

Livestock Update

Beef - Horse - Poultry - Sheep - Swine

February 2017

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.

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

Dates to Remember

Swine

February 9th- 50th Virginia Pork Industry Conference- Thursday, February 9, 2017- 8:30am to 4:30pm-**no charge** to attend, please pre-register by: **February 3, 2017.**
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.**

Beef

January 23rd, 24th, and 25th- 2017 VCA Winter Producer Economic Outlook Discussions-5:30PM-8:00PM. Meetings held in Barboursville, VA; Abingdon, VA; Blackstone, VA. Please RSVP to VCA office at: 540-992-1009 by Jan. 20th 2017.

January 28th- Virginia Tech Beef Cattle Health Conference; 8AM-3PM; Litton Reaves Auditorium, Virginia Tech Campus. Contact: Ralph Roop at 540-231-7344 or reroop@vt.edu.

March 19th- 2017 VIRGINIA BCIA SOUTHWEST BULL TEST OPEN HOUSE- Open house will be hosted at the Southwest Virginia Bull Test on Sunday afternoon, March 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Southwest Bull Test Station is located at 1110 Black Lick Road, Wytheville, VA. **website:** <http://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu> or **phone** 540-231-2257.

March 25th- 2017 VIRGINIA BCIA SOUTHWEST BULL TEST SALE- Saturday, March 25th, 12:00 noon at the sale facility just outside Wytheville, VA- approximately 150 bulls will sell- . **website:** <http://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu> or **phone** 540-231-2257.

February Beef Herd Management Advisor

Scott P. Greiner, T. Bain Wilson
Extension Beef Specialists, Virginia Tech
sgreiner@vt.edu, tbwilson@vt.edu

Although February marks the middle of winter, the days are gradually getting longer and spring will soon be on its way. Now is the time to continue preparations for the warmer days ahead. Winter soil sampling allows for identification of nutrient needs to be addressed in pastures and hay fields. February is also the time to frost seed clover. Incorporating clover to pastures is an economical practice that improves forage quality and dilutes endophyte alkaloids in fescue pastures. Clover, like other legumes, is a nitrogen fixing plant that can serve as a low-cost method to add nitrogen to pastures. Be sure check with you local extension office for variety and planting tips.

Cold winter days are also a good time to summarize and evaluate annual production costs and identify income streams that impact profitability. Enterprise budgets are excellent tools to use for this purpose. Enterprise budgets can be constructed for a number of components of the operation, including replacement heifer development, implementation of an AI program, creep feeding, and calf backgrounding. By combining budgets with key assumptions it is possible to consider the adoption (or change) of certain management practices in terms of their costs and potential returns. Grazed forages are the most economical feed source for the cow. As highlighted earlier, frost seeding clovers in pastures, along with strategic weed control and stockpiling are management options worthy of consideration in the upcoming year to reduce reliance on harvested forages/feedstuffs to decrease feed costs per cow.

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Prepare for calving season by checking inventory of typical supplies needed at calving time (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. The optimal interval to check calving females is every 4 hours.
- Utilize a calving area that is clean and well drained. Reduce exposure to pathogens that cause scours by moving 2-3 day old pairs out of the calving area to a separate paddock. Scours can also be reduced by avoiding the commingling of newborn calves with older calves. Another way to reduce exposure to scours-causing pathogens is to frequently move winter feeding sites in calving pastures.
- Tag and tattoo calves promptly at birth. Also record birth weight, calving ease score, teat/udder score, and mothering ability of cow.

Nutrition and Forages

- Evaluate growth of yearling heifers with the goal of them reaching 60 to 65% of mature body weight by breeding. Supplementation may be needed to meet weight gain target depending on forage quality.
- Feed high quality hay during late gestation and early lactation. Submit a sample for nutrient analysis if quality is unknown. Remember that hay quality cannot be solely assessed visually. Target quality is 11-12% crude protein and 58-60% TDN. Supplement protein and/or energy as needed.
- Frost seed clovers mid- to late month. Four pounds of red clover and 2 pounds of ladino clover per acre is recommended. Pastures with bare or exposed soil are the best candidates for frost seeding.

Herd Health

- Ensure colostrum intake in the first 6 hours of life in newborn calves. Provide supplemental colostrum if necessary. Newborn calves need 10% of body weight in colostrum first 24 hours of life.
- Provide selenium and vitamin A and D injections to newborn calves.
- Castrate commercial calves at birth.
- Monitor calves closely for scours and pneumonia, have treatment supplies on hand.
- Evaluate lice control program and consult your veterinarian for recommendations.

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. Order semen.
- Collect yearling performance data (weight, hip height, scrotal circumference, and ultrasound measurements) in seedstock herds.

