

MARSHALL COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURAL VIEWS

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Sheep and Goats: New Tagging Rules

A new rule that affects sheep and goat producers took effect on April 24, 2019. This addition of Federal and State regulations clarifies across both species what animals require to be tagged with Scrapie tags. Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. Although there is no evidence that scrapie poses a risk to human health, there is no cure or treatment for the disease in livestock at this time.

Animals that **MUST** be officially identified

- ALL sheep regardless of age
- ALL goats regardless of age

Animals that **DO NOT** have to be tagged

- Wethers less than 18 months at slaughter ("At slaughter" means that the wether less than 18 months old is delivered directly to a slaughter establishment by the owner of the flock at birth. "At slaughter" does not mean delivered for sale at a livestock market or auction.)

Types of Official ID in Tennessee

- Registry tattoo - must be accompanied by registration papers.
- Official scrapie tag (plastic, metal or RFID)
- Electronic ID (microchip) with recorded by registry, accompanied by registration papers and reader
- Blue Meat Tag (if no owner statement to verify flock of birth and/or flock of origin, animals must be tagged with a blue meat tag and go directly to slaughter)

Current tag requests

- Producers who have never used the program may request 80 plastic ID tags, free-of-charge.
- Metal tags are also available to qualifying producers with a limit of 100 tags per 2 year period.
- Please call the USDA Office to order free Scrapie Tags at (615) 781-5314 (in Tennessee) or 1-866-USDA-TAG (which routes you to the proper State by telephone prefix) or order free sheep and goat tags online.

In order to trace a positive, suspect or exposed animal, official Scrapie ID must be linked to market ID and adequate records maintained. Note that Tennessee follows the minimum federal requirement for sheep and goat identification. Other states may have more stringent requirements. Tags and health certificates or owner/shipper statements are required to move animals across state lines. Please contact the destination state prior to moving your animals.

Information taken from various sources



If you are planning to sell sheep or goats at TN markets, they must have a Scrapie tag.

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Disease Control in the Vegetable Garden

Now that we have some sunshine and warm temperatures, the zeal to plant gardens is evident in every community. Planting gardens has been a little slower this year compared to normal because of the high amount of moisture that we have experienced. As a result, the conditions are there for some disease issues in the garden. Here are some cultural and chemical options to help curb the impact of disease in your garden.

- Site selection—plant in a well-drained soil with full sunlight and good air movement.
- Optimal growing conditions—adequate fertility and pH, correct row and plant spacing and weed control allow for healthy plants that resist disease and prevents overcrowding of plants.
- Use resistant varieties—plant varieties that show resistant to specific problem diseases.
- Crop rotation—allow at least two years if not longer between crop families to reduce soil-borne diseases. Grass or corn are good crop rotation choices for many vegetable crops.
- Sanitation—removal of the pathogen. During the growing season, remove diseased plants from the garden. Other parts of the year, plow residue (leaves, fruits, etc.) and decompose.
- Disease-free seed and transplants—plant only disease-free seed or transplants.
- Seed disinfestation—seeds can be washed with hot water or diluted bleach. Coating the seeds with fungicides reduce seedling diseases.
- Planting date—plant seeds or transplants when soils are at the appropriate temperatures for those crops. Planting in soil that is too cool can result in root rots and damping-off.
- Mulches—reduce fruit rots in many crops by reducing contact with soil. Also reduce fluctuations in soil moisture which may reduce blossom-end rot in tomatoes and peppers.
- Soil amendments/treatments—adding organic matter through compost, cover crops or soil treatments adds microorganisms that help reduce plant pathogens
- Staking or trellising—prevents foliage contact with the soil and improves air circulation.
- Watering practices—excessive soil moisture leads to root and stem rots. Leaves that remain wet for too long are subject to disease as well. If possible, water in the mornings to allow leaves to dry out during the day.

Ingredient	Brand names
Chlorothalonil	Bonide Fung-onil, Ferti-lome Broad Spectrum Landscape & Garden Fungicide, Gardentech Daconil, Liquid Ornamental and Vegetable Fungicide, Ortho Max Garden Disease Control, Ortho Disease B Gon Garden Fungicide
Mancozeb	Bonide Mancozeb Flowable, Dithane, Manzate
Fixed copper	Ortho Disease B Gon Copper Fungicide, Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide, Southern Agriculture Liquid Copper Fungicide, Camelot O. Note: Copper sulfate pentahydrate is not a fixed copper and may burn foliage unless it is applied as a solution with lime to form Bordeaux mixture
Sulfur	Southern Agriculture Wettable/Dusting Sulfur, Bonide Sulfur Plant Fungicide, Safer Brand Garden Fungicide, Safer Brand 3-in-1 Spray

