

# Livestock 360°

Southeastern New York Cooperative Extension Livestock News

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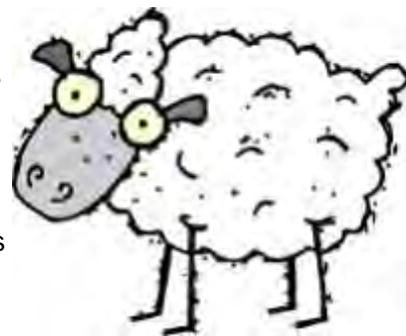
- Worker Protection Standard Remember to Train Your Employees!

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## How Important are Small Livestock Farms?

Jennifer Fimbel, Agriculture Senior Resource Educator, CCE Dutchess

How important are our farms to the local economy? This is best demonstrated by an example: a sheep operation with 20 breeding ewes, 2 breeding rams and 6 replacement ewe lambs on 10 acres of rented land with sales of sheep grossing approximately \$10,000 each year, plus show premiums and sales of fleeces. By anyone's definition, this is a small farm.



But looking at actual dollars spent locally, that small farm's impact is fairly significant in the overall scheme, and a farther reaching impact is even more impressive.

- Grain purchased locally for this flock costs \$300 per month or \$3600 per year (corn at \$11/bushel; oats at \$8/bushel). *Ask the grain farmer, would the loss of this farm impact your operation?*
- Hay purchased locally for this flock costs \$200 per month or \$2400 per year (grass hay at \$4/50 pound bale). *Ask the hay producer, would the loss of this farm impact your hay business?*
- Rented land to house this flock costs \$200 per month or \$2400 per year (pasture and barn). The farm also qualifies the landowner for ag-assessment on their taxes. *Ask the landlord, would the loss of this farm impact your income?*
- Trailer payments to a local bank for this operation costs \$270 per month or \$3240 per year. *Ask the local bank, would the loss of this farm impact your profitability?*
- Dumpster rental for farm use only costs \$80 per month or \$960 per year. *Ask the waste management business, would the loss of this farm impact your business?*
- Veterinary bills for this flock are minimal at \$200 per year (rabies vaccinations and health papers). *Ask the local veterinarian, would the loss of this farm impact your business?*
- Miscellaneous equipment purchases costs this flock \$50 per month or \$600 per year. *Ask the local feed store, would the loss of this farm impact your business?*

These are the direct expenses—but let's look at some of the indirect impacts...

This flock sells 25-30 lambs and breeding sheep into the local market each year. The loss of this farm drives up the price of lambs and breeding sheep as the supply

*(Continued on page 10)*



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Ulster, Orange, Sullivan  
and Dutchess Counties

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities

## 2 Of Local Interest

### Counties Announce Annual Ag-District Inclusion Applications

In March, Orange and Ulster County are currently accepting applications from landowners for inclusion of their property into New York State's Agricultural District Program. Applications are accepted from March 1, 2015 to March 30, 2015. Sullivan and Dutchess Counties will begin accepting applications from landowners in April. The Sullivan County Planning Department will accept applications from April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015 and Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District will accept applications from April 15 to May 15. Applications are only accepted during the annual inclusion period.

#### For More Information Contact:

**Burt Samuelson, Planner**  
Ulster County Planning Dept.  
(845) 339-2490  
[bsam@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:bsam@co.ulster.ny.us)

**David E. Church, AICP**  
Orange County Planning Commissioner  
(845) 615-3840  
<http://www.orangecountygov.com/content/124/1362/4632/4634/4636/default.aspx> (website for ag district)

**Melinda Meddaugh, Agricultural Planner**  
Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management  
(845) 807-0527  
[melinda.meddaugh@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:melinda.meddaugh@co.sullivan.ny.us)

**Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
(845) 677-8011 x 3  
[dutch@dutchessswcd.org](mailto:dutch@dutchessswcd.org)

### ARC/PLC Deadline Reminder!

The new Farm Bill contains a number of important changes to USDA programs that will impact our farmers. For farmers with commodity crop base acres, you now have a choice between two programs, the Ag Risk Coverage Program (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. If you have base acres and want to enroll in the Ag Risk Coverage (ARC) program you must make an election by **MARCH 31**. If you do not do anything, you will be automatically enrolled in the PLC program. This is a one-time decision effective at least up through 2018, when the current Farm Bill expires.

