Moore County

Livestock News

April/May/June 2014

Intestinal Parasites of Backyard Chicken Flocks *Page 1*

Common Hoof Problems for Horses *Page 2*

Animal Waste Management/ Forage Management Tips *Page 3*

Control of Internal Parasites in Small Ruminants *Page 4*

Body Condition Scoring Cattle *Page 5*

Low-Cost Vaccination & Coggins Clinic/ Upcoming Events *Page 6*

Intestinal Parasites in Backyard Chicken Flocks

From: University of Florida Extension

Intestinal parasites (worms) are very common in chickens in the backyard type poultry flocks. The presence of a few parasites do not usually cause a problem. However, large numbers can have a devastating effect on growth, egg production, and over-all health. The concentration of parasite eggs in the chickens environment is one factor which plays a major role in determining the severity of the infection. The chickens pick up the parasite eggs directly by ingesting contaminated feed, water, or litter or by eating snails, earthworms, or other insects (intermediate hosts) which can carry the eggs.

Clinical signs of parasitism are unthriftyness, poor growth and feed conversion, decreased egg production, and even death in severe infections. Furthermore, parasites can make the flock less resistant to diseases and exacerbate existing disease conditions.

Of all the intestinal worms, large roundworms (*Ascaridia galli*) probably inflict the most damage. Young birds are affected more severely. A mild infection is often not noticed. Large numbers of worms, however, interfere with feed absorption causing poor growth and production. In severe infections there can be actual intestinal blockage by the worms, causing death. Affected birds are unthrifty and more susceptible to other diseases. Roundworms are passed from bird to bird by directly ingesting the parasite egg in fecal contaminated feed, water, or litter, or by eating grasshoppers or earthworms carrying the parasite.

Prevention and control of worm infestations in backyard poultry flocks involves proper management of diet, sanitation, and treatment. Chickens need a proper diet, especially an adequate supply of vitamins A and the B complex. A deficiency in these has been shown to increase the susceptibility to parasitism. Thorough removal of litter between flocks of chickens, keep litter as dry as possible, avoid overcrowding, keep wild birds, pigeons and other birds away from chickens. They may be infected and shedding the worm eggs, provide adequate drainage of ranges and move shelters frequently to decrease accumulation of droppings, keep birds off freshly plowed ground where ingestion of earthworms and other insects is more likely, use insecticides to control insect populations.

The treatment of chickens to control intestinal parasites can benefit the grower by decreasing parasite levels in heavily infected birds. This will result in a decrease in the build-up of parasite eggs in the environment. Proper use of medication in combination with sound management and sanitation practices should limit production losses from intestinal worms.

Cattle Field Day
May 31, 2014
10am– 3pm

Held at : Horse Creek Farm
8975 NC Hwy 705
Eagle Springs, NC 27242

Please RSVP to Kaitlyn Cranford by **May 23** at 910-947-3188 or kaitlyn_cranford@ncsu.edu.

10am-12pm: Grazing Methods Talk/Demo
Adam Ross, Gallagher Animal Mgmt
12pm-1pm: Lunch
1pm– 2pm: Pregnancy Checking by Blood Draw
2:00-2:30pm: Body Condition Scoring
2:30-3:00pm: Hay Analysis/ Visual Appraisal

NC Cooperative Extension

Moore County Center
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P.O. Box 1149
Carthage, NC 28327

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NC State University
A&T State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
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Common Hoof Problems

Lauren Langley, Area Livestock Agent, Alamance & Orange Counties
Adapted from: Craig Wood, University of Kentucky

There are many problems that can occur within a horse's hoof. This article addresses four common problems: abscess, cracks, sole bruises, and corns.

Abscess

Abscess is an infection of the sensitive tissue of the foot. Abscesses result in varying degrees of lameness, depending on the severity of the abscess. Symptoms include the hoof being hot and increased pulse. The abscess will take the path of least resistance and migrate up the hoof and break out at the coronary band. Once the abscess begins to drain, lameness usually subsides.

