

Breeding Season Preparedness

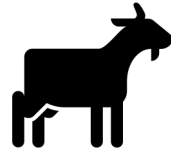
Catalina Cabrera DVM, MPVM

lcabrerarocha@ufl.edu



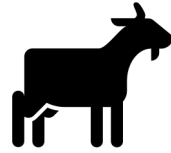
INTRODUCTION

Terminology



	GOATS	SHEEP
Females	Doe	Ewe
Males	Buck	Ram
Castrates	Wether	Wether
Birthing	Kidding	Lambing
Offspring	Kid	Lamb
Youngsters	Doe Kid /Buck kid	Ewe lamb/ Ram lamb

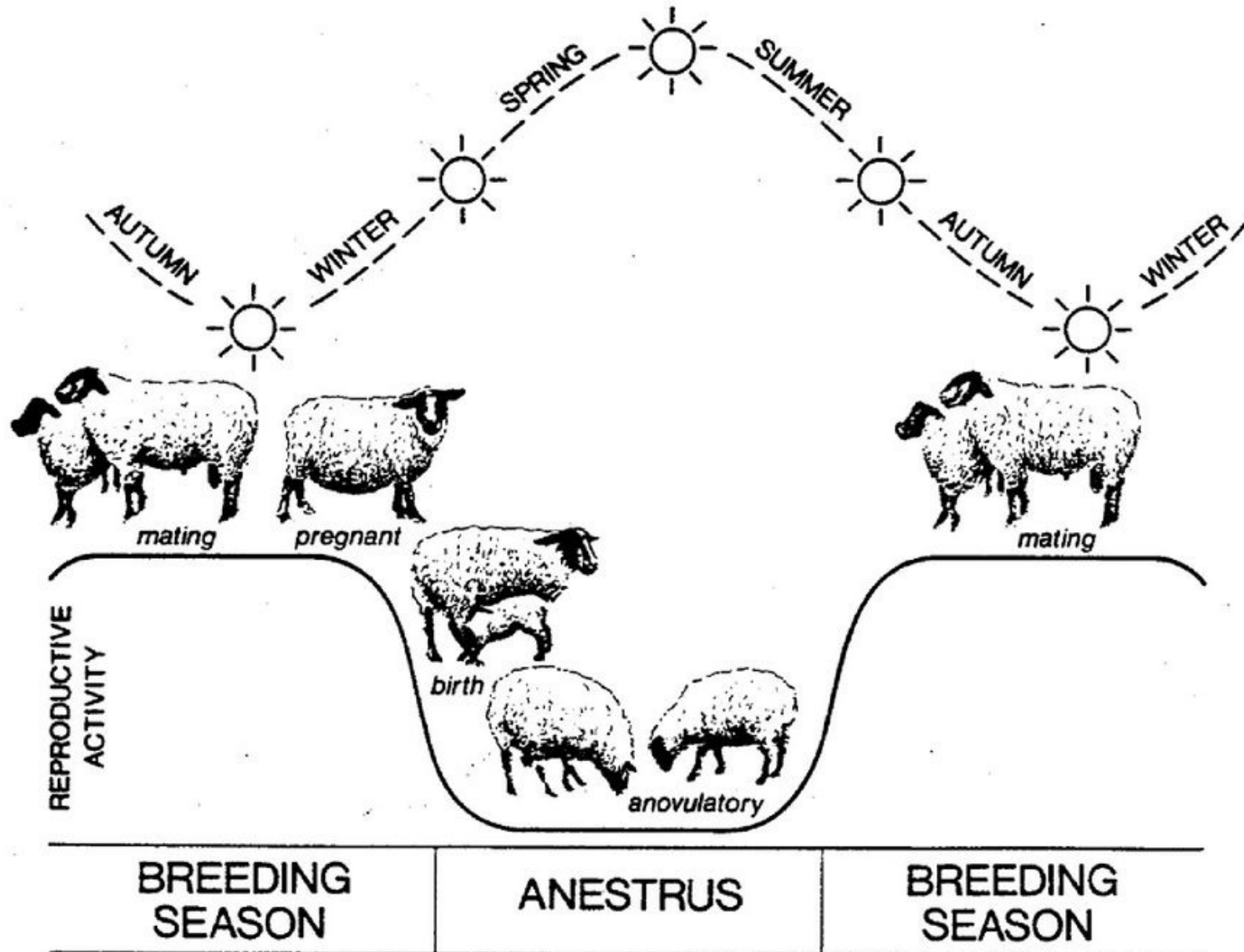
REPRODUCTIVE FACTS



	GOATS	SHEEP
Estrous Cycle	21 days (18-22)	17 days (14-19)
Estrus/heat Length	~ 36 h	~ 30 h
Signs of heat	+/- Swelling Vulva, mucus, follows buck, tail wagging, vocal	+/- Swelling Vulva, mucus, follows ram