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Monitor cows closely during the breeding season for signs of returned estrus. Contact veterinarian to evaluate fertility of bull if many cows in the same breeding group return to estrus.
- Remove bulls to maintain short and controlled calving season of 60 to 90 days.
- Begin planning marketing strategy for calf crop.
- Plan to pregnancy check heifers as soon as possible post breeding.

Nutrition and Forages

- Begin creep feeding or creep grazing calves if desired.
- Once breeding concludes, supplementation should be adjusted to reduced nutritional requirements during mid-lactation.

- Frost seed clovers mid- to late month. Four pounds of red clover and 2 pounds of ladino clover per acre is recommended. Pastures with bare or exposed soil are the best candidates for frost seeding.

Herd Health

- Monitor calves closely for health issues, particularly respiratory disease.
- Administer 7-way clostridial vaccine and respiratory vaccinations (booster dose should be given at pre-weaning, especially if killed products are used) to calves.
- Evaluate lice control program and consult your veterinarian for recommendations.

Genetics

- Make plans for spring bull-buying season. Evaluate current herd bulls for progeny performance and soundness.

Virginia 4-H Livestock Judging and Livestock Skillathon Teams Successful at National Contests

The Virginia 4-H Livestock Judging and Livestock Skillathon teams finished first and third in their respective national contests, which were held in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. The Livestock Judging Team competed against 31 other teams in the 92nd National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. The team's first-place finish gave Virginia back-to-back national championships. The team beat second-place South Dakota by 10 points and third-place Pennsylvania by 16 points.

Members of the Livestock Judging Team included:

- Kam Childers of Ewing, Virginia.
- Sarah Jane French of Cumberland, Virginia.
- Jenna Kibler of Edinburg, Virginia.
- Simon Liggett of Mt. Solon, Virginia.
- Jake McCall (alternate) of Greenville, Virginia.
- Cole Reeves (alternate) of Churchville, Virginia.
- Cassidy Simmons (alternate) of Staunton, Virginia.

Bain Wilson, youth livestock educator at Virginia Tech, coached the team. Consistency across the three species judged was what allowed this team to be successful. Virginia was the only team to rank in the top 10 in beef cattle (third), sheep/goats (second), and swine (sixth). The team also finished fourth in reasons.

Individual awards were garnered by Kibler, who placed second overall, sixth in sheep/goats, third in beef cattle, third in performance beef cattle, 12th in swine, and 13th in reasons. French placed 14th overall and 19th in swine; Childers placed 10th in sheep/goats; and Liggett placed 17th in beef cattle and 20th in performance beef cattle. Kibler and French were named All-Americans for placing in the top 20 overall.

When asked about the team's first-place finish, French said, "It's proof that hard work and determination pay off."

As a result of its national championship, the team is eligible to represent the U.S. in the Livestock Judging Contest at the 2017 Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland in June. While in Europe, the team will also have the opportunity to tour farms and livestock operations in England, Ireland, and Scotland. For information about supporting these teams with a contribution to the Virginia 4-H Livestock Youth Development Endowment, contact Wilson at tbwilson@vt.edu or call 540-231-5253.

The success for competitors from Virginia continued as the Rockingham County Skillathon Team won third place overall in a field of 20 teams at the National 4-H Skillathon Contest. The team also earned second place in evaluation and third place in quality assurance and identification.

The four-member team included:

- Hannah Craun of Bridgewater, Virginia.
- Paul Craun of Bridgewater, Virginia.
- Seth Diehl of Mount Crawford, Virginia.
- Carly Carpenter of Mount Crawford, Virginia.

Individual awards were received by Hannah Craun, who placed sixth overall; Paul Craun, who placed 15th overall; Diehl, who placed 16th overall; and Carpenter, who placed 33rd overall. Hannah Craun, Paul Craun, and Diehl earned All-American honors as well.

Coaches Dave Walker of Port Republic, Virginia, and Tammy Craun of Bridgewater, Virginia, have been working with team members throughout the year to prepare for the state and national contests.



The 2016 Virginia 4-H Livestock Judging Team sitting from left to right front row: Cam Childers, Jenna Kibler, Sarah Jane French, and Simon Liggett. Standing: Bain Wilson, coach; Cassie Simmons and Cole Reeves. Not pictured Jake McCall.



The 2016 Virginia 4-H Livestock Skillathon Team sitting from left to right front row: Seth Diehl, Hannah Craun, and Paul Craun. Standing: Dave Walker, coach, and Tammy Craun, coach.

