



Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Summer 2024

Grant Update



On March 19th, Dr. Melinda and Dr. Katie continued to encourage our local students to seek careers in agriculture and veterinary science with hands-on activities. Louisa County High School Animal Science students met up with the doctors at the local non-profit rescue and sanctuary, Hooves and Paws. Students participated in handling, evaluating body condition scores, checking FAMACHA (eyelid color) scores, fecal testing, and appropriately treating ruminants with dewormer. Students also learned what it takes to become a veterinarian and to be a responsible pet owner. Thanks to Hooves and Paws for hosting this event and trusting the students with their animals. Great Job Louisa Animal Science Students!!!

If you are interested in donating or volunteering with Hooves and Paws, please contact them through their website below.

<https://www.hoovesandpaws.org/>

On March 21st, the newly outfitted Toyota pickup truck visited Thomas Jefferson Elementary School for Career Day. The students all asked great questions about the tools and equipment on the vet truck, aka “the Office”. These hands-on opportunities are an essential part of bringing up our next generation livestock vets and help us meet the USDA grant goals to promote excellent veterinary care to our community for years to come.



In April, we returned to Hooves and Paws with the Trevilians Elementary Honor Students. Everyone rolled with the change in plans from looking at goat kids still inside their mama by ultrasound, to health checks on hours-old goat kids! Dr. Katie enjoyed encouraging these youngsters to properly care for a variety of animals and enthusiastically complete the tasks involved in good animal husbandry!

FAQ's about "Bird Flu" in Cattle

- **What is HPAI?**

Highly pathogenic avian influenza is a type of avian influenza virus, it's also referred to as "Bird Flu"



*Note: LVS advises a ban on kissing cows due to the rise in HPAI cases

- **What signs does HPAI cause in cattle?**

HPAI causes a low appetite, reduced milk production, and abnormal milk appearance.

- **When was HPAI first reported in cattle?**

HPAI was first reported in dairy cows in March 2024.

- **Who has been infected with HPAI?**

One human has been infected with HPAI after being exposed to dairy cattle in Texas.

- **Which animals are affected?**

Older cows in mid-lactation may be more affected than younger cows.

- **What is the risk to the public?**

The CDC says the risk to the general public remains **low**.

- **Is the commercial milk supply safe?**

The FDA and USDA indicate that the commercial milk supply is safe due to pasteurization

- **How can people prevent HPAI?**

People should avoid unprotected exposures to sick or dead animals, as well as animal feces, litter, or materials contaminated by birds. Also, implement good quarantine practices on your farm. New animals should be placed in a pen with NO nose to nose contact for a minimum of 14 days.



Minerals are more integrally a part of all biological functions in the body than any other single class of nutrient.

- Oregon State University

Have you “HERD” the recommendations about mineral usage lately?

Hey there! Julie here. I enjoy nutrition in animals and I’m taking a go at adding to the newsletter this month. Recently I had a chance to speak with Kevin Powell, territory sales manager with EverGRO Cooperative, on the topic of **Minerals**. I had some questions after recently reading an article on the subject, and wanted to share my answers with you. Hope you learn a few new facts about minerals to help you on your farm.

○ **What is the shelf life of a bag of minerals?**

About 6-9 months. Bags need to be stored correctly. Vitamins are the first additives that start to leach out. Stick with a 50 lb. bag and only about 6 month supply at most.

○ **Are there minerals used to treat Pinkeye?**

There is not a medicated mineral labeled for pinkeye. What a good mineral program helps with is the immune system and helping the body fight against pinkeye. Adequate Vitamin A is very important for eye health.

○ **Do Sulphur blocks help with Pinkeye?**

There is not any scientific evidence to support they do or do not.

○ **Mineral advice for small flock owners?**

*Keep it simple!!! A good Hi-magnesium mineral year round
March – October can use the Hi-Mag with Altosid (fly control)*

○ **Are salt/mineral blocks better or loose minerals?**

Cattle will not lick a block long enough to get what they need and remember trace mineral blocks only have a trace.

○ **What levels of necessary ingredients do you recommend?**

Check the ingredient sources: Oxide type minerals are less available compared to sulfate, chloride and organic trace minerals.

○ **Some idea on cost of proper management of minerals over a year?**

Based on EverGro's costs:

- 50 lb bag of mineral, 800 oz, rate of 4 oz per day will put you at 1.83 bags per year per cow.
- Lowest cost mineral hi mag : \$32.03/cow a year
- Hi Mag mineral with OTM (organic trace minerals) : \$62/cow a year



Mineral Facts:

- Minerals are inorganic elements present in animal tissue.
- Minerals do not provide energy.
- Minerals are needed in minute quantities in the diet.
- Minerals matter constitutes about 4% of the animal body's weight.
- Minerals presence is essential for maintaining life and animal health.

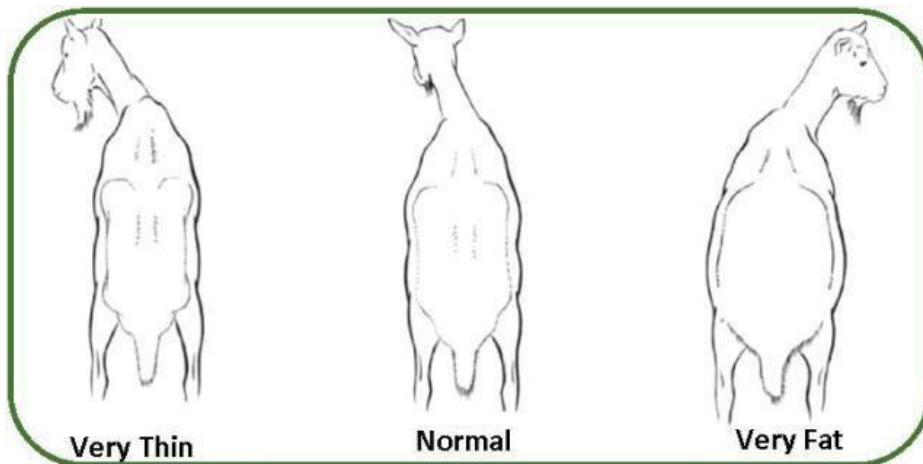
Now we won't take Minerals for Granite!!!