Although these are complicated programs, and you should review the options based on your operation, for many operations in our region it is likely that the ARC program will provide a larger benefit—so it may not be to your financial advantage to do nothing and default to the PLC program.

*Contact your county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for details.*

### Southern Catskills Red Meat Processing Facility Update

Construction of the Southern Catskills Red Meat Processing Facility (aka the Liberty Red Meat Plant) is underway! The construction of the building shell is nearly complete, and a contract for provision of basic electrical service is being negotiated.

In the near future the County of Sullivan IDA will issue a request for proposals for a facility operator. The facility will be owned by the IDA and leased to the selected operator. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Jen Flad at ((845) 295-2603.

## Current Job Opening

Are You a Recent Grad Looking for Work in Agricultural Science?

Technician I - Project Field Technician Position

Provide technical and program support in carrying out research and outreach that will ultimately enhance the profitability and sustainability of the agriculture industry served by the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program. Travel to research plots on commercial farms throughout the region served by the ENYCH to assist in the collection and recording of data. Scout for insects, diseases, weeds and crop damage in research plots and commercial orchards and maintain good records. Assist in logistical setup for educational meetings and events throughout the region. Ensure that all protocols and procedures adhere to safety requirements. This position is located within the Lower Hudson Valley region (Highland, NY).

**This is a one year appointment with possible extension depending on funding and performance. Hours may be reduced to a minimum of 20 hours/week during winter months depending on available work and funding. Hiring for this position is being done by Cornell University. For more information see:**

Cornell Taleo <https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10164/jobdetail.ft?>

## Has Your Farm Been Impacted by A Severe Weather Event?

In response to the increased frequency of severe weather events throughout New York State, a group of Cornell faculty along with a graduate student are working on a project investigating the resilience of NY farmers to impactful weather events. The goal of this project aims to improve emergency response and preparation while lessening the effects of future severe weather events.

A central part of this project includes understanding how farmers across the state have dealt with these events in the past as well as their opinions on improvements that can be made in the future. **If you have experienced the effects of these weather events firsthand and are interested in participating in a short focus group in March. We would greatly value your input.** We are interested in establishing groups of 8-10 producers representing large and small farms as well as multiple commodities. Participation will require a 2 hour commitment and participants will be given a \$50 stipend to help cover time and travel expenses.

Please contact Trevor Partridge with any questions, concerns, or if you are interested in participating. He can be reached either by email at [tfp23@cornell.edu](mailto:tfp23@cornell.edu) or by phone at (315) 558-2815. We look forward to working with you to strengthen agricultural communities across New York State.



### WEEKLY LIVESTOCK UPDATE

We will be re-starting the weekly Livestock Update—for programs and faculty information starting on March 14. If you don't receive it you can subscribe by going to <http://eeurl.com/bei625>. Choose Commercial Livestock as an option (you can choose other topics too) Livestock 360 will be a quarterly

## 4 Dairy and Beef

### Avoiding Milk and Dairy Beef Drug Residues

Jennifer Simpson, Dairy Educator, CCE Orange County

Dairy farmers and milk and meat consumers want the same thing: the best tasting quality product that is possible to produce. Dairy farmers also want to provide the best care for their animals. Most producers use antibiotics to help an animal that has been sick or has been diagnosed with a certain disease. It is the producers' responsibility to take precautionary measures to make sure that meat and milk that could contain antibiotics does not enter the food supply. To minimize risk of antibiotics in milk and meat, it is a good ideal to evaluate your farm's practices.

The following are potential problems that could result in antibiotic residues:

- Lack of consultation with a licensed veterinarian.
- Not following the recommendation from your veterinarian.
- Not following the manufacturer label direction for correct treatment
- Not following prescribed withholding times
- Not having proper identification for cattle
- Accidentally milking a treated cow and having the milk go into the bulk tank.
- Use of medicated milk replacers in calves that could be sold for human consumption.