Polyestrous, Seasonal, Short-day breeders

SHEEP AND GOATS ARE SHORT DAY BREEDERS

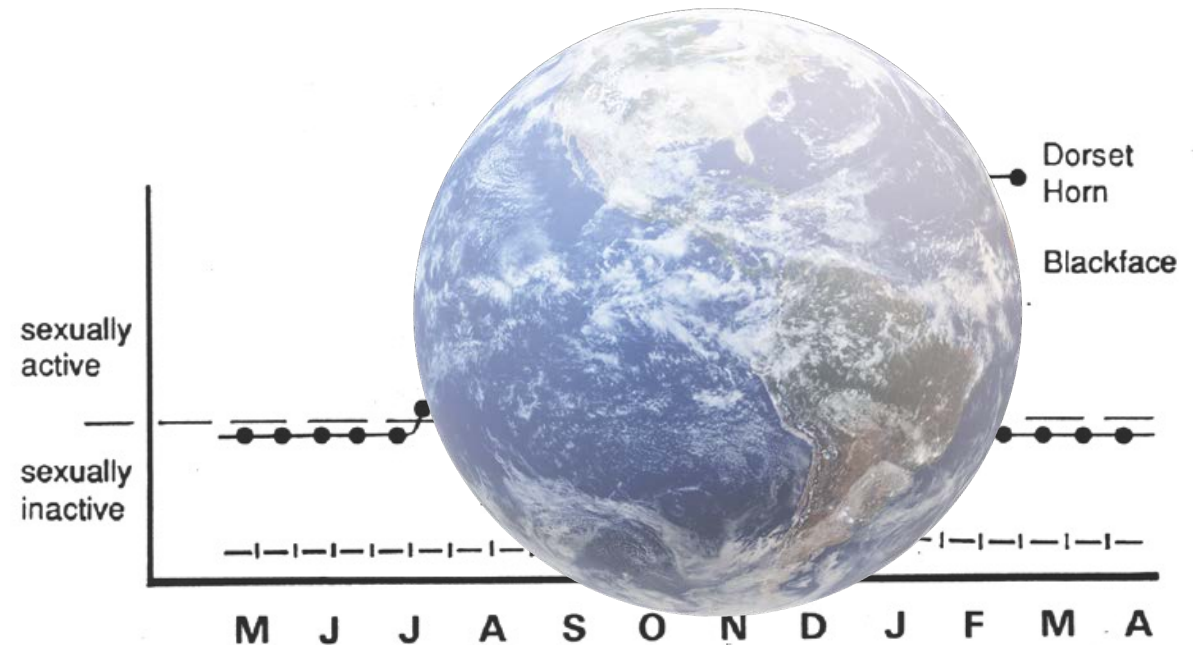


BREEDING SEASON

- Definition

- Influenced by

- Location
- Breed
- Nutrition status
- Production system



Small Ruminant Industry



WHEN IS MY BREEDING SEASON?

HOW LONG IS MY BREEDING SEASON?