Small Ruminant Health Check

*Pick one day each month to conduct the following health checks:

☐ **Body Condition Scoring (BCS)**

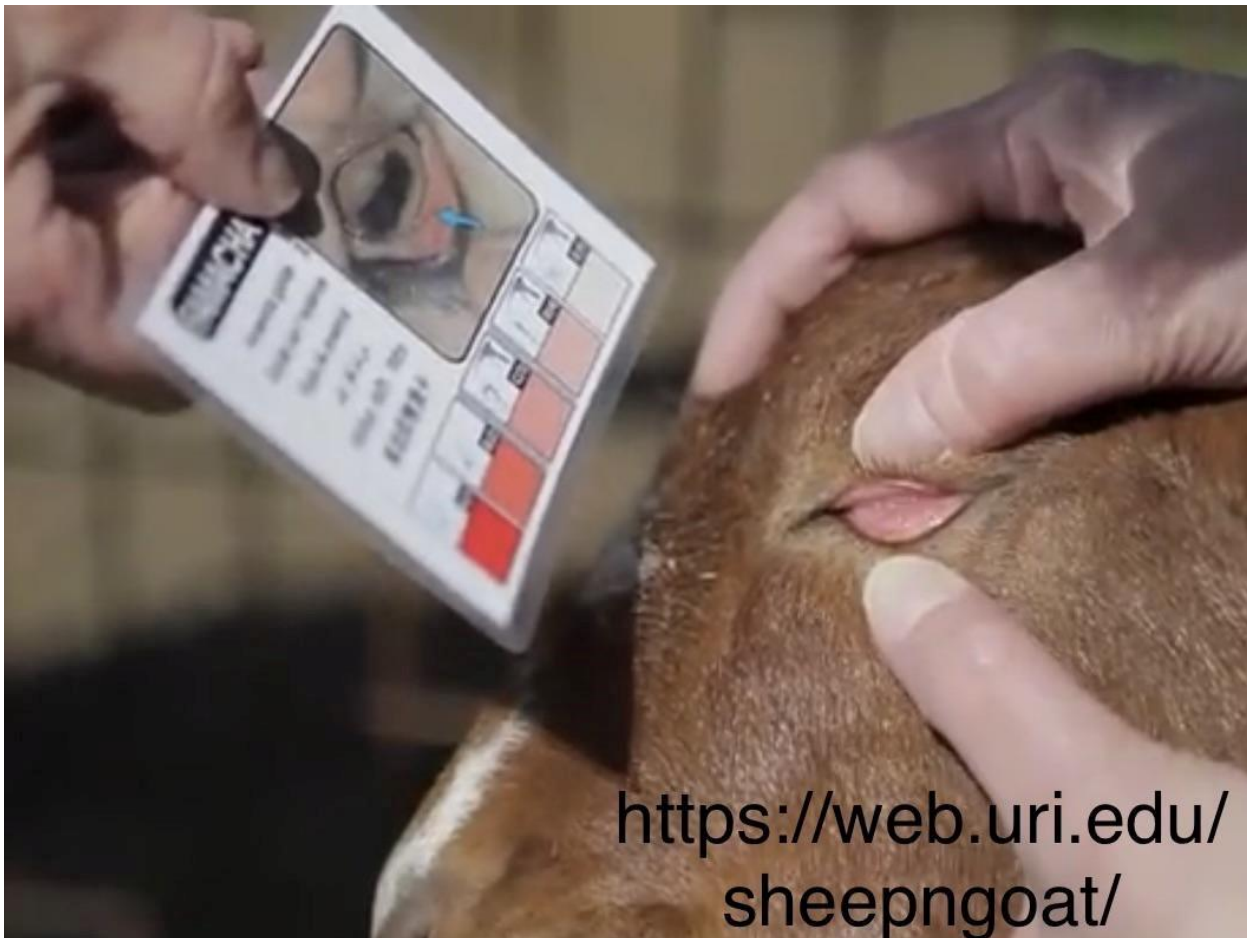
- hands on Spine, Ribs, Hips
- using same amount of pressure on each area, feel for bone
- each area should have good muscle coverage
- the feel should compare to the muscle over bone in your arm



<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022030215004804>

☐ Mucous Membrane/FAMACHA Scoring

- you are checking membranes for signs of anemia
- make sure you have good lighting
- place one hand on top of its head, one under the jaw
- the top hand thumb closes and pushes in the lid
- the bottom hand thumb pulls down the lower lid
- mucous membranes should be **pink**
- pale pink to white indicate increasingly severe anemia



☐ Skin Condition

- part the hair and check the skin and hair shaft for external parasites
- with hair still parted check the skin for rashes, bites or sores

☐ Hooves

- check for pocketing in the hoof wall, foul odors from the hoof, trim away as needed
- rest one blade of hoof trimmers on the hoof cushion, cut excess hoof wall as you close the shears



☐ Record!

- consistent monthly records help you notice little problems before they become BIG problems
- monthly records provide your vet with valuable baseline information as well as any changes



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER! Don't forget to leave your house/farm sitter our contact information. And don't hesitate to let us know when someone is watching over your animals.

