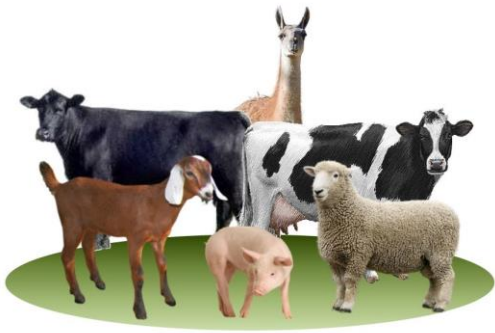




Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Summer 2026

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff members.

Welcome Dr. Kelli Gillespie!



Originally from Henrico, VA, she recently joined the Louisa Veterinary Service team this July. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 2022 with bachelor's degrees in Animal and Poultry Sciences and Dairy Science before continuing on to earn her veterinary degree from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 2026. Kelli has a special interest in small ruminant medicine and agricultural education and is excited to serve the local community. Outside of work, Kelli enjoys spending time with family and friends, taking long walks, kayaking, and camping. She and her fiancée are excited to begin this next chapter in Central VA together!

Welcome Katie!

Also, we welcome “Little Katie” to distinguish her from Dr. Katie. She will be riding with any of the doctors to assist with their appointments.



Hi, my name is Katie Saul. I am excited to be part of the team at Louisa Veterinary Service, where I work most Tuesdays. I am 19 years old, and a part-time student enrolled in Purdue University’s Veterinary Technician online program, working toward a career in veterinary medicine. In addition to my work at the clinic, I am employed by Broken Arrow Livestock, where I work for the rest of the week. My passion for livestock began at a young age, with a particular interest in cattle and sheep. I was actively involved in 4-H growing up, where I participated in a variety of agricultural projects that helped shape my skills and interests. I enjoy all the different situations and livestock that I come across in my work, furthering my skills as a cattlegirl and future Vet Tech. I also enjoy horseback riding and roping, which further connect me to the agricultural lifestyle I value. I am grateful for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and continue developing my skills in veterinary medicine with the team at Louisa Veterinary Service.

Grant Update

We are continuing to have producer meetings and work on programs for local producers, 4-H, and FFA clubs. Dr. McCall is again worked with the CattleWISE program to help teach women cattle skills. Although this is our last year of the grant, we intend to continue with our efforts to support our producers and educate our producers, our 4-H and our FFA members.



Office News

As many of you may have seen by now, we have a new practice management system for keeping our records and preparing bills. We have the ability with this new system to **send our bills by email**. You can then pay your bill on-line through the link in the email. If you are interested in either receiving bills by email and/or paying on-line, please email us from the address you want us to use so we make sure we have the correct address. We will still send bills by regular mail unless we hear differently.

If you are going to be attending any of the upcoming fairs, please give us at least two weeks' notice to prepare your health certificates and do any necessary inspections of your animals. Shows outside Virginia may require health testing, or the show may have vaccination requirements that will need to be shown on the certificate. It is **YOUR** responsibility to read what the show requires and that your exhibits meet those requirements.

Keepin' 'Em Cool

Pointers from Bekah



Just like a hot, humid day is miserable for us, it's not so kind to our livestock, either. The heat can be a big stressor, and stress leads to problems. And with the way this year is going, nobody needs another problem! Stress causes more cortisol, which depresses the immune system. Problems can range from inappetence/weight loss, lowered production, increased parasite loads, all the way to a fatal heat overload.

Be sure to avoid the stress so you and your herd can benefit the most!

Things To Keep In Mind:

- Most livestock doesn't sweat like us!
- How well an animal tolerates heat depends on factors such as age, hair/coat length, health, and acclimation - How long has the animal been here in Virginia? Where did they come from? Are they of dark color with long, thick hair? Or little to no hair? Do they have impaired lungs? Are they older, pregnant, or nursing?

- Darker colored animals will be hotter - dark colors are not able to reflect the sunlight as well
- Our "macho" animals deal with more heat stress - Those with increased muscle mass generate more heat, and it's harder to get rid of that heat with those bulky muscles!
- The lack of nighttime cooling is especially concerning. A cow, for example, accumulates heat- there is a delay in the climbing of body temperature when she is out in the warmer months. It will take 4 to 6 continuous, cooler hours for her to return to a normal internal temperature.
- The heat and humidity combo - Air temperature does not cool down as much at night in the "moist climates". Moisture on the body is not able to evaporate well and has little cooling effect.
- We will want to work your animals/have you get them up during the earliest/coolest hours. Sedation for procedures, such as castration, should be done during the cooler months or again, the earliest/coolest hours.