As you can see, drug residues in meat and milk can be avoided by having a well-planned program that directly involves the veterinarian. Problems occur usually happen because of management issues. Three likely issues are:

1. The person in charge is not working under a veterinary/client/patient relationship
2. Employees are not properly trained in treatment protocol and are not properly recording information.
3. The producer does not review the treatment records to get the proper withdrawal times of meat and milk from the veterinarian.

Now let's look at the steps to can take that will help prevent residues happening in your herd. The first step is to only use extra label use of drugs with you veterinarian's approval. Extra label use means using the drug differently than prescribed on the label. Next you should keep accurate records that have each withdrawal time listed. This will allow anyone to read the records and see when the milk or meat is allowed to go for food consumption. Treatment records should list the following basic information:

- Date
- Animal ID
- Drug used
- Dosage
- Where it was administered
- Person who administered
- Withdrawal time



Having this information available for your veterinarian and to show how the drugs are purchased, used and disposed of. If you would like charts of medications, their usage, and their withdrawal time please contact Jennifer Simpson at CCE Orange County at (845) 344-1234 or [jks236@cornell.edu](mailto:jks236@cornell.edu).

## Common Problems with Newborn Lambs and Kids

Erin Campbell-Craven, Livestock Educator, CCE Ulster County

With birthing season already started or just around the corner for most goat- and sheep-raisers, now is a good time to make sure you are prepared for the most common issues that you might run into with newborn lambs and kids.

### Problem: Lamb/kid is stressed by cold weather

**What to do:** A lamb or kid that is suffering from hypothermia or close to being hypothermic will be weak and hunched up, with cold ears and mouth, and little to no suckling reflex. If the lamb or kid is wet, it should be dried off, and then warmed with a hairdryer or placed in a warming box, which is a small enclosed area with a constant source of heat, such as an electric blanket or hot water bottles. Once the lamb or kid is warm, make sure it receives colostrum or milk (see next paragraph). Moving the lamb or kid to a warm environment and making sure it is fed are both vital to making sure the lamb's/kid's temperature gets back to normal (around 101°-103°).



### Problem: Lamb/kid is having trouble nursing or refusing to nurse

**What to do:** It is vital that newborn lambs and kids receive colostrum (milk produced in the first 48 hours after birthing which is high in antibodies) within their first 8-12 hours of life, or their chances of surviving will be halved as they will have limited defenses against disease and infection. Colostrum is also a high-fat energy source that keeps lambs and kids from losing too much body heat in their first few hours of life. When you see lambs and kids struggling to nurse, or notice that a new lamb or kid has empty, concave sides a few hours after being born, first make sure the lamb or kid is warm or dry, then make sure that the mother has milk to feed the offspring by milking each of her teats. You may need to assist the lamb/kid in finding the teat by holding its mouth to the teat and expressing a small amount of milk directly into its mouth. If the lamb/kid is too weak to stand and nurse, milk out colostrum from the mother (best) or use a colostrum replacer and bottle-feed the lamb/kid 2 ounces every couple of hours until it is strong enough to nurse on its own. If the lamb or kid is too weak to suck, use a syringe to squirt milk directly into the mouth but make sure not to squirt milk into the windpipe and the lungs. An extremely weak lamb/might also benefit from adding a spoonful of molasses to the milk to provide a quick energy boost in the form of sugar.