Prepare

- May

Breed

- July

Lambing

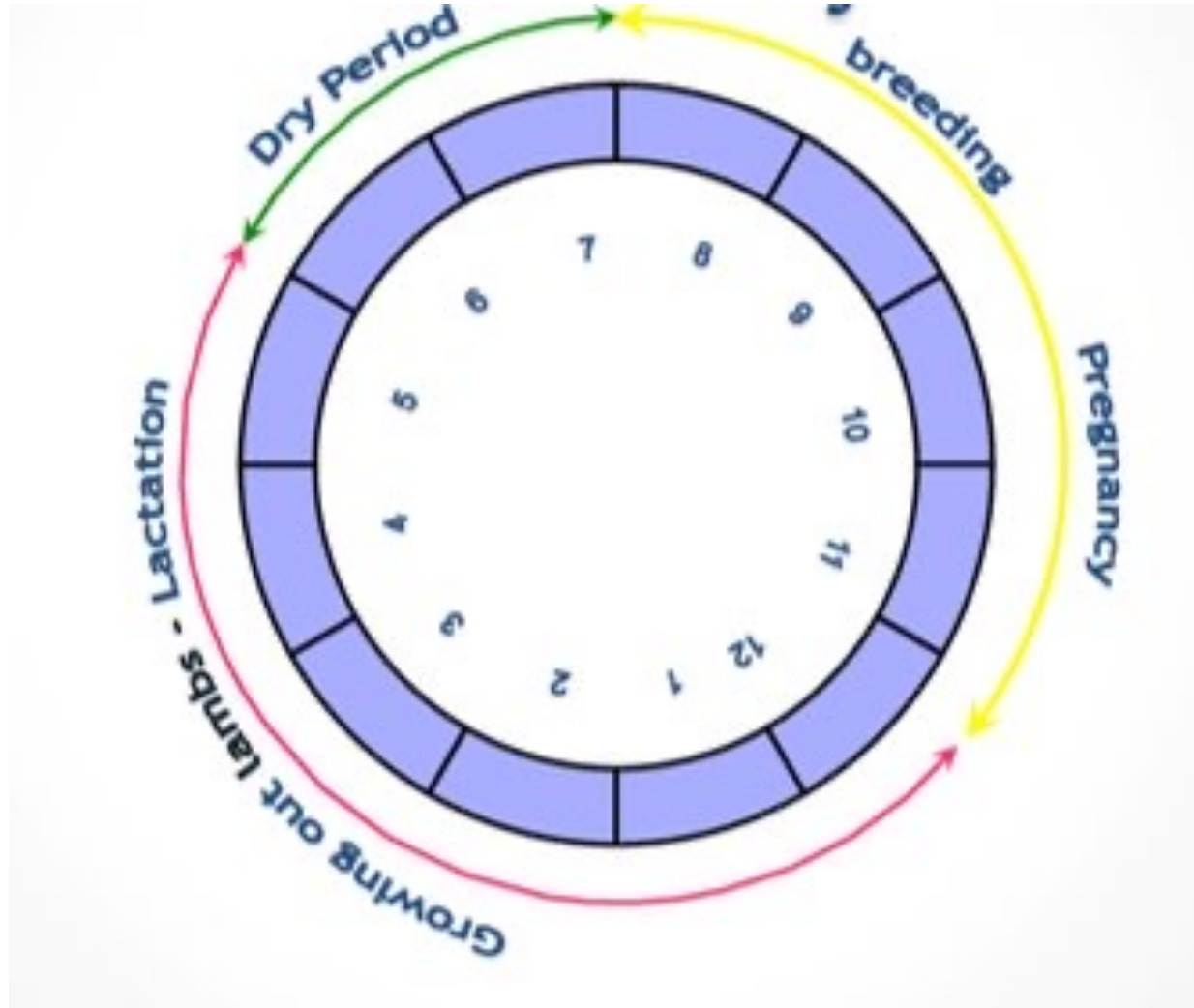
- December

4 m old

- April



PRODUCTION CYCLE



OPTIMAL BREEDING SEASON

- **We successfully establish a breeding period**
- **All the females got pregnant**
- **With twins (+/-)**
- **With our targeted genetics**
- **Healthy females, males and offsprings**



SUCCESSFUL BREEDING SEASON

Rams / Bucks

Desired genetics

Fertile

Healthy

Adequate BCS

Libido

Minimal Heat Stress



Ewes / Does

Vaccinated

Flushed

Nutritionally Managed

Minimal Heat Stress

Adequately Covered



Rams / Bucks

- ~ 2 months pre-breeding
- Body condition score 3-3.5 (score 1-5)
- Physical examination
- This is a good time to do a foot trim
- Shear for Testicular Cooling
- Housing – Provide Shade
- Treatment, if necessary, eg Pizzle Rot
- Cull and Replace as necessary



Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE)