Things To Help:

- ***WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!***

Be sure your animals have **access to plenty of water**, from plenty of sources. Make sure hoses and tubs are checked for leaks or failing parts. Water may need to be filled more often if new additions are brought home or if you have nursing mothers. As evidenced with this years' lack of rainfall, ponds or creeks should not be the only source for water. In addition, when the water is low &/ dirty, the risk rises for disease. Animals may drink less if water quality is poor, which also raises the risk for things like dehydration, low weight gain, or low production.





- ***MAKE IT SHADY!***

Shade is crucial in helping to reduce heat stress to your crew. Implementing things such as sun shade sails or a canopy can make a big difference! We mainly think of the bigger, darker animals, but those with lighter pigment or little to no hair benefit as well. Including trees in your pasture or pen can be helpful as both a shade and a windbreak. Things don't have to be pretty, just functional!

- ***ROOM TO BREEZE!***

Be sure to not overcrowd your area. In winter, we advise to provide a windbreak, but for the summer temperatures, we are looking to **provide a breeze**. When the animals are bunched up, they lower a helpful relief from such. If possible (and safe), fans in a barn/shelter will help bring relief to all parties! Providing a couple of different "cool spots" will help if you have a dominant butthead, and to reduce bunching up at the water trough.



- ***TIME ON YOUR SIDE!***



Frequent checks are recommended so you can stay ahead of any arising issues. It also allows you to get to know your animal or herd. Do they seem content? Stressed or lethargic? And who knows, they may enjoy a water hose, sprinkler, ice cubes, or frozen treats! As always, reach out with your questions or concerns, and don't forget to stay cool as well! :)



Rabies on the Brain

WHAT DO THESE ANIMALS HAVE IN COMMON?



Rabies is a public health concern and potential cases **must** be reported to the local health department. These four animals are the most common source of rabies exposure for people and domestic animals. Keep in mind, **ANY** warm-blooded animal can carry the rabies virus.

Exposure to the rabies virus is usually from the bite of an infected animal, though there have been reports of transmission through other bodily fluids or tissues. Rabies is diagnosed by examining brain tissue after the animal has died. This makes it critically important that the head of a suspected rabid animal be preserved. If you suspect **you** have been exposed, you need to seek **immediate** medical attention to be given Immune Globulin and begin post exposure vaccination.

There is **no treatment or cure for rabies**, so prevention becomes key. Most folks are aware that dogs must be rabies vaccinated. Cats, even barn cats, are also required by Virginia law to be vaccinated against rabies. Both dogs and cats are required to be vaccinated by 12 weeks of age. Animals are not considered vaccinated for 28 days after the first vaccination. The frequency of subsequent vaccinations will depend on whether it is licensed as a 1 year or 3 year vaccine, but will be effective immediately.

Livestock are more likely to be infected by a wild animal, while people are more likely to be infected by a pet that has tangled with a rabid wild animal. Continue reading to learn more about rabies in livestock.

Rabies Vaccination and Exposure Protocols



By Dr. Katie Lukowicz

It is important to remember that livestock can get rabies!

[Louisa Veterinary Service suggests livestock vaccination if:](#)



- There have been confirmed rabies cases in the area, this info usually comes through your county health department
- The livestock frequently come into contact with public; several clients now are doing petting zoos, ag tourism type ventures, or fairs that require rabies vaccinations
- If the owner has young children that may interact with the livestock before an adult would notice there is an issue (for example, a symptomatic raccoon in the pen, or that livestock are showing neurologic symptoms).