Planning Construction Projects for Implementation

By Dr. Steve Higgins & Lee Moser, University of Kentucky

Beef producers have dealt with enough mud this past year to last a lifetime. Winter is not the time to implement projects to address mud. This is the time to plan projects to improve operations for next year. Follow these guidelines when planning a project to address mud, where to feed, and how to feed next year:

- Identify problem areas/areas of opportunities and set management goals for improvement. Create a list and prioritize.
- Be aware of the window of opportunity for prime construction season (Generally, May to October provides the best chance for completing on-farm construction projects). When the time comes to implement a project it is important to monitor the weather. It is always good to try to give yourself a window of fair weather for construction projects, if possible.
- Develop a series of maps or scaled drawings of the problem areas and update it as possible strategies become available. These maps and drawings can be used for estimating construction material needs, labor, and time/distances evaluations. These maps and drawings are also useful for communicating project specifics to contractors, resource professionals, and extension staff that consult on the project.
- Develop a list of strategies for addressing the issue with your livestock numbers, management capacity, and farm conditions taken into consideration. This needs to include details of siting and orientation of structures and practices. Part of the list of strategies to choose from needs to include operations and maintenance requirements of the practice or structures you choose. Make sure you are willing and able to properly operate and maintain any structure or practice that you build or implement. Research solutions, siting criteria, and operations/maintenance requirements and consult with resource professionals or extension staff, if you need advice. They can often provide plans, drawings, and publications related to your project.
- Do a cost/benefit analysis of the strategies you identify as possible solutions. Be sure to include things like savings in time and travel when considering your alternative strategies. At this point you should start developing materials lists and pricing parts and pieces. Determine if this will be a “do it yourself” project or whether you will involve a contractor. This will greatly influence the price of various strategies.
- If using a contractor, start reaching out for bids. Contact other producers and resource professionals for recommendations on contractors. It is important to remember that the cheapest contractor is not always the lowest cost option, in the long run. You often get what you pay for. Select contractors based not only on bid, but on reputation. Go check out some of the contractor’s work before committing to hiring their services. It is always good to ask about project completion timelines and if they will be committed to finish the job once they start without leaving the site to tend to other jobs (within reason). Having a committed contractor can expedite the successful completion of a project. You don’t want to have projects drag on. The longer ground is open, the more likely you are to experience washouts, erosion, and runoff from a project site, which can take time and money to address. You can also lose the use of a site during construction, so quick completion can be important to daily operations.
- Talk to extension agents and resource professionals about cost-share options for your projects. Be sure to state your desired timeline and budget and see if you can work your project into a cost-share program that fits your needs.
- Determine which strategy is the best fit for your operational and management goals.
- Implement the project and observe results.
- Use feedback from observations to make continuous improvements and share your experiences with others that are facing similar challenges.



Consider construction projects that improves efficiency, time management and safety as well as reducing waste and increasing performance.

Dates of Interest

Jun. 11	Fruits of the Backyard, Spring Hill
Jun. 11	Native Grass Field Day, Lewisburg
Jul. 17	Master Dairy Meeting, Spring Hill
Sep. 5	Forage Field Day, Lewisburg
Sep. 18-20	Master Small Ruminant Producer, Spring Hill
Oct. 18	Beef Heifer Development School, Lewisburg
Oct. 18-19	Advanced Master Beef Producer, Lewisburg

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Weed Watch: Poison Hemlock

As I travel throughout the county, I have been surprised at the amount of poison hemlock that I have seen in ditches and fields. Undoubtedly, it is a growing concern in other states as I have seen numerous media outlets mention this weed recently.

Poisonous parts: All parts of the plant are toxic. Leaves are more dangerous in the spring and fruit is most dangerous in the fall. The toxic component is an alkaloid called coniine. Poisonous levels in some studies suggest consumption of 0.25 to 0.5% of intake in horses and cattle. Livestock tend to avoid this plant if there is other things to eat. If the plant is cut or frosted, the toxicity decreases rapidly.

Symptoms of poisoning: bloody feces, vomiting, convulsions, paralysis, slow heartbeat, coma and death.

Plant characteristics: Looks similar to wild carrot with white flowers arranged in a compound umbel pattern. Stems are hollow with purple spots. May reach 6 to 8 feet tall. Prolific seed producer with each plant producing up to 38,000 seeds.

Control: Wear gloves, glasses and protective equipment if pulling by hand because of skin irritation. Herbicide options include 2,4-D, Weedmaster/Brash, Crossbow or glyphosate as a spot treatment.

Historic tidbit: It is believed that Socrates was killed in 399 BC by drinking hemlock tea.

Source: Southern Forages, Hay and Forage Grower



Poison hemlock can be a concern to livestock.