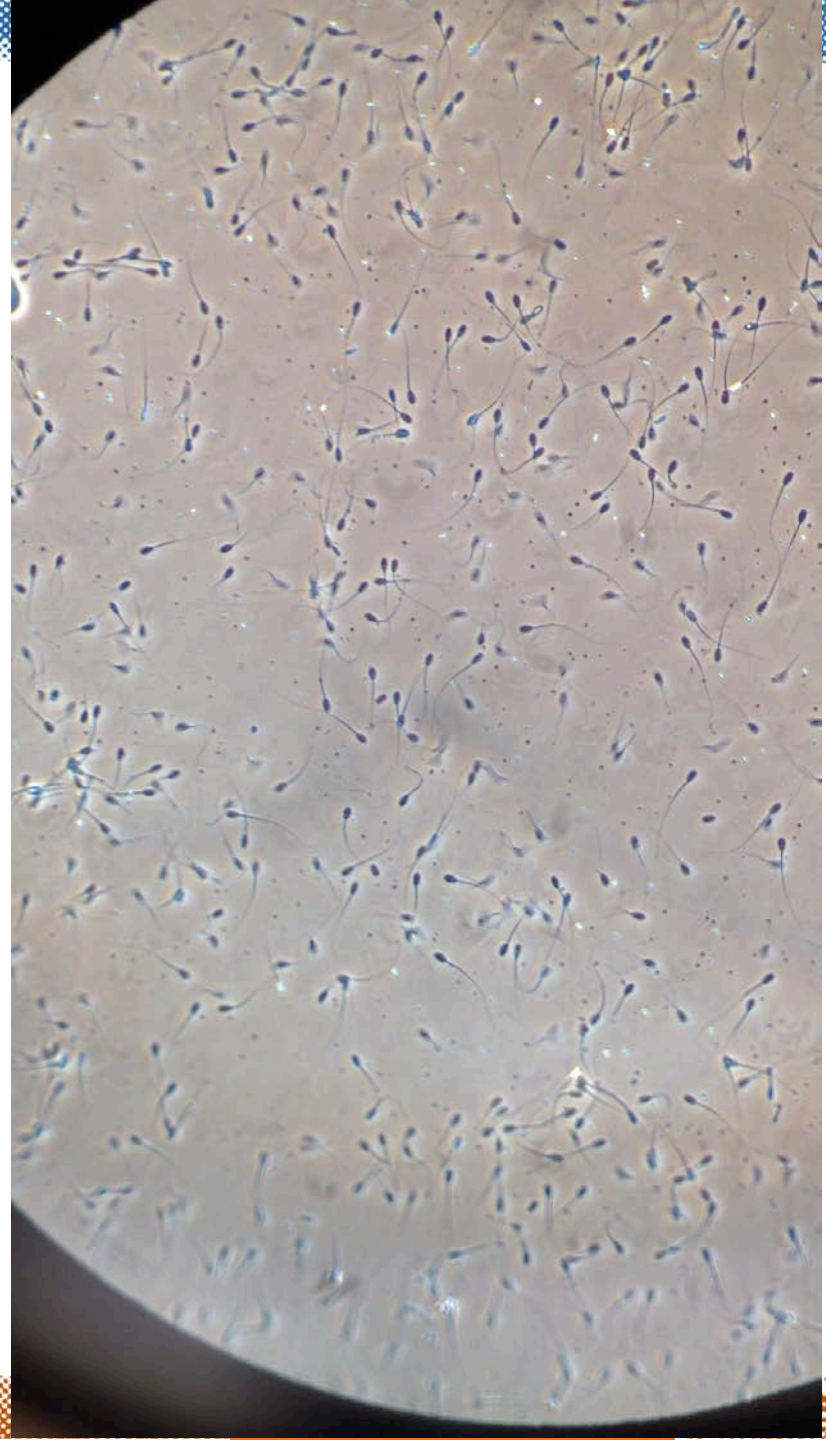
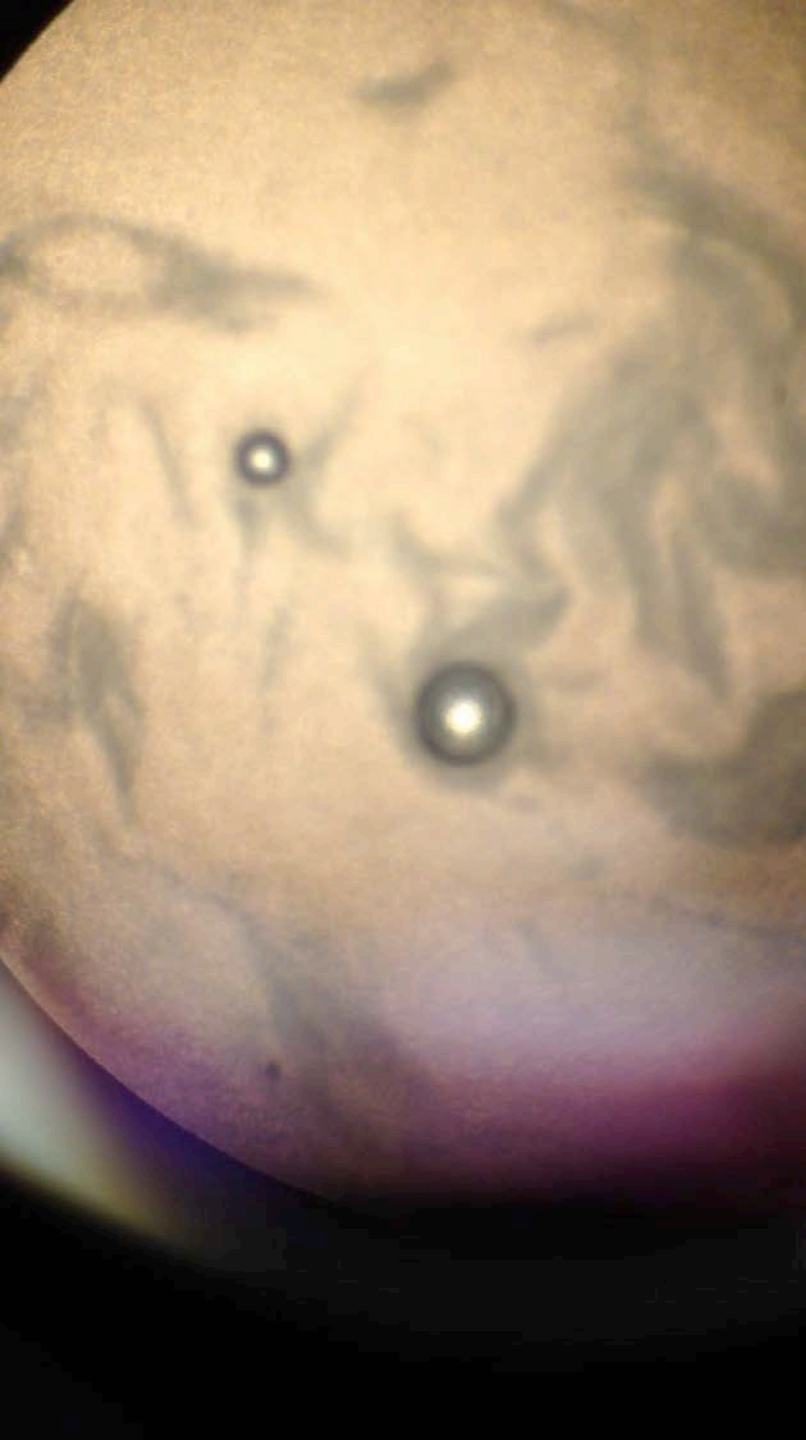
Scrotal Circumference



