1. Get them Bred
2. Keep them pregnant
3. Don’t let them die
4. Make them grow big and healthy
PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS

145-155 days of pregnancy

• Why is it important?
  • Allows you to make decisions
  • Lambing/kidding preparation

• Methods
  • Abdominal palpation (>120 days)
  • Blood test (Biopryn) > 30 days
  • Ultrasound >28

https://biopryn.com/biopryn-sheepgoat/
PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS

Ultrasound

• Advantages
  • Immediate decisions
  • Viability of the pregnancy
  • Stage pregnancies (dry, separate, feed)
  • Fetal count
  • Identify Pathologies
  • Fetal sex +/-
WHEN ARE WE LAMBING/KIDDING?

- Breeding season: July 1\textsuperscript{st} ---- Sept 1\textsuperscript{st} 2021
- Earliest possible birth: 20/11/2021
- Latest possible birth: 31/01/2022

Lambing/kidding season Nov 20\textsuperscript{th} to Jan 31st
CARE OF THE DAM

Nutrition during pregnancy

Avoid obesity and weight loss ~2.5- 3 BCS

• Early gestation:
  • can usually maintain on pasture or moderate quality hay, supplemented if needed

• Late pregnancy:
  • provide nutrients for rapid fetal growth, colostrum production
  • Consider feeding animals with multiple fetuses separately from females with single lambs/kid
  • 1.0 - 2.5 lb of 16-18% crude protein concentrate, grain, or cereal & legume-based pasture/hay equivalent
  • Ensure adequate Se intake
PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS

Inadequate Nutrition during pregnancy
• Pregnancy Toxemia/ ketosis/ twin disease
• Milk Fever / Hypocalcemia
• Low weight babies

Vaginal Prolapse

Abortion
• Isolate, Sanitize
• Call your veterinarian/submit samples
### FEMALES – LATE GESTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Management practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Parasite control** | ↓ periparturient egg rise | • Consider deworming 15-30 days before birthing begins (don’t use levamisole, albendazole)  
• Maintain good nutrition |
| **Vaccines** | Protect dams from clostridial disease, boost colostral antibody | • Annual booster against CDT (*Clostridium perfringens* types C & D, *C. tetani*) 30 days prior to start of kidding / birthing season |
| **Udder health** | -Dairy animals – eliminate existing infections & prevent new ones.  
-all- adequate milk prod | • Dry 60 days prior  
• Monitor udder  
  • Edema  
  • Mastitis  
  • Adequate development |
PREPARE FOR LAMBING/KIDDING

Where? Indoor or outdoor, but clean and dry. Keep an eye on the temp outdoors

Check list:

- Print record sheets/dairy: ewe/doe #, kid/lamb(s) #, gender, date, weight, observation(s)
- Identification: Ear tags, tagger, animal paint
- Small bucket, lubricant (vet lube), kid/lamb puller, and kid/lamb ropes
- Disposable gloves/sleeves
- Small feeding tube / 60cc syringe
- Bottle and rubber nipple
- Milk or milk replacer and colostrum
- Heat lamp? Towels / news paper
- Veterinarian’s phone number
- Head lamp/flashlight
MONITORING

- Udder development
- Relaxed pelvic ligaments
- Milk secretion
- +/- cervical plug
NORMAL PARTURITION

1st stage: Contractions

2-12 hours

Isolates from the group
Nesting
Up and down
Restless
Urinates frequently
NORMAL PARTURITION

- 2nd stage: delivery
  1-2 hours

Usually lateral recumbency
You can see placenta / amnion
Followed by feet +/- head
Up to 1 hour between babies
NORMAL PARTURITION
NORMAL PARTURITION
NORMAL PARTURITION

- 3rd stage: passing placenta

  Up to 24 hours

  Usually before 6 hours
  If more than 24h is consider retained placenta

  For up to 3 weeks Lochia (red-brown discharge with no smell) is normal
Most dams will give birth in their own – Give appropriate time before intervening.