2016 CULPEPER SENIOR BCIA BULL SALE RESULTS

Scott Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, Beef, VA Tech

The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association hosted the 59th Annual Culpeper Senior Bull Sale on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises near Culpeper, Virginia. Thirty six fall-born bulls representing the top end of the 85 bulls developed sold for an average price of \$3099. The sale included 32 Angus bulls which averaged \$3048, and 4 Simmental and SimAngus bulls at \$3500.

The high-sale index bull, Angus Lot 26, consigned by Edgewood Angus of Williamsburg, Virginia, commanded \$5300 from Highway Corporation of Mt. Sidney, Virginia. This September 2015 son of Plattermere Weigh Up K360 had test YW ADG ratios of 113 and 120, along with posting EPDs of +12, +65, +123, +0.82 and +0.84 for CED, WW, YW, MB and RE, respectively. Also selling for \$5300 was Lot 2 bred by Monomoy Farm of Warrenton, Virginia and selling to Bundy Farm, Inc. of Lebanon, Virginia. This calving ease son of GAR Prophet posted a CED EPD of +13 along with YW EPD + 120 and MB EPD +1.06. Gundzik Angus from Manchester, Maryland consigned Lot 63 which brought \$5100 and sold to Robert Wilbanks from Orange, VA. This Connnealy Consensus 7229 son was the high ADG bull on test at 4.69, ratio 128, and also had MB EPD +1.02 and test YW ratio 111.

Lucas Farm of Blacksburg, Virginia was recognized as the Breeder Group award winner for their consignment of Angus bulls. Their lead bull, Lot 30, went to Palo-Alto Farm of Mineral, Virginia for \$4800. This high growth son of Deer Valley All In posted a test ADG ratio of 111, along with WW and YW EPDs of +67 and +120.

A strong set of Simmental and SimAngus bulls was paced by Lot 409, consigned by Reasor Simmental, Smith Reasor of Rural Retreat, Virginia and sold to Riverview Farms Cattle of Louisa, Virginia for \$4700. This homozygous black, SimAngus son of GW Premium Beef 021TS had a test YW ratio of 110 and test ADG ratio of 119, along with +17.6 CED EPD, -1.8 BW EPD, +93 YW EPD, +0.57 MB EPD. Lot 408, another SimAngus consigned by Reasor Simmental, commanded \$4000 from Doug Jones of Christiansburg, VA. This homozygous black SAV Final Answer 0035 son posted EPDs of +14.4 and +109 for CED and YW, 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 auctioneer was Mike Jones. Additional details on the Virginia BCIA Bull program can be found at <http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu> .

2017 VCA WINTER PRODUCER ECONOMIC OUTLOOK DISCUSSIONS

All Meetings are FREE to attend and include supper



Virginia Cattlemen's Association and Virginia Cooperative Extension, with support of Farm Credit, are pleased to sponsor meetings for cattle producers to hear a discussion of the economic situation in the beef cattle industry, supply/demand influencer price outlook for 2017.



Dr. Ron Plain, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics with the University of Missouri, is a nationally and internationally renowned speaker and livestock marketing expert. He has long been a resource of the food animal industry and USDA for economic outlook, marketing strategy, and demand influencer planning.



5:30-8:00PM*

*Registration 5:00pm

Program: Dr. Ron Plain-Market Outlook, Supper, VCA Update, Cattle Price Forecast

January 23 in Barboursville, VA at the Barboursville Fire Hall

January 24 in Abingdon, VA at the Southwest VA Higher Education Center

January 25 in Blackstone, VA at the Southern Piedmont Ag Research Center

Please RSVP to VCA office at:
540-992-1009

By January 20, 2016



Virginia Tech Beef Cattle Health Conference

Saturday January 28, 2017

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sponsored by the



Virginia-Maryland
College of **Veterinary Medicine**

and Virginia Cooperative Extension

and  **FARM CREDIT**

- 8:15 - 8:45 Registration
- 8:45 - 9:00 Welcome
- 9:00 - 9:20 Dr. John Currin - Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)
- 9:20 - 9:40 Dr. Sierra Guynn - Fly Control
- 9:40 - 10:00 Dr. Kevin Pelzer - Pinkeye
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:15 Andrew Griffith – Beef Outlook
- 11:15 - 11:35 Morgan Paulette – NRV VQA Program
- 11:35 – 1:00 Travel to Alphin-Stuart Arena for Lunch and Labs
- 1:00 – 3:00 Labs (20 minute rotations)
 - Dr. Terry Swecker - Veterinary Feed Directive
 - Dr. John Currin – Beef Cow Ration Balancing
 - Dr. Sherrie Clark - Dystocia
 - Dr. Hollie Schramm - Newborn/Cold Calf

Location: **This course is being held at the Litton-Reaves Auditorium on the campus of Virginia Tech. The registration will be in the Litton-Reaves foyer.**

For more program information contact: Ralph Roop at 540-231-7344 or email at reroop@vt.edu

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please, VMRCVM at 540-231-9041 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Registration Form: Fee: \$10.00 per person, free to anyone under 18 ****ALL attendees must register****

Registration includes lectures, laboratories, proceedings, and lunch on Saturday.