### Problem: Lamb/kid is being rejected by mother

**What to do:** Sometimes a mother is reluctant to care for a new lamb/kid: wandering far away from it, butting or kicking it, or not allowing it to nurse. This can happen when lambs are weak, born later in a litter, when there are other mothers and offspring around and the mother becomes confused as to which offspring belongs to her, or if the mother is a first-time birther. The mother and offspring might need to be placed in a "jug", or small individual pen, to keep the mother from leaving the lamb or kid and allow the lamb or kid to nurse, which will also stimulate the release of maternal hormones. It might also be necessary to hold the mother still or restrain her in a head-gate to allow the lamb/kid to nurse for first few times after being moved to the jug. The mother and offspring

*(Continued on page 11)*

## 6 Crops and Feed

# Pasture Management 101: Preventing Weeds Through Pasture Management

*Jennifer Fimbel, Agricultural Senior Resource Educator, CCE Dutchess County*

One of the most commonly asked question asked by horse and livestock managers is how to prevent weeds in pastures and many of my clientele, for various reasons, are unwilling to use any herbicides on their grazing areas. The simple answer is management; the complex answer is implementing a grazing strategy. Ask any farmer that's a little longer in the tooth about weed management in pastures and they will tell you to mow the fields 3-4 times throughout the growing season. Ask them when and they'll respond with, "Mow when there's nothing else to do".

Pasture is a crop; like corn, oats, wheat and soybeans and it needs to be treated as a crop. A pasture provides nutrition and forage, as well as enough space to support the livestock grazing on it and the manure they leave behind. Quality pasture management and weed prevention will provide more nutrition for the grazing animals and will improve the surrounding water quality better than poor quality or over grazed pastures. Everyone benefits when pastures are well managed. Pastures act as filter strips to prevent excess nitrates, phosphorous and pathogens from entering water supplies. Managed pasture land will also reduce erosion into waterways by holding the soil in place rather than allowing it to wash away.

Evaluating the amount of pasture needed by an operation is fundamental in preventing overgrazing, for providing ideal nutrition and inhibiting weed development. Pasture size should relate to the pounds of animals (not numbers) expected to be grazing in the field. Enough room should be set aside to allow for rotation of fields. Generally it is recommended (depending on the weather, health and type of the soils and pasture) that 500 - 1000 pounds of grazing animal can be maintained per acre. Pastures lower in quality, on poor soils, overgrazed and uncooperative weather patterns will result in greater acreage needed per pound of grazing animals.

Horses and livestock that are lactating, growing or marketed as grass-fed will need higher quality pastures to provide optimum nutrition (16-20% protein) than those on a maintenance diet. Pleasure horses, for example, need forages that provide only 10-12% protein. Knowing the type of stock and at what stage of growth or maintenance they are in will play a part in pasture planting, rotation and mowing. So it should now make sense that grass-fed marketed livestock will need higher percentage forages, a larger land base to graze (and rotate) and breed selection to finish well on pasture (Heritage and British influenced).

Pastures that are managed with rotation from grazed, to mowed, to rest, will ultimately produce more forage per acre and fewer weeds. Even pastures that have been overgrazed will return to optimum growth if managed properly. Pastures should be scouted for weed development just like any other crop and action taken when it is most economically viable. Mowing pastures during planting time just won't work, but planning to mow pastures should be set into the regular season just as planting and harvesting is scheduled in to the work schedule. If you are growing a grass hay crop, you know how important pH and fertilization is, a pasture is no different and must be considered when spring and summer applications are made.



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## “Spring” Into Action and Get Your Horse Ready to Ride

Rachel Moody, Livestock Educator, CCE Orange County

Looking out the window and still seeing snow makes it seem like spring is far away. However, March is now here, with longer days and warmer riding weather coming soon. Some people may have been able to ride all winter, but not everyone is so lucky. Preparing for spring riding means getting your equine friends in shape. Just like a person, animals need to get conditioned to meet the athleticism we want out of them. I am in no shape to do any jogging, or continuous exercise that does not involve a shovel, so I shouldn't expect my horse to be either. Here are some things to consider and start working on with our horses as spring approaches.

The consensus is to start with hoof care. Ninety percent of all lameness issues arise from foot problems, so trim those toes! Also, discuss dietary needs, dental hygiene, routine deworming and vaccinations with your veterinarian.