Failure of normal progression of the parturition stages

Intervention is warranted

Cleanliness, Lubrication, Gentleness
DYSTOCIA

- **Ringwomb (failure to dilate)**
  - does not progress to stage 2
  - Failure of the cervix to dilate
  - Or dilated and closed
  - Hormonal failure
  - Heritable condition
  - Natural birth disrupted
  - Abnormal presentations
**DYSTOCIA**

- **Ringwomb (failure to dilate)**
  - Clean the area (clipped?)
  - Use gloves
  - Put your hand us a cone
  - Go in and identify the problem
  - Manually and gently dilate cervix
  - If there is no progress, call your vet
30-30-30 rule:

- 30 minutes of straining or water bag showing - check her
- If normal, wait 30 more minutes - check her – repeat one more time
- Wait 30 mins between lambs/kids or check

Dr. Schoenian
DYSTOCIA

- Malposition, flexions
Dystocia

Malposition, flexions

- Try to reposition the fetus into a normal position very gently. Sometimes you have to push the lamb/kid back in to have more space to correct the position.
- With the correct position, you can now pull but do so in time with the doe/ewe’s contraction.
- Use as much lube as needed
- You can pull with your hand grabbing both legs, use a lamb/kid puller or lamb/kid ropes
- Stay calm and be gentle. If no progress in 15 minutes, call your vet.
DYSTOCIA

- Multiple babies at once, abnormal, too big
  - Gentle manipulation can be performed
  - Call your veterinarian if no progress
  - Or if is obvious that it will not progress
  - Veterinarian will attempt vaginal delivery or suggest c-section
AFTER THE LAMB/KID(S) ARE BORN:

• Clean membranes and mucus from the nose with a towel
• Make sure the lamb/kid is breathing while rubbing vigorously the thorax with the towel
• Allow the ewe/doe and lamb/kid(s) to bond. Give them space.
• Monitor the bond
AFTER THE LAMB/KID(S) ARE BORN:

• See if the ewe/doe gives birth to another lamb/kid.
• If 30 mins pass by and she is not pushing, you can attempt ballotting her abdomen to see if you can feel another lamb/kid.
• Check her udder to see if she has milk, clean with a wet towel, and strip both teats
• Keep an eye on her passing of the placenta (afterbirth) it should be passed in less than 24 hours
AFTER THE LAMB/KID(S) ARE BORN:

• See if the ewe/doe gives birth to another lamb/kid.
• If 30 mins pass by and she is not pushing, you can attempt balloteting her abdomen to see if you can feel another lamb/kid.
• Check her udder to see if she has milk, clean with a wet towel, and strip both teats
• Keep an eye on her passing of the placenta (afterbirth) it should be passed in less than 24 hours
COLOSTRUM

• Prevent failure of passive transfer

• Kids / lambs should nurse by 30 min, definitely within 1 h of birth

• Assist if needed by stripping keratin plug from teats and helping to nurse
  • Especially when ≥3 offspring
COLOSTRUM AND MILK CONSUMPTION:

If that doesn’t drink from the dam:
• Attempt to milk the mother. You need 50 ccs of milk/lamb or kid initially.
• Bottle feed the lamb/kid with frozen/thawed colostrum in the first 2 hrs. of life
• If the lamb/kid is not nursing from the bottle you will have to pass a feeding tube
PROCESSING NEWBORNS

- Dip navels (indoor housing or high stocking density)
- Examine for congenital defects
- ID (ear tag)
- Weigh
- Selenium deficient area?
  - Inject with Se/Vit E or supplement diets (dam and/or neonates)
KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR FEMALE

- Uterine prolapse
- No milk
- Inadequate milk
- Retained placenta
- Uterine infection
- Lack of appetite
REMARKS

• Be prepared
  • Take good care of your pregnant females

• Think ahead, have all you will need ready

• Be clean, be gentle, call for help

• Follow up on lambs/kids progress

• Keep an eye on your doe/ewe after birth

JUST KIDDING AROUND... LOL
Thank you

lcabrerarocha@ufl.edu