Attendance will meet the requirement for BQA recertification for those already certified in the Virginia Beef Quality Assurance program.

Please print or type – complete a separate form for each participant

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____ Email _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Make check payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech. Return form with payment by January 20, 2017 to:

Ralph Roop
College of Veterinary Medicine
245 Duck Pond Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24061



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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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: **February 3, 2017**. To do so, 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

Smithfield Hog Production Division
Virginia Pork Council, Inc.



Conference Co-Sponsors

Amadas Industries
Hog Slat, Inc.
Nedap Livestock Management
Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.
Smithfield
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation



Virginia Pork Industry Conference

- 8:30 am Conference Registration and Co-Sponsor Visitation
- 9:30 am **An overview of research focused on improving sow longevity in the breeding herd and lifetime productivity** *Dr. Mark Estienne*
- 10:15 am **Overview of Smithfield Hog Production Division Research** *Dr. Christina Phillips*
- 11:00 am Break and Co-Sponsor Visitation
- 11:30 am **Impact of the new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) on the swine industry** *Dr. Joseph Fent*
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- Guest Speaker: Dhamu Thamodaran**
Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Commodity Hedging Officer Smithfield Foods
- 1:15 pm Concurrent Sessions (choose one):
- Meeting for Smithfield Hog Production Division employees** *Mr. Keith Allen presiding*
- PQA-Plus Training and Certification** *Dr. Cindy Wood*
- TQA Training and Certification** *Ms. Marla McPherson*
- 4:30 pm **Adjourn**

Conference Presenters

Mark Estienne, Ph.D.-Virginia Tech
Joseph Fent, Ph.D. - Smithfield Premium Genetics
Marla McPherson- Boykins Hogs, Inc.
Christina Phillips, Ph.D.- Smithfield Hog Production Division
Cindy Wood, Ph.D.-Virginia Tech

Conference Organizing Committee

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

Virginia Pork Council, Inc.

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**Directions to Regional
Workforce Development Center,
Franklin, VA**

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



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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**

***Fiftieth*
Virginia Pork Industry
Conference**

*For all segments of the
Virginia Pork Industry*

Thursday, February 9, 2017

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



NEW LOCATION FOR 2017 VIRGINIA BCIA SOUTHWEST BULL TEST
OPEN HOUSE MARCH 19, SALE MARCH 25

by Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, Beef
Virginia Tech

The Virginia BCIA Southwest Bull Test program is celebrating its 38th year of serving the beef industry in Virginia. The program now resides at Mountain Spring Farm, operated by Brian and Kayla Umberger of Wytheville, Virginia. Their operation is located between Wytheville and Rural Retreat, at 1110 Black Lick Road, Wytheville. Virginia BCIA is excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Ubergers to carry on the great tradition and history the Southwest program has established over the years. Virginia BCIA would like to extend a special thanks to the Tim Sutphin family and the crew at Hillwinds Farm for their dedication and service over the past several years to the bull evaluation program.

An open house will be hosted at the Southwest Virginia Bull Test on Sunday afternoon, March 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Cattle producers and others interested are invited to attend. The Southwest Bull Test Station, owned and operated by Brian Umberger, is located at 1110 Black Lick Road, Wytheville, VA.

Approximately 150 bulls will sell at the Virginia BCIA Southwest Bull Test Sale on Saturday, March 25th, 12:00 noon at the sale facility just outside Wytheville. These bulls will represent the top end of the 95 fall-born senior bulls and 128 spring-born junior bulls currently being developed. Breeds include Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh & Gelbvieh Balancers, Polled & Horned Hereford, Simmental and SimAngus. Only bulls which meet stringent BCIA criteria will sell. This includes complete breeding soundness exams (including semen evaluation) on fall-born bulls, volume buyer discounts, and an enhanced soundness and fertility guarantee on all bulls selling.

The BCIA-Influenced Bred Heifer Sale will be held in conjunction with the bull sale. A select group of approximately 40 fall-calving bred heifers from leading producers will be offered immediately following the bulls. All heifers will be certified through the Virginia Premium Assured Heifer Program, which verifies health, genetics, and management procedures. Service sires for the heifers will feature highly proven, AI sires selected for calving ease and performance.

For complete details and progress reports visit the Virginia BCIA website <http://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu> or phone 540-231-2257. Video clips of the bulls and an online catalog will also be posted.

Sheep Management Tips - Winter

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 minerals 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.