

LVSPA Meeting

Zoom, March 17, 2022



Attendees: Jim Hilleary, Linda Landreth, Linda Schnaible, Tracy Kirkman, Rachel Cochran, and guests Winter Hartman and Sam Soto.

Welcome & introductions

President's updates: see attached slides. Items of note:

- Virginia Cooperative Extension represents the Commonwealth's two land-grant universities: Virginia State University (Petersburg) and Virginia Tech (Blacksburg). The role of Extension Agents is to create education programs for residents using the science-based, research data created and published by faculty on campus.
- Market prices for sheep are currently running high. Example: #60-80 @ \$365 HWT.
- While looking to rebuild LVSPA, Hilleary has talked with New River Valley Sheep & Goat Club (NRVSG) members. 75% of their new members are goat producers. Food for thought.
- Role of extension is to take university research and turn it into programming for shepherds, such as the Inquisitive Shepherd program. Offered on Monday evenings, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4 & 4/11 from 6 – 8 pm. Members are welcome to attend. Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9x8n7d>

Treasurer's report: \$11,505 in the bank. \$150 in dues came in during the past month. Sales tax paid for Bluemont Fair & Leesburg Winter Market drop in (\$327) and Glenwood Show sponsorship (\$25) & ad (\$40).

Old business: discussed the January demonstration of the mobile processing unit at the Middleburg AREC. Certification is required to use the unit and includes online modules and a hands-on class, passage of a quiz and butchering & fabrication skills. Certification fee \$100. Details can be found: <https://ext-vsua.squarespace.com/events/2022/2/02/mobile-processing-unit-certification-program>

New business: LVSPA will host the NRVSGC on May 6th, Friday from 11:30 am – 1 pm at member's location, Head Spring Fiber Mill. NRVSGC is stopping on their way to the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. Volunteers are needed to meet & greet and help Bridget & Tim host.

Viewed video "Why Sheep & Goat Prices are Exploding": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWYm7A0mpVc>

Next meeting: April 17, 7-8 pm at the Loudoun Extension office and via zoom for those who can not make it in person. Main topic: organizing for the May event.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

The Inquisitive Shepherd

A nine session course for Shepherds of all types

Virtual - Zoom

Classes Begin - February 7, 2022
(classes follow each Monday)

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Register to attend:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9x8n7d>

**or by calling 540-635-4549 or
email cchilds@vt.edu**



This program is designed to benefit all sheep producers regardless of size, scope or type of production enterprise.

Topics include

Getting Started - Handling/Facilities - Genetics/Reproduction - Nutrition - Health - Internal/External Parasites - Predator Control - Marketing - Forages - Budgets - Quality Assurance - Secure Sheep and Wool Supply Plan and much more!

Presenters: Regional Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents, Small Ruminant Specialists from various Universities and local sheep producers

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Corey Childs, Warren County office) at 540-635-4549 during business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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P R I C E S

Lamb, Sheep, and Goat Sale	Madison Auction	Jan-022	NoVA Auctions	Feb-022
Animal Type, Grade, and Weight	Price	Unit	Price	Unit
Sheep				
Slaughter Lambs, Spring, Woolled Choice and Prime				
60 - 80 lbs	385 - 395	Hwt	365	Hwt
30 - 60 lbs	370	Hwt	390	Hwt
Slaughter Rams				
All Grades	NA	NA	125-230	Hwt
Yearling Buck Lambs, Choice				
98 lbs	300	Hwt	NA	NA
Slaughter Ewes				
Good	195	Hwt	160-170	Hwt
Utility	185	Hwt	105-140	Hwt
Cull	165	Hwt	NA	NA
Goats				
Kids, Selection #1 and 2				
20 - 40 lbs	NA	NA	430	Hwt
40 - 60 lbs	150	Head	410	Hwt
60 - 80 lbs	260	Head	415-435	Hwt
80-100 lbs	NA	Head	335	Hwt
Kids Selection Selection #3				
20 - 40 lbs	NA	NA	170	Hwt
40 - 60 lbs	165	Head	290	Hwt
60 - 80 lbs	NA	NA	230	Hwt
Slaughter Bucks Selection #1 and 2				
100 - 150 lbs	NA	NA	250	Hwt
150 - 250 lbs	370	Head	230-280	Hwt
Slaughter Does Selection # 1 - 2				
50 - 70 lbs	NA	NA	260	Hwt
70 - 100 lbs	NA	NA	240-280	Hwt
100 - 150 lbs	270	Head	185-250	Hwt
150 - 250 lbs	NA	NA	140-200	Hwt

Virginia Sheep Producer Association President, Gary Hornbaker

This is a great time to be in the sheep business. We are seeing historical high prices – and it doesn't appear to be anything on the horizon to indicate a weakening of prices or demand.

I encourage you to think about joining Virginia Sheep Producers Association (VSPA). We Are Stronger Together!

We need to sustain our numbers to maintain the support that the sheep industry receives from agri-business, the state universities (VSU, VA Tech), and the Department of Agriculture.

New River Valley Sheep & Goat Club, Jennifer McClellan, Cecil King

- Would like to improve communications.
- Happy to discuss NRVS&GC programming.
- Membership is booming, especially goats.
- Welcome an LVSPA producer-Host for their upcoming bus trip

**Virginia State University Specialist,
Dahlia O'Brien PhD**

*Small Ruminant Parasites,
Biology, Treatment and Control*

Dahlia O'Brien

Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University

James Hilleary

ANR-Livestock Agent (Loudoun County)

Some slides adapted from Susan Schoenian

Sheep and Goat Specialist, University of Maryland

Virginia Tech CALS, Scott Greiner PhD

RAM EVALUATION PROGRAM

- Collaboration with industry partners, sheep producers, and Virginia Sheep Producers Assoc.
- *Annual Sale and Field Day at Shen Valley AREC
August 27*
- *Annual Sale and Field Day at Southwest AREC
September 23*

RESPONSE TO DIVERGENT SELECTION FOR PARASITE RESISTANCE IN KATAHDIN SHEEP

SWAREC

SCOTT GREINER, LEE WRIGHT

- Collaborative applied research with West Virginia University (Scott Bowdridge et al.) and North Carolina State (Andrew Weaver et al.)
- Current Projects:
 - Performance and efficiency of progeny from high and low FEC EBV sires
 - Immune response of progeny from high and low FEC EBV sires
 - Application of genomic selection for sheep industry (multi-institution/industry project)

EVALUATION OF SMART FEEDER SYSTEM FOR LAMB SUPPLEMENTATION ON PASTURE

- Project Objectives:
 - Test Smart Feeder (C-Lock Inc) capabilities and determine lamb feeding capacity, lamb feeding behavior, and methodology for training lambs to feeding system.
 - Evaluate economical (market and reproductive value) and performance metric (growth, feed intake and parasitism) differences between lambs housed in a feedlot compared to pasture supplemented for a 60-day feeding period post-weaning.

WHY SHEEP & GOAT PRICES ARE EXPLODING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWYm7A0mpVc>

The Shepherdess