Your horse may be just as excited and eager as you are to go for the first ride but that doesn't mean that they are fit to do so! While you are waiting for the farrier and the vet, you can write up an exercise plan for your horse. A few things that come into play when deciding your conditioning plan are your horse's age, what are you planning to do with your horse for the year, how physically fit was your horse prior to winter and its body condition score. You need to make sure you are planning accordingly with the horse's diet as you increase the level of exercise.

Slow and easy is the key; asking too much too soon will result in injury. The biggest problems are the tissues that lack a good blood supply, tendons, ligaments and bone. It takes a lot longer for them to heal, or get back in shape. “To avoid over-stressing these structures, all changes in activity level should be gradual, and you must closely monitor the lower limbs for signs of pain, heat, and swelling” (Ray Geor, BVSc, PhD). The consensus for a conditioning program is at least six weeks of long, slow distance (LSD) aerobic exercise to build a base, or foundation, for any age horse and for any athletic discipline. The longer the horse has been out of practice, the longer it will take them to get back in shape properly.

Once your LSD (or endurance) conditioning has been established, then you can start pushing more cardiovascular work and focusing on your discipline. You still need to work slowly up to where you want your horse to be. For instance, for trail riding, just walk



### Resources:

Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. *Spring Training: Getting Your Horse Ready to Ride*. Feb 28, 2008, <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/20656/spring-training-getting-your-horse-ready-to-ride>

Nancy S. Loving, DVM. *Start Your Horse's Spring Training*. May 2008, <http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-exclusives/vet-spring-horse-training-program.aspx>

Holly Werner. *Safe Conditioning*. May 2010, <http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-health/safe-horse-conditioning.aspx>

Ray Geor, BVSc, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM Michigan State University. *Getting Your Horse in Shape*. Feb 1, 2002, <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/12827/getting-your-horse-in-shape>

Equisearch article. *Bringing A Horse Back Into Work*. Apr 1, 2008, <http://www.equisearch.com/article/ease-your-horse-back-into-work-17513>

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky. *Basic Conditioning of the Equine Athlete*. August 8, 2013, <http://www.extension.org/pages/11280/basic-conditioning-of-the-equine-athlete>

(Continued on page 10)

## Avian Flu—Keep Your Birds Safe

Erin Campbell-Craven, Livestock Educator, CCE Ulster County

Since mid-December 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture has confirmed the finding of avian influenza (bird flu) on 10 farms in Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho, with 2 of those detections on large commercial operations in California. However, most of the instances of avian influenza are showing up on smaller, mixed poultry operations. Luckily, the virus being found in these flocks is not expected to be a human health risk, and has so far been contained to the Western US, but the USDA is still strongly recommending that poultry owners throughout the US make sure to follow proper biosecurity measures to keep their birds safe from avian influenza and other poultry diseases.

Preventing spread of disease through following proper biosecurity measures is the best way to keep your birds happy and healthy – follow the 6 biosecurity tips from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/2014/poster\\_how\\_to\\_protect\\_your\\_birds.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2014/poster_how_to_protect_your_birds.pdf). And for more information of preventing disease in poultry flocks go to the USDA Biosecurity for Birds website at: <http://healthybirds.aphis.gov>.

### A few important notes about avian influenza in the United States:

Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses are naturally found in US migratory waterfowl and only cause minor illness. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses do not occur naturally in the US and cause serious disease and death in domesticated poultry flocks. The threat of HPAI infection arises when the naturally occurring LPAI viruses mutate into more harmful HPAI viruses.

Avian influenza can spread through direct bird-to-bird contact (between wild birds, from wild bird to domesticated bird, or between domesticated birds) or through bird contact with contaminated surfaces like farm equipment or people carrying the virus on their shoes or hands.

The current strains of avian influenza being found in West Coast flocks are the H5N2 virus and a new H5N1 virus – the new H5N1 is not the same H5N1 found in Asia which poses a threat to humans. At this time, the avian influenza viruses being found in the US are not expected to pose a public health risk.