Abscesses can be located with hoof testers. Paring the area of the sole identified by the hoof tester is the quickest way to relieve pain and lameness. The sole will have a dryer, harder texture below the site of infection. As the sole is thinned over the site of the abscess, it will become softer and spongy. Once the pus pocket is reached and drainage is initiated, pain subsides. Once drainage is established, flush the abscess with hydrogen peroxide or other suitable solutions. Irrigate the abscess with a germicide (iodine) and pack with a drawing agent (ichthammol). In persistent, cases a slave poultice applied directly on the hoof or soaking with Epsom salts is required to draw the abscess to the surface. Avoid cutting a large hole in the hoof when pairing or opening the abscess. In most cases, the less hoof removed, the quicker the horse can recover and return to active use.

Cracks

A hoof crack is a visible vertical crack in the hoof wall. Cracks are referred to by location, such as toe, quarter, heel or bar crack. Cracks run parallel to the tubules of the hoof. Cracks can be superficial to the hoof wall or can deeply penetrate the sensitive structures of the hoof. Dry and brittle hooves crack more easily than healthy hooves. Treatment consists mainly of immobilizing the hoof crack, thus permitting sound hoof wall to grow down from the coronary band. Stabilizing cracking may involve side clips, burning the top of the rack, applying an acrylic, or rasping a half moon shape under the crack to remove the pressure that occurs when weight is applied on the hoof.

Sole Bruises

Sole bruises appear as red spots or specks on the sole and frog. They vary in size due to the extent of the blood vessels affected in the sensitive structures. The white line or the hoof wall also may be red. Sole bruises are caused by trauma from a sharp object or excessive weight-bearing of the sole on rocky ground. Barefoot horses should be trimmed so they walk on the hoof wall. Hooves that are trimmed to short are easily bruised on any ground. A bruised sole can be protected by shoeing with a pad and a flat concave shoe. Sole bruises rarely cause lameness unless they are severe. However, horses walking on hard surfaces may have tender hooves for a day or so due to a sole bruise.

Corns

Corns can be classified as dry or moist. Corns start out as bruises of the sensitive sole in the angle formed by the hoof wall and bars. This angle, where the wall and bars meet, is the seat area where corns originate. A dry corn is a red bruise in the seat of the corn area. The redness is caused by the horn tubular filling with blood from a ruptured vessel. A moist corn is yellow, with serum present. Corns are caused by unequal pressure and concussion created by a conformational fault or faulty trimming. Corns can be caused by overtrimming the heals, heel calks (heel calks that have small cleats on the end of the shoes), short-heeled shoes, unlevel shoes (shoes that have not been leveled properly after being shaped to fit the hoof but are simply nailed on the hoof), or leaving the shoes on too long.

Corns can be prevented by eliminating the causes. Pressure on the corn seat also may be relieved by trimming the sole between the bars and the hoof wall so that it is 1/8 inch lower than the wall.

Animal Waste Management

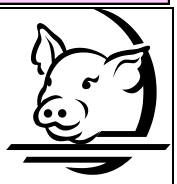
News Continues for Pig Diseases

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) recently completed genetic sequencing on a new strain of PED (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea) virus, adding to the scientific knowledge that can assist in the development of a vaccine.

In a February 11, 2014 press release, the ODA's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) virologist, Dr. Yan Zhang and other ODA scientists completed the sequencing of the new PED virus that differs in a fragment of one gene (1,170 nucleic acids in the S1 domain of the Spike gene) encoding a surface protein. The rest of the genome sequence is identical to the originally emerged PED virus, which was first confirmed in the U.S. in 2013. PEDv is similar to TGE (Transmissible Gastroenteritis) and causes diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration and high mortality in pigs, particularly affecting very young pigs and older hogs.

PEDv does not spread to humans or other animal species – it specifically affects pigs – and poses no risk to food safety. According to a National Pork Board (NPB) swine health guide, PEDv is a coronavirus that can be spread through contaminated feces, and can cause clinical signs within 12-24 hours after exposure to the virus. Pigs can infect other pigs for up to 3-4 weeks. There is no cross-protection between TGE and PEDv (even though both are coronaviruses). The NPB guide notes that sows can pass protection through colostrum to their piglets but that herds can re-break with PEDv.