Testicular Palpation

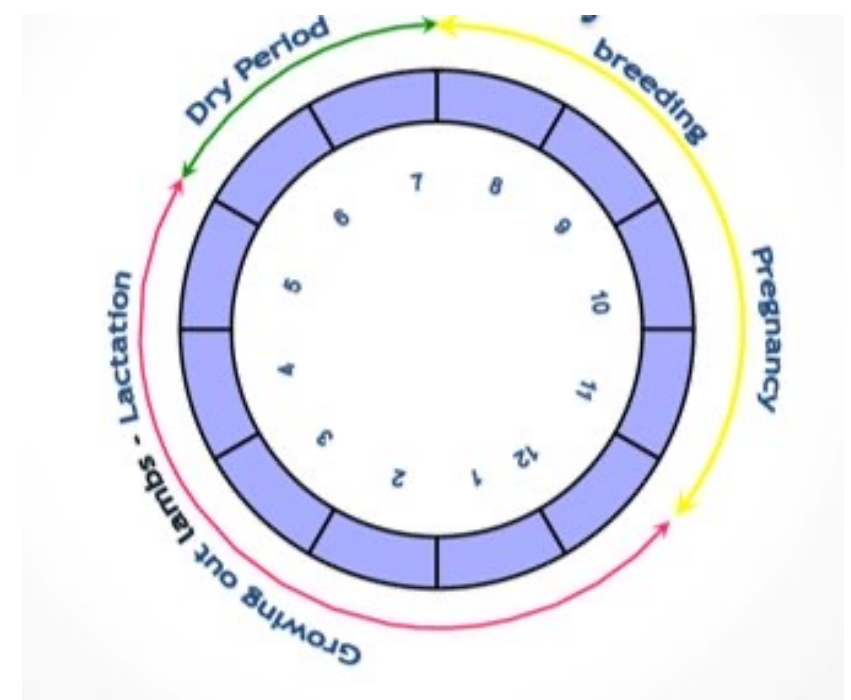






SELECTING THE FEMALE HERD

- **Cull poor performers**
 - Bad udders
 - Susceptible to parasites
- **Select replacements**
- **New additions should be quarantined**
- **Body Condition Score**
- **“flushing the herd”**



NUTRITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Flushing – 2-4 weeks prior to breeding**
- **High Energy Ration prior to breeding increased crop by 20%**
- **Possibly higher fertilization rate**
- **Increasing Energy**
- **Supplement or High-Quality Pasture**



Heat Stress



MALE POWER – HOW MANY?

- Yearlings – 1:20 females (5%)
- Mature males – 1:40 females (2.5%)
- Synchronized females – 1:5-10

No. of Services/Heat % pregnant

1	64
2	76
3	93



HOW TO ACCELERATE THE BREEDING SEASON

- **Flushing**
- **Ram Effect**
- **Hormonal Uses**
- **Light treatment**

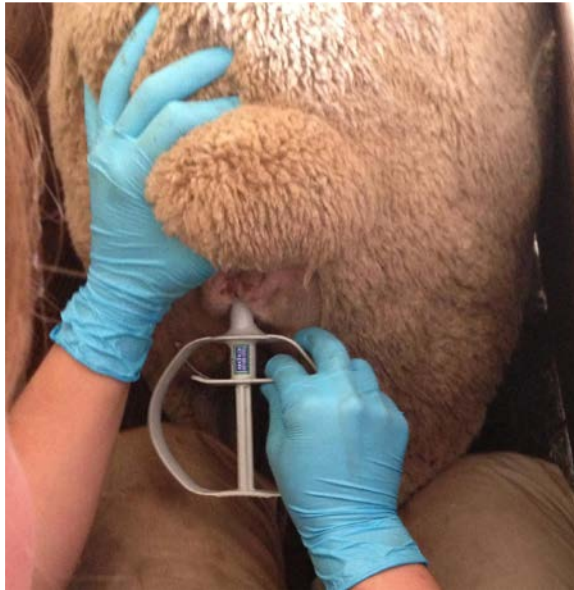


RAM/BUCK EFFECT

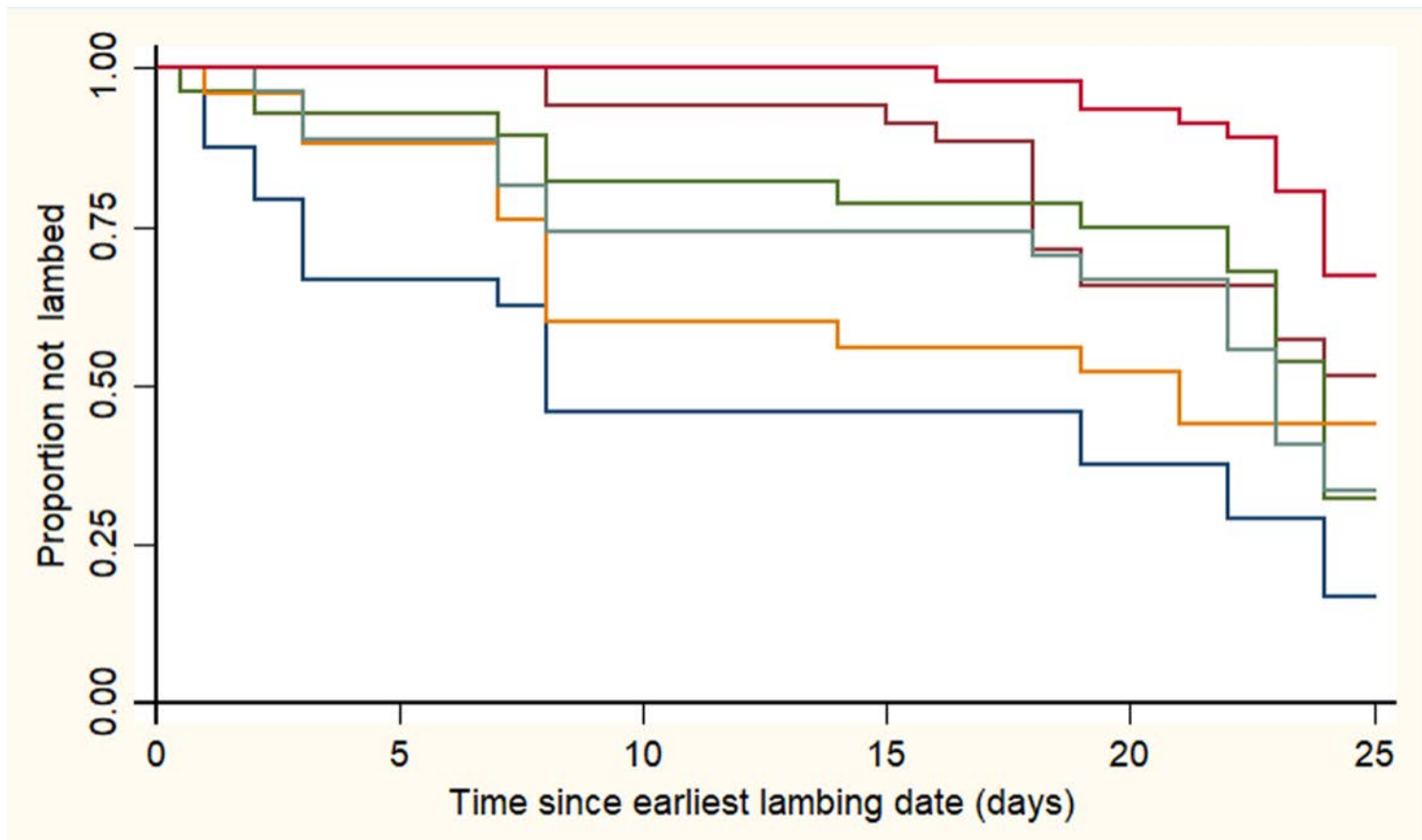
- Introduction of a male to Anovulatory females
Induces Estrus
- Synchronizing Effect
- Induces Breeding Season 2-3 Weeks Early
- Shortens Time to Puberty in females



