



**PRAIRIE VIEW  
A&M UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND HUMAN SCIENCES



Agriculture and Natural  
Resources

Cooperative Extension Program

Prairie View A&M University's Cooperative Extension's Program (CEP) Agriculture and Natural Resources (AgNR) unit seeks to empower farmers and ranchers to achieve their goals through education and technical assistance. AgNR's aim is to ensure a sustainable, profitable, and competitive food and fiber system in the State of Texas by addressing the knowledge gap facing many Texans in areas of crop production and utilization, livestock production, and economics and management for sustainable agriculture.

**To learn more about how you can implement an Agriculture and Natural Resources program in your area, contact your local AgNR professional.**

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## Livestock Production Programming

This program is dedicated to developing sustainable farming/ranching operations. We focus on increasing the health and productivity of livestock through optimizing nutrition and reproduction. The purpose is to ensure that these agricultural operations are not only profitable but they are also friendly to the community and the environment. The information provided is based on research from accredited sources and is intended to increase producer knowledge and productivity.

# Internal Parasite Control

Species: Goats

Internal parasitism is a primary concern for many small ruminant producers. It can be controlled through proper animal and pasture management as well as medicinally with anthelmintics (dewormers).

Knowing the signs of a parasitic infection can help producers identify an infection sooner and take the appropriate steps to treat affected animals.



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*"Rapid diagnosis, strategic prevention, and pasture management,... facilitates the development of herd health protocols to control this deadly disease."*

*"Haemonchus contortus in sheep and goats: An insidious killer"*

*Rose Paddock, Purdue University  
FALL 2011 Newsletter*

## Internal Parasite Control in Goats

### From Management to Medicine

A parasite is an organism that lives on- or in a host organism and gets its food from or at the expense of its host. The warm, moist climate of some areas of Texas make it a suitable environment for the rapid growth and development of a variety of parasites. There are very few farms that are parasite free, but proper management can go a long way in terms of prevention, identification and control of parasitism.

The most economically damaging parasites to small ruminant producers in the U.S. is the barber pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*). This parasite affects grazing animals and has shown signs of anthelmintic resistance, making it more and more difficult to treat medicinally.

Coccidia (*Eimeria spp.*) is also of concern. Coccidian are single-celled organisms that usually affect kids less than 6 months old and/or sick animals. It damages cells in the intestinal lining and can cause severe diarrhea.

Other parasites that affect goat production will also be covered during the program.

**We welcome you to attend one of our programs or request us to speak at your event!**

#### • Topics covered:

- Intro to Parasites
- What causes parasitism?
  - Life Cycle
- Types of Internal Parasites
- Signs of Parasitism
- Parasite Control
  - Pasture Management
  - Dewormers (Anthelmintics)
  - Holistic Dewormer Options
  - Sanitation
  - Animal Selection
- Checking for Anemia (Hands-On)
  - FAMACHA
- Fecal Egg Counts (Hands-On)
- Body Condition Scoring (Hands On)
- Administering Dewormer
  - Drenching
  - Bolus
  - Feed



#### Program Details

- **Target Audience:** Adults and youth who are interested in understanding internal parasites and how to control them, as it relates to the management of a production herd for dairy and meat goats.
- **Program Format:** The style of this program can vary to meet program needs. It can be delivered as a workshop or as a 1-day stand-alone program. It includes:
  - Lecture portion to give relevant background information
  - Hands-on portion (FAMACHA training, Body Condition Scoring and Fecal Egg Count using a Microscope)
- **Program Objectives are for participants to:**
  - Understand the effects of internal parasites on production
  - Gain knowledge of best management practices for parasite control
  - Implement proper dewormer use to prevent resistance