Treatment and prevention include providing supportive care for infected pigs, limiting cross-contamination with any suspected pig's feces, following proper cleaning and disinfection procedures, as well as providing clearly defined barriers of protection between production areas and other farm areas. For more information visit pork.org or contact your veterinarian.



According to the ODA, the discovered sequencing will assist in production of a vaccine, which could be given orally to a sow, and then passed on to piglets through nursing. Through a vaccine, mortality rates could be significantly reduced.

In other news, the ODA released information about a new non-PED coronavirus detected on Ohio farms through the ADDL. This virus, named Swine Delta Coronavirus (SDCV), cannot spread to humans or other species and poses no risk to food safety. The SDCV was found in pigs with diarrhea in January and February 2014. The SDCV is distinct from PED and TGE viruses, but clinical signs appear similar to that of PED and TGE.

*Follow protocols recommended by your integrator and/or veterinarian.

Animal Waste Events

- April 29-30 – 10-hour Animal Waste Operator Class, Onslow County Center, contact: 910-455-5873
- May 6-7 – 10-hour Animal Waste Operator Class, Sampson County Center, contact: 910-592-7161

Hay Directories are below for people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay for sale.

1. North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/. Producers can call the Hay Alert at 1-866-506-6222. You can sign up to list your hay on-line.
2. The Southeastern NC Hay Directory is available at http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/67/HayDirectory.pdf. Call your Extension Agent to learn how to include your farm on the list.

Forage Management Tips

From Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina

April

- Fertilize cool-season grasses if not already done.
- Watch for symptoms of grass tetany.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses when dormancy breaks.
- Establish hybrid bermudagrass unless irrigation is available.
- Plant crabgrass and switchgrass. Plant seeded varieties of bermudagrass at the end of the month.
- Graze cool season grasses down to 2-4". Harvest for hay if growth is too rapid to maintain grazing pressure.

May

- Plant warm-season perennial grasses such as switchgrass, flaccidgrass, common bermudagrass, gamagrass, and bluestem.
- Plant summer annuals at two-week intervals to stagger forage availability.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses with nitrogen after each cutting or every four to six weeks on pastures.
- If irrigation is available, hybrid bermudagrass sprigs may be planted, but weed control will be essential.
- Spray pasture weeds while they are small (3 inches) for most effective control.
- Do not apply nitrogen to fescue or orchardgrass pastures after April or August.

June

- Take soil samples from fields which will be overseeded or planted during the fall. Apply lime as far in advance of planting as possible.
- A late planting of summer annuals may be made to extend forage supply.
- To stimulate warm-season grass yields, apply nitrogen after each cutting or every 4-6 weeks.
- Graze bermuda close (1-2 in stubble) and every 4-6 weeks, harvest any growth that has not been grazed.

Control of Internal Parasites in Small Ruminants Using *Sericea Lespedeza*

By: Rebekah Ray, Intern with NC Cooperative Extension in Johnston County

Adapted from: "Tools for Managing Internal Parasites in Small Ruminants: *Sericea Lespedeza,"* by L. Coffey, M. Hale, T. Terrill, J. Mosjidis, J. Miller and J. Burke, *NCAT/ATTRA Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control, 2007*

Spring is finally on the horizon and with warmer, wetter weather comes preparation for internal parasite season for goat producers. *Haemonchus contortus* (barber pole worm) is always a primary concern as an infection of 1000 worms can suck up to two ounces of blood per day from a single goat, and one barber pole worm has the ability to lay between 1000-6000 eggs a day. Severe infections of these worms can cause anemia, bottle jaw and death among untreated goats. For many years, the control and management of these internal parasites has primarily been the use of dewormers. However, with the high mortality rate of severely infected goats and the development of resistance to dewormers in barber pole worm populations, producers can no longer rely strictly on conventional dewormers to control internal parasites. It is as important as ever for producers to consider alternative management practices to reduce the frequency of dewormer use.

Management of Internal Parasites

As with any pest, parasite management starts with the integration of many different management practices to ensure the most effective and economically feasible levels of control possible for each individual herd. The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, ATTRA, suggests many different tools to manage internal parasites, such as: pasture management, elective deworming, selecting resistant animals, and alternative treatments. These alternative treatments include the supplement feeding of high- CT (condensed tannin) forages like sericea lespedeza.