HORMONAL USE

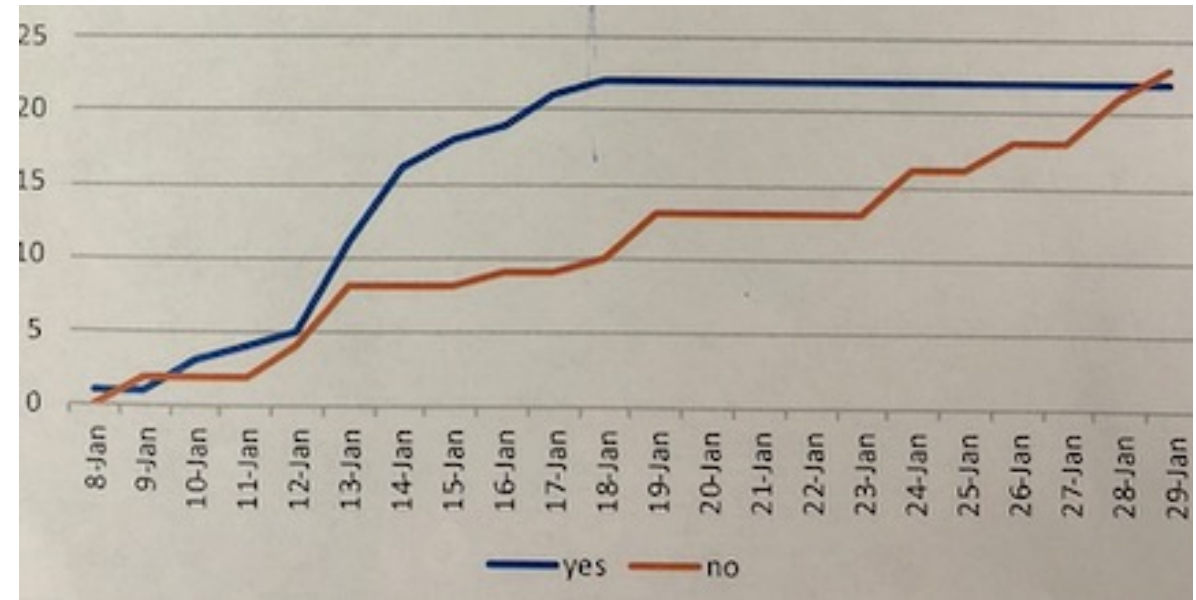
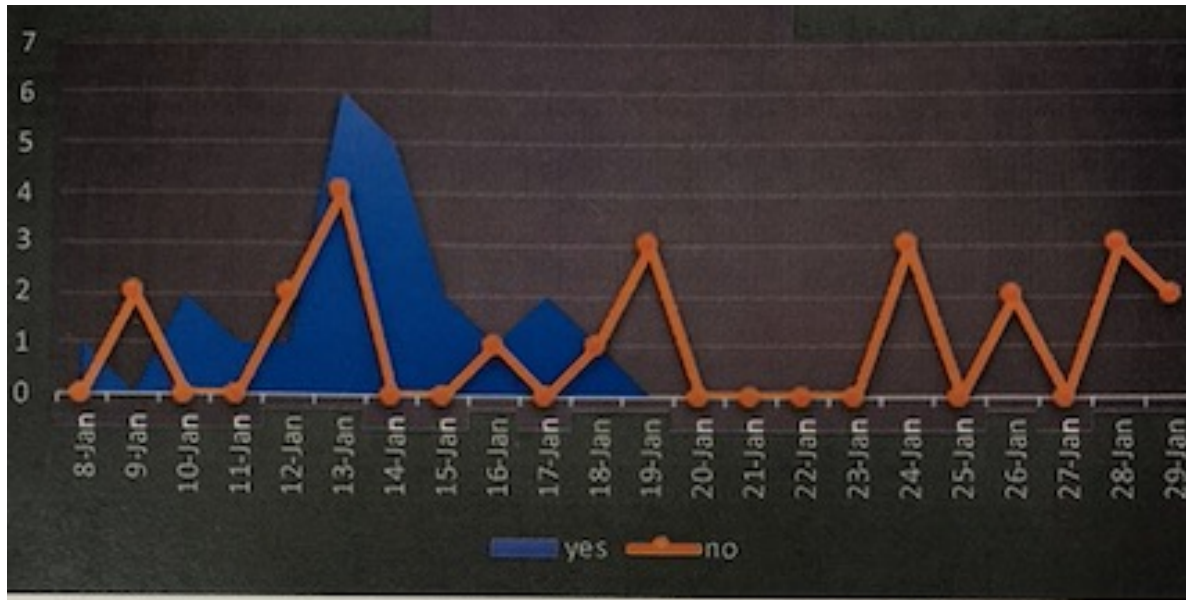


