. Sheared ewes must have access to a barn during cold, freezing rains, and they must receive additional feed during periods of extremely cold temperatures.

2-4 Weeks Before Lambing

1. Vaccinate ewes for overeating disease and tetanus. These vaccines provide passive immunity to baby lambs through the ewes' colostrum until they can be vaccinated at 4 to 6 weeks of age. Work with your veterinarian regarding feeding of antibiotics for prevention of abortion diseases.
2. Check and separate all ewes that are developing udders or showing signs of lambing. Check and remove heavy ewes once a week during the lambing season. Increase the grain on all ewes showing signs of lambing to 1 lb daily, and feed all the good quality grass/legume hay they will clean up.
3. Observe ewes closely. Ewes that are sluggish or hang back at feeding may be showing early signs of pregnancy disease.
4. Shelter heavy ewes from bad weather.
5. Get lambing pens and lambing equipment ready. There should be one lambing pen for every ten ewes expected to lamb.
6. Stock lambing supplies such as iodine, antibiotics, frozen colostrum, stomach tube, selenium and Vitamin E, OB lube, lamb puller, ear tags, etc.

At Lambing Time

1. Check ewes on a frequent basis (every 3 to 4 hours), as feasible.
2. After lambs are born, move the ewe and her lambs to a lambing pen with a minimum dimension of 5' X 5'. Check the ewe's udder to see that she has milk, strip each teat to remove the waxy plug that may be present at the end of the teat, and make sure lambs nurse within 30 minutes.
3. Colostrum is critical for baby lamb survival. For ewes without milk or for lambs that fail to nurse, lambs must be given colostrum via a stomach tube. If sheep colostrum

is not available, cow or goat colostrum should be used. Colostrum can be frozen in ice cube trays or stored in plastic storage bags. Colostrum should be thawed using indirect heat. Thawing by direct heat destroys the antibodies that are present. Lambs should receive 20 ml (cc) of colostrum per pound of body weight. It works best if feedings can be 4 hours apart.

4. Only use a heat lamp if lambs are weak and chilled. Avoid danger of fire by hanging heat lamps 3' above the bedding and in the corner of the lambing pen. Block off the corner so that the ewe cannot get under the lamp.
5. Check on the health of the ewe and her lambs at least twice daily. Lambs that are lying down should be made to get up. Those that fail to stretch after getting up may have a problem that requires further examination. The biggest cause of baby lamb mortality is starvation.
6. Virginia is a selenium deficient state. If selenium deficiency has been a problem, lambs should be given an injection of 0.25 mg selenium per 10 lb of body weight immediately after birth. A good quality mineral provided to the ewe flock on a year-round basis has been shown to be the best way to prevent selenium deficiency.
7. A general rule of thumb is for the ewe and her lambs to stay in the lambing pen one day for each lamb. Weak or small lambs may require a longer stay.
8. Ewes should receive fresh water and high quality hay the day of lambing. Don’t feed grain until the second day. One pound of grain plus 5 lbs of good quality hay will take care of their needs until moving to a mixing pen.
9. If ewes were not treated for internal parasites within 3 weeks of lambing, they should be treated prior to removal from the lambing pen.
10. Keep records on all ewes, noting those that had problems. Individually identify lambs so they can be matched with the ewe. The ability to match ewes and lambs is important to monitor performance, and individual identification is critical for making selection and culling decisions.
11. All lambs should be docked and castrated by the time they are 2 weeks old.

Virginia Shepherds' Symposium Hosted January 10

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Sheep Specialist, Virginia Tech

The annual Virginia Shepherd's Symposium will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the Augusta County Government Center located in Verona, VA. This one-day program is open to all sheep producers from the region and provides an educational opportunity for producers, educators and other professionals in sheep and related agribusiness industries. Youth are an important segment of the sheep industry and are invited to attend as well. The program will feature excellent speakers on a variety of topics, and commercial exhibitors will also be present.