### Poster Graphic Available from APHIS

**HOW TO PROTECT YOUR BIRDS**  
Backyard Biosecurity

**BIOSECURITY FOR BIRDS**

**You are the best protection your birds have.**

- 1 Keep Your Distance.**
  - Restrict access to your property and your birds.
  - Consider fencing off the area where you keep your birds and make a barrier area, if possible.
  - Allow only people who take care of your birds to come into contact with them.
  - If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them enter your back area or farm borders to your birds.
  - Some birds and migration waterfowl should not have contact with your flock because they can carry germs and diseases.
- 2 Keep It Clean.**
  - Wear clean clothes that you haven't worn when you feed and care for your birds.
  - Scrub your shoes with disinfectant or keep a separate pair of shoes or boots near your cages to wear only when working with your birds.
  - Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before entering your bird area.
  - Keep cages clean and change feed and water daily.
  - Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with your birds at their droppings, including cages and tools.
  - Remove manure before composting (age, turn, and cover). Avoid.
  - Properly dispose of dead birds.
- 3 Don't Haul Disease Home.**
  - If you have been near the birds or bird owners, such as at a feed store, clean and disinfect car and truck tires, poultry cages and equipment before going home.
  - Have your birds taken to a fair or exhibition? Keep them separated from the rest of your flock for at least 2 weeks after the event.
  - New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days.
- 4 Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor.**
  - Do not share farm and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners.
  - If you do bring these items home, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property.
- 5 Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.**
  - Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock.
  - Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge.
  - Watery and green diarrhea.
  - Lack of energy and poor appetite.
  - Drop in egg production or soft or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs.
  - Swelling around the eyes, neck and head.
  - Purple discoloration of the comb, wattle and legs (avian influenza, AI).
  - Tremors, drooping wings, curling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (neurotoxic disease, ND).
- 6 Report Sick Birds.**
  - Don't host. If your neighbors visit or bring you:
    - Your ag business information.
    - Local veterinarians.
    - Your local Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory.
    - The State veterinarian or:
    - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services office.
    - Toll-free hotline: 1-866-536-7583.
    - Think it's an attempt to buy livestock.

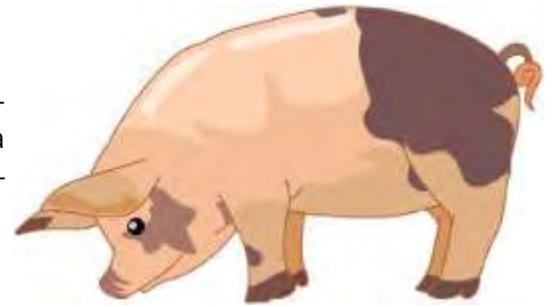
USDA United States Department of Agriculture  
APHIS Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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APHIS-14-001 (Rev. 12/14)

## Buying and Managing Feeder Pigs

Michelle Lipari, Livestock Educator, CCE Sullivan County

Buying feeder pigs is considered by many to be more an art than a science. However, there are several guidelines that should help insure a more profitable enterprise. This article helps outline several management tips on feeding and handling that should prove useful.



### Sources of Feeder Pigs

Recommended sources for purchasing feeder pigs include buying direct from feeder pig producers who maintain a sound health program, or purchasing from organized health inspected feeder pig sales or reputable dealers. Avoid bargains from peddlers who are not concerned with standard health and sanitation practices.

### Buying Feeder Pigs

Look for pigs that are well sized for their age. Eight-week-old pigs should weigh at least 35 pounds. Twelve-week-old pigs should weigh at least 60 pounds. Look for healthy pigs. Alert, active pigs are usually healthy. Avoid pigs with rough hair coats and wrinkled skins. Avoid pigs with skin lesions which may be caused by lice, mange, or pig pox. Reject pigs with ruptures. Reject crippled pigs, or pigs with enlarged joints, and pigs that cough or sneeze excessively. Avoid boar pigs or castrated pigs that are improperly healed. Refrain from purchasing pigs that weigh less than 30 pounds. Look for pigs that have evidence of muscling and a large frame.

### Transporting Feeder Pigs

In hauling newly purchased feeder pigs, use the following suggested guidelines.