Livestock vaccination

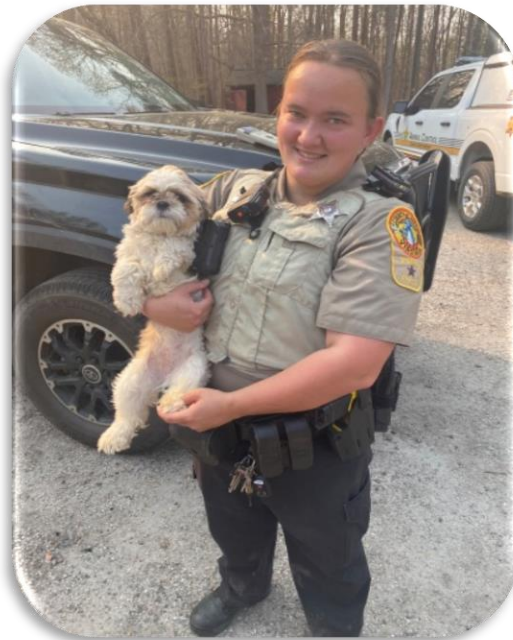
- Rabies vaccination is **NOT required** in Virginia for most livestock
- It is NOT required that it be given by a licensed veterinarian, but you better have good records, including the brand of vaccine, serial number, expiration date of the vaccine, and date and route of administration if you do it yourself
- First rabies vaccine can be given at 12 weeks old (depending on product label), as a blanket rule, we usually vaccinate livestock 6 months and above the first rabies vaccine booster is to be given 1 year later; they are considered immunized to rabies immediately after booster



- Following rabies vaccines may be given every year, there is NO 3 year rabies vaccine options for livestock
- There is a 21 day meat withdraw on rabies vaccine

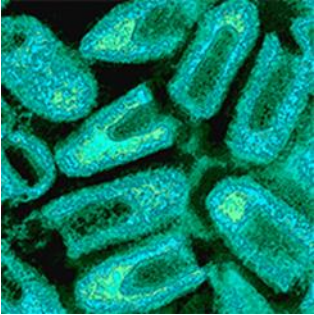
Human Exposure

- The primary rabies exposure risk is coming into contact with a rabid animal's saliva.
- The virus is shed in the saliva in an infected animal, and it also concentrates in the brain and spinal cord. You technically cannot get rabies from touching, the blood, urine, or feces of an infected animal, but contact with them should be limited even after their death, and you should always use gloves on your hands when dealing with a rabies suspect
- Other exposure risks can come from ingesting unpasteurized milk and handling raw meat from a rabies infected animal, though it is rare
- Contact animal control if you see wildlife acting unusual, reach out to your vet if your animals have possibly been exposed, and tell your physician if you possibly came into contact with a rabies infected animal. If you have a good relationship with your veterinarian, you can certainly reach out to them to help explain to your physician what level of exposure you have potentially had with an animal.
- If a human is exposed, the county health department should be contacted immediately and you should follow the current recommendations for exposure, this usually requires getting post-exposure shots for all parties exposed



Rabies in Goats: A Recent Case Study

by Melinda McCall, D.V.M.



Micrograph of the rabies virus magnified 70,000x from F.A. Murphy, University of Texas Medical Branch



- **February 28, 2026-** A couple in Orange County Virginia discovered a skunk brutally attacking a newly born set of goat kids in their kidding pen. The owner shot the skunk and upon recommendation from their veterinarian submitted to the Orange County Health Department for testing.
- **February 29, 2026-** The skunk was confirmed to be positive for rabies and the family was advised to get post-exposure shots for two adults and two children. The owners were also advised by the health department to quarantine all the goats for 6 months and observe them closely for any unusual or neurologic behavior. Owners were advised to keep the children away from the pen. The owners were also instructed to have all goats vaccinated for rabies at the end of the quarantine period.
- **March 17, 2026-** The goat owner called the veterinary service to report unusual behavior in a doe that recently had twins. Behaviors included: aggression toward other goats, picking up babies and shaking them, and increased vocalization. Veterinarian examined the doe and deemed to be severely neurologic.
- **March 18, 2026-** Upon advice from the State Public Health Veterinarian, the local veterinarian returned to euthanize the neurologic doe and have her tested for rabies. Upon seeing the wide distribution of the neurologic doe's saliva over the coats of the other goats, the owners and veterinarian decided to euthanize the remainder of the goats in the pen.
- **March 19, 2026-** The neurologic doe tested positive for rabies. Both the veterinarian and her vet assistant received rabies booster shots since they were both previously vaccinated for rabies.
- **April 15, 2026-** Owners discovered another neurologic skunk on the property, which also tested positive for rabies. The health department allowed all other animals on the property to be vaccinated for rabies before the end of the quarantine.