The morning sessions will commence at 9 AM, with Dr. Scott Bowdridge from West Virginia University sharing "New Research and its Application to Dealing With Parasites." Following will be two concurrent sessions, one on wool-related topics led by Dr. Rodney Kott from Montana State University with the other concurrent session focused on flock management strategies led by Dr. Scott Greiner and Dr. Mark McCann of Virginia Tech. Following a lamb lunch, updates from the American Sheep Industry Association and American Lamb Board will be provided. The afternoon session will also feature "Lambing Time Management: Keys to Success" presented by Dr. Dan Hadacek from Ashby Herd Health in Harrisonburg, VA as well as a producer panel and virtual tour of operations from a group of Virginia sheep producers which will share their keys to their sheep operations.

The early registration deadline for the conference is January 5 (registrations also taken on-site day of program). The registration fee is $25 which includes a proceedings and lunch. For registration information visit http://www.vtsheep.apsc.vt.edu or contact Dr. Scott Greiner, Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech, phone (540) 231-9159, email sgreiner@vt.edu or contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office.

VIRGINIA
SHEPHERDS' SYMPOSIUM
PRE-REGISTRATION

DEADLINE – JANUARY 5, 2015

Complete separate form for each participant only if different addresses.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP_____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

FAX _____

✦ Credit cards are not accepted this year ✦

Please return with payment for registration (make check payable to VSPA) no later than January 5 to:

Virginia Sheep Producers Association
Dept of Animal & Poultry Sciences
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: (540) 231-9159
Fax: (540) 231-3010

LOCATION:

Augusta County Government Center
18 Government Center Lane
Verona, VA

The Virginia Shepherds' Symposium is open to all sheep producers from the Mid-Atlantic Region. It provides in-service training opportunities for extension personnel, educators and other professionals in sheep and related agribusiness industries. Youth are an important segment of the sheep industry and are invited to attend.

MOTEL RESERVATIONS:

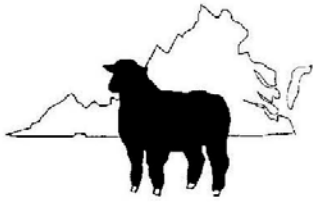
Local lodging is available.

For a complete list, please visit:

http://www.visitaugustacounty.com

MOTEL RESERVATIONS ON YOUR OWN

VIRGINIA SHEPHERDS' SYMPOSIUM



January 9 - 10, 2015

Augusta County Government Center
Government Center Lane
Verona, Virginia

Pre-Registration Deadline
January 5, 2015

Sponsored by:

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Friday, January 9

PM ***Augusta County Government Center***

4:00 **Virginia Sheep Industry Board Meeting (Open to the public)**

6:00 **Virginia Sheep Producers Association Board Meeting (Open to the public)**

Saturday, January 10

AM ***Augusta County Government Center***

8:15 **Registration and Commercial Exhibits**

9:00 **"New Research and its Application to Dealing with Parasites"**
Dr. Scott Bowdridge – West Virginia University

CONCURRENT SESSION I

"Lamb Market Situation and Outlook"
Dr. David Anderson – Texas A & M University

"Keeping and Using Flock Records"
Dr. Scott Greiner – Dept. of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

"Timely Management Strategies for the Flock"
Dr. Mark McCann – Dept. of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech
Dr. Scott Greiner – Dept. of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

CONCURRENT SESSION II

"Determining the Value of Your Wool"
Dr. Rodney Kott – Montana State University

"Marketing Opportunities for Your Wool"
Dr. Rodney Kott – Montana State University

Roundtable Discussion – Opportunities for Virginia

PM

12:00 **Virginia Sheep Producers Association Annual Meeting**

Roy Meek Outstanding Sheep Producer Award Presentation

12:15 **Lunch –** *will be provided*

1:00 **"Report from American Sheep Industry Association"**
Mr. Bob Leer – ASI Executive Board-Region II Director, Indiana

"American Lamb Board & Your Checkoff Dollars"
Mr. Leo Tammi – Director-American Lamb Board, Mt. Sidney, VA

"Lambing Time Management: Keys to Success"
Dan Hadacek, DVM – Ashby Herd Health

"Keys to My Sheep Operation: Producer Panel & Virtual Tours"
Coordinated by John Benner, VA Cooperative Extension, Augusta County
Featured Producers:
John Sponaugle, Grotttoes, VA
Sonny Balsley, Lyndhurst, VA
David & Kitra Shiflett, Grottoes, VA
Leo Tammi, Mt. Sidney, VA

If you are a person with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations for this symposium, please discuss your accommodation needs with Scott Greiner at (540) 231-9159 at your earliest convenience.