- Do not overheat pigs while loading or unloading.
- Make sure there are no rails or sharp objects in the truck or trailer to injure the pigs.
- Separate smaller pigs from larger pigs by partitions.
- Avoid sudden stops and sharp turns en route.
- In the winter, use a closed-in truck or trailer to prevent drafts. Also provide plenty of bedding.
- In the summer, be sure the pigs stay cool in route. Wet sand is a good bedding to use in extremely hot weather.

### Care of Newly Arrived Feeder Pigs

Have the feeding quarters cleaned and disinfected prior to the arrival of the feeder pigs. Isolate new pigs for at least three weeks; don't let new pigs spread disease to other hogs. After the pigs are isolated, avoid traffic between them and other swine. Disinfect shoes before entering the feeding area. In the winter, provide warm, dry, draft-free quarters with plenty of bedding and supplemental heat if necessary. In the summer, the pigs need adequate shade and shelter to help them keep cool on extremely hot days. If the pigs are not uniform in size, separate them into more even weight groups. Pigs fed in groups of 25 to 30 usually perform more satisfactorily than large groups. Allow approximately four square feet of floor space for 30 to 50 pound pigs, and five square feet for 50 to 80 pound pigs.

Provide one self-feeder hole for each four pigs and at least one automatic waterer for each 20 pigs with a minimum of two waterers per pen. Be sure to feed the pigs a properly balanced ration. It may be advisable for the first week to feed a bulky ration since they may lose weight initially due to stress.

From *Buying and Managing Feeder Pigs*, Oklahoma Extension Service Fact Sheet ANSI-3656. Available on-line at <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2127/ANSI-3656web.pdf>

*(Value of Small Farms—continued from page 1)*

would be diminished. Ask the local buyers, would the loss of this farm impact how much lamb or breeding animals you will buy?

This flock brings 12 – 15 sheep to the county fair each year. Ask the fair manager, would the loss of this farm impact your overall sheep numbers at the fair? Not to mention the Sheep and Wool Festival.

*Do the Math.* The total direct dollars, spent locally by this sheep operation, is \$13,400. To some, each individual line item in this budget doesn't seem like a tremendous amount, even adding all of the amounts up may not seem like a lot, (*note: how does this operation stay in business? That is a topic for a different article.*) However, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture there are 188 farms with sheep in our four county region (Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster). Assuming (on average) they all spent this amount locally, that means **\$2.5 million dollars** are put back into the local economy by these small sheep farms alone!

That, my friends is a lot of cash. Support your local agriculture - when they lose we all lose.

*(Riding—continued from page 7)*

and don't do such a long trail, then progressively add length and speed. Or, when jumping, only start out jumping once a week. When adding speed work such as running barrels, "start out with increasingly longer slow canter sets. The big mistake a lot of riders make when they think of "doing gallops" is to allow the horse to gallop in a long stride (which the horse likes to do)—this overloads the front end. If a horse becomes fatigued that way, there's a significantly higher risk of injury to his tendons and ligaments. You need to allow your horse's body to gain strength during slow work so he will not fatigue when you apply speed work." (Chris Newton, DVM, of Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, KY).

### A few key points:

- Check your horse's feet and health
- Check your equipment
- Create a conditioning plan—foundation of 6-8 weeks then specific discipline training
- Your plan needs to account for age and how much time off
- Slow and progressive is key to reduce injury
- Let your horse rest in between, resist riding everyday
- Get yourself in shape as well!

Now that you are beyond the foundation part of conditioning you may feel your horse is ready for anything, but resist the urge to ride every day or for too many miles in one session. Your horse may feel great as they work but they need time to rest and heal from the previous day's work.

Now that you have written out your conditioning plan and your horse has "new" feet and his vet checkup, you are *almost* ready to ride. There are still a few things to take care of. One is to check your tack and equipment and make sure it is not dry rotted, cleaned and in good shape. You may consider oiling your leather pieces. Another is to check your saddle fit on your horse so it will not create back sores. We want a comfortable horse as much as we want a healthy horse. The last thing is you. If your horse has been on vacation for the winter that means your body has also had time off. You need to make sure you ease yourself back into the saddle as well, and prepare yourself for these workouts. Further and more specific information can be found on the websites listed under sources. Happy, healthy and safe riding!

