**On Behalf Of** Betsy F. Hodge
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:50 PM
**Subject:** Sheep and Goat Update - 3-26-20

Hi Folks -

Are you all stuck home with your sheep and goats?  Getting projects done in the house or barn? Or maybe you are working from home and not getting anything extra done anyways or have the whole family trying to keep busy in the background...or the cat keeps getting on your computer or the dogs think its time for dinner just because you are home.

Well I have some ideas of things you can do at your farm....but we have a list of official requirements, recommendations, rules related to Co-vid 19 on our webpage <https://stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu> .  There are things for farmers, farm workers, truckers, sale barns, direct marketers, farm markets, and more.  Take a look.

**In the meantime here are some other ideas:**

**Make a written explanation of your chore routine.** Just in case you get sick and someone else has to feed the animals.  Be sure to include specifics like whether the amount of grain is per animal or for the pen and if it is once a day or twice a day, etc.  Believe me, we have all different people doing chores at the Extension Learning Farm and the biggest challenge is to write it down so everyone has the same interpretation.  Put the veterinarians number on the page, too, and when lambing or kidding might start.  You can always use these documents for the person taking care of your animals when you actually get to go on the vacation to Florida you had to cancel because of you-know-what.

**Walk your pasture fence-line.**  There's a good chance there are places the fence needs a little upkeep.  Take something to write on (or your phone - my kid always remind me) to take some notes as you go.  I usually push all the dead stuff from last  year off the fence at this time.  The sheep will stand at the gate and blat because they want to come, too.

**Order your eartags** - if you haven't started lambing yet - don't forget to get the eartags and things you need for lambing.  It is easier to catch those lambs and kids while they are new and small.

**Make a pasture chart.**  If you do any kind of rotational grazing the pasture chart is a big help.  I have one at work and one at home.  You mark the paddocks the animals are in as the summer goes along and that way you know how many days they have been out of the pasture.  You can make your own with graph paper or attempt to print it off on big paper....or send it to the UPS store or Staples.  Find out more at "On-Pasture" <https://onpasture.com/tag/grazing-chart/>  Make sure if you print on off that it is the right year! It is also a great place to mark when you take hay off a field or when you sold the lambs, etc.

If there are kids at home have them **write a story about your farm** or specific animals and then go out and take pictures with their phone (or yours) and make a book or a power point.  This can be really silly or something charming to share with your customers.

I think that's enough things to keep you busy until the next update - now I have to follow my own advice and write up a chore sheet to keep handy.

**Shearing** - Don't forget to line up your shearing for spring.  I am adding Amanda Hall to the list 315-244-7750.  She is willing to do some small flocks and will help Roger with big ones.  Order you wool bags ahead of time at Mid States Wool Supplies.

**Parasites -** In all the parasite info you read about the rise in parasite egg shedding around the time of lambing and kidding.  Basically all those worms that were sleeping inside of your sheep and goats start to come to life again.  I took some samples Tuesday and will take some every week to see what we can find out...both at work and home.  So far there is a lot of variation and more eggs than I expected.  More in the next update - this is too long already!

**Great Pyrenees available!** The Morse family near Potsdam have a 5 year old male Great Pyrenees that needs a working home.  He has not guarded sheep before but has been exposed to them and is used to being outside so has great potential for being a livestock guardian dog.  If you are interested, his name is Yeti and you can contact Andrea Morse at 315-244-7333.

A f**armer in Jefferson County is looking for bottle lambs for pets for his son.**  If you have lambs you would like someone else to bottle feed or former bottle lambs that are too friendly for the normal flock let me know and I will put you in touch with them.

Stay calm, get outside, finish the maple syruping so you can work on the fence, enjoy the lambs and kids, enjoy not needing gloves and hand warmers.  There's still time to vaccinate with CD/T before lambing and kidding if you are one of those people that lambs in May.

There's nobody at the Extension Office but we are all on line and will be checking out phones.

Betsy



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