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Received by January 5, 2015

SATURDAY SYMPOSIUM

____ **$25.00 FULL REGISTRATION (includes lunch, breaks, and materials)**

____ **$10.00 YOUTH FULL REGISTRATION (includes lunch, breaks, and materials)**

____ **TOTAL**

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

After January 5, 2015

SATURDAY SYMPOSIUM

____ **$30.00 FULL REGISTRATION (includes lunch, breaks, and materials)**

____ **$15.00 YOUTH FULL REGISTRATION (includes lunch, breaks, and materials)**

____ **TOTAL**

Forty-Eighth Virginia Pork Industry Conference

Dr. Mark Estienne
Extension Swine Specialist, Tidewater AREC

Directions to Regional Workforce Development Center, Franklin, VA

- From US Route 58 By-pass take Armory Drive Exit .
- Turn right and proceed up Armory Drive.
- Turn left onto College Drive.
- Regional Workforce Development Center at Paul D. Camp Community College is on the right.

Lodging near Conference site in Franklin, VA:
Comfort Inn, 757-569-0018
Days Inn, 757-562-2225

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Dr. Mark Estienne, Virginia Tech- Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center at 757-657-6450, ext. 408 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Virginia Pork Industry Conference
6321 Holland Road
Suffolk, VA 23437

Forty-Eighth
Virginia Pork Industry Conference

For all segments of the Virginia Pork Industry

Thursday, January 29, 2015

Regional Workforce Development Center
Paul D. Camp Community College
100 North College Drive
Franklin, VA

Registration

There is no charge to attend, but in order that we have an accurate estimate of the number of lunches to have prepared, please pre-register by:

January 22, 2015.

Contact Dr. Mark Estienne by phone (757-657-6450, ext. 408) or e-mail (mestienn@vt.edu) to pre-register. Please be sure and indicate which one of the three concurrent afternoon sessions you wish to attend.

Conference Sponsors

Merck Animal Health
Murphy-Brown, LLC
Virginia Pork Council, Inc.
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Conference Co-Sponsors

Amadas Industries
Farm Credit
Manry Rawls, LLC
Two Oaks Enterprises, Inc.
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Forty-Eighth
Virginia Pork Industry Conference

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8:30 am Conference Registration

9:30 am **Effects of heat stress on sow productivity** *Dr. Tim Safranski*

10:15 am **Effects of nursery floor space allowance on future growth, reproduction and longevity in gilts** *Dr. Mark Estienne and Mr. Stuart Callahan*

11:00 am Break and Co-Sponsor Visitation

11:30 am **An update on porcine epidemic diarrhea virus and swine delta corona virus** *Dr. Chris Rademacher*

12:15 pm Lunch

An overview of global commodity prices *Mr. Casey Shaw*

1:30 pm Concurrent Sessions (choose one):

Production meeting for Murphy-Brown, LLC employees *Mr. Keith Allen presiding*

PQA-Plus Training and Certification *Dr. Mark Estienne*

TQA Training and Certification *Ms. Cynthia Gregg*

4:30 pm **Adjourn**

Conference Presenters

Tim Safranski, Ph.D.-University of Missouri
Stuart Callahan, M.S.- Virginia Tech
Mark Estienne, Ph.D.-Virginia Tech
Chris Rademacher, D.V.M.- Iowa State University
Casey Shaw- Murphy-Brown, LLC
Cynthia Gregg- Virginia Cooperative Extension

Conference Organizing Committee

Keith Allen
Jessica Cunningham
Mark Estienne, Ph.D.
Cynthia Gregg
Ryan Horsley
Elton Layden
Marla McPherson
Jeremy Pittman, D.V.M.
Page Wilkerson
Billy Wooding

Virginia Pork Council, Inc.

President- Billy Wooding
President-Elect- Keith Allen
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