Tannins are plant compounds found in a variety of plant species. They serve as protection from predation and also play a role in plant growth regulation. Some tannin containing plants have toxic effects on animals, but the condensed tannins found in forage legumes (especially sericea lespedeza) have been scientifically proven to reduce parasite loads in small ruminants.

Sericea Lespedeza

Sometimes considered a weedy, invasive or even noxious warm season legume in some areas of the United States, Sericea lespedeza shows great promise in the improved health of goats and control of internal parasites. Whether Sericea lespedeza is used for grazing animals or fed in hay form, or even pelleted, research has shown that lespedeza is effective against internal parasites. While producers should not rely on sericea lespedeza as the sole method of internal parasite control, it can be a useful part of a complete parasite management plan to reduce pasture contamination with larvae and, over time, reduce the number of adult worms.

A challenge with growing Sericea lespedeza is that it does not withstand the pressure of frequent or close grazing. However, in 2002 a new variety of lespedeza that keeps the qualities that makes it well adapted to the southeast, while increasing the plant's hardiness to small ruminant grazed pastures. AU Grazer is drought tolerant and well adapted to the acidic soils of the Southeast and is a non-bloat causing legume that is very resistant to insect damage. That, along with the high tannin content and its ability to persist even under grazing pressure from goats, makes it worthy of consideration when choosing pasture forage. Sericea lespedeza is commonly planted at 20-30 lbs per acre and can even be drilled and over seeded with a cool season grass (like tall fescue) once it has been properly established, to achieve a mixed Sericea/grass pasture.

Summary

Goat producers, now more than ever, should seriously consider all options in the management and control of internal parasites. Responsible and selective use of dewormers, along with alternative parasite management practices are the best defense against dewormer resistance of these parasites. Grazing Sericea lespedeza is just one of the many parasite management techniques which can reduce serious infection of internal parasites and therefore increasing the health of your animals. Please contact the NC Cooperative Extension Office in your county and speak with your local livestock agent to build an internal parasite management plan that is right for you and your animals.

Body Condition Scoring Cattle

Adapted by: Becky Spearman, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension from an article written by Dr. Matt Poore, NC State University Ruminant Nutrition Extension Specialist

This year we have the potential for cows to be in very poor condition. A combination of poor quality hay from a very rainy growing season last summer, little fall growth on winter annuals, and now a lack of pasture due to the bad winter weather can set cattle producers up for thin cows. A lot of hay from last year has poor nutritional quality. Even though cattle may be eating all the hay they want, some older cows, timid animals, or first-calf heifers are usually the first to become malnourished. Some producers are starting their spring calving season and thin, lactating cows will have a hard time rebreeding and are not going to raise a calf to pay her winter feed bill next year.

Here are some things to consider:

Body condition score your cows now. If you don't know how or would like some help, contact your Extension Agent. Your ability to judge the health and body condition of your cows comes with experience but regardless of level of expertise, reassessment of body condition after a few weeks on winter feed is a good practice. While you are evaluating your herd, go ahead and separate any animals that are thin.

Separate heifers, thin cows, and old cows from the main cow herd for feeding purposes and separate lactating cows from dry cows. Most cases of severe malnutrition come from these weaker animals. In smaller herds, these animals may be grouped together to assist in supplemental feeding. In larger herds, consider feeding heifers as a group and older and thin cows as a group so you can meet the nutritional needs more economically. It is not too late in the winter season to separate these animals. Separating lactating cows from dry cows is important because the needs for a lactating cow are higher than for a dry cow.

Yearling heifers should be grouped together for feeding because they are still growing and have higher nutritional requirements. Feed management of heifers is especially critical in the last 60 days before calving. Proper heifer nutrition can increase colostrum and milk production, which are critical for health and growth of calves.