*(Pasture 101—continued from page 6)*

Ideally, grasses should be allowed to grow to 6-8" before being grazed; grazed to 4", mowed and rested until re-growth is at the 6-8" height. In spring, pasture could be rotated and mowed every 15 days or so, in August (a hot dry August) it may take 30-45 days before the pasture can be used for grazing again. Many weeds don't respond well to regular mowing, fertilization and liming, especially if mowed before seed heads develop. Providing a strong sod base through regular grazing and mowing will strengthen the grasses and prevent weeds from taking over. Planting grass varieties that grow well and withstand grazing during the three growing seasons (warm, hot and cool) not only provides nutrition for 7-8 months of the year, but also prevents weeds from ever taking hold in the first place.

Planning is everything. Planning enough room for rotation, planning balanced seed choices, planning the grazing density of animals, planning alternate feeding tactics or limiting the amount of time on pasture; will all determine the final quality of the available forage from a pasture and limit the amount of weeds that take hold.

*(Lambing—continued from page 5)*

should not be left in the jug longer than a few days, or the lamb/kid might have trouble distinguishing its mother from other adult animals when reintroduced to the flock or herd, as a result of only ever encountering one adult of its species. It is important to closely observe the lamb or kid after placing it in a jug with its mother to ensure that it is nursing – watch for nursing activity (latching on to the teat and receiving milk will usually cause the lamb or kid to wag its tail) and a full stomach. If the mother refuses to accept the lamb or kid, you may be forced to bottle-feed - for more info on artificial rearing rejected kids and lambs, including detailed feeding directions, see: <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/artificialfeeding.html>

For a list of best practices to follow before and during lambing and kidding, see the February 2014 issue of Livestock 360. For more helpful info about caring for newborn lambs, go to <http://www.sheep101.info/201/newborns.html>

And, as always, make sure you have the contact info of a reliable veterinarian who is knowledgeable about sheep and goats BEFORE you run into any health problems! The worst time to be struggling to find a veterinarian to assist you is when you are in the middle of a health crisis.

## Worker Protection Standard

### Remember to Train Your Employees!

Contact your Cooperative Extension Office for  
Upcoming Trainings



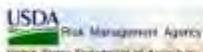
**Using Pesticides on your Farm?  
Have Employees?  
Plan for the Worker Protection Standard!**

If you produce agricultural products commercially, and employ anyone (paid or unpaid), you must comply with the Worker Protection Standard.

**What Counts as a Pesticide?**  
A pesticide is **any** substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any insects, rodents, fungi, weeds, or other forms of plant or animal life.



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USDA Risk Management Agency  
United States Department of Agriculture  
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ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

### Worker Protection Standard Requirements:

- Pesticide safety training for all workers and handlers. This training must be given by someone with a pesticide license. An EPA pesticide safety poster must be displayed where workers and handlers will see it.
- Provide and maintain Personal Protective Equipment for pesticide handlers and early entry workers.
- Provide decontamination supplies to handlers and workers. Such supplies must include an ample supply of water, soap and towels.
- A listing of recent applications must be posted in a central location.
- Maintain necessary WPS records of pesticide applications

For more information contact your regional Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Pesticide Program Office at: 518-402-3748.  
Detailed WPS requirements at <http://www.epa.gov/occr/occr1/cpa-735-h-05-002.pdf>

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## Cornell Resource

*"Those Annoying Pests"*

- An educational DVD that can help improve farmworker living conditions by addressing pest issues.
- Provides several pest management strategies that can be implemented by farm owners and workers.
- Bi-lingual pest management skits with practical information on how to eliminate and prevent bed bug and cockroach infestations.

DVD: \$15.00

Make Check Payable to:

Cornell University

Send to:

Cornell Farmworker Program,  
 275H Warren Hall  
 Cornell University,  
 Ithaca, NY 14853