Lessons We Can Learn From This Case



- **Vaccinating** pet small ruminants is always advisable, especially if you have children around the goats or do Ag Tourism
- Typically, large animals get the dumb form of rabies, but not always
- Always follow your gut instincts! If something seems unusual, get it checked out just like the goat owners in this case
- Having a good working relationship with your veterinarian is very important

10- Gallon Milk Challenge



Louisa Veterinary Service is inviting you to participate in our 6th annual community service project of donating nutritious milk to growing children in our Louisa community.

We Would LOVE churches and community members to support this mission project and the children it benefits throughout the summer!

The last 6 months alone, the Resource Council has served 16,335 people, 5,272 of whom were children between the ages of 0-17



Milk delivered to:
Louisa Resource Council
147 Resource Ln, Louisa, VA 23093
Questions call : 540-967-1510

June Is Dairy Month



2026 FAIRS IN VIRGINIA

April 24 - May 3 Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival
May 7-8 Strasburg Mayfest
May 15-17 Powhatan County Fair
May 20-23 Lee County Fair
June 9-13 VA-KY District Fair
June 13-16 Amelia County Fair
June 17-20 Caroline County Fair
June 20-27 Chautauqua Festival in the Park
June 24-27 Orange County Fair
July 1-12 Salem Fair
July 14-18 Richmond County Fair
July 15-18 Fauquier County Fair
July 15-18 Madison County Fair
July 21-25 Augusta County Fair
July 21-25 Loudoun County Fair
July 24 - August 2 Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair
July 27 - August 1 Frederick County Fair
July 27 - August 1 Warren County Fair
July 30 - August 2 Fairfax 4-H Fair and Carnival
July 30 - August 1 Louisa County Fair
August 3-8 Bergton Community Fair

August 5-8 Franklin-Southampton County Fair
August 5-9 Tazewell County Fair
August 7-8 Grayson County Agricultural Fair
August 7-15 Prince William County Fair
August 9-16 Clarke County Fair
August 10-15 Rockingham County Fair
August 12-16 Arlington County Fair
August 12-15 Franklin County Agricultural Fair
August 13-15 Fluvanna County Fair
August 21-23 Bedford County Fair
August 24-29 Page Valley Ag & Industrial Fair
August 26-30 Carroll County Agricultural Fair
August 28 - September 5 Chesterfield County Fair
August 28 - September 5 Shenandoah County Fair
September 2-5 Highland County Fair
September 4-6 Duffield Daze
September 5-12 Russell County Fair & Horse Show
September 9-13 Patrick County Agricultural Fair
September 10-13 Amherst County Fair
September 10-12 Rockbridge Regional Fair & Expo

September 12 Floyd County Fair
September 14-19 Washington County Fair
September 16-19 Dickenson County Fair
September 17-20 Isle of Wight County Fair
September 18-20 Field Day of the Past
September 18-19 Harvest Moon Celebration
September 19 Bath County Fair
September 22-26 Five County Fair
September 23-26 Henry County Fair
September 25-27 Chilhowie Community Apple Festival
September 25 - October 4 State Fair of Virginia
October 6-10 South Central Fair
October 8-12 Blue Highway Fest
October 8-11 Spotsylvania County Fair
October 8-11 Suffolk Peanut Fest
October 10 King George Fall Festival
October 10-11 Wise Fall Fling
October 15-18 Stafford County Fair
October 16-18 Dinwiddie County Fair

DISCLAIMER: This schedule is not a complete listing of Fairs & Festivals in Virginia. The events listed are current members of the Virginia Association of Fairs. To be included in our listings, please visit vafairs.us to find out more information on how to join the Association.



Come Celebrate in 2026!

International Year of the Woman Farmer



October 7-9

Roseland, VA



Topics include:

Small ruminant nutrition, Lambing and newborn care, When to call a Vet, Low-Stress Cattle Handling, Tallow Processing, Marketing Your Beef to Consumers and Wholesalers, Beef Quality Assurance Certification, Rotational Grazing, Pasture BMPs, Fencing, Operate Tractors, Skid Steers, Chainsaws, Pesticide labeling and laws, and so much more!

Campsites available until July 10th! Visit [https://www.dbbrewingcompany.com/c](https://www.dbbrewingcompany.com/camp-at-basecamp) amp-at-basecamp using group code "Cattlewise"

This training initiative is open to all-eligible individuals particularly women who seek to enhance their professional skills and educational attainment through merit-based opportunities. The program is open to all eligible participants and aligns with federal civil rights laws, including Title VI and Title IX.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Amber Taylor at the Cumberland Extension Office at (804-492-4390/TDD*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120. Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.



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