Cull chronically thin cattle, old cows, and cows with teeth or health problems. Thin and old cows should be culled if they cannot maintain their weight after separation and proper feeding. Keeping thin, old cows, or cows with missing/worn teeth, without feeding them enough to maintain body condition is inhumane. Cattle with worn or missing front, lower incisor teeth graze less efficiently and are usually the thinnest cows. Check teeth annually when cattle are restrained in a headgate. Cull cows when their teeth start to show advanced wear to get a better price for them.

It is critical in food animal production that there is a good culling program to enhance profit. Income from cull cows is significant on cow-calf farms, accounting for 15 to 20% of gross income. Appropriate preemptive culling may also prevent suffering in aged or otherwise debilitated cows. The trick is to cull a cow near the end of her productive life, but before she loses potential value as a beef animal. With profitability in mind, older or weaker cows may fail to calve, may raise lighter calves, and can result in higher veterinary costs and/or death loss. Old, arthritic, and/or crippled cows cannot move about to graze as efficiently as the younger stock. They also have trouble competing with the younger and stronger cows at the round bale feeder or feed bunk.

Adjust rations as needed as the calving season approaches and when the cows are lactating. When cows calve, they need increased protein and energy intake to support milk production. Energy and protein deficiencies can have a prolonged effect on the cow herd. Cows that calve in poor body condition do not breed back as quickly. Thus, planning for the next breeding season should begin well before the calves are born this year.

A high percentage of cattle that fail to breed are open due to nutritional problems. Cows nursing their first or second calves are often the most severely affected, and account for most of the open cows in the group. If you need help with your cattle herd, please call your local Extension Agent.

Low-Cost Vaccine/Coggins Clinic for Horses

April 5, 2014
10am– 2pm

Moore County Agricultural Center
707 Pinehurst Ave.
Carthage, NC 28327

RSVP not required but is REQUESTED
910-947-3188 or
kaitlyn_cranford@ncsu.edu

Services provided by
Foundation Equine Mobile Medicine and Dentistry
910-992-8225

www.FoundationEquineVet.com
info@FoundationEquineVet.com
www.facebook.com/FoundationEquineVet

Discounted Pricing

EWT-West Nile . . .(20% discount) **38**
(recommended for ALL horses every 6 mos)

Rabies . . .(10% discount). **14.50**
(recommended for ALL horses yearly)

Flu/Rhino . . .(20% discount). **26**
(recommended for horses that travel or live with horses that travel)

Coggins Test . . .(17% discount) **25**
(required for all horses yearly)

Fecal Egg Count **25**
(recommended for all horses every 6 mos)

Upcoming Dates!

- **April 5, 2014–** Low Cost Vaccine/Coggins Clinic for Horses– *Moore County Coop. Extension*
- **April 29-30, 2014–** 10-hour Animal Waste Operator Class– *Onslow County Center, 910-455-5873*
- **May 5, 2014–** Piedmont Regional Goat and Sheep Producer Training– *Guilford County Coop. Extension*
- **May 6-7, 2014–** 10-hour Animal Waste Operator Class– *Sampson County Center, 910-592-7161*
- **May 17-18, 2014–** South Central District Horse Show
- **May 31, 2014–** Cattle Field Day– *Moore County Coop. Extension*
- **May 31– June 1, 2014–** NC Jr. Beef Round-Up– *N.C. State Fairgrounds*
- **June 26-27, 2014–** Livestock Judging and Skill-a-thon Clinic– *NCSU Beef Educational Unit*

For more information about any upcoming events please contact Kaitlyn Cranford.

Moore County Cattleman Association Meetings:

All meetings begin at 7pm and are held at the Moore County Ag Center.

- **April 3, 2014–** Cattle Pests
  Presenter: Wes Watson, NCSU Professor of Entomology
  * Scholarship winner will be announced.
- **May 31, 2014-** Cattle Field Day 10am-3pm
  Held at: Horse Creek Farm
  8975 NC Hwy 705
  Eagle Springs, NC 27242

  10am-12pm: Grazing Methods Talk/Demo
  Adam Ross, Gallagher Animal Mgmt
  12pm-1pm: Lunch
  1pm– 2pm: Preg. Checking by Blood Draw
  2:00-2:30pm: Body Condition Scoring
  2:30-3:00pm: Hay Analysis/ Visual Appraisal

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