Use of CIDRs to achieve earlier lambing dates



CIDR's hazard ratio: 1.62 (p=0.023)

Use of CIDRs to achieve earlier lambing dates



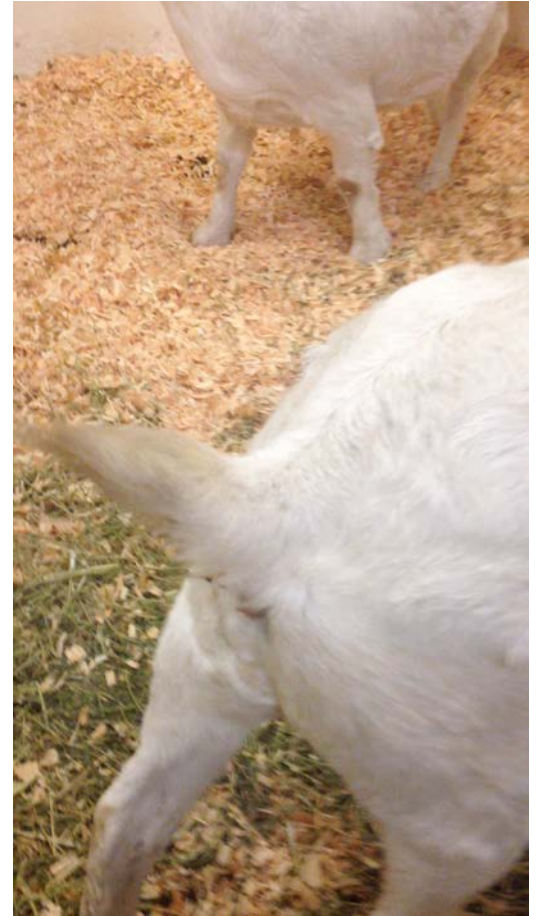
Monitoring Performance

- Each Ram Wears Marking Harness
- Chalk Colors Changed q 2 weeks
- Ewes can be Grouped
- Ram Performance Assessed
- Watch for heat
- +/- vasectomized



HEAT DETECTION DOES





NOT COMING IN HEAT?

- **Pregnancy**
- **Seasonal Anestrus**
- **Cysts / pseudopregnancy**
- **Nutritional anestrus**

Not cycling

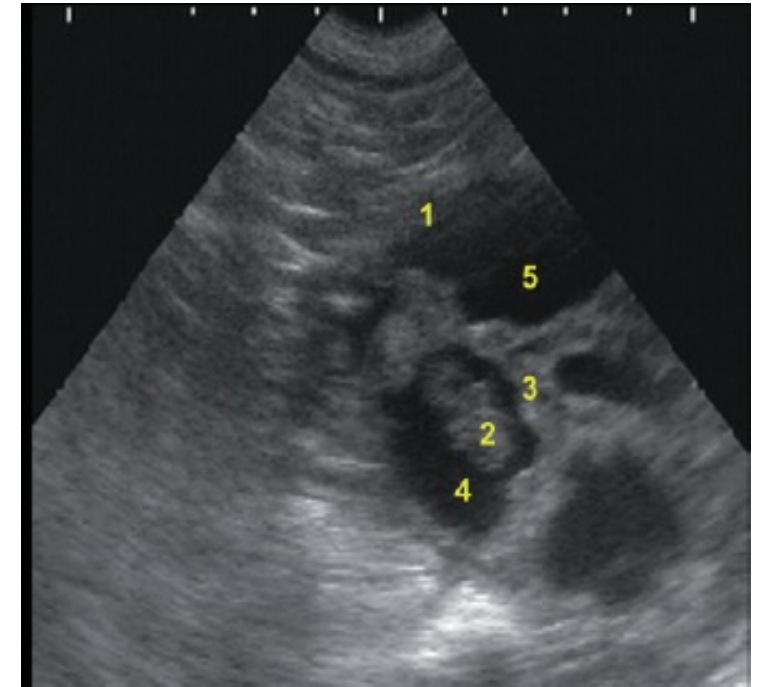
- **Lameness**
- **Environment, flooring**
- **Missing heats**

Cycling

FACTORS AFFECTING ESTRUS BEHAVIOR

- Heat stress
- Low BCS/ negative energy balance
- Stressful handling
- Bad flooring
- Overcrowding

PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS



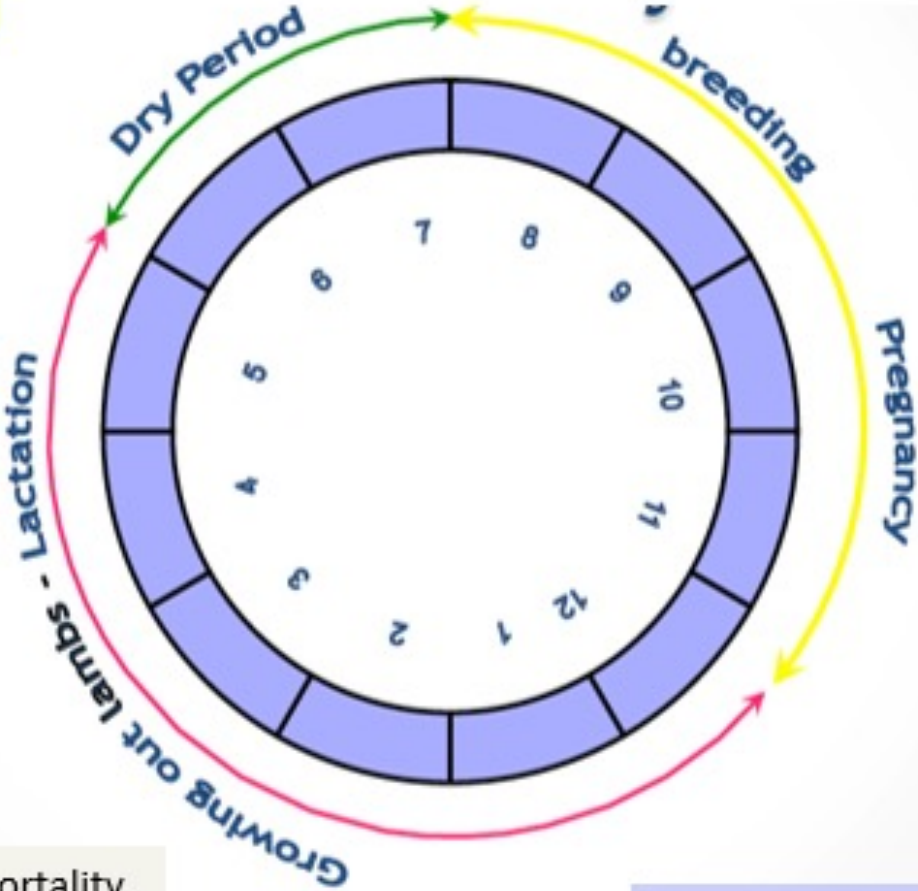
- Shear
- Cull –BCS, molar wear, lameness, mastitis

Market

- BCS
- Epididymitis
- Feet/ legs
- Cull

- BCS / Nutrition
- Shade
- Metabolic Dz
- Parasite control
- Vit E – Se

- Pneumonia
- Coccidiosis
- Parasites
- Nutrition
- Enterotoxemia
- Predation
- Misadventure
- Fly Strike



- BCS
- Epididymitis
- Feet/ legs
- Cull

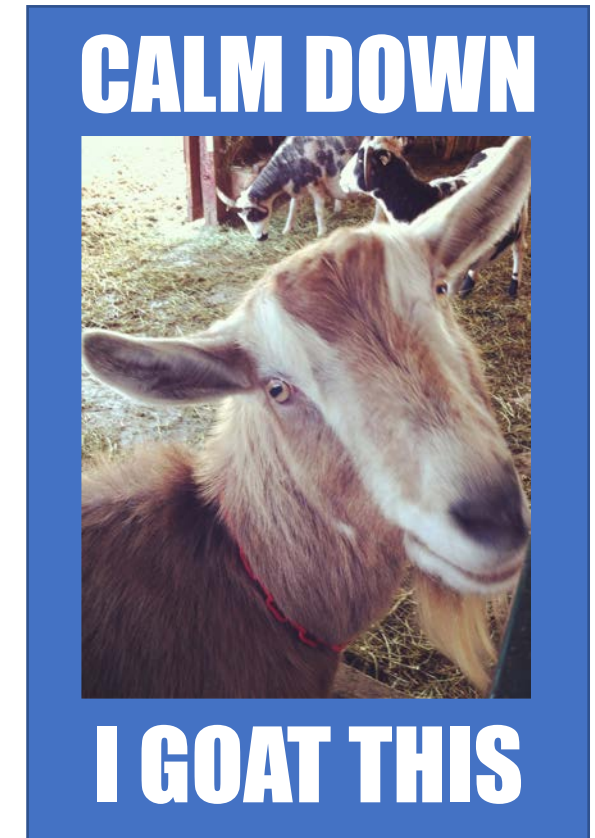
- Preg checks
- Abortion
- Prolapse
- Dystocia

- Neonatal mortality
- Genetic defects
- Navel ill
- Enteritis

- Mastitis
- Maternal bond
- Orphans/grafting

REMARKS

- **Evaluate what is the best breeding season for you**
 - Time of the year and length
- **Prepare your animals in advance for the breeding season**
 - Nutrition
 - Health
 - Breeding soundness evaluation
 - Select replacements
- **During the breeding season**
 - Minimize heat stress
 - Have the right male power



Thank you

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